Hornsby North Public School

Band Program

BAND HANDBOOK

2012

Please keep for future reference
THE BAND PROGRAM AT HORNSBY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

The band program at Hornsby North Public School has been established for many years. It comprises three Bands (Senior Concert Band, Intermediate Concert Band and Junior Concert Band). The Band program has reached very high standards. In recent years all Bands have been recognised with numerous Gold medals at both the NSW and the Yamaha Band Festivals. The Band program forms an integral part of the co-curricular life of Hornsby North Public School. The Bands perform regularly at various activities and functions within the school. It is a great way for your child to contribute to the school community.

Participating in the band program has many benefits for children:
* It’s exciting and fun!
* Music provides an avenue for creativity and self-expression.
* Children can meet new friends across years.
* Children learn self-discipline and how to co-operate with others.
* As a team, children work towards a common goal, improving self esteem and confidence.
* It is a way of gaining merit cards towards school medals.
* Researchers have identified music as one of the 7 intelligences!

The Hornsby North Band Program has become successful because it has emphasised three important things: commitment, motivation and support. Before applying for a place in the band program, parents and children should be aware of their responsibilities. The following information provides an overview of the band program. By understanding how the program works, the expectations of band membership and your role in the process, you will be helping us to maintain its high standards.

JOINING THE BAND

Membership is open to interested students who will be in Years 3 – 6 in 2012. Parents should complete the yellow application form and return it to the P&C Box in the office.

Please note that not all students are offered a preferred instrument. We try to accommodate preferences however, since some instruments are more popular than others, and our aim is to achieve a balanced band, this is not always possible. In the recruitment process the students will have been tested on each instrument to see which physically suits. The child having played the instruments will also know which instruments was the most comfortable for them to play. Each child’s preference will be taken in to consideration before places are offered in the band program. Letters of acceptance offer will be sent out by the end of the year.

INSTRUMENTS IN THE BAND

At Hornsby North in 2012 we will be offering the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion (encompassing Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Auxiliary, and Tuned Percussion)
INFORMATION ABOUT INSTRUMENTS YOU CAN PLAY IN THE HORNSBY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

FLUTE
The flute is the highest sounding of the woodwind instruments. You play the flute by blowing over a hole. The flute is silver in colour.

CLARINET
The clarinet is the second highest sounding woodwind instrument and can even play almost as high as the flute. It can also play much lower than the flute. It is played by blowing through a reed that is found at the top of the clarinet. Clarinets are usually black in colour.

SAXOPHONE
The saxophone is the biggest woodwind instrument in the band and comes in a few different sizes. The standard size is Alto, which is a middle sounding woodwind instrument. The saxophone is played by blowing through a reed at the top. The saxophone is gold in colour.
TRUMPET

The trumpet is the highest sounding brass instrument in the band. It has a very bright and loud sound.

TROMBONE

The trombone is a low sounding brass instrument. You change the notes on the trombone by sliding the tube at the end of the instrument.

EUPHONIUM/ BARITONE

The Euphonium or Baritone is another low sounding brass instrument. It sits on the lap and is played with valves like a trumpet. It has a very melodic tone.

PERCUSSION

Percussion includes the drum kit and glockenspiel, and also any other instrument that you need to hit. These include triangle, cowbells, woodblocks, cymbals, whistles, and other special effects.
OUR BANDS

JUNIOR CONCERT BAND - is the first step in the program and is where children enter with little or no musical experience. This band lasts for one year, then the children are generally promoted to Intermediate Concert Band. They are involved in performances usually in the second part of the year.

INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND – is the second step and involves children with at least one year’s training. This ensemble performs at various in-school events such as assemblies, education week activities, as well as entering some external eisteddfods and festivals.

SENIOR CONCERT BAND - involves children with at least two years playing experience and performs at school and community events, and various competitions and eisteddfods.

* Rehearsal days and times for 2012 will be confirmed before the end of 2011.

COMMITMENTS INVOLVED

Once children have committed to playing in the band, they are asked to honour that commitment for the remainder of the year. This is to be fair to the band as a whole. Each member is an integral part of the team, and the team is greatly disadvantaged when some members don’t turn up or drop out. If your child becomes unhappy in the Band, please discuss it with the Conductor as the problem may be easily solved.

Children in the band are expected to:
- **attend band rehearsals twice a week** (days/times to be confirmed end 2011).
- **attend a 30 minute individual lesson** with an instrumental tutor at Hornsby North P.S. once a week.
- attend occasional performances outside of school time.
- attend occasional weekend performances.
- **fully attend Band Camp** (Saturday – Sunday, Term 2)
- **attend Band Workshop Day** (1 Saturday in Term 1)

To give you an idea, performances throughout 2011 include the following:

Lisgar Gardens Teddy Bears Picnic (Senior Band)
Ryde East Music Festival (Junior & Intermediate Bands)
NSW Band Festival (All 3 Bands)
Yamaha Music Festival (All 3 Bands)
Asquith Boys High School Community Day (Intermediate & Senior Bands)
School Assemblies (All 3 Bands)
School Open Night for Education Week (All 3 Bands)
Father’s Day Breakfast (Junior Band)
Band Workshop Day (All 3 Bands)
Band Camp (All 3 Bands)
It is also important for the students to have a regular practice regime arranged at home. Like sports-people training their muscles and skills, musicians need to have regular practice to help develop their playing muscles as well as to reinforce concepts they learn both in their band rehearsals and in their lessons. The purchase of a black music stand is recommended to keep at home and to bring to some outside school performances.

There should also be a conscious commitment from parents to help their children with their music education. Parents should encourage and support their child’s learning. Studies have shown that students with parents who show interest and a commitment to their learning will ultimately continue learning music for life. It is not necessary for parents to have any musical training.

**INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

Naturally, in a band of up to 40 children, with as many as ten different instruments playing at once, it is impossible for the conductor to teach each child how to play their instruments. In band, we learn to play as a group and consolidate our newly learned knowledge and skills on our instruments.

For this purpose the Hornsby North Band Program organizes an extensive ‘in-school’ tutoring scheme comprising many different instrumental tutors who come to the school each week to give the students in our Band Program the highest level of one-on-one instrumental instruction. Children learn to play their instruments in a weekly, half-hour private lesson at the school. The purpose of professional tuition is to teach students correct technique, breathing, musical notation and musicality. All our tutors are highly qualified teachers who understand the needs of our students.

The fee is **$28** per half hour lesson. Lessons are conducted at Hornsby North but outside school hours (ie: beyond 3:10pm). A lesson day and time will be arranged for your child at the beginning of Term 1, 2012.

As you can well appreciate, this scheme is a huge logistical undertaking by the Program, and the high standards achieved by our bands in recent years can be attributed largely to it.
There are 2 options for obtaining instruments in 2012.

1. **Hire** – Instruments may be hired from the Band Program at Hornsby North. Instruments are serviced by the program and remain the property of the program. The price for this hire is **$50** per term. The Band Program services all instruments annually. However, parents will pay for repairs of any damage caused by the child. Parents hiring a school instrument are asked to sign an indemnity form at the beginning of the year.

2. **Hire/Buy** – An excellent hire/buy scheme is available from:
   - Turramurra Music Centre – 9449 8487
   - Dickson’s Music Complex-Chatswood – 9419 2144

   Brand new, quality instruments may be hired (price depends on the type of instrument). Alternatively you may want to purchase an instrument outright. If you are thinking of purchasing an instrument please be aware of ‘cheap’ instruments as you will get what you pay for. You may wish to contact the band directors as they will be able to assist with letting you know what brands are right for your child as well as music stores that will give you the best deal.

---

**BAND FEE**

The **fee for band tuition** is **$360 per year**. This can be paid in a lump sum or split over 4 equal payments of **$90 per term**. This money is used for all band expenses absorbing fees such as:

1. Band Rehearsals & Conductor
2. Music
3. Accessories (including stands, cleaners, valve oil etc. but excluding reeds)
4. Band Workshop (including tuition)
5. Band Camp (including tuition and meals)
6. Competition Fees

A further fee of **$50 per term** is charged if you hire one of the band program’s instruments.
AUDITIONS

Auditions take place at the end of each year in Term 4 for the band program at Hornsby North Public School. Auditions are held so that the conductors can properly assess each member individually for placement in an ensemble that is appropriate to their current level of proficiency on their instrument. Assessment is based on the technical and musical ability on the student’s chosen instrument. Certain levels of achievement are expected before a student is eligible for ‘promotion’ into the next level band. Hornsby North Public School has three bands which operate on a tiered system, much like some other school subjects are also divided into levels, such as Maths. Commitment to rehearsals, individual practice, tutorials and performances is expected at all levels of the band program and is essential for a member’s future progression.

SPONSORSHIPS

The Band Committee will be offering a number of sponsorships for children wishing to join the band in 2012. These will be strictly limited and will be made on the basis of family financial hardship. Applications should be made in writing and addressed to the President of the Band Committee, detailing circumstances and income and received (in the P&C Box) by December. A sub-committee will handle these in strict confidence. If a child is granted sponsorship it will be reviewed throughout the year on the basis of the child’s commitment to band, attendance at rehearsals, behaviour and financial change of circumstances. If a child does not fulfill these satisfactorily, sponsorship will be suspended and used to benefit another child. The sponsorship applies for one year and candidates must reapply for the next year. Please note the sponsorship does not cover individual tuition fees.

THE BAND COMMITTEE

The Hornsby North Band Committee is a sub-committee of the P&C and is totally responsible for the running and administration of the band program. They work in consultation with the school and the band directors to provide the best program possible for the children. This is dependent on the number of parents involved. If you would like to contribute please feel free to approach our Band Committee President. No music knowledge is required!

We thank you in advance for your time, support and your contribution to enriching your child and your life with music!
BAND APPLICATION FORM

This form is due back to the P&C Box in the office by Friday 4th November 2011

Student’s Name _____________________________ Class________________

Parent Name(s)________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________

Telephone (h)_____________________ (m)_________________________

Is there any instrument you do not wish your child to play?  And Reason:

Has your child played an instrument before (with lessons)?

Yes/No

Which Instrument?

How long have they played it?

Are any family members involved in musical activities?

Is your child involved in any form of dance/movement class? Please give details

Is it likely that your child will leave school before the end of Year 6? (This information is useful in order to balance the composition of the band in future years.)

Which area will you be assisting with in 2012? (Please circle) Publicity, Band Camp, Band Workshop Day, Instrument Control, Committee Member.

PLEASE READ AND SIGN:
*We (Child and Parent/ Caregiver) have read the handbook and understand and acknowledge the commitment involved.

Student’s Signature ____________________________________________

Parent’s Signature ____________________________________________  Date_______