

## Introduction to Beecroft Public School Band & Strings Program

The Beecroft Public School Band program is open to students from Years 3 to 6. Within the program there are five bands:

- Training Band
- Intermediate Band
- Senior Concert Band Two (SCB2)
- Senior Concert Band One (SCB1)
- Stage Band (Jazz Focus)

The success of the program is dependent upon all students attending rehearsals and performances, along with parent support.

### **Band Information**

#### **Training Band**

This Band does not require any previous music experience or knowledge – only enthusiasm and commitment!

Training Band begins following an information afternoon, early in 2020 when the instruments, music lesson books, list of recommended tutors and the Band Book are distributed.

*The Training Band rehearses on Monday afternoon, from 3.30 – 5.00 p.m. and Thursday mornings from 7.45 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.*

*The Monday rehearsal is alternate weeks depending on the instrument your child plays – woodwind or brass and the Thursday morning is the full band rehearsal.*

The Training Band Co-ordinator (a parent volunteer) will keep you informed of the rehearsal schedule and it is also in the school newsletter each week.

Children work towards achieving their Bronze Award to progress to the Intermediate Band.

#### **Hiring of Instruments**

There are instruments for hire for those wishing to join the program. Hire instruments have a \$100 deposit that is refunded at the end of the hire period, subject to the care of the instrument during this time. The instrument hire fee in 2020 was approximately \$250. This allows the servicing of instruments and purchasing of new instruments. It is the parent's responsibility to cover repair costs if the instrument is damaged. Instruments are issued at the "Introduction to Band" afternoon generally held on the first Saturday in February.

Please note: flutes, clarinets, trumpets and bass guitars may only be available to hire for a 2-year period. These instruments are reasonably priced and can be a cheaper purchase option rather than long term hire fees. At times, these instruments can be hired for longer than two years, if there are enough instruments in storage. There is no maximum hire period for the larger, more expensive instruments.

*Creating the future*

**Costs**

Your financial commitment to the Band will amount to approximately \$2500 per year, which includes band fees, instrument hire, music book, instrument care kit and individual tuition costs.

The rough schedule of payments looks like below:

Payment For	Amount (Approx)	Due By
Instrument Hire	AUD 260	End of Term4,2020
Instrument Deposit (Refundable)	AUD 100	End of Term4,2020
Books and Care Kit	AUD 35	End of Term4,2020
Band Fees	AUD 600	End of Term2, 2021

There are additional fees for Band tours (Senior/Stage Band only).

**Private Tuition**

It is a requirement of the Band program that each child has private tuition for their chosen instrument, organised on a weekly basis. The tutor supports the work done in the Band & Strings Program. A list of tutors and their contact details will be provided in the Band & Strings Book which is available at the beginning of the school year. Tuition arrangements (lesson times and fees) are a matter between the parents and the tutor which is negotiated between the parties. Instrument tuition fees are around \$30 – \$45 per half hour.

**Intensive Band & Strings Weekend**

An intensive workshop is held at school on a weekend at the end of Term 1. The weekend is a fun bonding experience for students and the intensive tutorials are essential preparation for upcoming performances. All members are required to attend.

**Performances**

Our external performances during the year include eisteddfods, community events, music competitions and an end of year concert. Additionally bands will play at school during the year in assemblies, Education Day and at various showcases.

Permission notes will be sent home from the school prior to any performances held during school hours. For weekend performances and competitions an online system has been set up where parents simply follow a link to indicate attendance and contact details. At all performances outside of school hours students are under the direct care of their parents.

**Management**

The Band & Strings Program is administered by the volunteer P&C Association Band & Strings Subcommittee. Help us nurture unforgettable musical experiences for the children of BPS by joining the committee. Volunteer parents and teacher representatives meet at school on the first Thursday of each month during school term from 7.30pm. All parents are welcome.



Engaish Sapra – [engaish@hotmail.com](mailto:engaish@hotmail.com) – Training Band Recruitment  
Megan Hobbs - [beecroftpsensemblecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:beecroftpsensemblecommittee@gmail.com) – Band and Strings  
Subcommittee Convenor