

Band Survey 2008 Results

What Band is your child in : **Training 13 Junior 4 Concert 16**

1. Band Structure

1. How much does your child enjoy Band ?

| 1 Not at all | 2 | 2.5 | 3 | 3.5 | 4 | 4.5 | 5 Very much |
|--------------|---|-----|---|-----|----|-----|-------------|
| 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 12 |

Comments :

- Band is an enjoyable and fulfilling part of school
- Would like opportunity at other clarinet parts
- Thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of TB
- Likes how she can play the clarinet and that she has good friends in the Band. Loves Band Camp.
- She looks forward to playing in the Band and is progressing quite well. Especially loves Band Camp.
- Can be influenced by peer group pressure. Finds it boring whilst Mr A works with other groups.
- Loves the band and learning saxophone, although sometimes would prefer not to practice.
- Feels its too early
- Loves getting new pieces
- Really enjoys the Band program
- Have had some difficulty motivating child to continue band this year
- Really enjoys band
- Loves it
- Really enjoys
- Enjoys Band, especially performing
- Loves performances, resists attending band rehearsals due to behavior management of Mr A, lack of engagement of students.
- Practise is sometimes a bit difficult with homework and other time consuming things (like our work), but really enjoys playing.
- TB – all new, enjoying band
- CB – finding music a bit boring, does not enjoy environment created by conductor
- Used to love being part of the band, but is not enjoying it as much, especially band practice as hardly gets to play (on drum kit). 21/9/08 not at all.
- Enjoys learning new skills, which will give him advantages in life. Loves going to concerts (playing and listening).

How can we improve the Band program ?

Comments :

- we have a fantastic committee
- Band is well run. Fantastic part of Mimosa curriculum. Positive for children of all abilities.
- Happy
- Reminder call to Band Duty parent
- Great committee – well done
- More challenging pieces
- Fine as it is
- More lively music
- Happy the way it is
- Child has been exploring with tutor, other genres of music eg jazz, rock etc. I think he/she has been stifled creatively with the pieces of music they have been learning as part of the band program.
- Its great already
- More interesting music eg High School Musical
- More contemporary music – now being addressed
- More new music
- Keep challenging the kids with new and enjoyable music. Give opportunities for ensembles and individual performances.
- Review band conductor role and suitability of Mr A to working/inspiring young children
- More practise and more lessons (child's ideas), different instruments

2. Is one Band rehearsal per week enough ?

YES 30

NO 1

Comments :

- More is always better – but is there enough time in one week
- Perhaps leading up to Yamaha, another practice or two
- 1 x 1 hour or 2 x 45 min
- I don't know – certainly if you judge it on results in Yamaha Competition, then 1 rehearsal is enough. Could have 2nd rehearsal for ensemble groups/stage band or jazz.

3. Do you agree with fully inclusive Band program ?

YES 30 NO 0

Comments :

- Inclusive is the only way at Mimosa
- All kids need an opportunity to experience band. You could audition for a separate band group for those keen and of suitable level – maybe for competition.
- Enjoyment of music does not depend on natural talent.
- Think about auditioning for swing/wind ensembles
- Yes, because all children are given a chance – and they naturally drop out if they don't like it
- Inclusive is good, because it gives everybody a chance to participate
- TB and JB – one rehearsal/week. If you want to increase standard of CB, need 2 rehearsals – shorter may be more constructive.
- May become tricky having an audition process
- Children should all be allowed to try
- The Band opportunity should be available to anyone interested. It is more than playing an instrument, there is the social aspect as well
- With no prior music experience, child may have benefited from exploring different instruments before finally choosing on one path
- Absolutely agree with inclusive
- Primary school should be the opportunity for all children to participate and try different programs
- Provision for extension for some eg Jazz or Rock Band would be an advantage
- The band programme should be open to anyone who wants to participate. The success of it is testament to the talents of Phil in bringing the band to a successful level and the dedication of the committee.
- Yes – gives opportunity to all. Perhaps entry to CB should be by audition and monitored throughout the 2 years.

4. Does your child enjoy the Swing Band / Wind Ensemble in term 4 ?
YES 12 NO 2

Comments :

- It's cool & fun
- Depending on music selected
- Yes, gives her some extra music to play – she enjoys the songs/compositions they are playing. I haven't noticed she is becoming bored with the Mimosa Band even though she is playing more complicated music at the NSSWO.
- "Alright"
- Yes, very much

2. Band Administration

1. Are you happy with the communication from the Band Committee ?

YES 32 NO 0

Comment :

- very happy
- Absolutely. Yellow paper identifies, child's name directs and they are concise and detailed
- Love yellow paper
- Very well organized
- Lots of notes (too many sometimes !)
- Yellow notes always stand out – we have had no problems – whatever is easiest for Band Committee
- Yes – the band (committee) keep me well informed of important dates/events
- Absolutely
- Excellent
- Outstanding – always timely and comprehensive
- Yes – very much – I like the yellow paper – it distinguishes the notes from other notes.
- Fabulous
- Yes, very good
- I really think its brilliant, the best at school

2. Would you like all Band notes available on the school website ?

YES 22 NO 7

Comment:

* Yes, it gives a place to refer to if the note is left at school

3. Would you like to have all Band notes emailed to you ?

YES 17 NO 9

Comment :

- I think notes will remain the most reliable way to get info to parents. Handy if you lose the note.
- Either email or website – no need for both
- That would help

4. Would your Tutor like more communication from the Conductor ?
YES 10 NO 13

- No, I think tutors work at their own pace. Do we need to talk to tutors re standard of playing we expect before moving students on in the book ie technique. Monitor practice more formally.
- Yes, if necessary
- Not sure
- I don't think child's tutor has been given any communication from Mr a since starting in Year 3 (only told to work through book). A periodic note would not go astray eg please pay attention to timing in Pirates of Caribbean, or what he would like them to concentrate on.
- Never has asked for it.
- Not sure, he hasn't said anything

5. Would you like more communication from the Conductor ?

Comment :

- important that tutor and child knows what conductor wants
- No
- Would be good to know whether conductor wants Tutor to teach pieces of music eg competition pieces
- Feedback is given to students during Band lesson
- Yes, if there is any problem with child's co-operation or preparation
- Yes, perhaps allow space for communication in the Band diary, and make sure both parties get an opportunity to read and write back
- Just important that tutor and child know what conductor wants
- Not needed
- Yes
- Yes, need more communication concerning changes to normal timetable
- Everything is fine so far
- No, not at this stage
- Yes, on child's progress and participation in class
- No, Mr A is just fine !
- As required
- There is NO communication from the Conductor. An occasional note would be welcome. What he's working on, what he expects from the kids.
- Would be nice
- Yes, I feel the conductor must be clear with tutors – allocate roles/music to particular students and not 'dumb down'/simplify music.
- We get communication from a tutor basis, therefore we have no issues. Maybe there could be parent/conductor interviews as required. This might be a bit difficult given that the time Phil is at the school is for band practice/performances.
- No – so far so good.
- No
- Yes, it would be good if Mr a could give a report like the teachers do so we can get some feedback
- The communication with Mr A exceeds my expectations; he is concerned with (my child's) musical skills, participation in band, but also the overall progress as a student and a person.

3. Band Performances

1. Should there be more/less/same number of Band performances ?

More 10 Less 0 Same 20

Comments :

* I think it would be good if the kids could perform to a bigger audience somewhere (?). School performances are often just to their parents as is Yamaha and Battle of the Bands. I know they find the empty auditorium at Yamaha a little deflating, especially when they work so hard for it.

2. Should our Bands compete in more/less/same number of Band competitions ?

More 9 Less 0 Same 18

Comments :

- Maybe could consider some extras – maybe 1 or 2 more
- No need for competitions – kids have to compete at too many levels

3. Is the Concert Band combined performance with Lane Cove Community Band valuable ?

YES 17 NO 1

4. Is the Concert Band / Davidson High Links program valuable ?

YES 18 NO 2

Comments :

- More valuable than Land Cove Community Band
- Especially for the Year 6 going to Year 7 kids

4. Band Rewards

1. Do you find the Band rewards valuable ?

YES 22 NO 0

- Band badges unnecessary – prefer a certificate of participation in the Band rather than Band Ribbon
- Perhaps term awards to encourage
- Kids love it
- Band Ribbons – no
- Band badges – very exciting initially, but forgets to pin/unpin off uniform
- Kids enjoy being rewarded for all their practising !
- Presentation Day awards YES, others ? I think Band breakfast and movie night have been great rewards.
- Some certificate would be nice throughout the year for excellence in cooperation etc..
- Band Ribbons No, but Year 6 Banner Yes
- Presentation Day awards are a good idea, but it is probably unfair to single out 1 or 2 kids when so many of the kids are making a super effort. I like the idea of certificates instead of Band Ribbons. Would definitely look better in their portfolios.
- A lovely acknowledgement of effort and persistence
- Yes, the kids love to get something

2. Should there be more/less/same number of Band social functions ?

More 3 Less 0 Same 21

3. Should we take the Concert Band on a 1 – 2 day Band tour ?

YES 10

NO 2

- Would need more information
- It would be great but would involve much preparation
- That would be great
- Sounds great
- Could be a good opportunity
- Not sure – commitments from Mr A and volunteer parents
- ?
- No, not yet – a mammoth commitment (especially for conductor) – but child says yes.
- Yes, 3 days
- Great experience, but a lot of work !
- Maybe a day tour, with guaranteed audiences – not overnight
- A great opportunity – just mindful of costs to some families
- This is a lot of work – maybe need to add some more people to the Band Committee to work on extra performances etc..
- No – would rather more performance opportunities in Sydney that family can attend

5. Band Camp

1. Do you think Band Camp is valuable ?

YES 31 NO 0

Comments :

- Yes, especially for TB
- Yes, very much

2. Are you happy with Camp Kedron ?

YES 31 NO 0

Comments :

- Yes, good mix of activities and facilities in a close location
- Yes, but changing would be nice too

3. Are you happy with the mix of music and recreation ?

YES 31 NO 0

4. Should there be more/less/same amount of parent participation ?

More 1 Less 0 Same 27

Comments :

- Some instruments could benefit from increased number of tutors for smaller group tuition
- It would be great if all parents were involved.
- Parent participation is great

6. Other Comments :

- Band is great. Band committee is a sensitive and passionate group who successfully represent all children no matter what their ability. Band truly represents what we want at Mimosa – an inclusive, caring education.
- Uniform – ie Band Shirt for competitions for JB and CB.
- Thanks for all your hard work Band Committee
- The Band Committee do a great job – thankyou
- Thankyou Band Committee for the great job you do
- The Mimosa Band program is outstanding, well run and much appreciated.
- There have so many positive benefits to the children participating in the Band program, but it has to be enjoyable, inspirational and fun. The music needs to be more current and the environment needs to be conducive to creative, musical minds and hearts. I have struggled, of late, with keeping child interested and motivated – yet I know she wants to continue with his/her instrument.
- Child loves going to band !
- Band Camp is definitely a highlight of the band program. Musically and socially of benefit to the kid and a positive way to start the year.
- Congratulations to the Band Committee ! Your contribution to the school is excellent and effort acknowledged. Thank you.
- The current Band Committee members will very soon be leaving the school. There needs to be a feed in from younger families to ensure the continuity of the band programme and the continued success. Maybe the P&C elections should throw open the Band Committee for new members – there needs to be a succession plan. The success of the bands at Yamaha and Battle of the Bands is a credit to Phil and his dedication to giving the children “music”.
- I have been very happy with the band programme and committee. Not hugely happy of Mr A and his way of speaking to and managing the children as I saw when on Band Duty. Older kids are being turned off by his manner. Compare to band at Davidson High School – conductor has vastly different approach with kids – it is one of the best school bands I have heard.
- I think there should be more band performances as it seems they haven't had many so far this year. Also, with band rehearsal, he also finds it boring as the percussionists have to sit and wait for about 30 minutes

while everyone tunes their instruments, then if there are the 3 percussionists there, they don't get a lot of time playing the drums. As mentioned before, he didn't even get to play (the drumkit) today. He is getting very discouraged. He has spoken to his tutor, so hopefully we can get his enthusiasm back. Thanks to the Band Committee, I think you do a great job !

- Perhaps play at homes, for handicapped people ?