

## **The MIMOSA Public School Band Program**

At MIMOSA Public School we believe that comprehensive education should involve the whole child and that traditional academic subjects should co-exist with the creative arts and sport to provide a well-rounded learning experience for all children.

Our Band program provides outstanding opportunities for children to learn an instrument, develop as a musician and enjoy the social benefits of interacting with children from other years.

Discipline and organisation skills are instilled in the children as they are required to attend weekly Band rehearsals, lessons with their instrument tutors and complete regular instrument practise at home.

Children also develop confidence and leadership by regularly participating in Band performances for the school and the community throughout the year.

All students in Year 3 to Year 6 are invited to join the MIMOSA Public School Band program. An appreciation of music is for life – be inspired !

## **Band Administration**

The MIMOSA Public School Band program is administered by a volunteer parent committee. The Band committee is a sub-committee of the Parents & Citizens (P&C) association.

The Band program is self-funded using the payment of Band fees, Instrument Hire fees and Band Camp fees. A Band committee administration and financial report is presented at each monthly P&C meeting.

The Band committee consists of a Co-ordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Instrument Co-ordinator, Tutor Co-ordinator and Music Librarians, and is responsible for the following tasks :

- communication to Band members
- co-ordination of Band performances and competitions
- collection and banking of fees
- employment of the Band Conductor
- maintenance of the hire instrument inventory
- distribution of the hire instruments
- co-ordination of the hire instrument repairs and services
- purchase of new instruments
- maintenance of the "Tutor Contact List"
- tutor liaison
- copy and distribution of Band music
- organisation of Band Camp
- organisation of Band social functions

The Band committee works in partnership with the Band Conductor and the school Principal to ensure the successful administration of the Band program.

The Band committee meets regularly and welcomes suggestions and comments from parents. The contact details for the Band committee are attached (see Appendix 1).

The Band committee communicates with Band members in the following ways :

- via Yellow Band notes and Emails to band parents
- via the "Band News" column in the School Newsletter

A locked "Band Box" is located in the School Office. Correspondence to the Band committee or Band Conductor can be securely posted in the Band Box.

## **Band Structure**

The MIMOSA Band program has a **THREE BAND structure**.

Students join the Band program in Year 3 and enter the **TRAINING Band**.

After participating in the Band program for one year, the students progress to the **JUNIOR Band** in Year 4.

Years 5 and 6 make up the **CONCERT Band**.

**Students will remain in their Year appropriate Band during their participation in the Band program.**

There are two exceptions to the above.

1. If the Band Conductor assesses a student as being musically talented (and there is a need for that instrument), the student will be invited to join a band **above** their Year level. The student will however, be required to remain in their Year appropriate band as well, ie they will be attending rehearsals and performances for BOTH bands.
2. If a student enters the Band program after Year 3, they will join a band **below** their Year level. When the Band Conductor feels the student has progressed enough musically, the student will be invited to **ALSO** join the band that is Year appropriate. The student attends rehearsals and performances for BOTH bands until the Band Conductor approves the final progression to the Year appropriate band.

## Instruments

The MIMOSA Bands are Concert Bands and consist of woodwind, brass, bass and percussion instruments : ie Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, French Horn , Percussion, Electric Bass Guitar and Electric Keyboard.

Instruments are allocated to new Band members using the following procedure :

1. Students nominate three instrument preferences
2. The Band Conductor assesses each student ie arm reach, mouth shape and the ability to hold and carry the instrument
3. The needs of the Band and the current instrument distribution are reviewed ie there must be an even distribution of instruments to create a balanced band.

Band members can purchase their own instrument, or hire one through the Band committee.

Band members are encouraged to **buy their own instrument** as soon as they are sure they are suited to the instrument. It makes good financial sense to buy an instrument, as it is more economical than hiring in the long term. It also frees up hire instruments for the incoming Band members. Also, the progression to High School is made easier, as most High School bands require instrument ownership.

Please keep in mind that a good quality second hand instrument is a much better investment than a brand new cheap version.

Band members must purchase a cleaning kit to maintain their instrument. Reeds must be purchased for clarinets and saxophones. These can be purchased from any good music store.

## Hire Instruments

If a Band member hires an instrument through the Band Committee, an instrument hire contract must be signed by the parents. The contract will be renewed annually (see Appendix 2).

It is the responsibility of the student to return the hire instrument to the Band committee upon leaving the Band program.

The **percussion instruments** cannot leave the Band room. If a student plays percussion in the Band, they must pay the percussion hire fee to use the Band's equipment during rehearsals and performances and also purchase their own practise drum pads or drum kit for practise at home. The student's family is also responsible for transporting the Band's percussion equipment to performances outside school if required.

The amplifier for the **electric bass guitar** cannot leave the Band room. When a student hires or buys an electric bass guitar, a small amplifier is included in the package for practise at home. During rehearsals and performances, the Band's amplifier is used. The student's family is responsible for transporting the Band's amplifier and lead to performances outside school if required.

The **electric keyboard** cannot leave the Band room. If a student plays keyboard in the Band, they must pay the keyboard hire fee to use the Band's equipment during rehearsals and performances and also purchase their own keyboard for practise at home. The student's family is also responsible for transporting the Band's keyboard and amplifier to performances outside school if required.

## Instrument Repairs

If your Hire Instrument needs repairing, please contact the Instrument Coordinator to organise the repair of your instrument and to borrow a replacement instrument (if available).

## **Instrument Tutors**

It is a condition of the Band program that Band members have a weekly private instrument lesson outside school hours.

This ensures that students learn to play their instrument correctly and that Band rehearsals are used for instrument and music collaboration, NOT individual instrument tuition.

Flutes are initially the most difficult instrument to play. To ensure the Training Band flutes are given the best start, they are required to begin learning in term 4 2009. During week 1 – 8 of term 4, a group lesson with a professional flute tutor has been arranged. This will be held in the school hall on Thursday lunchtimes 1 – 2pm. The cost is \$120 per child. No private lesson outside school hours is required until term 1 2010.

A “Tutor List” is published by the Band Committee at the end of every year. This provides the details of all recommended tutors (See Appendix 3). It is however, the responsibility of each child’s parents to ensure the tutor conforms to the Child Protection laws.

Band members are required to regularly practice their instrument at home. Minimum practice times are 15 minutes four times per week.

To ensure a structured and logical learning progression, the tutorial book “Standard of Excellence” is distributed on entry to the Band program. This book is to be used by the Band member’s tutor in their weekly private lesson, and will also be used in the weekly Band rehearsal

A black A4 display folder is distributed on entry to the Band program. This is used to keep copies of all Band music. This folder is to be brought to each Band rehearsal and is also used during tutor lessons and home practice.

## **Rehearsals**

The Band Conductor will hold weekly Band rehearsals in the MIMOSA Band Room :

Tuesday 8:00am – 9:15am for Concert Band  
Wednesday 8:00am – 9:00am for Junior Band  
Friday 8:00am – 8:45am for Training Band

Band members are to arrive, with enough time to set up their instrument and music, ready to play at their rehearsal start time. Attendance at Band rehearsals is compulsory. A roll will be taken, and absentee notes required for any missed rehearsals.

Band members are expected to behave in a courteous and committed manner at all times during rehearsals. Any Band member who misbehaves will be asked to sit out the rehearsal and will be reported to the school Principal who may then call the Band member's parents.

A Band parent is in attendance at each rehearsal. A Band Parent Duty roster is distributed at the beginning of each term (see Appendix 4). The Band parent marks the roll and acts in a support role to the Band Conductor.

## **Fees**

Band fees are \$180 per year. Band fees are used to pay the Band Conductors fee's, purchase music, pay the entry fee to competitions and fund the Band's social events.

Instrument Hire fees are \$90 per year for percussion and keyboard and \$150 per year for all other instruments. Instrument Hire fees are used to pay for the purchase, repair and servicing of instruments.

Fees are invoiced in two payments – at the start of Term 1 and the start of Term 3. Cheques should be made out to "Mimosa PS P&C Band Committee". EFT Payments can be made directly into the Band account : BSB 062-295 Account # 00904603.

## **Performances and Social Events**

When a student enters the Band program, they will be presented with a green Band badge. This should be worn with pride on their regular school uniform.

On entering their second year in the Band program, the student is presented with a bronze Band badge. On entering their third year, a silver Band badge is presented and when entering their fourth and final year, a gold Band badge is presented to the student.

Band performances are scheduled throughout the year and are a compulsory requirement of the Band program.

The Bands performed at the following events in 2009 :

- MIMOSA Grandparents Day
- MIMOSA Fireworks Night
- MIMOSA Kindergarten Information Evening
- Yamaha Music Festival
- MIMOSA Band Parent Concerts
- MIMOSA School Assemblies
- MIMOSA Baby Proms
- North Shore Primary School Concert Band Festival
- MIMOSA Band Information Night
- MIMOSA Presentation Night

The Band committee organises a social event for all Band members at the end of each term. This is to recognise the commitment the students have made to the Band program. The following social events were held in 2009 :

- Band Camp
- Band BBQ Breakfast
- Evening Concerts to Parents
- Movie and Pizza night in the school hall

At the MIMOSA Presentation Night, awards are presented to Band members. These awards are in recognition for commitment and excellence in the Training, Junior and Concert Bands.

## **Band Camp**

A Band Camp is held at the end of Term 1 each year (27 – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010). This is a weekend (one night, two day) residential stay at Camp Kedron, Ingleside.

The Band Camp is a mixture of intensive music tuition and recreation activities. Instrument Tutors will teach the children in small tutorial groups, and volunteer parents will supervise the recreation activities.

A concert to parents will conclude the camp on Sunday afternoon.

The outcome is an accelerated progression in music and a fun way of making friends in the Band.

The cost will be \$175.

## **Davidson High LINKS Program**

A LINKS program between MIMOSA Public School and Davidson High School has been developed.

Davidson High Band members will act as tutors for the Mimosa Concert Band members in Term 4 each year.

The combined Davidson High and Mimosa bands will be conducted by the Davidson High conductor.

## **Cost Summary**

Band Fee	\$180 pa
Instrument Hire Fee	\$150 pa OR \$90 pa (Percussion and Keyboard)
Band Camp	\$175 pa
Private Tutor Lessons	\$15 - \$30 per week
Training Band Flute Term 4 group lesson	\$120