



Band Information and Recruitment Evening 2008

**KEPS BAND PROGRAM
OUTLINE FOR PARENTS AND
PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

Why is the Band important?

- The band at KEPS has developed over many years and is a great asset to the school. It first started in 1932.
- The Band program encourages participants to develop relationships and respect, a sense of teamwork, responsibility for their own learning, resilience and genuine commitment to their instrumental learning.
- Music skills in their chosen instrument are explored as well as music appreciation and an opportunity to perform for the school community and wider audiences. These skills and achievements will stay with participants long after they graduate from KEPS.

What is the KEPS Band Program?

Beginning Band

Social Band

Concert Band

Beginning Band.

Students are eligible to join from mid year 3 and experience just tutorials for the first 6 months – with the purpose to teach basic playing techniques, theory and small ensemble skills.

Social Band.

From the beginning of year 4 students commence lunchtime rehearsals and have the opportunity to perform at assembly and the end of year Soiree.

Concert Band.

Students who reach the next instrumental benchmark are then moved up into the performing band. This is mostly year 5 and 6 students but any year 4's are included if they've reached the benchmark early and wish to challenge their learning.

New KEPS Students.

New students to the school are welcome to join the band program providing we have their preferred instrument available or if they have access to an instrument. Students with experience shall play a prepared piece for the tutor and Music Director to enable us to place them in the most appropriate band. Students with little or no experience will attend Social Band tutorials and rehearsals until they achieve the required benchmarks for Concert Band.

Benefits for learners and their families.

Music participation enhances: problem solving, teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, co-ordination, memory skills, self-esteem, confidence, concentration, and much, much more!!! A child's study of music also offers opportunities for shared family experiences including: musical event attendance, family music making, performing for (and with) family and friends, and a sense of pride and accomplishment for the entire family.

What can you do to help?

- The number one priority for parents is to encourage and support their children in developing solid daily practice routines and by taking an interest.
- Parent attendance is most welcome for our many performances over the year.
- Numerous studies indicate that parent support and involvement are important factors in a child's ability to successfully learn an instrument. Like any skill, interest counts far more than talent. With the right support from parents and a supportive learning environment, being involved in a musical ensemble will become a natural and enjoyable part of your child's life.
- Offer genuine compliments and encouragement regularly. Praise good efforts.
- Take your child to a wide variety of musical performances including orchestral concerts, musicals or perhaps seeing choirs sing.
- Make sure their instrument is clean and in good working order.
- Encourage students to take private lessons and exams to improve their technique, knowledge and skills.
- Agree with your child to make a minimum twelve month commitment to his or her music studies to allow them to gain some proficiency in tubes and band experiences.
- Encourage participation in ensembles and to play music in small groups with friends.
- Your child's progress will be greatly enhanced if you refrain from using practice as a punishment. Don't make them play for others when they don't want to.
- Don't expect rapid progress and development in the first few weeks; give your child time to develop skills over the first six months.

Scheduled Practice Times.

- Music achievement requires *effort over a period of time*. It is not the instant gratification our “click & go” generation is accustomed to.
- Dedication and regular practice are the way for students achieve results.
- You can help your child by providing a quiet place in which to practise. In these very beginning stages students need a consistent, daily time for practice eg. 15 minutes before or after school each day, and one of the weekend days.
- Correct equipment (music stand and chair) is essential for instrumental students.
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible to praise your child’s efforts and achievements (no matter how it sounds at the beginning) is very important for their confidence.
- This will ensure development of muscles, coordination and music reading skills. As your child gains stamina and knowledge, practice times can be increased.

BAND PROGRAM CONTRACT.

July 14 2008 – December 12 2008.

This contract is designed to facilitate the smooth running of a quality band program at Kew East Primary School. Should you have any queries, please make an appointment for yourself and your child to discuss issues with the Band Director.

Name: _____ Year/Level: _____

I agree to be **RESPONSIBLE** for the care of my instrument, and for positive attitude and behaviour in band and tutes.

I will show **RESPECT** to band members and tutors, and I will be committed to participation in the band and tutes until my contract expires.

I will be **RESILIENT** and keep practicing my instrument on a regular basis to improve my playing.

I will demonstrate positive **RELATIONSHIPS** with other band members by being punctual and prepared for rehearsals and tutes.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

If you do not wish to continue with the Band Program please sign and return this form with a note on the back confirming your wish to withdraw from the program. Thank you.

If your child loses interest.

- In the event that your child loses interest in his or her music studies, DON'T PANIC.
- Discuss the situation to determine why their interest is declining. Refer to their Band Contract.
- Talk to their music teacher/s to see what might be done to rekindle their enthusiasm and solve the problems they may be experiencing.
- Encourage your child to stick it out for an agreed period of time.
- Try to get some extra lessons or extra help if your child is having trouble.
- Offer increased enthusiasm and support, children may lose interest because they feel their family are not interested in what they are doing.

What do you get for your fees?

- The program is fully self-funded (user pays) and our rates are very economical in comparison with other schools and establishments offering music lessons.
- Fees directly correlate with the costs for tutors, instruments, sheet music, folders, photocopying, uniforms, bus travel, entry to competitions and annual service costs.
- Tutorial Fees are payable on Term Payment Planners which are distributed by classroom teachers.
- If you ever have an issue with your fees please visit the office to make alternative arrangements.

Current Fees.

As of July 2008:

Tutorial Fees \$112.00 per term payable on Term Payment Planner issued at the beginning of Term by the classroom teacher. Includes lessons and materials.

Instrument Hire (July – December 2008)

Percussion \$50.00

Brass \$80.00

Woodwind \$100.00

*Covers annual general service costs

Instrument Hire Agreement.

If parents are hiring from the school, a Hire Agreement must be signed and nominated fee paid prior to being provided with an instrument.

(Please note that Instrument hire fees are NOT included on Term Payment Planners – it is a separate charge for those hiring from the school only.)

What is the Tutorial Program?

- Students each have a small group tutorial of 25 minutes per week, sixteen weeks of the school semester.
- Tutorials are held during school hours with specialised instrumental teachers.
- Students wishing to take AMEB examinations will require private tuition outside the school program.
- Tutors will provide regular feedback to students and parents with formal progress reports in line with the school report schedule twice a year.
- The tutorial program is part of the Band Program as a whole. Students in years 4 -6 who participate in tutes must also participate in band rehearsals and performances.

Absences from tutorials.

- Sixteen tutorials are scheduled per semester (half year). This gives us a chance to be flexible with other school programs such as excursions, camps, sporting commitments and government testing days.
- Lessons missed through student absence are unable to be replaced. Should you miss more than four tutorials (due to an extended overseas trip or broken limbs for example) then a pro rata tute fee may be applicable. Please discuss your needs with the school if required.
- If a tutor is absent then a make up lesson will be scheduled when required.

Performances.

Performances are scheduled by the Music director in consultation with KEPS staff, and are approved by the principal and school council. They are listed in the school newsletter under Music News. Both bands are given the opportunity for internal school performances at assembly, and Concert Band performs at other appropriate school events. Concert Band attends external performance events such as Melbourne School Bands Festival, Oxfam Community Aid Abroad concerts and the end of year Soiree.

Music Camp.

The annual Music Camp is a great learning opportunity and a lot of fun for all students in Concert Band. Students have an intensive few days and really gain skills on their chosen instruments. It gives students the opportunity to develop friendships with the new band members who have graduated from Social Band. Please encourage your child to attend when offered the opportunity, as this musical experience will prove invaluable as we cover much of the music to be played over the year.

Available Instruments.

- Beginning Band students may select from Cornet, Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Clarinet and Percussion, in order to form a balanced band.
- Saxophones, Bass Clarinets, Euphoniums and Tuba, are offered to year 5 and 6 students who demonstrate responsibility, have a keen interest, have a high degree of skill on their chosen instrument in year 3 and 4, are physically able to cope with a larger instrument and have the resilience to work hard on a new instrument and gain proficiency.

Care of Instruments.

When students are issued their instruments, they will be given verbal and written care advice and instructions on how to look after the instrument. The written instructions must be kept in their case or folder at all times. Cleaning tutorials are held once per term to ensure students know how to care properly for their instrument. The issue of care is very important, as the life and usefulness of the instruments depends on how well they are looked after. Responsibility for the care of the instrument lies with the student. ALL instruments (even privately owned ones) must be stored in the music centre for safety reasons. The Music Centre is open daily from 8:45am – 9:00am and 3:30pm – 3:45pm for instrument deposit and collection.

Maintenance of Instruments.

- ALL instruments (including privately owned ones) are required to be thoroughly cleaned and are subjected to a maintenance test on advertised instrument cleaning days at the end of terms 2 and 4. Any instrument requiring service will be sent away. Any damage that occurs during the hiring period is deemed the responsibility of the hiring party and will be paid for by the hirer.
- Please don't attempt to repair instruments in any way. Even bending a piece back can result in breakage and very costly repairs. All issues with instruments must be referred to the band director immediately.

Preferences and Student Interviews.

- Please take the time to discuss with your child their instrument preferences and fill out the form provided. It is important to have a least three preferences to allow me to cater for the physical attributes of individual students and to have a balanced band.
- Please indicate clearly if you intend to provide your own instrument.
- Forms must be handed in by the end of this week to enable interviews to take place next week.
- Instruments will be allocated at the first tutorials in Term 3 upon receipt of Hire Agreements and Fees.

**Thankyou to all for attending
this evening.**

Should you ever have any questions or concerns,
feel free to telephone or visit the Music Centre and
we can make a time to discuss the issues.

This slide show is available on the KEPS website
should you wish to make a copy or have access for
future reference.

Georgie Greenwood
Band Director