

**Roselea Public School
Band Program**

Introduction

Welcome to the Band Program at Roselea Public School. Our program aims to offer as many students as possible in Year 3 and above the opportunity to learn an instrument and enjoy the experience of playing and performing in a group.

The instruments that are part of the Band Program include woodwind, brass, percussion and string bass or bass guitar. The most commonly played instruments for beginners are clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone and drums. Other woodwind and brass instruments, such as oboe, bassoon, french horn, euphonium and tuba, are wonderful parts of concert bands and we would love to find players for them, particularly in the more senior years.

Some things for parents to be aware of

For your child to benefit the most from the Band Program, please note:

- You are as much a part of the Band Program as your child.
- Support your child's band when it is playing in public, and encourage your child to listen to other bands.
- Encourage your child with their practice and the challenges they will face when they are learning to play.
- Help your child get to band rehearsals on time.

The Band Program at Roselea Public School is run by the Roselea Public School Band Association. Every parent of a child in the band is a member of the Association. However, the organisation of the program is co-ordinated by a committee drawn from the members. One of Roselea's teachers acts in a liaison role, and a professional Band Master (conductor) and tutors are sourced from outside the school. The Program cannot properly function without the support of every parent. The committee is always looking for new members and the assistance of parents for a variety of activities. The committee and the required roles are described further below.

The Bands

The Band Program at Roselea Public School is open to children from Year 3 up. From 2010 Roselea Public School will have three bands – a Training Band for beginners, a Senior Band for players with 1 to 2 years experience and a Concert Band for the most experienced and able players. The students will be placed in the appropriate band by the Band Master in consultation with the liaison teacher, based on knowledge of their playing ability and other factors.

Training Band

Students that begin to learn a band instrument at Roselea Public School will start in the training band. This band typically has a large number of Year 3 students, with other children from Years 4 and 5 that have decided that they wish to learn an instrument.

At the end of each year, students that wish to learn an instrument will need to make their interest known by filling in the "Expression of Interest" form that is available from the liaison teacher. A time (during school hours) will then be arranged for these children to meet the Band Master to choose an instrument. The school has a limited number of instruments for hire and arrangements are made in term 4 for the hire of these instruments for the following year. The training band receives priority for the hire of school instruments and it will be a "first in, best dressed" approach.

The students in the training band do most of their early learning using *Essential Elements 2000*. This series has a book for each instrument and will be included in the initial fees for joining the Band Program. The books will be available early in term 1, in time for the first lessons. In addition to the use of this series, the training band will also learn a number of separate pieces of music for performances.

Training band rehearsals are scheduled for lunchtime on the same day as the group lessons which also take place at school. This will be on Thursdays in 2010. Students will be required to bring their instruments and music to school on this day each week.

Senior Band

The Senior Band will mainly comprise students with at least one year's playing experience. The majority of students will be in Year 4. It is anticipated that this band will rehearse at lunchtime on Wednesdays. The students in this band will continue to work through the *Essential Elements* series, but will also work on a larger number of other band pieces of music.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is comprised of mainly Year 5 and 6 students. However, the Band Master will progress other students to improve the balance of instruments in the band, or according to the abilities of individual students. The Concert Band will rehearse on Wednesday morning before school (7.45am – 8.45am).

Band Master

The Band Master of the Roselea Public School bands is Peter David Blyth. The Band Master conducts all three bands at the school and instructs the students in playing together in the band. The Band Master is also responsible for the selection of music to be played by the bands and the placement of children in the appropriate band. The Band Master is also the main tutor for group lessons at school (see lessons below).

Lessons

It is recommended that all members of the band receive tuition to enable them to master their instruments. It is recognised that this can be a significant additional cost for families whose children wish to learn an instrument. For this reason, relatively low cost group lessons are provided by tutors at school.

The small group lessons provided at school cost \$11 plus GST per 30 minute lesson. The groups will typically consist of up to four students. The tutors will invoice parents directly, although fees can be paid through the school. The majority of Training Band members usually start learning in these group lessons. The children enjoy learning in a group environment with their friends. Any student who is already having private lessons or wishes to have private lessons is not required to be part of the group lessons at school. More experienced players are encouraged to move on to private lessons, but this is not mandatory.

Group lessons for the Training Band are provided on Thursdays during school. Group lessons for the Senior and Concert bands will be scheduled in the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Some Concert and Senior Band lessons are conducted on Thursdays. The day and time will be confirmed early in term one, once classes are finalised.

Private lessons will not be provided at school, however where possible, private lessons are encouraged for the Senior and Concert Band students to allow the students to develop more quickly and improve the overall standard of the bands.

Attached at the end of this document is a list of tutors that would be able to provide private lessons out of school hours. A description of the requirements for learning for the students will be provided to ensure that external tutors are giving tuition that is at least covering the learning provided in group lessons. This will include progress through the *Essential Elements* book and other indicators of progress.

Fees

All Roselea Public School students participating in the Band Program are required to pay fees to cover the operating expenses of the program. These are set annually by the band committee and are kept as low as possible. Fees are invoiced each semester (half year), or can be paid in full in term 1. Fees are payable within 14 days of invoice. The expected fees are shown in the attached fee schedule. Band Camp fees are billed separately to cover camp costs.

Band Fees can be paid with the following options; cash/cheque – payable to “Roselea Public School Band Account” with payment being put in an envelope clearly marked “Band” in the school collection box (please remember payment days are Tuesday and Thursdays), or via electronic funds transfer (EFT)- bank account details will be provided on the invoice.

Note: band lessons are invoiced separately.

Music

All Band music, with the exception of the *Essential Elements* books, is the property of the Roselea Public School and is kept in band performance folders at school. Each child is responsible for the care of the folder they are using. Any lost or damaged music is the responsibility of the user. Each child will be given a practice copy of the music they are learning in band. Each student is asked to keep these copies in an A4 folder clearly named. They will need to bring their folders to their lessons. If a student loses any music they must inform the Band Master so that the loss may be recorded and a replacement issued. Under no circumstances should photocopies be made of your music as we are bound by strict licensing and copyright laws. At the end of the year, or upon leaving the band, all music must be returned.

Instruments

Roselea Public School has a stock of band instruments for hire, for a relatively low hire fee. The School is working to improve and extend the instruments available, but does not have instruments available for all students. Students in the Training Band are given priority for the school's instruments.

The full hire fee is payable at the beginning of the hire period. An instrument hire contract must be signed before a student can hire a school owned instrument.

Parents should consider purchasing their own instrument as their child progresses through the bands, particularly for the more common and less expensive instruments such as flutes, clarinets, and trumpets. A number of instrument suppliers have hire-purchase plans available that may suit some families. The Roselea Public School Band Committee uses and recommends Turramurra Music.

Return of Instruments at the end of each year

Each year all school owned instruments are returned to the school for maintenance and servicing. The cost of this is included in your instrument hire fee. All name tags, reeds etc must be removed from the case. The school tag must remain on the instrument at all times. Return only the instrument and all pieces of equipment that belong with it.

Loss or damage

Students and parents are responsible for the care of the hired instrument. The Band Committee strongly recommends that you itemise the instrument (owned or hired) in your household insurance. Please make sure it is insured inside and outside your home. You should ensure you have a written record of the make, model and serial number should something happen to your instrument. Students are responsible for any accidental damage to the instrument whilst in their care. If cleaning costs at the end of the year exceed the hire fee then parents will be expected to pay the difference.

Recommended Repairers

If you experience any problems with your hired instrument, please first inform your tutor who will check the instrument. If they can see a problem the instrument will be referred to the Committee's Equipment Officer who will assess the damage and determine if;

- the problem is general wear and tear to be paid for by the Band Committee; or damage caused by the hirer to be paid for by the hirer
- If it can be fixed at school or if needs to be taken to a repairer.

The appropriate course of action will then be taken with parents notified accordingly.

Please feel free to contact our instrument coordinator if you have any questions regarding your hired instrument.

Care of Instruments

Hire instruments are maintained and repaired at the end of each school year. Each student is expected to keep his or her instrument in excellent condition. Students are responsible for the purchase of cleaning and maintenance accessories.

WOODWINDS

- Keep instruments free of dust
- Check pads regularly for worn or torn skins
- Clean mouthpiece after every use (wash before using the first time)
- Clarinets and saxes should have at least 3 playable reeds of the correct size at all times. Use good quality reeds and discard them when they are worn, chipped or cracked. Parents are responsible for supplying the reeds.
- Cases should be clean and have attached tag with name on it

BRASS

- Keep instruments free of dust
- Mouth pieces should be cleaned daily (wash before use first time)
- Trombone slides should be lubricated with slide cream as necessary
- Valves should be oiled as necessary
- Please only use recommended brand valve oil and slide cream
- Instrument should be washed at least once a term, inside and out. Do not perform this task without instructions from your tutor.
- Tuning slides should be greased after washing
- Cases should be clean and have attached tag with name on it

PERCUSSION

Players are responsible for keeping all equipment clean and in working order.

Music Stands

The school provides music stands for rehearsals and lessons at school. Students should have a music stand at home for practicing. A portable music stand is recommended that can also be used at band camp and external performances where required.

Performances

Throughout your child's years in band, particularly when they reach the Concert Band level, the bands will be involved in a number of public performances. These may include school based evenings, eg Christmas Carols, Concert Nights and Solo Nights and may also be at external venues, eg Eisteddfods, Competitions and School Fetes.

These are likely to be outside school hours. All Band members are expected to make themselves available for all performances. Full school uniform is expected to be worn for all performances, particularly those outside school. This includes ties for both boys and girls when in winter uniform.

Yamaha Music Festival

This is the main performance that all three bands work towards. It is held in June each year. All students are expected to attend this performance. As is expected for all performances, excellent behaviour and correct dress is of crucial importance for the Yamaha Festival.

Camp

Each year the Band Committee runs a weekend camp for all Band students. In order to keep costs at a minimum and allow students to participate in their Saturday morning sporting activities the camp is held at school in two sessions –a Saturday afternoon, concluding with dinner; followed by Sunday morning tutoring, concluding with a BBQ and a Concert for family and friends on Sunday afternoon. The students participate in Band rehearsals, and sectionals (instrument sections with a tutor). Band Camp in 2010 will be run on a weekend in March. Parents will be billed separately for Band Camp in Term 1.

Band Association & Parent Involvement

The Band Program at Roselea Public School is run by the Roselea Public School Band Association (which comes under the Roselea PS Parents and Citizens Association). The organisation of the program is operated via a committee drawn from the members, in conjunction with the School Principal, the liaison teacher, the Band Master and tutors. The office bearers (President, Secretary and Treasurer) of the committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The committee is involved in organising the appointment of the Band Master and tutors, finances, music, instruments, band camp and performances. The key roles on the committee are:

President – runs committee meetings and provides overall coordination. General liaison between the School, the Band Master and the general public. Must be able to attend various band functions and speak and make decisions on behalf of the band.

Secretary/Administration Officer – Prepares all written information for Band members; takes minutes at meetings and distribute to committee; keeps tabs on activities for various events, based on the Teacher-Liaison Officer’s requirements; Organise information packages for new band members at the end of each year.

Treasurer – manages the finances of the bands, including invoicing and receipting of funds for band levies, instruments hire and band camp, payments of band related expenses such as band master fees and instrument cleaning and servicing and providing up to date financial records including an annual budget.

Music Officer – purchases required music, organises the distribution of music to the bands, makes copies (under restrictions of Copyright Act), and organises collection of music at the end of the year or when finished with. Distributes and collects performance folders at performance venues.

Instrument Coordinator – Organises and records the distribution and collection of school owned musical instruments. Purchases new/used musical instruments as approved by the committee. Organises the cleaning and repair of hire instruments at the end of each year.

Fundraising Coordinator – organises fundraising efforts by the Band Association.

In addition, a number of other parents are required to volunteer their time to assist in organising events such as the band camp. We look forward to seeing many new parents on the committee in 2010.

Fee Schedule

Listed below are estimates of the fee items that may be incurred by your child’s participation in the Roselea Public School Band Program. Not all the fees listed will apply in every case. Where a child is having private lessons, these costs will be in addition to those listed below, as will external instrument hire or purchase costs for many intermediate and concert band members.

Item	Training Band	Intermediate/ Concert Band
Band fees per year (includes \$20 for <i>Essential Elements</i> for the Training Band)	\$220	\$200
Group lessons (\$11 + GST/week, 8 weeks per term)	\$387.20	\$387.20
Instrument hire	\$165	Generally not available at this stage
Camp fees (TBA – usually between \$90-\$100)	\$90	\$90
TOTAL	\$862.20	\$677.20+