**Introduction**

Welcome to Manly Village Public School Band Program. This booklet provides important information for you and your child about the school band program. In particular it provides an overview of:

- how the school band program works;
- the expectations of band membership;
- your parental role in the program; and
- expected costs for band membership.

By understanding how the program works you will be helping your child in their musical development and ensuring the continued growth of the Manly Village Band Program.

**Policy Statement**

The school band program exists to enable children to enjoy playing music with their friends and classmates as part of a group. Being in the band develops teamwork and a sense of achievement. Fundamental to this is the full support and cooperation of all band parents, students, conductors, tutors and staff of Manly Village Public School.

**Objectives**

We aim to:

- encourage the participation of as many children as possible;
- enable children to enjoy music and play music for other people’s enjoyment;
- teach children to play music in an ensemble and encourage team spirit;
- provide performance experience, building confidence and self esteem;
- introduce and develop an appreciation for a wide variety of music;

**Organisation of the Band Program**

**Band Committee**

The Band Committee is made up of supportive parents whose responsibilities include the administration of the band program. Positions include secretary, treasurer, instrument coordinator and band camp coordinator/s. Currently, the committee is overseen by the musical director Mrs Elizabeth Flynn and supported by the school principal.

Parents are invited to become committee members at the Band Information Night held on Tuesday 18th November 2014.

**Band Conductors**

At present band conductors are Mrs Elizabeth Flynn, Ms Anne Keogh and Mr Gerald Steinmann.

**Auditions**

All current band members (and newcomers with experience) will audition in Term 1 for a place in either the Senior Band or the Concert Band.

**The 3 Bands**

**Concert Band**

This band is made up of the students who are most accomplished on their instruments. Students who gain entry into the Concert Band will play more challenging and complex pieces. The Concert Band practises twice a week.
**Senior Band**

This band consists of students who have reached a standard that is well beyond beginners’ level. Students have been learning music for over a year and enjoy being challenged with a broad repertoire of concert pieces which contain an increased degree of difficulty. The Senior Band practises twice a week.

**Training Band**

Training Band is the ideal opportunity for the students to become confident with their new instruments in an environment which is both supportive and fun.

All new band members will initially be placed in the Training Band, and be provided with the opportunity to progress to the Senior Band depending on their ability.

Children enrolling in Training Band are required to have had at least 2 private music lessons before rehearsals begin in Week 4 of Term 1. The Training Band has one practice per week.

**Stage Band**

Stage Band is an instrumental group consisting of Trombone, Trumpet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Percussion, and Piano/Keyboard players.

This is a musical extension group. Children enrolling in this band have the opportunity to learn the repertoire of Jazz, Swing, Blues and Classic Big Band Groove music. Lessons move at a fast pace.

Rehearsals take place in the evening from 6.30pm-7.30pm once a week. The day typically varies from year to year.

Children are expected to have had at least two years music experience of playing their first instrument and if necessary be prepared to learn a second instrument.

**Band Performances**

Throughout the year our bands perform on a variety of occasions including school assemblies, school events, band camp, community concerts, band festivals and competitions.

**How to Join the Band Program**

Membership of the band program is open to all students in Years 3-6. Before applying for a place in the band program, parents and children should be aware of their responsibilities as participants in the band program. These responsibilities are outlined in this booklet.

To ensure your child develops along with the other band members, our preference is to have students register their interest at the Band Information Night or as soon as possible after it. Application forms are in this booklet.

**Band Information Night**

An ideal introduction to the band program is to attend the Band Information Night scheduled for 6:30pm, Tuesday 18th November 2014 in the school hall. The evening will involve:

- outlining the band program
- a Q and A session
- call for parents to volunteer as committee members
- display of band instruments and a Stage Band performance
- acceptance of student applications
Choosing an Instrument

Following the Band Information Night new band students are invited to try out a few instruments during a blow test in the Green Room on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th of November to see which ones best suit them in terms of the size and weight of the instrument and ease of playing it. Students will get instant feedback from the blow test to help them make an informed decision.

As the band needs to be balanced in its instruments, it is important to be flexible in the range of instruments your child is willing to try out and to have at least two choices in mind. Your child will have a much greater chance of being accepted into the band if he/she is willing to play their second choice instrument.

Naturally some instruments are more popular than others so we encourage you and your child to:

- register your child’s interest early by completing the Application for Manly Village Band Program (after you have done the blow test);
- talk to current band members playing the selected instruments;
- consider and discuss a range of choices of instruments with your child; and
- nominate at least 2 band instruments

Band Instruments

Students can choose to learn instruments from the following list: baritone, bassoon, bass clarinet, bass guitar, clarinet, euphonium, flute, French horn, keyboard, oboe, percussion, saxophone (tenor and alto), tenor horn, trombone, trumpet and tuba.

The following instruments have special qualities:

Percussion

The band percussion section has a range of instruments; these include untuned percussion such as drums and various hand held instruments. There are also tuned percussion instruments e.g. xylophone and glockenspiel.

The school’s drum set is used for band practice, tutorials and band performances. Percussionists will need to purchase a pair of drum sticks for school use. It is necessary for them to have their own drum kit by the time they have developed their playing to Senior Band level.

Keyboard

Keyboard players will use the school’s keyboards for band practice, tutorials and band performances. It is necessary for them to have their own keyboard or piano to practise on at home. There is only room for 1 keyboard player per band.

Bass instruments

Bass instruments such as bass clarinet, trombone, baritone, euphonium and tuba are vital to the development and sound of the band. Competent players of these instruments are much sought after and a welcome addition to school and other bands. We put in a special plea for students to learn these wonderful instruments because of the richness of sound they add to the band.

Purchase or Hire

All children are encouraged to look towards purchasing their own instruments as it leads to a greater commitment to music and the band. Good quality instruments are an investment and hold their value over many years. However it is worth hiring for the first semester or year by which time your child will know whether this is the instrument they want to continue with.
Whilst there are many reputable brands on the market, we recommend that you take the time to seek advice from music shops that specialise in the instrument that interests you.

Manly Village offers an instrument hire service with priority given to Training Band students. Instruments owned by the school include clarinets, bass clarinets, flutes, trumpets, trombones, alto saxophones, tenor saxophones, tenor horns, a glockenspiel, a bass guitar, a French horn, a baritone and a euphonium. These are serviced each Christmas; therefore any other repair costs are met by the family hiring the instrument. The cost of hiring an instrument through the school is from $55 to $85 a term.

**Hiring a Tutor**

Manly Village does not provide tuition of band instruments. Some tutors hire a classroom to teach at school but all lessons take place out of school hours.

Musical instrument lessons are an integral part of the Band Program and all students are required to have a 30-minute weekly individual tuition session for their allocated instrument. At least 10 minutes of a lesson should be tuition of band music.

Parents arrange their child’s musical instrument lesson outside the band program. Children selected for keyboard are generally piano students who continue their own private piano lessons. Manly Village School has available a list of music tutors which parents may find useful. This will be available from Ms Flynn when all band applications are finalised. However the school takes no responsibility for the names on the list.

Weekly lessons attract a wide range of fees depending on the experience and qualifications of the tutor. An individual half hour lesson costs around $35.

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**Rehearsal Times**

Below are the current rehearsal times for band.

**Concert Band**
Monday lunchtime from 1:15 to 1:55pm
Wednesday before school from 8:15am to 9:15am

**Senior Band**
Monday before school from 8:15am to 9:15am
Wednesday lunchtime from 1:15 to 1:55pm

**Training Band**
Tuesday before school from 8:15am to 9:15am

For morning rehearsals, band members must be at school by 8:05am so that practice can start at 8:15am sharp. Latecomers hold up the practice and waste time.

**Band Fees**

Band expenses include conductor fees, expenses incurred in buying and photocopying music, purchasing band folders and replacing equipment. Each semester band members will receive, from the Band Committee, a request for payment of band fees. Band fees will be approximately as follows:

- $110 per semester for Concert Band
- $100 per semester for Senior Band
- $90 per semester for Training Band

In addition to this will be your personal costs for tuition and hire or purchase of an instrument.
In May 2015 a two-day Band Camp will be held during which specialised tuition is provided for each section of each band. The camp is invaluable not only in musical terms but it also provides the opportunity for new and current band students to get to know each other and to work as a team. The cost of Band Camp in 2014 was $142.

Commitment

We ask that all band members make the following commitments:

- to attend all practices. If unable to attend for any reason then an apology (as a matter of courtesy and safety) should be given to Ms Flynn.
- to attend all performances, keeping in mind that some performances will be held at night or on the weekend
- to attend Band Camp
- to be polite and cooperative to each other and to those who are responsible for the running of the band
- to treat instruments, particularly those on loan from the school, with utmost care and return them in the same or better condition than when received
- to keep music carefully in the folder provided
- to practise their instrument and band pieces at home each week. The level of enjoyment and satisfaction each child gains depends to a certain extent on their commitment to a regular practice routine.
- to bring necessary equipment to practices, including pencils
- to ensure their instrument is in good working order prior to practices and performances
- to assist in the setting up and putting away of stands, chairs and equipment when required

We ask that parents help in the following ways:

- by paying fees promptly
- by making every effort to get their child to band practice on time
- by attending their rostered parent duty (twice a year) to set up for band rehearsal, mark the roll and assist with supervision
- by transporting, or arranging the transportation of, children to and from concerts
- by volunteering some time to help at Band Camp
- by providing reasonable notice if their child is unable to attend a performance or workshop
- by understanding that participation in the band program is on a yearly basis thus providing security for band performances and finances. Dropping out of the band during the year lets everybody down. Parents need to seek advice from the conductor and band co-ordinator if their child is experiencing difficulties in band. Quitting the band with no notice or warning is unacceptable.

Practising at Home

It is important for band members to practise at home. Initially small amounts of regular practice are necessary (5-10 minutes five times per week). This will gradually expand to longer periods (20-30 minutes four to six times per week) as your child improves. A regular practice routine ensures that your child will steadily improve in their playing. Don’t expect miracles overnight and give lots of praise if it has been a good practice session.
Band Information Night

To hear all about the band program in 2015, attend the Band Information Night scheduled for
6:30pm Tuesday 18th November in the school hall.

Many thanks to Balgowlah North Public School and Christine Smith for allowing us to model our band booklet on theirs.

BAND COMMITMENT

ALL returning Band Students

(Please return to the front office or Ms Flynn by Friday 28 November.)

We have read, understood and agree to commit to the MVPS Band Program for 1 year.

Parents’ names (please print) ____________________________________________

Parents’ signatures __________________________ date __________

Email ______________________________________________________

Child’s name (please print) _________________________________

Current 2014 Band _________________________________

Instrument _________________________________

Child’s signature ___________________________ current class ________
Application for Manly Village Band Program
NEW Band Students
(Please return to Ms Flynn by Friday 21 November.)

Please PRINT all information

Name of child __________________________ current class ____

Parents’ names (please print) __________________________________

Telephone: home __________________ mobile __________________

Email ______________________________________________________

Please list the 2 instruments your child is happy to play (after completing the blow test).
1. ___________________________ 2. ___________________________

My child and I have read the Band Information Booklet. We understand the level of commitment needed for the program to run smoothly. We understand that membership in the Band Program is for one school year.

Parent’s signature _____________________________________________

Child’s signature _____________________________________________