

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Instrumental Music Program

Information Booklet

2020



# **Instrumental Music Program Information Booklet**

St Joseph's will be offering the Instrumental Music Program in 2020. The program will be offered to students who will be in Year 3 and higher in 2020. These students will be given the opportunity to learn woodwind, brass and percussion instruments within the school educational program. The benefits of learning to play a musical instrument are well documented. Music participation enhances teamwork, goal setting, self-expression, coordination, self-confidence, concentration and much more.

The instruments being offered in this program are Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, and Percussion, including the Glockenspiel (Xylophone).

At the back of this booklet is an *enrolment form* for the program. If you have read the details of the program and are interested in enrolling your child, please complete the form and return it to the school office by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

## **Costs**

Group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson and payment is made directly to the Instrumental Music Teacher each term by the account due date. No refunds are available if the student is absent. Accounts are to be paid within 30 days of receiving the invoice. Invoices will be e-mailed directly to the parent from the Instrumental Music Teacher after the student's first lesson. If e-mail is not a viable option, please feel free to discuss other options with the Instrumental Music Teacher.

Group sizes are limited to four students. Groups are organised on the basis of similar levels of proficiency on their instrument and instrument type. This may be re-evaluated after the first semester.

There are several instruments available for hire through the school at a cost of \$5.00 a week. These include 4 Flutes, 3 Clarinets, 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Trumpets, 2 Saxophones and 1 Bass Guitar.

## **Lesson Times**

Half hour lessons are held weekly, in class time, on a *rotating timetable*. Each teacher receives a copy of the timetable at the beginning of each term and it is the student's responsibility to make sure they are at the lessons.

# **REQUIREMENTS**

## **INSTRUMENT**

### **Purchasing**

You may choose to buy your own instrument or you may already have one. Buying a second hand instrument can be a good alternative but we suggest you take the instrument to a qualified repairer for their opinion on quality and price.

### **Hiring**

Locally, Green Brothers Music in Rockhampton has hire-to-own instruments through the company Studio 19. The staff are very knowledgeable and will be able to assist you with all your instrument hiring needs.

### **Renting a school instrument**

The school has 4 Flutes, 3 Clarinets, 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Trumpets, 2 Saxophones and 1 Bass Guitar, which are available for hire. Hire instruments will be offered first to new students. Continuing students will be offered hire instruments after all new students have been allocated their required instruments. The hire fee is \$5.00 per week and these instruments are hired on a semester basis. (This will be added to your school fees).

The instruments are allocated based on the date and time the enrolment forms are received at the office. While the instrument is hired you will be responsible for repairs. For the Clarinets and Saxophones you will need to supply your own reeds.

The allocation of the bass guitar may also depend on the suitability of the students for the instrument and the final decision will be made by the school if several applicants apply.

All instruments come with extra items necessary for using and caring for the instrument. These are listed on the instrument case and if lost or damaged are required to be replaced. Please feel free to discuss the suitability and availability of instruments with the instrumental music teacher.

### **Requirements for specific instruments**

#### **♪ Clarinet & Saxophone**

You will need to purchase reeds for these instruments. Beginners normally start with size 1½ and gradually move up the sizes to 2 then 2½ etc. It is a good idea to have a reed a size larger to try out periodically. As students mouth muscles strengthen, stronger reeds are required. You will need cork grease to apply to the cork joints on the instrument. New instruments can be particularly difficult to assemble. A cleaning cloth is also necessary, as the instrument should be cleaned after each session of playing. These cloths are specially designed and should be purchased if you don't have one.

#### **♪ Trumpet**

You will need valve oil and slide cream for the trumpet. The valves need oiling regularly to avoid sticking. A few drops of oil on each valve is sufficient and it is

important to replace the valves to their exact orientation, otherwise the instrument will not work. A small amount of slide cream should be applied to the tuning slide occasionally. The tuning slide should be left closed when the instrument is not being played to avoid corrosion. A polishing cloth is important for buffing the metal.

♪ Percussion

You will need to purchase drumsticks. There is a large range available at music stores and students can choose whatever suits them. You will also need a snare drum and/or drum practice pad for home practice. During lesson times students will use the school drums and other percussion instruments so there is no need to bring the snare drum to school.

♪ Glockenspiel

If your child can play the piano and is interested in playing with the band they may like to learn to play the glockenspiel, as it is very similar to a piano keyboard. A small glockenspiel, similar to the ones that are used in classroom music, is needed for home practice. The school has 2 performance glockenspiels and these are used in lesson time so there is no need to bring your glockenspiel to school for lessons.

## TUITION BOOK

The school uses the “Standard of Excellence” series as the tuition books. Each instrument has a separate book and the first book, “Standard of Excellence - Book 1”, more commonly known as the red book, is available to be borrowed through the school library. When students reach “Standard of Excellence - Book 2”, more commonly known as the blue book, on average after 1-2 years, you will need to purchase your own book. A note will be sent out to the parent/s when their child progresses onto the “Standard of Excellence – Book 2”.

## FOLDER AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

Students need to keep practice sheets, and other important information in a display folder that needs to come to each lesson. Students are also required to bring a lead pencil and eraser to each lesson.

## **Practise**

It is expected that the students practise for a minimum of **one hour per week**. This can be in one session or in shorter, more frequent, sessions. The latter is preferable for brass instruments. Also, if your child is learning a brass instrument there is a number of mutes available from music stores that allow your child to practise with a much softer instrument. The school does not provide mutes.

## **Uniforms**

Students in the band will be required to have a white shirt, black trousers/long skirt and dark shoes as part of the formal band uniform. A band vest will be issued to each band member for performances and these needs to be returned after the performance. They are kept at the school at all times unless a special arrangement is made.

## **Band**

As students reach an appropriate level of proficiency on their instrument they are invited to join the band. As each student learns differently the time that this level is achieved can vary.

## **Performances**

The band performs several times per year and, where possible, is it important to prioritise these events. We always perform at the following events.

- ♪ Eisteddfod - May
- ♪ Show holiday – normally at 11am
- ♪ St Joseph's Fair – November

We also perform the National Anthem and Happy Birthday on assembly every Monday morning.

## **Eisteddfod**

During Eisteddfod week, participation in the band or attending the competition is considered the lesson for the week. Students will be given the opportunity to compete in the eisteddfod as individuals, duets, etc. The teacher will discuss this with students at the beginning of the year and the appropriate paperwork will be completed. A letter will be sent home at the beginning of Term 1 to inform parent/s of the choices available to students. The eisteddfod program will be released after all the entries have been submitted to the eisteddfod committee and a letter will be sent home to inform parent/s of the dates and times of the student's performances. If you want to have a copy of the eisteddfod program you will be able to purchase an Eisteddfod program at Manda Jane's in Kariboe Street, showing session times and when the individual performances are scheduled.

## **Optional Requirements**

- ♪ *Music stand*

It is important that beginner instrumentalists play with good posture with the music in the right position. Music stands vary in price but an adequate one for home practice costs \$20 - \$30.

## **Enrolment**

There is an enrolment form at the end of this booklet that needs to be completed if you would like your child to attend the Instrumental Music Program in 2020. The first enrolment form is for new students. The second form is for continuing students.

Please note: if I have not received an enrolment form for your child they will not be given a place in the Instrumental Music Program next year. All enrolment forms need to be returned to the office by Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, as this gives the instrumental teacher time to arrange timetables and complete the necessary paperwork to inform all parents of their child's acceptance into the program in the last week of Term Four 2019.

**Meghan Wilton  
Instrumental Music Teacher**

**Instrumental Program**  
**New Student Enrolment Form for 2020**  
(Wind, Brass and Percussion Instruments)

**Student's name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class (2019):**\_\_\_\_\_

My child/ren would like to play ..... Their second choice would be .....

***Costs***

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson. No refunds are available if the student is absent.

***Instrument:* (Please circle which option you would prefer)**

- A) I have or am arranging my own instrument  
OR  
B) I am interested in the school instrument loan system

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name .....  
(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

I would like to have the invoice sent to me via e-mail Y/N

E-mail address.....  
(This will be the e-mail address that invoices are sent to).

Parent's signature ..... Phone number .....

*Completed at school office*

Date received ..... Time received .....

Received by .....

**Instrumental Program**  
**Continuing Student Enrolment Form for 2020**  
(Wind, Brass and Percussion Instruments)

**Student's name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class (2019):**\_\_\_\_\_

My child/ren would like to play ..... Their second choice would be .....

***Costs***

I understand group lessons are offered at a cost of \$10 per lesson. No refunds are available if the student is absent.

***Instrument:* (Please circle which option you would prefer)**

- A) I have or am arranging my own instrument  
OR  
B) I am interested in the school instrument loan system

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend lessons during school time.

Parent's/carer's name .....  
(This is the name that will be written on the invoice).

I would like to have the invoice sent to me via e-mail Y/N

E-mail address.....  
(This will be the e-mail address that invoices are sent to).

Parent's signature ..... Phone number .....

*Completed at school office*

Date received ..... Time received .....

Received by .....