YUGUMBIR
STATE SCHOOL

Music

Instrumental Program
Parent Information Booklet
PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS

All Year 4 children are assessed by the Classroom Music Specialist for possible inclusion in the school Instrumental Program commencing in Year 5.

The instrument families and associated instruments available at Yugumbir are:

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<td>Baritone</td>
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<td>Alto Saxophone</td>
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<td>French Horn</td>
<td>Tenor Saxophone</td>
<td>Untuned Percussion</td>
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Assessment of children involves personnel such as:
- Classroom Music Specialist
- Instrumental Music Teacher
- Class Teacher
- Administration

MUSIC TEST
Children are given a test to assess their ability to aurally discriminate between differences in pitch and rhythm. The ability to sing in tune, to be able to feel and to keep the beat during class music activities is also assessed.

OTHER CRITERIA
Information is also gathered as to a child’s responsibility and reliability, academic ability, behaviour, initiative and self management.

ENROLMENT
The next step is for parents/guardians to read this booklet at home, consider all the information presented and ascertain their willingness and capacity to financially, emotionally and practically support their child’s participation in the Program. Please remember this is a TWO YEAR COMMITMENT. (Withdrawal or elimination from the program will only be done through a meeting with the Deputy Principal.) To indicate your endorsement of all that is required and to register your child for the Program, complete the Enrolment Form and return it to the Music Department as soon as possible after the Information Night. (Please do not return this booklet but retain for future reference.)

Ideally, when your child exits Yugumbir after Year 6, this musical journey should extend into their high school years where the musical foundations laid in Primary School can lead to much greater development on their instrument and higher levels of satisfying engagement in wonderful music making with their like-minded peers.
TUITION
Tuition is paid for by Education Queensland. Private teachers’ lessons cost approximately $35.00 per half hour. Thus the school Instrumental Program offers you a great opportunity to make a huge saving. Currently Education Queensland provides Yugumbir Primary School with two instrumental music teachers for a total teaching time of three days.

There are two elements to the Instrumental Program – (a) lessons and (b) band participation. These go hand in hand and students cannot have one without the other.

LESSONS
In Weeks 2 and 3 of the new school year, we run a Beginner’s program, where every new instrumental student receives a “boosted” start by having a lesson daily during school time. This will enable your child to achieve greater early success than is otherwise possible. **Students MUST have instrument & accessories at the commencement of the Program.** At the completion of the Beginner’s Program, tuition is given as a half hour weekly lesson in small groups, during school time. The number of students in each class is limited and the teachers like to group the children according to their instrument type. As the children progress at different rates, classes of mixed instruments might be formed, enabling children of similar standard and abilities to learn and make music together.

BAND
As indicated above, all students who join the program automatically become members of the band. Beginning students join the Junior Band when it commences some time during Term 2. You will be advised in writing when this is about to happen.

Junior Band Rehearsals: 7:45 – 8:45 am, one morning per week, commencing mid Term 2.

Band attendance is compulsory and as band members the students are required to be available for all performances. This is vital so as to maintain the correct balance of sound. Advance notice of band engagements is always given so that families can make necessary arrangements.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE
The children entering the Program are required to purchase our special music shirt for Junior Band. It is to be worn with black pants, black socks and black shoes. This uniform remains the same for both Junior Band and Senior Band and will be ordered in bulk at the start of the year.

PRACTICE
Regular daily practice is required for maximum development and enjoyment. A suitable time and practice area should be considered and negotiated at home to suit family arrangements. Ideally, this would be a quiet space away from other distractions and with sufficient room for a chair and music stand so that the child can maintain optimum posture and physical comfort.
DECIDING WHICH INSTRUMENT
Under the guidance of the Music Teachers, students have had the opportunity to try making a sound on different instrument mouthpieces. They have also indicated their instrument preferences. The child’s wishes are very important as they must WANT to play the instrument. However there can sometimes be a need for discussion and alternate recommendations before the final instrument selection is made. To do this, the Music Teachers use their experience, wisdom and diplomacy and take into account the following:

😊 the time allocation of the Instructors
😊 the suitability of the child’s physical size
😊 the numbers in each instrument section and the composition of the whole ensemble

PURCHASING AN INSTRUMENT
Now that your child has been invited to join the Instrumental Program, the best way to ensure entry is to buy or hire your own instrument from an outside source - only a limited number of school-owned instruments as listed on p.7 are allocated by the school on loan.

Points to note:
❖ Look into the many options for sale/hire of instruments that stores offer. Music Spot (Browns Plains), Music Express, Massons Music (both Mt Gravatt) and Ellaways (Underwood) have rental schemes and 3 month payment plans.

❖ If intending to purchase second hand start looking now.

❖ As an investment, it is wiser to buy quality instruments as they have better re-sale value, better sound and generally less need for repairs. Always ask for student price.

❖ Make sure you ascertain what warranty the instrument is covered by and who your warranty server will be (the store, in Brisbane, or out of state?)

❖ Do not lay-by too late, as you may not have use of the instrument as required for the crucial Beginners’ Program at the commencement of the school year.

❖ Second hand instruments – ask the seller to play a range of notes, check for cracks, loose sections, keys sealing, corks firm. If you are unsure about verifying the instrument quality yourself, ask if it can be checked by an expert. Once purchased, have it serviced.

❖ Certain brands are of poor quality. Generally instruments make in the U.S.A., Japan, Europe, or England are of genuine quality. Check with an Instrumental Teacher or sales person. Please avoid e-bay!

❖ Once you have purchased or hired the instrument and the accessories, it is best for your child to resist putting the instrument together to try it out, regardless of their enthusiasm, as serious damage can occur. This procedure will be taught in the lessons.
To reinforce some of the previous points, it is most essential that arrangements are made early to be sure your child has an instrument for the commencement of tuition in the second week of the new school year. Your child, and our program, will be disadvantaged if you delay.

**LOAN INSTRUMENTS**
A limited number of instruments are offered on loan from the school.

(a) Short term 1 year loan - flute, trumpet, trombone, clarinet and alto saxophone.

(b) Long term 2 year loan - french horn, tenor saxophone, baritone, euphonium, and bass clarinet. This loan is for the whole two year contract period.

*When the loan agreement for the short term loan has concluded, a similar instrument must be bought, to honour the commitment of the student remaining in the Program while attending this school.*

Some parents choose to set aside an amount of money each week during the year to ensure funds will be available to buy an instrument towards the end of the loan period. They find this helps reduce the financial burden that can come around Christmas time and the start of a new school year.

**NOTIFICATION**
All students will have received the following:

- a) *Confirmation of allocated instrument*
- b) *Accessories form*

In addition, for those allocated a school instrument:

- c) *Loan Agreement*
- d) *Personal Insurance Cover form*

**INSURANCE**
Ensure you have adequate cover for the instrument, wherever the instrument may be – in your home, at school, on the bus, at a concert venue or just in transit between places.

The insurance cover is not the responsibility of the school, whether the instrument is on loan from the school or owned or hired by you.

Instrument cases must be clearly identified with the child’s name, school and contact.

Make a written copy of the instrument’s brand, model and serial number and keep this information in a safe place at home. Children with their own instruments will be asked to provide the school with the instrument’s unique serial number. This will be recorded at school so as to provide another source of information for reference in the event of an unfortunate incident occurring such as theft, loss, damage.
COSTS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM

A. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LEVY

SCHOOL INSTRUMENT LOAN

There is a charge of **$80 per year** if using a school instrument. This levy is payable **by the end of Week 4 in Term 1, 2014.**

Covers:
1. Instrument maintenance and repairs
2. Purchase of new sheet music
3. Photocopying
4. Music Library membership

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

There is a charge of **$40 per year.** This levy is payable **by the end of Week 4 in Term 1, 2014.**

Covers:
1. Purchase of new sheet music
2. Photocopying
3. Music Library membership

NB. Levy Invoices will be distributed at the commencement of the new school year.

IF LEVY PAYMENTS ARE NOT FINALIZED BY THE REQUIRED TIME AND THE SCHOOL HASN’T HEARD FROM YOU, YOUR CHILD’S ENROLMENT IN THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM MAY BE TERMINATED.

B. INSTRUMENT PURCHASE

Refer to page 6.

C. CONSUMABLES/ACCESSORIES

Reeds and lubricating products will need to be replenished as required. Cracked reeds inhibit good playing and therefore it is vital that spares are carried at all times.

D. EXTRAS

Regular maintenance and repair on privately owned instruments.
Band Workshop fees (day attendance only).
Admission charge for audience members (performers free) for some performances/concerts.
A **BLUE** display folder (named) is required by all children. These are needed for their loose copied band sheet music. All folders, books and equipment must be named.

The following prices for required music accessories are only approximations, and cheaper products may be found. The tutor book, however, is set – ‘Standard of Excellence’.

### WOODWIND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>CLARINET</strong></th>
<th><strong>FLUTE</strong></th>
<th><strong>SAXOPHONE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutor Book</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Tutor Book</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Stand</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>Music Stand</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork grease *</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>Polishing Cloth</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed guard</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>Reed guard</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reeds *</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>Reeds *</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning Swab</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>Cleaning Swab</td>
<td>$13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BRASS

**TRUMPET, FRENCH HORN, TROMBONE, BARITONE, EUPHONIUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Tutor Book</strong></th>
<th><strong>Music Stand</strong></th>
<th>**Slide Grease ***</th>
<th>**Valve Oil ***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutor Book</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouthpiece brush</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>Flexi Cleaner</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide Grease *</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td>$7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trombone cream</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These items need to be replenished and must be available whenever playing.

### PERCUSSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Tutor Book</strong></th>
<th><strong>Music Stand</strong></th>
<th><strong>Drum practice pad</strong></th>
<th><strong>Drum Sticks</strong></th>
<th><strong>Practice Glockenspiel</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutor Book</td>
<td>$21</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please note – Percussion is not an “easy option”. It is often more demanding than other instruments and requires children with good self-organisation skills.)

The school can facilitate a bulk purchase of the accessory packs to allow easy access to these supplies. An order form will be provided later for any who wish to use this service.
EXPERIENCES

Participation in the Instrumental Program is for a two year period.

1. ATTENDANCE

Be punctual.
Students will be advised of their lesson times and a copy is given to the class teachers. Students need to watch the clock, arrive promptly and be ready to start at their set time.

Be prepared.
One of the first challenges for the new instrumental students is remembering their lesson day and bringing their instrument. On arrival at school, they should bring their case to the Music Room where it can be kept in the store room during the day. They also need to remember to collect it at the end of the day. Students must bring the following to each lesson:
- Instrument
- Music books
- Music Folder
- Pencil (plus a spare)
- Spare reeds, cork grease/valve oil, cleaning rod/cloth as applicable.

2. ABSENCES

Be committed.
ALL absences must be explained with a written note from parents as soon as practical after the absence. When a student knows in advance that he/she will be absent from a lesson or from band, it would be courteous to advise a Music Teacher in writing ahead of time. This allows for any adjustments to the lesson schedule as required.

If a student is able to be AT school, they MUST attend lessons and band rehearsals regardless of extenuating circumstances such as:
- Forgeting to bring their instrument
- Instrument is unplayable or in for repair
- Having a sore throat, minor illness or physical injury
- Arriving late

They may be unable to play but much can be gained by observing and participating without sound. They will be able to receive handouts and verbal messages as well as observe the musical instructions and outcomes. The Instrumental Teacher will determine if the child needs to remain for the full tuition/rehearsal time.

3. PARTICIPATION

Be proactive.
- Students need to READ Music newsletters and notices and note the details.
- Students must pass these on to parents to read and note.
- Keep information in a safe place at home.
- Mark performance dates on the family calendar and be committed to attending.
- Seek ways to solve difficulties such as transport. There is usually a solution.
Be responsible.

 واضحة: 
- Name all music belongings clearly.
- Attach a sturdy swing tag to the instrument case listing child’s name, school and contact number.
- Bring all requirements – books, instrument, (including sticks) to lessons. Children who fail on a regular basis to bring these requirements may be sent back to their home class for being unprepared to learn.

4. CARE and MAINTENANCE

Be aware.

Instruments require regular servicing and continual upkeep.
Instrumental Music Teachers will advise as required.
Students receive tuition in basic maintenance.
In the event of problems with the instrument, please DO NOT attempt to rectify at home i.e. no pliers, screwdrivers, vices etc. Have the child bring the instrument to the teacher.
Store the instrument and accessories in a safe place and out of reach for small children.
Never allow younger siblings or visiting children access to the instrument.
Each child should have a bag e.g. cloth shoulder bag or zippered case for their music books.
Books are not to be kept in the instrument case as this can cause damage.
Permanently on hand in this carry bag should be a heavy duty garbage bag for emergency use to keep the instrument case dry when caught out with wet weather at 3pm.

5. PRACTICE

Be patient. Be persistent.

Practice should be done at least five days a week. At first just 10 minutes of practice daily will be sufficient; however towards the end of the first term this time should be lengthened towards 20 minutes and later in the year to 30 minutes.

A sample practice session might look like this but will vary as the child progresses.

| Warm ups  
| (1-2 mins) | Buzzing on mouth piece for brass players; reed players moisten reed to saturate it. |
| Exercises  
| 2-4 mins) | As instructed from the tutor book; scales for advanced older players from back of book. |
| New pieces  
| 5+ mins) | Tackle new works bit by bit, in small sections. Work on notes and tricky rhythms. Successive repetition is a helpful strategy. |
| Familiar  
| (3+ mins) | Work on known pieces, both lesson and band material. Ensure notes and rhythms are accurate and the beat is maintained. Be sure to follow the dynamic markings – the louds and softs etc - to make a musical performance. |
| Favourites  
| (up to you) | Finish the practice session on a high with a few pieces you enjoy playing. |
6. PARENTAL SUPPORT

- Show an interest in music study for your child.
- Purchase tutor book and accessories as required by the instrumental instructor.
- Acquire own instrument within a year if using a short term loan school instrument.
- Find a quiet place for him/her to practise without interruption.
- Arrange a regular time for practice.
- Help your child with his/her practice as much as possible. (Instructions in book, etc.)
- Never make fun of the strange sounds he/she may make. (These are quite normal.)
- Help your child maintain a practice record.
- Find a quiet place for him/her to practise without interruption.
- Arrange a regular time for practice.
- Help your child with his/her practice as much as possible. (Instructions in book, etc.)
- Never make fun of the strange sounds he/she may make. (These are quite normal.)
- Help your child maintain a practice record.
- Teach your child to be on time for rehearsals and lessons.
- Provide Music Teachers with an explanatory note if your child is absent.
- Encourage your budding musician to play for others whenever possible.
- Enjoy the combined sound of your child playing along with the CD that comes with their tutor book. (Keep this CD at home so that it does not become lost at school.)
- Take your child to quality concerts to see musicians at work and to hear professional soloists playing the same instrument as your child.
- ENJOY sharing this musical adventure WITH your child over the next two years and beyond.

Support and encouragement from parents is the most important element in a child’s success.

Communication with the Music Teachers is welcome and encouraged if you have any concerns. Learning to play an instrument requires equal measures of resilience and determination. When the going gets a little tough, support and teach your child how to dig deeper, face the challenge, work at it and come out on top. Fostering this skill in your child builds up their character. Allowing a child to give up is a weak option and does nothing to build a positive attitude and inner strength.

Remember your child is part of a team. There are no reserves to call on in a band if your child is absent. The collective sound of the band is dependent on the balance created by ALL players being present.

Welcome to the wonderful world of making music!

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

~Berthold Auerbach
ENROLMENT FORM – INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

CHILD’S NAME: ________________________________  Current Class: ________________

1. PARENTAL COMMITMENT
   ▶ Show an interest in music study for your child.
   ▶ Never make fun of the strange sounds he/she may make.
   ▶ Find a quiet place for him/her to practise without interruption.
   ▶ Arrange a regular time for practice.
   ▶ Help your child with his/her practice as much as possible. (Instructions in booklet, etc.)
   ▶ Help your child maintain a practice record.
   ▶ Give him/her a safe place to keep the instrument.
   ▶ Keep instrument in good repair with good reeds, oiled valves, etc.
   ▶ Teach your child to be on time for rehearsals and lessons.
   ▶ Communicate with Music Teachers regarding absences, issues with instruments etc.
   ▶ Encourage your budding musician to play for others whenever possible.
   ▶ Purchase tutor book and accessories as required by the instrumental instructor.
   ▶ Acquire own instrument within twelve months if using a short term loan school instrument.
   ▶ Ensure the instrument case and student’s books are clearly named.

3. STUDENT COMMITMENT
   Every student must agree to:
   ▶ Practise regularly – increase to minimum 30 minutes day by end of Term 1;
   ▶ Become a member of the school concert band and other groups as required;
   ▶ Take part as required in all concerts and band camp activities;
   ▶ Attend all lessons, rehearsals and other classes as required.
   ▶ Care responsibly for the instrument.

4. ATTENDANCE
   Students must attend all lessons and rehearsals.
   Punctuality is a priority. Lateness will be noted.
   Explanatory notes are required for absences.
   A student suffering from an injury or minor illness but able to be at school, must still attend
   band rehearsals and lessons.

5. INSTRUMENTS
   With only a few exceptions, ALL instrumental students will need to acquire their own
   instrument. Students who are selected for a short term loan of a school instrument MUST
   provide their own instrument within twelve months. Those with a long term loan have the use of
   that school instrument for the full two years.

6. CONTRACT
   Instrumental students are enrolled in the Program with the Beginner Program as a two week
   probation period. If participation is satisfactory, a TWO YEAR CONTRACT will be entered
   into, signed by both child and parent and returned by the end of Week 4 with the levy
   payment. This commitment to the Instrumental Program is for the duration of their time at
   Yugumbir School.

I have read the terms of enrolment above and agree to abide by them.

Student’s Signature: .................................................  Date: .................

Parent’s Signature: ..................................................  Date: .................  Phone No. .................

(Please detach and return this page only. Retain the booklet for your future reference.)