Welcome

This booklet provides important information about the school Band Programme for you and your child. In particular it provides an overview of:

- The Objectives of the Band Programme
- Band Values
- How the school Band Programme works;
  - Our Bands
  - Our Conductors
  - The Committee
  - Band Parents
  - Band Performances
- Band Code of Conduct
- How to join the Band Programme
  - Timetable for 2016 enrolment
  - Band Information Evening
  - Register your interest
  - Choose an instrument
  - Blow Tests
  - Complete registration forms
  - Find a tutor
  - Obtain an instrument
- Expected costs for Band membership.
- Further information
  - Cooling off period
  - Choosing an instrument
  - Arranging a tutor
  - Frequently asked questions

Our Policy Statement:

The school Band Programme 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.

Band is for students who love music and want to be there.

Fundamental to this is the full support and co-operation of all Band parents, students, conductors, tutors and staff of Balgowlah North Public School.
The Objectives of our Band Programme

In offering a Band Programme at Balgowlah North Public School our objectives are 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;
- Widen the students’ scope for communication, expression and exploration through music.

Band Values

The school Band Programme embodies the following guiding principles and values which are very important as both parents and students will be expected to commit to these values:

- We strive to be the best Band we can possibly be.
- We do this because it is challenging, not because it is easy.
- To be selected as a member of the Band is an honour and a privilege, not a right.
- Respect, co-operation and consideration for others within the Band community are fundamental values.
- The well-being of the Band is greater than that of any individual.
- Our best players are those who try the hardest to set our musical standards.
- The role of each Band member is to strive for continuous improvement and a level of expertise that meets or exceeds the needs of the Band.
- Everybody who chooses to be part of the Band community has an opportunity to contribute to an enjoyable and positive experience.
Organisation of our Band Programme

Our Bands

Junior Band

Membership of the Junior 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 Junior Band and be provided with the opportunity to progress to the Intermediate Band depending on their ability. If children from other bands wish to change instruments, they can return to Junior band until ready to move on.

The Junior Band has two practices per week.

Intermediate Band

Intermediate Band is made up of children who have moved beyond the beginner level and are ready for a bit more of a challenge with their music. Membership of the Intermediate Band prepares students for their final step up to Concert Band.

This Band has two practices per week.

Concert Band

The Concert Band comprises students from any year who have reached a standard that is beyond intermediate level. To be promoted to the Concert Band, students will need to demonstrate that they are able to play competently to a level equivalent to AMEB Grade 2. They should enjoy being challenged with a broad repertoire of concert pieces which contain an increased degree of difficulty and complexity.

From this Band we select our Band leaders who take on additional responsibilities such as assisting the conductor and making Band announcements in assembly.

Concert Band has two practices per week.

String Ensembles

The String Ensembles consist of students from Year 1 through to Year 6. These students have abilities ranging from beginner to more accomplished musicians. All abilities are welcome and the ensembles are split into beginners and an advanced group to cater for all levels.
The Band Conductors

_Lanneke Grace_

Lanneke completed her Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of music in Classical voice. She graduated from the Conservatorium High School in 2008 with a double major in piano and flute. Lanneke has been teaching for ten years and has had plenty of experience working with kids of all ages and teaching various genres of music. She has worked as a band conductor, choir conductor, musical director and vocal coach at various schools and with musical societies. Lanneke has also had plenty of experience performing as a soloist and in orchestras and bands. She had the fantastic opportunity of working with the song company in association with musica viva in 2012. Lanneke has spent plenty of time in recording studios and working with music software behind the scenes. Lanneke has had students who have been on shows such as ‘Australia’s Got Talent’ and has one who is currently in the 'King and I'. She is dedicated to achieving the best possible results whilst making music a great experience.

_Angus Bullough_

Angus has studied music at a tertiary level and has been working as a professional multi-instrumentalist musician, educator, sound engineer and arranger for well over a decade all over the world. He has worked with well known musicians such as John Morrison, Angry Anderson, Craig Calhoun and John Williamson, bringing his wealth of knowledge, experience and passion for the industry to share with anyone who's willing to listen.

_Natasha Roumanoff (String Ensemble):_

Natasha Roumanoff has studied music at a tertiary level both at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and at the University of Sydney. She plays and teaches piano, cello and French horn and performs regularly with many local orchestras including the North Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Ryde, Hunters Hill Symphony Orchestra. She has been playing and teaching music both in Australia and overseas for over a decade.

The Band Committee

The Band Committee is made up of parents who administer and run the Band Programme and comprises a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and a liaison parent for each band. There are also positions such as music librarian and website co-ordinator.

The Committee is aided by the school Band Co-ordinator Ms Jenny Mercer and Mrs Marita Nieuwenhuis.

Band meetings are held twice per term (or when necessary) and Committee members must be available to attend.
Band Parents

The work of the committee is supported by the band parents who step up to help with the organization and running of a series of fund raising events and learning opportunities throughout the year.

Parents are expected to help out twice per year with rehearsal supervision of your child’s band.

All Band parents are very welcome to attend Band Committee meetings as your input is much valued and appreciated and the committee are always grateful for the assistance of parents in the organisation of events and performances throughout the year.

Band performances

During each term all Bands perform at a variety of venues.

These include among others:
• school assemblies and concerts;
• a two-day workshop;
• community concerts;
• Band festivals and competitions;
• Battle of the Bands;
• Presentation Day
Band Code of Conduct

The Band Code of Conduct provides the necessary framework for achieving a successful Band Programme. All people involved in the Band Programme are required to abide by the Band Code of Conduct so that the Band Programme can progress and achieve its goals.

All parents and students, conductors and teachers involved in the Band Programme will be required to agree to the Band Code of Conduct. It is most important that all parents and students are very familiar with the Band Code of Conduct as it is the reference point for any issues connected to the rights and responsibilities of Band students and parents.

Students will:
....be safe, be respectful and be responsible at all times.

- Follow the School Code of Conduct at all Band rehearsals, performances and any other Band event.
- Demonstrate Band etiquette and pride through punctuality at performances and rehearsals.
- Bring necessary equipment to every practice including music and a pencil.
- Show personal responsibility for instruments by keeping them in safe, designated areas during the school day and taking instruments home after school.
- Have all belongings labelled with name of student and class.
- Keep instruments in good working order prior to practices and performances. It is not the responsibility of the conductor to ‘fix’ instruments during Band practice as this disrupts the practice for other students.
- Use and handle instruments and equipment with care.
- Attend all Band performances, bearing in mind that some performances will be held at night or on the weekend.
- Wear correct Band uniform when required.
- Assist with setting up and putting away stands, chairs and equipment when required, particularly before and after a performance.

Parents or Guardians will:

- Understand that participation in the Band Programme 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 disrespectful and unacceptable.
- Make every effort to get their child to Band practice on time.
- Provide reasonable notice if their child is unable to attend a performance or workshop.
- Use the suggested communication channels for contact with the Band conductor so that practices are not interrupted or delayed.
- Use the suggested communication channels for airing ideas, issues or concerns relevant to the Band Programme so that fair and reasonable outcomes are objectively achieved.
- Pay Band fees promptly. The Band fees pay the conductor and are therefore non-refundable (unless otherwise agreed).
**The Band Committee will:**

- Develop, maintain and evaluate the Band Programme at Balgowlah North Public School so that it is financially viable and successfully achieves its goals.
- Hold regular meetings, to which all parents are welcome and at which current business and future planning will occur.
- Ensure that a variety of performance opportunities are made available throughout the year for all Bands.
- Keep parents and students informed of Band activities and performance dates, and rehearsal changes or cancellation through email, the school newsletter and Band information book.
- Provide communication channels for parents to make contact with the Band conductor or to air ideas, issues or concerns relevant to the Band Programme.
- Maintain its position as a sub-committee of the Balgowlah North Public School P&C Association and work in conjunction with the ethos of Balgowlah North Public School.

**Band Conductors and Workshop Tutors will:**

- Be punctual to practices and all Band events.
- Recognise and reward the individual effort of students.
- Provide a wide repertoire of music for all Bands.
- Develop teamwork and musical development within each Band.
- Recognise the need for additional workshops to build up skills in each section of the Band.
- Contact parents through agreed upon communication channels.
- Be available for concerts and performances.

**Communication Channels:**

**Contact with the Conductor:**

When wanting to speak to the Conductor please make an appointment for after Band practice or at a mutually convenient time. Please indicate the topic you wish to discuss. Alternatively you should contact your Band coordinator to discuss any concerns.

Written correspondence can be left at the school office where it will be passed on to the conductor.

Please notify the Conductor or Band Parent Liaison if your child will be absent from a series of practices due to a holiday or illness. Consider the needs of the Band.

Absence from practice must be explained to the conductor.

**Airing ideas, issues or concerns:**

Suggestions or discussion about the Band Programme are most welcome and can be shared at the Band committee meetings, where everyone is welcome to attend. Written ideas or concerns can be forwarded to the Band committee via your Band Parent Liaison and can be raised on your behalf at the next Band meeting.
How to join the Band Programme

It is absolutely vital that new Band students and parents read and understand the Band Code of Conduct (below) before committing to the Band.

Timetable for 2016 enrolment

12th October – Band Information Evening 6pm
16th October – Application forms for blow test with instrument choice returned
20th October – Blow Tests
22nd October – Overflow Blow Tests
6th November– Notification of instrument allocation
6th November- Allocation of school instrument hire notified
13th November- Signed documents returned

Application forms will be distributed at the information evening or are available on the band website www.bnpbsband.com.au.

Step 1: Attend the Band Information Evening – Monday October 12th at 6pm in the school hall

The evening will provide lots of information that you’ll need to decide whether the band is for your child and application forms will be distributed. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions of the band conductors and the Committee.

Step 2: Select Your Instrument and return the Application Form

Students can choose to learn instruments from the following list:

Junior, Intermediate and Concert Bands

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Bassoon
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French Horn
- Trombone
- Euphonium/Baritone
- Tuba
- Bass Guitar
- Percussion

Unfortunately, the Band music does not cater for acoustic guitar or keyboard

String Ensemble

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello

Once you have decided you would like to join the programme and have thought about your instrument choice, return the Application For Balgowlah North School 2016 Junior Band by Friday 16th October
As the Band needs to have a balanced sound, 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 Programme if he/she is willing to play the second choice instrument. Naturally some instruments are more popular than others so, before returning the form we encourage you and your child to:

- talk to parents and current Band members playing your favoured instrument;
- consider and discuss a range of choices of instruments with your child and nominate at least two (2) Band instruments.

**Step 3: Have a blow test Tuesday 20th/Thursday 22nd October**

Our new students are invited to try out a few instruments to see which best suit them in terms of size and weight of the instrument and ease of playing it. Children’s mouth shapes may make them more suited to paying a particular type of instrument.

This is called the blow test. Our conductors will conduct the blow tests, during school hours.

Parents will get feedback from the blow test to help them make an informed decision.

**Step 4: Complete and return Junior Band Acceptance Form**

Following blow tests on the 20\textsuperscript{th}/22\textsuperscript{nd} October at school, you will receive advice from the conductors regarding appropriate instrument choices for your child.

Parents and students must complete and return a **Junior Band Acceptance Form** which comprises:

- Notification of the instrument allocated to your child
- Acceptance document
- Contact information for your family
- Details of the Junior Band package (band bag and essential elements book)
- A Student/Parent contract.

This form is to be returned to Mrs Mercer via the school office **by Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} November 2015** (earlier if possible).

Early applications for the Band will enable us to inform you before the end of term so you can organise tutors and instruments (and ideally commence tutoring) during term 4.

**Step 5: Pay Junior Band Fee**

This is a small fee of $35 per student which covers the cost of

- A Band Bag
- The Essential Elements book which is required for all students
- A Practice Diary
- A folder for storage of Band music
Step 6: Organise an instrument and tutor

Musical instrument lessons are an integral part of the Band Programme and it is mandatory that all students have a 30 minute weekly individual tuition session for their allocated instrument. See further information below regarding tutor selection.

Band Programme Costs

The fees involved in the Band Programme are detailed below to enable you to be aware ahead of time the costs of being in the Band Programme and whether this is an affordable family commitment.

The table below summarises the expected fees and expenses for your child - excluding the costs of lessons and instrument hire/purchase. This is the upper limit of expected fees which may be reduced according to band numbers. Final charges will be determined after the treasurer has an indication of new registrations and continuing band and string ensemble members towards the end of term 4.

Junior Band, Intermediate Band and Concert Band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior Band Package</strong></td>
<td>Band Bag</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music Folder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essential Elements book</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Band Fees</strong></td>
<td>2 semesters @ $300 (Includes workshop)</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Payable Term 1 and Term 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Band Camp/Workshop</strong></td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>Included in semester fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Band shirt deposit (refundable)</strong></td>
<td>1 @ $25</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of expected expenses and fees (estimate)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

String Ensemble

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginner Ensemble Fee</strong></td>
<td>2 semesters @ TBA Weekly rehearsal and workshop in term 2</td>
<td>TBA but not exceeding $600 per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Ensemble Fee</strong></td>
<td>2 semesters @ TBA Weekly rehearsal and workshop in term 2</td>
<td>TBA but not exceeding $600 per annum</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The **Semester fees** cover the costs of conductors, music, equipment purchases, insurance and competition entry fees and are charged in 2 payments through the year.

In Term 2, our two day **Workshop** will be held to focus on different sections of the Band. Tutors are selected for each section of the Band and string ensemble and specialised tuition is provided. The workshop is invaluable, not only in musical terms, but it also provides the opportunity for new and current students to get to know each other and to work as a team. The cost of the workshop is charged as part of semester fees and will only be reimbursed in exceptional circumstances.

The **Band Uniform** for Junior, Intermediate and Concert bands consists of the Band shirt, long black pants and black shoes with black socks. There is a $25.00 deposit required for a school Band shirt. This will be refunded when children leave the Band programme and return their undamaged shirt. Band shirts will be distributed at the beginning of 2016 and may be exchanged for a larger size as required.

The **String Ensemble** uniform comprises a long sleeved collared white shirt and string ensemble tie with black pants, socks and shoes

**Remember:** costs for tuition, hire or purchase of the instrument, maintenance and repair of instruments is in addition to the above and varies according to instrument choice and tutor.

**Please note:** these costs are estimates only and subject to change but represent the highest likely charges.
Other Information

Cooling off Period
During February new Band students will be “finding their feet” and may decide that Band is not for them.
Likewise the Band conductor may identify some children whose behaviour demonstrates that they are not yet ready for Band.

When choosing instruments....

When helping your child decide upon their preferred instruments, please keep in mind the following:

Percussion
The Band percussion section has a range of instruments. These include untuned percussion such as drums, bass drum and various hand held instruments.
There are also tuned percussion instruments eg xylophone, glockenspiel and timpani.
The school’s drum set is used for Band practice, tutorials and Band performances. Drummers will need to purchase a few pairs of drum sticks of which the best type for them will be recommended by their tutor. It is desirable that drummers have their own drum kit to practise on at home. At an absolute minimum, they will require a practice pad.

Keyboard players usually play the bass section of the keyboard (the left hand) and occasionally swap to the melody. Keyboard players will use the school’s keyboards for Band practice and Band performances.

Bass instruments
Bass instruments such as trombone, tenor horn, French horn 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.

The Band Programme does offer a hire Programme for a trombone, a tuba, two (2) French horns, a bassoon and a euphonium, to encourage new Band members to learn these important bass instruments. Hire from the school is very reasonable at $120 per term and instruments are allocated to the junior band on a first come first served basis.

Purchase or hire?
When making a decision on whether to purchase or hire an instrument remember that
good quality instruments are an investment and hold their value over many years.

It is, however, worth considering a three month rental of the instrument by which time your child will know whether this is what they want to continue with.

We recommend you shop around and be informed of the range of hire agreements available. Start at a music shop that specialises in your chosen instrument.

**Learning to play – arrange a tutor**

Balgowlah North Public School does not provide tuition for Band instruments.

Parents arrange their child’s musical instrument lesson outside the Band Programme.

Parents need to take the responsibility of selecting a tutor for their child. We recommend using a professional tutor to ensure quality instruction.

**An individual half hour lesson can cost from between $30 to $50. If you are paying less you are probably not getting great instruction.**

**Frequently asked questions**

**Will my child be offered a place in the Band?**

The school Band Programme is seen as an important part of Balgowlah North Public School activities and the development of students. All interested students will be offered a place in the Band Programme.

In the week after applications are received, the conductor and Band co-ordinators will meet to work out the balance of instruments in the new Band.

Preference will be given to:

- bass instruments;
- applications received early;
- students already having tuition;
- applications with two choices of instrument

**What should I expect from my child and their music lessons?**

Your child should learn the basic skills and techniques required to play their selected instrument. This will include the ability to read and play music (not to be confused with playing by ear).

Your child should enjoy their music lessons and enjoy playing their chosen instrument. Naturally the level of enjoyment and satisfaction each child gains depends, to a certain extent, on their commitment to a regular practise routine.

**At least 10 minutes of every lesson should be tuition of Band music.**
**How much Band practice is involved at school?**

Each Band has two Band practices a week which develop your child’s musicianship and Band participation. The String ensembles have one practice per week.

Whilst the Band work will initially be fairly easy, students should never underestimate the little things they will be learning such as accurate counting, listening to the Band as a whole and watching the conductor.

Band skills are additional to learning instruments and imperative to the development of the Band as a team. Missing Band practice will hold back the development of the entire Band.

**Are the instruments insured?**

Privately owned instruments can be included in a personal effects policy. A call to your insurer should ensure that the instrument is included in your household cover. Insurance of hire instruments should be covered in the hire contract. Please contact your provider.

**Where are instruments stored?**

During Band days, students should keep their instruments in either their school bag, or in their classroom (by arrangement with their teacher). Students are not allowed to keep their instruments at school overnight.

**Can my child leave the Programme if they don’t like it?**

Students entering the Band Programme need to understand they are making a commitment to themselves and the school Band. The commitment to the Band is **expected for a minimum of one year** (excluding new members who are eligible to a 3 month trial period).

If your child is unhappy with their musical development or their role in the Band, please discuss it with the conductor and the Band co-ordinator, as the problem may be easily solved.

The conductors’ fees are based on the number of students in the Band. In the exceptional case, where a student chooses to withdraw from the Band Programme mid-semester, full semester Band fees will be charged.

**When are rehearsals?**

Rehearsal times for 2016 are expected to be as follows, but are subject to change (changes will be advised before the end of the 2015 school year):

**Concert Band**
Monday lunch and Wednesday morning. (7.40am-8.45am)

**Intermediate Band**
Monday Morning and Wednesday Lunch (7.40am-8.45am)

**Junior Band**

Tuesday morning (7.40 - 8.45am) and Thursday morning (7.40 - 8.45am).

**String Ensemble (Times may change for 2016 dependent upon numbers)**

Monday morning (7.30am – 8.15am beginners 8.15am - 9.00am advanced)

Bands practise twice a week and String Ensemble once a week. Students must be at school by 7.40am for Band and 7.30am for String Ensemble so that practice can start on time.

**Parents must be organised so that their child gets to practice on time.** Latecomers hold up the practice and waste time.