St Patrick’s Primary School

EXTRA – CURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAM

2015
Rationale

We believe that learning music is one of the most fulfilling and constructive pastimes that your child can pursue. Learning to play a musical instrument, or singing in a choral group can teach a child from a young age the rewards of hard work and effort, and can enable children to spend their free time constructively, working towards a life skill that will provide countless hours of enjoyment over the rest of their life. Learning a musical instrument or singing in a choir is great fun, helps your child make new friends and teaches them the importance of self expression, self-reflection and subsequent improvement, which will continue to serve them well into their adult lives. The benefits of learning and playing music, as a soloist and in a band, ensemble or choral group are vast, and cross over into many different aspects of life. Aside from being ‘cool’ the educational benefits of learning music are extensive, and as such, private music tuition can be a fantastic investment in your child’s development.

Twelve benefits of Music Education

1. Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain's circuits in specific ways. Linking familiar songs to new information can also help imprint information on young minds.

2. There is also a causal link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things). This kind of intelligence, by which one can visualize various elements that should go together, is critical to the sort of thinking necessary for everything from solving advanced mathematics problems to being able to pack a book-bag with everything that will be needed for the day.

3. Students of the arts learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about the arts do not have only one right answer.

4. Recent studies show that students who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests such as NAPLAN. They also achieve higher grades in high school.

5. A study of the arts provides children with an internal glimpse of other cultures and teaches them to be empathetic towards the people of these cultures. This development of compassion and empathy, as opposed to development of greed and a "me first" attitude, provides a bridge across cultural chasms that leads to respect of other races at an early age.

6. Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student's own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.

7. In music, a mistake is a mistake; the instrument is in tune or not, the notes are well played or not, the entrance is made or not. It is only by much hard work that a successful performance is possible. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.

8. Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practising.

9. Music provides children with a means of self-expression. Now that there is relative security in the basics of existence, the challenge is to make life meaningful and to reach for a higher stage of development. Everyone needs to be in touch at some time in his life with his core, with what he is and what he feels. Self-esteem is a by-product of this self-expression.

10. Music study develops skills that are necessary in the workplace. It focuses on "doing," as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with the sort of flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.

11. Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.

12. An arts education exposes children to the incomparable.

Carolyn Phillips is the author of the Twelve Benefits of Music Education. She is the Former Executive Director of the Norwalk Youth Symphony, CT.
In 2015 St Patrick’s Primary will be offering an extensive selection of extra-curricular music activities.

These activities will take place outside “uninterrupted teaching and learning time (8.45-10.30)” and will be conducted by suitably experienced or qualified teachers. Lesson times are negotiated with students, parents and class teachers. Extra-curricular activities will include:

- Guitar lessons
- Bass lessons
- Piano Lessons
- String lessons
- Drum lessons
- String Ensemble
- Vocal Band choir
- Harmony Choral group
- Woodwind lessons (flute, clarinet, recorder and saxophone)

**Guitar, Bass and Drum Lessons**

At St Patrick’s we have a visiting guitar, bass and drum teacher offering private lessons during school hours. Students have the option of using a guitar and drum set supplied by the tutor/school for lessons, but will need their own instrument for home practice. Throughout the school year students are encouraged to participate in school concerts and performances. Lessons are offered by Jason Bray. Jason has been teaching at St Patricks Primary School since 2009. He has attained a Bachelor of Arts Cont. Music and has a playing experience of nearly 30 years. Jason is very busy in the music industry playing all over the East Coast of Australia including festivals and appears regularly at Jazz Clubs. His musical versatility is in high demand and ensures his teaching is well rounded and versed in a wide range of styles. Students may also choose to sit AMEB CPM Advancing Exams.

Once students reach an appropriate level they are encouraged to participate in school performances and concerts. Jason also runs a successful private teaching studio located very close to St Patricks

Jason can be contacted on Mob 0439843539 or e-mail jasguitar@tpg.com.au

**Piano Lessons**

Franki Andersen teaches piano and has been with us since 2013. She has a Bachelor of Education specialising in Primary Music from Griffith. She has held positions as a classroom teacher/music co-ordinator and special needs teacher in Brisbane and Central Queensland before returning home to Gympie.

Piano lessons are offered:

- On an individual basis
- On a weekly basis at a cost of $25.
Fees include all materials and entry fees. Family discounts apply. Invoices go home in week 1, with payment required by week 3. Students are encouraged to participate in the Eisteddfod and sit AMEB exams.

**String Lessons and String Ensemble**

String lessons and String Ensemble are currently taught by Candice Patrick. **Candice holds a Bachelor of Music Degree and a Graduate Diploma of Instrumental Teaching.** Candice has been teaching stringed instruments successfully for over 10 years. String lessons are offered

- On violin, viola and cello
- On a 30 minute weekly basis
- Mainly in pairs or groups (maximum of three per group). Older students may choose to have individual lessons.
- At a cost of $120 per term (group lesson) or $200 for individual lessons based on 8 lessons per term (32 lessons per year)

Invoices for strings lessons are sent out at the beginning of each term. Candice can be contacted on Mob 0423759623 or e-mail candiceviolin@westnet.com.au

Once students progress to a certain level students are required to participate in string ensemble.

Students are required to have their own instruments, although affordable second hand and rental options are available. Students are encouraged to participate in school performances and concerts as well as the Gympie Eisteddfod, Gympie Strings Festival and local workshops. Students can also choose to sit for AMEB Exams.

**Woodwind lessons**

Woodwind lessons will be available this year at school for interested students with limited vacancies. Flute, clarinet, recorder and saxophone lessons will be taught by Kait Searles who is currently teaching the classroom music program at St Patricks. Kait has been a music teacher for over 20 years and has taught woodwind instruments at Ormiston College as well as schools in outback Queensland and through Distance Education. **Kait holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Graduate Diploma of Teaching in Special Education.** Woodwind lessons will be offered

- On a weekly basis, 30 minutes per lesson
- On an individual basis or in pairs

Students are required to have their own instrument, though second hand instruments may be available to purchase. Once students reach a certain level they are
encouraged to participate in school concerts and performances. Kait can be contacted at the school from Tuesday through to Thursday (5482 3293) or e-mail ksearles@bne.catholic.edu.au

Vocal Band

Vocal band has been actively running at St Patrick’s Primary School for several years. Any students from years 2 through to year 5 are able to join vocal band, which is held over one lunch break per week. Students involved participate in group singing activities which involve vocal training, stage performance and learning songs. Students participate in school concerts and functions during the year, and also visit the St Patricks Villa throughout the year to provide entertainment. There is no cost involved in vocal band. Vocal Band is conducted in a fun and relaxed and non-competitive atmosphere and enables students to gain confidence in themselves and to experience the joy in performing to others. Regular information notes are sent home throughout the year to inform parents of our performances. Vocal band is conducted by Kait Searles. Information regarding practice times will be regularly printed in the school newsletter in upcoming weeks. Rehearsals this year are on Tuesdays at second break from 1.30-2.00pm.

Harmony Choral Group

The Harmony Choral Group will be conducted on Wednesday from 12.50 – 1.30pm. This will be an extension of our Vocal Band, in which students are prepared for public singing performances such as the Sunshine Coast Choral Spectacular. Students will be involved in voice training, stage performance and unison and harmony singing. Students who wish to join the Harmony Choral Group do need to have average or above singing ability and are required to be in Year 3 or above and should have participated in one of our choirs in previous years. There is no cost involved in participating in the Harmony Choral Group. The Harmony Choral Group will be taken by Kait Searles.
Commitment to Extra-Curricular Music

Students who show an interest and wish to participate in any of the extra-curricular activities on offer, should realise that a certain level of commitment is required in all activities. This commitment not only involves attending weekly lessons/rehearsals but also to undertake the required practice at home as advised by the teacher to ensure progress of the individual or group.

Parents and students who are interested in participating in any of the above mentioned extra-curricular activities are encouraged to fill out the Expression of Interest Form attached.

ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAM 2015

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Student’s name _______________________________ Class________

We are interested in our child taking part in the following at St Pat’s Primary:

☐ Guitar/ Bass Lessons

☐ Piano Lessons

☐ String Lessons and String Ensemble

☐ Drum lessons

☐ Woodwind (inclusive of) Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet and Recorder

☐ Vocal Band

☐ Harmony Choral Group