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 Students of the arts learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions.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 practicing.

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 2011 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 (off campus)
- Flute lessons
- String Ensemble
- Vocal Band choir
- Harmony choral group
- Rhythm and Groove Program
- School Band

**Guitar Lessons**

At St Patricks we have two visiting guitar teachers both offering private lessons during school hours. Students have the option of using a guitar supplied by the tutor/school for lessons, but will need their own guitar for home practice. Throughout the school year students are encouraged to participate in school concerts and performances. Guitar lessons are offered

- on a weekly basis, with lessons lasting for 30 minutes
- mainly in pairs or In groups (maximum 3 per group)
- at a cost of $15 per ½ hour lesson

**Cameron Wells** currently teaches many of our students at school. Cameron has been playing guitar for over 25 years and has been *teaching guitar and Bass to students* for numerous years. Cameron also teaches at various other schools, conducts private lessons and is actively involved in projects through his studio as well as the contemporary music scene. Through his teaching experience Cameron brings a relaxed, educational and enjoyable learning environment to young budding guitarists and Bass players.

Cameron’s lessons will be invoiced by the term with invoices sent out shortly after lessons commence. Alternate payment arrangements can be negotiated. Cameron can be contacted on Mob 0417405562 or e-mail charkie8@bigpond.com.au

**Jason Bray** currently teaches guitar at St Patricks as well as running a successful teaching studio in Gympie. **Jason has attained a Bachelor of Arts Degree specializing in Contemporary Music, and has been teaching guitar for many years.** Jason has enjoyed success with the Duke Wilde Band winning the 2010 Coca Cola Battle of the Bands, and the Q song awards Country Song of the Year [http://www.qmusic.com.au/qsong/2010/](http://www.qmusic.com.au/qsong/2010/). Jason also has many years experience working with Billy Hyde Drumcraft in Sydney. Jason also teaches drum lessons from his private teaching studio in Gympie ($20 per half hour). Jason’s lessons will be invoiced by the term with invoice sent out at the beginning of the term. Jason can be contacted on Mob 0439843539 or e-mail jasguitar@tpg.com.au
**Piano Lessons**

Rebekah Habel currently teaches piano at school. Rebekah has been playing piano herself from a very young age and has been successfully teaching students for over seven years. Rebekah is also a respected and experienced accompanist.

Piano lessons are offered:

- On an individual basis
- On a weekly basis at a cost of $19 per 30 minute lesson or $35 per hour lesson

Families with two or more children having lessons are given a 10% discount. Invoices are sent out each term in approximately week 3 and are due for payment in approximately week 6.

Lessons include the practise of piano and as students progress they formally commence theory also. Students are encouraged to sit for exams with the Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) and also to perform in the local Eisteddfod, at school concerts and other social events where possible, though public performance is not a lesson requirement. Rebekah can be contacted on 54 826769

**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 is an active member of the Cooloola Orchestra and is involved in organising and running the yearly Gympie Strings Festival. Candice has been teaching stringed instruments successfully for over 6 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 $14 per shared lesson or $20 for an individual lesson

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

Flute lessons will be available this year at school for interested students beginning in term two with limited vacancies. Flute 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 15 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.** Flute lessons will be offered

- On a weekly basis, 30 minutes per lesson
- On an individual basis or in pairs
- At a cost of $20 for an individual lesson or split the cost in shared lessons

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

**Drum Lessons- (Off Campus)**

Jason Bray's drumming career began playing Side Drum with the Gympie Caledonian Pipe Band. He won and placed in numerous solo drumming competitions. **He obtained his Bachelor of Arts at Southern Cross University majoring in Drums.** Jason played and recorded throughout Sydney for a period of 6 years. He has studied with Australian Drumming greats such as David Jones, Gordon Rytmeister and Steve Hopes. Jason is respected as a well rounded player and his teaching includes all styles of music. Students can choose to sit AMEB CPM Advancing exams. Jason teaches in his private air conditioned teaching studio located very close to St Patricks. Lessons are $20 per 1/2 hr. For lesson enquiries contact 0439 843539 or jasdrums@yahoo.com.au.

**Rhythm and Groove Program**

Have fun with music and movement. These lessons will take place on a Monday and Wednesday from 8.00am-8.30am at a cost of $8.00 per session. Rhythm and Groove helps build confidence, have fun while gaining a basic understanding of music and co-ordinated movement. These classes are designed to give the student a confident approach to combining body movements and music. Rhythm and Groove is a foundation for Onstage Performance and is suitable for all “Want to be Performers”. Karen Thompson from the Australian Institute of Country Music will be taking this program.
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 7 are encouraged 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.

Harmony Choral Group
The Harmony Choral Group will be conducted one morning per week before school throughout the year. This will be an extension of our yearly choral Eisteddfod Group, in which students are prepared for public singing performances such as the Gympie Eisteddfod. 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 4 or above. There is no cost involved in participating in the Harmony Choral Group. The Harmony Choral Group will be taken by Kait Searles and Michelle McClafferty. Michelle has been a classroom teacher at Saint Patricks for many years and has been performing in choirs since she was twelve. Michelle is currently singing in the Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir. Information regarding joining the Harmony Choral Group and practice times will be printed in the school newsletter in upcoming weeks.

School Band
Students who have reached a certain level of progress on their chosen instrument will be invited to join the school band. The band will be taken by Dr Geoff Walden from the Australian Institute of Country Music here in Gympie. **Dr Geoff Walden has B Ed, M Ed, Ph D as well as Cert III in Music, Cert IV in Music.** Dr Geoff has successfully worked with many of our students during the St Pats Kids Rock Program in 2010. Students who are candidates for the school band will be notified through a letter sent home from the school. Students who are also learning musical instruments from other tutors outside of school are encouraged to join (please fill out the Expression of Interest Form below). The school band will rehearse one morning per week before school, commencement will be advised via newsletter and letter home.
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. This is not an enrolment form but rather an indication to us of the amount of students and families that will be considering taking part.

An information evening (details to be advised via newsletter) will be organised during Term 1 to give interested parents and students the opportunity to meet and talk with the teachers running our extra-curricular activities.
ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL
EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAM 2011
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 Lessons

☐ Piano Lessons

☐ String Lessons and String Ensemble

☐ Flute lessons

☐ Drum lessons

☐ Rhythm and Groove Program

☐ Vocal Band

☐ Harmony Choral Group

☐ School Band

If your child is already learning an instrument outside of school and would like to be a part of the school band they are very welcome. Could you please indicate below if this is the case and what instrument they learn outside of school?

(If your child is currently already enrolled in guitar, piano or strings lessons you do not have to indicate this again)

(Please return this form to the school office by TUESDAY – by WEDNESDAY 16th FEBRUARY)