Welcome

Welcome to those families joining the Petersham P.S. Instrumental Music Program. The music program at Petersham provides a wonderful opportunity for children to learn a musical instrument, and also enjoy the social benefits of working together as a team.

The Instrumental Music Program is administered by a sub-committee of the Petersham P.S. P&C Association, with the support and collaboration of the Principal and School Staff.

We hope this handbook will give you an overview of all you need to know about participation in the Instrumental Music Program so please take the time to browse through this handbook.
Aims of the Instrumental Music Program (IMP)

The aims of the IMP

- to give every student the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument regardless of their musical experience
- to help students develop an appreciation and understanding of a wide range of musical styles
- to give every student an opportunity to perform
- to develop teamwork and leadership skills
- to encourage a sense of responsibility and commitment.

Being part of a musical ensemble is a wonderful opportunity for all children. No prior musical experience is needed to join the Junior Recorders, Stringlets and Training Band. During their time in the program your child will learn to play an instrument, read music, and work together with their peers to produce wonderful music.

The value of learning a musical instrument has long been acknowledged. Developing musical abilities has wide-ranging benefits in neurodevelopment as well as positive effects on many aspects of a child’s education. Being part of an ensemble helps a child to develop the cooperative and social skills required to be a valued member of any team.

‘I would teach children music, physics and philosophy: but most important is music, for the patterns in music are the keys to all learning.’ Plato

‘The evidence of neuroscience overwhelmingly demonstrates that children studying music have a considerable educational advantage over those who don’t. Because of the essentially aural nature of music, together with the requirements of intense listening and concentration, the child’s brain responds powerfully to music education, enhancing all other learning’ Richard Gill OAM

Musical Director

Daniel Murphy

Daniel.W.Murphy@det.nsw.edu.au
Petersham IMP Ensembles

String Ensembles

There are three string ensembles in the school which cater for students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

- **Stringlets (Thursday 8:30 – 9:00am)**

Stringlets is the beginner ensemble for string players with little or no prior instrumental experience. Students will learn how to hold their instruments, play as an ensemble member and learn to read music.

- **Junior Strings (Monday 3:30 – 4:30pm)**

Students audition to move up to the Junior Strings once they have completed “A Flying Start” Book 1. Students should be confident with reading music and be able to play D Major and G Major. Students who are new to string but are already confident reading music will start in this ensemble.

- **Senior Strings (Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30pm)**

Once students have reached ‘Level 2’ in their in school audition (see below) they can become members of the Senior Strings. This ensemble is our most experienced ensemble, with members able to participate in the Instrumental Music Festival at the Sydney Opera House, and attend Sydney South East Orchestra Camp, and Symphonia Jubilate, in which Petersham is an affiliated school.

Recorder Ensembles

- **Junior Recorders (Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30pm)**

In Year 2, students are invited to join the recorder program. This is a great opportunity for students to learn how to play an instrument, and read music. Students usually start on the descant recorder, and after a year of playing graduate to a larger recorder, (either treble, tenor or bass). Learning the recorder is recommended for all students before learning a band instrument.

- **Recorder Consort (Tuesday 8:00 – 9:00am)**

The Recorder Consort is the most experienced recorder ensemble the school offers. Students can audition to be part of this ensemble after 1 – 2 years of learning the recorder. Students in the Recorder Consort partake in the Instrumental Music Festival at the Opera House each year, and students are selected to be part of the State Recorder Ensemble.
The Recorder Consort at Petersham has a long history of excellence with the ensemble selected to play:

- Solo Item at the Opera House. 2013
- Individual students selected as soloists at the Opera House.
- Individual students selected for the State Recorder Ensemble
- Principals conference 2013
- State Spelling Bee Finals 2014
- Sydney Region Festival 2013
- Channel 10 news 2015

Bands

- **Training Band (Wednesday 8:00 – 9:00am)**

This band is for students with little to no prior training on their chosen instrument. Students are able to join the Training Band in Year 3. Students learn about their instruments, how to be part of an ensemble and create wonderful music together. Students spend a minimum of 2 years in the training band, the first year as a beginner, and the second year as a section leader helping new students learn.

- **Concert Band (Friday 8:00 – 9:00am)**

Once students are highly proficient on their instrument, students can audition to be part of the concert band. The Concert Band at Petersham P.S. is the premier ensemble of the school. They have performed at the Engadine Band Festival and Burwood Girls Inner West Festival, achieving Gold awards and 1st place at each festival.

**Extension Ensemble**

- **Symphony Orchestra (Monday 8:00– 9:00am)**

The Symphony Orchestra at Petersham Public School was formed in term 4 2014 to combine both the string program and band program together. The Orchestra concentrates on Baroque and Classical music. Students need to audition for the Symphony Orchestra.
Auditions

At Petersham Public School we strive for excellence in music education and performance. In Week 9, Term 4, Students are invited to present a ‘Level’ (see below) of music that they have achieved throughout the year.

Students are encouraged to work through each level in their ensembles (recorder), at home, and with their private teacher (Woodwind, Brass, and Strings), during their time at Petersham Public School.

Students and parents are encouraged to talk to their tutor/conductor about what level they should prepare. It is not a competition between students, but rather a marker for students to work through the levels at a suitable pace, that reflects the amount of practice students are doing at home.

In presenting a ‘level’ at the end of the year students may be invited to move up to a higher ensemble, or move up a to a higher part in their section (i.e. Violin 1 or Violin 2). These levels are a great chance for the musical director to hear how each individual is progressing, and give feedback to the students.

Strings Levels

Level 1 – A Flying Start – Pages 52, 53, 54, 55


Level 3 – A.M.E.B Grade 1 Scales + List A and List B or Suzuki Book 1 graduation piece, and sight-reading.

Level 4 – A.M.E.B Grade 2 Scales + List A and List B or Suzuki Book 2 graduation piece, and sight-reading.

Level 5 – A.M.E.B Grade 3 Scales + List A and List B or Suzuki Book 3 graduation piece, and sight-reading.

Level 6 – A.M.E.B Grade 4 Scales + List A and List B or Suzuki Book 4 graduation piece, and sight-reading.

Recorder Levels

Level 1 – Select two songs from Junior Recorder Music

Level 2 – Come Lovely May – Mozart

Level 3 – Menuet – Dieupart

Level 4 – Sonata in C or F – Handel

Level 5 – Sonata in A minor/E minor – Handel
Woodwind and Brass Levels


**Level 2** – A.M.E.B Grade 1 Scales + List A and List B sight-reading.

**Level 3** – A.M.E.B Grade 2 Scales + List A and List B sight-reading.

**Level 4** – A.M.E.B Grade 3 Scales + List A and List B sight-reading.

**Level 5** – A.M.E.B Grade 4 Scales + List A and List B sight-reading.

**Level 6** – A.M.E.B Grade 5 Scales + List A and List B sight-reading.

Instruments in the Music Program

Petersham has a wide variety of instruments that can be hired from the school. Some popular instruments however may need to be hired from other places. Recommendations can be given.

**Recorders** – Sopranino, Descant, Treble, Tenor and Bass Recorders

**String Instruments** – Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass

**Band Instruments** – Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Glockenspiel and Percussion.

Students are able to play percussion instruments, however these instruments remain at school. Parents will need to make arrangements to have access to their own percussion equipment.

Instruments loaned out to students are either new or just serviced. It is the students and parents responsibility to look after the instrument. Families that hire an instrument will sign a contract with the school for care of the instrument, families will be liable for loss or damage to instruments. All instruments will need a ‘general service’ before they are returned at the end of the hire contract.
Cost and Commitment

Students who join an ensemble are expected to make a commitment for the year. Students need to attend weekly ensemble rehearsals at school, and attend weekly private lessons (a list of recommended tutors will be emailed home at the beginning of each year).

All students in the Band and Strings program pay an ensemble fee of $180– (large ensemble) per semester to cover the costs of rehearsals, and the purchase of music and equipment.

Instrument hire is $150– per semester, percussion players play a levy of $50– that goes to the maintenance and purchasing of new percussion instruments.

Students in the recorder program pay an ensemble fee of $100– (small ensemble) per semester to cover the costs of rehearsals, and the purchase of music and equipment.

Students who participate in more than one large ensemble will only pay for one large ensemble.

All students who are in a ‘large ensemble’ must have weekly private lessons outside school hours. These lessons are not included in the ensemble fees, and are paid directly to your tutor. The current costs are between $20 – $35 for a half hour lesson.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are organised between the parent(s) and the tutor. A list of recommended tutors are given out at the beginning of each year. Private lessons occur on school premises, before and after school, however some tutors teach in studios near the school.

Parents are reminded that this is an agreement between you the parent and the tutor. A list of the following guidelines will help:

- pay all private lessons fees to the tutor on time
- arrive to your lesson 5mins before it starts to set up
- if you wish to speak to the tutor about your child, please do so during your lesson time so not to take up the next students lesson time
- 24 hours notice must be given to the tutor if you are going to miss a lesson otherwise the lesson will be charged
- Avoid making other commitments during your child’s lesson time
Financial Assistance

Families who would like to be part of the IMP who may not be able to afford to partake in the program are encouraged to apply for financial assistance in writing to the IMP Musical Director (Mr Murphy). This will be reviewed by the IMP Musical Director, P&C Band Committee and the School Principal. Applicants can apply for full assistance for Recorder program, and partial assistance for Band and String programs. There is no financial assistance for private music lessons.

Getting the Best out of the Program

Of course there is a level of commitment involved in being part of the instrumental music program. We encourage you to read the following points before applying for a place in the IMP.

- Practice at home 20 – 30 mins 5 times a week. Students who keep up practice regular at home experience the most success in ensembles.
- Younger students, (Kindergarten and Year 1) will need a lot of parental supervision in lessons and practice at home to establish good practice techniques.
- Attend weekly rehearsals.
- Arrive 10 mins before the rehearsal start to set up and be ready to start on time.
- Letting the conductor know by email if you are going to miss a performance or rehearsal (Daniel.W.Murphy@det.nsw.edu.au)
- Keep up to date with the IMP by reading emails from the committee.
- Have weekly private lesson(s) on your chosen instrument(s) (not including recorders – which no private lessons are required)

Added Benefits

Students in the IMP have the opportunity to audition for a wide range of external music ensembles and activities during their time at Petersham Public School

- A.M.E.B exams
- State Recorder Camp
- NSW Recorder Consort
- Sydney South East Orchestra
- Symphonia Jubilate
- Create East
- State Music Camp
- Arts Unit Instrumental Ensembles
**Parent’s duties**

- Please make sure your child is practicing regularly at home. Sometimes children will find this hard, and we encourage extrinsic rewards for students who may find it hard to maintain regular practice.
- Please make sure your child is punctual. Please **arrive 10 mins** before rehearsal starts to ensure your child has enough time to set up their instrument, organise music and stand. Late arrivals may have an unsettling effect on the ensemble.
- Most of the key learning occurs in the first 10mins of the rehearsal, where new concepts are introduced for the lessons. Students who are continually late will miss key learning.
- Please pay Ensemble Fees on time. The Band Committee will send home invoices to be paid online each semester or each term.
- Communicate with the ensemble director if you are going to be away for a rehearsal, and performances.
- Read emails sent by the music committee, as this is the main form of communication with parents.
- Finally if you have any questions about the program, please email Mr Murphy

**IMP Uniform**

Members of the IMP are expected to wear full uniform for public performances. Students are loaned a white shirt that need to be returned to the IMP. Parents will need to supply

- Black Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes
- Black or Navy Blue hair ties, ribbons (etc.) for long hair.

*(Long hair must be tied back)*
How to Join the Program

Students interested in joining the program are encouraged to fill in the following application. Students will be assigned an instrument based on suitability for the instrument and needs of the program, while keeping in mind students preferences.

*Please return pages 16 and 17 to the Office before 20th November 2015*

**Application for the Petersham Instrumental Music Program 2016**

Information for interested students and parents.

At Petersham Public School, we are proud to offer a vibrant Instrumental Music Program (IMP). Our instrumental ensembles include

- **Stringlets**
- **Junior Strings**
- **Senior Strings**
- **Symphony Orchestra**
- **Junior Recorders**
- **Senior Recorders**
- **Training Band**
- **Concert Band**

Students from K – 6 can participate in the IMP. Each group requires varying levels of musical training. New students can be part of: Stringlets, Junior Strings, Junior Recorder and Training Band.

Making Music in a group has many benefits for your child. Music is a wonderful skill that many students use throughout their lives. Playing in an ensemble not only reinforces what children learn in their private lessons, but also encourages teamwork to create wonderful music!

Children also socialise and learn to work with other students outside their peer groups, enhancing social skills and develop confidence through performances held throughout the year.
Training Band – (open to students in years 3 – 6 2016)

The training band is made up of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments as well as the double bass. Students need no prior musical experience to join this ensemble. All instruments are important to the ensemble and require the same level of commitment, practice and enthusiasm. Some students will obviously have a preference for, or be more physically suited to play a particular instrument, and when I am assigning instruments I will take this into account. (The band program is particularly looking for students to play the tuba, baritone, trombone french horn oboe and bassoon).

I also try to create a balanced ensemble with the instruments the school has available.

Students spend a minimum of two years in the training band, where they learn music reading skills, instrumental skills, and ensemble skills. Students are expected to practice 4 – 5 times a week at home, attend weekly rehearsals for their ensemble and attend a weekly private lesson (a list of tutors will be emailed home in term 1 2016)

Instruments in the Training Band

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Glockenspiel, Percussion and Double Bass

The school hires all of these instruments out to students, however some instruments are limited and you may be asked to hire from a music shop.

Percussion players will use the school percussion for rehearsals, however no percussion is hired out. Families are expected to purchase their own percussion instruments.
Stringlets and Junior Strings – (Open to students in K – 6 2016)

The string program is relatively new to Petersham primary school. Students who wish to learn the Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass are invited to join these ensembles. The emphasis of these ensembles is to learn good instrumental technique, how to read music and ensemble skills. Depending on the students’ age and previous musical experience students will be invited to join Stringlets for younger students and Junior Strings for older students.

Like the training band no previous musical experience is needed to play a string instrument. As students become more confident on their chosen instrument they can move up through the ensembles. Each year some of the older students are selected to perform at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Instrumental Music Festival. String Students can also be part of the Sydney South East Orchestra camp and in 2016 be part of Symphonia Jubilate.

Students in the Stringlets or Junior Strings will need to attend their weekly ensemble rehearsal, and attend a weekly private lesson, and of course practice lots at home. String Instruments require a hands on approach from parents to oversee that students are practicing what the teacher asks each week, much like home reader, parents play an active role in their child’s practice at home.

**Instruments in the Stringlets**

Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass

The school hires all of these instruments out to students, however some instruments are limited and you may be asked to hire from a music shop.

Junior Recorder – (Open to students in years 2 – 6 2016)

Everyone is welcome to join this fun and exciting ensemble. Recorder is a great way to start your child’s musical journey. Students learn how to read music, play music as a group with their friends, and is a great introduction for students who wish to learn band instruments.

Students are not required to have private lessons on recorder, however if students wish, lessons can be arranged.

Students are required to attend weekly ensemble rehearsals, and of course practice at home.
As students become more comfortable on the recorder they will graduate to a bigger recorder and then move up to the recorder consort.

The Recorder Consort performs annually at the Sydney Opera House, as part of the massed recorder ensemble. Some members of the Recorder Consort are selected each year for the State Recorder Consort, perform as soloists, and have appeared on the Channel 10 news!

**Instruments in Junior Recorders:**
Descant, Treble, Tenor, and Bass Recorder(s)

**Costs and Commitments**

Students who join an ensemble are expected to make a commitment for the year. Students need to attend weekly ensemble rehearsals at school, and attend weekly private lessons (a list of recommended tutors will be emailed home at the beginning of each year).

All students in the Band and Strings program pay an ensemble fee of $180– (large ensemble) per semester to cover the costs of rehearsals, and the purchase of music and equipment.

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Students who participate in more than one large ensemble will only pay for one ensemble.

All students who are in a ‘large ensemble’ must have weekly private lessons outside school hours. These lessons are not included in the ensemble fees, and are paid directly to your tutor. The current costs are between $20 – $35 for a half hour lesson.
Proposed rehearsal times for 2016

Monday 8:00am – 9:00 am – Symphony Orchestra

Monday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – Junior Strings

Tuesday 8:00am – 9:00am – Recorder Consort

Tuesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – Junior Recorder

Wednesday 8:00am – 9:00am – Training Band

Wednesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm – Senior Strings

Thursday 8:30am – 9:00am – Stringlets

Friday 8:00am – 9:00am – Concert Band
Application for 2016 Instrumental Music Program

Please return to the office by 20th November

Interested students are invited to apply for the Petersham Instrumental Music Program, please return the application to your classroom teacher, to the office or to Mr Murphy by 20th November.

If you have any questions about the instrumental music program, please contact Mr Murphy by email. Daniel.W.Murphy@det.nsw.edu.au

Students Name ___________________________________________________________

Year/ Grade in 2016 _______________________________________________________

• I would like my child to be considered for the Petersham Instrumental Music Program for 2016

• I have read and understood all the information contained in this handbook about the program and costs and commitment to the program.

• I understand that accepted students will be assigned an instrument based on their suitability and the needs of the program.

• I also understand that I will be liable for the loss or damage of the instrument when hiring from the school.

Parents Name _____________________________________________________________

Parents Signature ___________________________________________________________

Date _____________________________

Contact Number __________________________________________________________

Email Address ____________________________________________________________

(Please print carefully as this is the main form of communication for the IMP)
My Child would like to be considered for the following Ensembles (please tick)

- [ ] Junior Recorder
- [ ] Stringlets or Junior Strings
- [ ] Training Band

My Child would like to be considered for the following instrument(s) (Circle up to 5)

**Recorder**

Recorder (please circle) – students will be assigned a recorder depending on their hand size

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<tr>
<th>Strings</th>
<th>Training Band</th>
<th>French Horn</th>
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<td>Violin</td>
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I would like to hire an instrument from the school (please circle)

I would like to hire/purchase and instrument from an external source (please circle)

I already have my own instrument (please circle)