INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WISHING TO JOIN
TRAINING BAND IN 2017 (Children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5, 2016)

Being a part of a school band is a wonderful experience for children. It not only helps them learn to play an instrument, but teaches them great teamwork, raises their confidence in performing in front of people and enhances their appreciation of a whole range of different music.

The band program at Oatley West Public School is run by Music Council, a sub-committee of the Oatley West P&C. As such, it is the parents of the children in the band program who manage the day-to-day running of the band, led by the Music Council President/s and Band Conductor. Parents are expected to support their child in the band by helping with the running of the band.

The band program adheres to the Music Council’s policy statement, a copy of which is available from Music Council.

Joining the Training Band

Parents need to complete an audition form (attached to this package) for their child to join Training Band. Applications close on Friday 4th November. Please put audition forms in the Band Box in the school office.

On the audition form, please nominate up to three instruments your child would like to play, although we understand that some children may be very particular about their choice of instrument and may only want to nominate one or two – that’s fine! Auditions will be held for all children wishing to join Training Band. To maintain the sound balance of the band we only have a limited number of instruments of each type and auditions are our way of determining the suitability of children for their chosen instrument and balancing the number of each instrument in the band. As a result of the audition, some children (in consultation with their parents) may be offered an instrument that is not their first choice.

Auditions will be held in the school hall in mid November and you’ll be notified by email of the day/time of your child’s audition. Our Band Director, Mr Chris Brasche, will perform aural and rhythm tests to assess your child and match an instrument suitable for your child. Please be assured that there is no prior music learning required to join Training Band and, in fact, the ‘audition’ is really just a chance for the children to meet Mr Brasche and take a closer look at the instruments.

Shortly after auditioning, parents will be notified by email of their child’s instrument allocation and asked to select an option for acquisition of the instrument, either:

- Purchase a new or, if available, second hand instrument from Music Council; or
- Hire of Music Council-owned instruments (restricted to Euphonium); or
- Use of student's own instrument.

Training Band 2017 is expected to commence in about Week 3 of Term 1, 2017.

Training Band Co-ordinator

The new Training Band will require a parent to take on the role of Training Band Co-ordinator. This person will be responsible for the daily running of Training Band, including communication with parents and organising the roster for parents to supervise band rehearsals. No experience is necessary, just good organisational skills! All help and support will be provided by other Music Council members.

Later in the year, Training Band will also need a Training Band Librarian to organise the sheet music Training Band will play. If you have any questions or would like to take on one of these roles, please let us know.
Key dates in Term 4, 2016 for Training Band 2017

Wednesday 26\textsuperscript{th} October  Current Training Band performs for Assembly 2.10pm in school hall (parents welcome to watch)

Tuesday 1\textsuperscript{st} November  Year 2 attend an Instrument Demonstration Session in the hall

Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} November  Band Information Night for parents, school hall at 7.00pm

Friday 4\textsuperscript{th} November  Closing date for audition forms

Week 6 & 7  Training Band ‘auditions’ in school hall

Week 8  Letter to parents offering a place in Training Band with instrument allocation

Week 9  Final date for return of acceptance forms and for buying new or second hand instrument through Music Council

Week 3, 2017  Training Band rehearsals commence

Requirements for Band Members

Being a part of the band involves a number of commitments which you must consider before your child auditions.

- Currently Training Band has two rehearsals each week before school from 8.45-9.15am (arrive at 8.35am to set up and finish after pack-up at 9.25am) on Mondays and Wednesdays in the school hall. For the first few weeks Training Band will be split into separate instrument groups for rehearsals. Later in Term 1, Training Band will come together and begin rehearsing as a group.

- Your child must have weekly private lessons on their band instrument. A list of tutors and contact numbers will be provided. Fees for private lessons vary, but generally will be $25-$35 per half hour.

- Band fees are invoiced each semester (2 terms) and are currently $120 per semester. These are payable by all members of the Training Band. Band fees must be paid on time – failure to pay will lead to review of your child’s inclusion in the band program. Instrument fees may also be applicable and vary according to the instrument your child plays.

- All band rehearsals require parent supervision and parents will be asked to nominate dates they are available to supervise band. Parent supervision is a mandatory requirement of children participating in band. All parents must assist with supervision of rehearsals.

- The following year, all children progress to the Intermediate Band which currently rehearses on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8.00-8.40am. Entry into Concert Band is by audition. Concert Band currently rehearses are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8.00-9.00am.

- As children progress to Intermediate and then to Concert Band, they will participate in play outs, often at locations away from school and sometimes on weekends. Being part of the band means children are expected to attend play outs, whether on weekends or at night. Parents will also be required to help with band play outs, such as transporting instruments, supervising their children or set up / dismantle afterwards.
Buying a New Instrument

The Music Council will negotiate a special deal for the bulk purchase of instruments, buying the instruments at a discount to retail pricing. Music Council will pass this pricing onto parents wishing to purchase a new, quality instrument. Payment for the instrument may be made in one lump sum up front (preferred option) or made in 4 instalments (over 2 years).

Indicative pricing is below; final pricing will be provided with your acceptance letter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Model/Description</th>
<th>Lump sum</th>
<th>Instalments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
<td>Yamaha YFL 221D</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarinet</td>
<td>Yamaha YCL 2551D</td>
<td>$675</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpet</td>
<td>Yamaha YTR 2330</td>
<td>$655</td>
<td>$170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td>Yamaha YSL154</td>
<td>$895</td>
<td>$230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxophone</td>
<td>Yamaha YAS 280 (with high F#)</td>
<td>$1,575</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saxophone</td>
<td>Yamaha YAS 26 (no F# &amp; wooden case)</td>
<td>$1,295</td>
<td>$330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All prices include GST and are subject to change. All instruments are covered by a two-year manufacturers’ warranty.

Parents will be responsible for servicing, repairing and maintaining the instruments.

Buying a Second Hand Instrument through Music Council

Music Council has a number of second hand instruments for sale which may be purchased at a reduced price reflecting the age and condition of the instrument. Once again, parents will be responsible for servicing, repairing and maintaining the instruments.

Parents will be given the opportunity to purchase a new or second hand instrument (if available) through Music Council after the auditions have been completed. We will advise of any changes to this pricing.

Percussion Instruments

Students selected to play percussion will need to organise their own drum kit or glockenspiel or keyboard. These students may use the Music Council instruments at school for rehearsals. There are no rental fees charged for students playing percussion, glockenspiel or keyboard.

Hire only instruments

Other instruments in the band that are not purchased through Music Council may be hired through Music Council for the duration of your child’s involvement with band. These hire-only instruments are the larger, more expensive instruments such as euphonium (Training band and Intermediate Band) or tuba, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, and bass clarinet (Concert Band).

Rental fees per semester for hire-only instruments are:

- Euphonium $80

If you have any questions, please contact:

Carmel Sharples carmelsharples1@optusnet.com.au 0406 874 106
Nicky Byfield nickybyfield@gmail.com 0417 045 178

Music Council
AUDITION FORM FOR OATLEY WEST TRAINING BAND 2017

Please return completed forms to the band box in the office by 4th November 2016

Child’s Name: __________________________________ Class ________ Age________

Do you already own an instrument which you could play in the band? ________________
Which instrument________________________________________

Are you learning an instrument? ________________ Which one? ________________
For how long? _______________________

Which Instrument would you prefer to play in the band?

1st choice_______________________ 2nd choice_______________________ 3rd choice_______________________

If you are not offered ANY of your choices would you consider accepting a different instrument? ________________

There are only a limited number of places available for each instrument type. The allocation of these will be at the discretion of the bandmaster.

Parent/Guardian please sign this section.
I give permission for my child named above to audition for the band.

Signature_________________________ Print Name ________________________________

Home phone number__________________ Mobile________________________

Email address ______________________________________________________________

For Band Director’s use

Ear Test:

1 A._______ B._________ C.____________  2 A._______ B._________ C.____________  3 A._______ B._________ C.____________

4 A._______ B._________ C.____________  Total Ear ________

Singing: (If required) Intonation :_________ Rhythm __________

Rhythm:

1 (4/4) _________  2(4/4) __________

3 (3/4) _________  4 (6/8) __________  Total Rhythm __________

TOTAL SCORE ________

RECOMMENDATION__________________________________________________________