



Instrumental Music Program

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Excellence in Instrumental Music Education since 1973

To: **Parents of Year 4 students**

The Instrumental Music Program (IMP) is a Section of the Education Directorate that provides to your Primary School a package of services designed to supplement the music education of up to 23 selected children in each of Year 5 and Year 6. The IMP has been operating in the ACT since 1973 and is unique to Canberra. It has also attracted a great deal of national and international interest because of its methods, organisation and achievements.

A selection process has already begun with each Year 4 classroom teacher providing information to the Program on a number of attributes that are important to beginning music students. At the beginning of Year 5 IMP staff will ask your children to answer some questions about music that is played to them. This is designed to determine each child's ability to hear differences in the sounds of notes, melodies and rhythms and is merely another aspect of the selection process. When all of the criteria are assembled the IMP will provide a list of students to the Principal of your school. The Principal, in conjunction with the classroom teachers, will determine a list of students to whom offers will be made for Band Class membership. Please note that places will be offered first to students not already having lessons on a band instrument. More advanced students will be welcome to be a part of the School Band, but will not be a part of the IMP Band Class.

The families of students who accept membership can expect that their child will be a part of a class of band instruments (oboe, flutes, clarinets and percussion in woodwind schools; trumpets, trombones, euphoniums, tubas and percussion in brass schools). Group lessons will be given and no child will be required to take private lessons. Directorate teachers employed and attached to the IMP for their special instrumental teaching and classroom skills will visit your school for lessons twice a week.

Students are provided with an instrument (along with its maintenance and repairs of accidental damage) and all of the music required for their tuition. There will be a cost to families of students involved that varies from school to school but will be in excess of \$110 per year. Please contact your school to find out the amount you will be required to contribute. When you consider that it includes an instrument (which could be worth between at least \$500 and up to \$5,000 in the case of a tuba!), tuition (currently costing about \$70 per hour on a private individual basis) AND print music it is obvious that this cost is merely a token payment.

Of course membership of the Band Class is not compulsory and when offers of membership are made to the students selected you may choose to decline the offer, but there is a maximum number of 23 places available in each Band Class.

We hope this information clarifies any questions you may have about the IMP and its selection process. You can find further information on our website at <http://www.imp.act.edu.au>

Naida Blackley
Principal - Instrumental Music Program