Dear Parents,

Music is a wonderful skill for any child and research shows that learning a musical instrument can help your son in so many more ways. It can improve his reasoning capacity and problem solving skills, strengthen maths and language performance, increase memory and lead to greater social skills and teamwork. The dedication and diligence required to learn an instrument can lead to better study habits and increased concentration.

As part of our Music Curriculum, every boy in Year 4 will have the opportunity to learn an orchestral Woodwind or Brass instrument, both in small tutorial groups and also as a class ensemble. Each Tuesday boys will take part in instrumental instruction by our expert tutors and experience the joy of self expression when creating their own music. At the conclusion of the program students will perform in a concert to demonstrate their achievements and successes in the Music Program at Scots.

The boys have been asked to make their instrument choices today during our regular band session. They listened to a live demonstration of each instrument and then listed their choices from 1 to 6, in order of preference. Next week, boys will have the opportunity to try out their top 3 choices and be assessed according to suitability to the instrument.

Once your son has been assigned an instrument we will send you an instrument hire contract to be completed and returned to school. Once returned, your son will be able to bring his instrument home to commence practise. Your child will also be issued with a band method book containing music and information your son will use as he progresses on his instrument. Boys will need to bring these books each Tuesday where they will attend a small group tutorial and learn the basics of playing and caring for their instrument. We ask parents to please not try repairing instruments at home. If your child is experiencing problems with their instrument they are to tell their tutor on Tuesday so repairs can be made accordingly.

Your son will also receive a practise diary – an important tool to assist parents, tutors and students communicate together to ensure a successful and enjoyable experience. Please feel free to communicate with your tutor using the practice diary, including any difficulties or successes your son may have at home. Boys are expected to complete practice on their instrument, initially for approximately 10 minutes, 3 times per week. This should gradually increase throughout the year. It is important for the students to include regular practise to maximise their potential in learning and playing their instrument. It is also a home learning requirement for Year 4. Practise will be included on the weekly home learning sheet sent home by your son’s class teacher each Monday, from Week 4. Lunchtime practice sessions will be available to boys who find it difficult to fit their practice into their home schedules.

We are very much looking forward to the Band Program giving all boys the opportunity to develop potential avenues for creativity and self expression, as well as a means for self realisation, fulfillment, and a unique method to succeed at school.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Coleman
Coordinator of Music – Preparatory School

The Scots College
Sydney Australia

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Year 4 Band Program