



Gladesville Public School

STRING ENSEMBLE PROGRAM

Information Booklet

2011

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STRING ENSEMBLES

The first string group at GPS started in 2006 with 4 keen players and has grown over the years with 28 students joining the group over the last 5 years. We now have 2 string ensembles at GPS, a beginner group called, '*The Playful Pizzicatos*' and an advanced group called '*The Amazing Arpeggios*'. The ensembles perform at School Assemblies each term as well as the yearly Ryde Eisteddfod, Music Soiree with the Concert Band, Information Music Mornings and Presentation Day.

Last year GPS also held its first Music Camp with the Band. It was a great chance for all the students to play together in a large orchestra, experience more challenging music and work with experienced tutors. Other highlights over the years have included winning a Bronze Trophy at the Ryde Eisteddfod in 2007 and Highly Commended Awards in 2008 & 2009.

The purpose of the following information is to explain the String Ensemble programs to you and outline the benefits and obligations of the groups. 2011 promises to be another exciting year for the strings and we will be welcoming new players on the following instruments: **Violin, Viola and Cello**

THE BENEFITS

Playing an instrument can be a wonderful learning tool in developing a great variety of skills. Being a member of the String Ensembles will help your child to develop:

- * the technical and musical abilities of their chosen instrument;
- * a deeper appreciation of what is involved in performance;
- * the desire for each member to do their personal best;
- * a connection to a social group that is pursuing a common aim;
- * the confidence and self esteem which comes from succeeding in a worthwhile endeavour;
- * positive friendships and associations in their most impressionable years;
- * the self discipline and commitment necessary to succeed in other areas;
- * the capacity for expression and communication necessary for future relationships;
- * the ability to form associations through music with people from all over the world using music as a common language.

In addition, the students participating in this school based program will help create considerable benefits for the school in forming a higher profile in the immediate and broader community. Your child's achievements, through participation in the string program, are limited only by themselves and the support and encouragement that we as their parents and teachers give them. Therefore, a commitment and understanding of certain obligations will be necessary to see the benefits of each child's musical growth.

THE OBLIGATIONS

All String Ensemble members are required to:

- * provide a musical instrument of suitable size and standard:
- * have private weekly professional tuition and practise their instruments daily:
- * attend all rehearsals and performances:
- * take good care of their instruments, music and equipment:
- * provide a music stand for home playing:
- * behave properly at all times by listening, being polite and taking care of the instruments:
- * PERSEVERE. The challenges will be rewarding!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1. Supply of Instruments

Instruments must be supplied by parents of the children. There are three ways of acquiring an instrument – new purchase, second hand purchase or hire. GPS has a few string instruments available for hire. Please refer to GPS Instrument Hire Brochure for details. Advice on other hire fees, size and costs of purchasing string instruments can also be found by contacting Musical Options (Ph: 0400 688 308) based in Rose Bay or The Sydney String Centre (Ph: 9904 8051) in Willoughby. It is important to source a good quality second hand instrument for your child that will not break easily or produce a horrible sound! Be wary of buying instruments off ebay or the trading post. There are often local parents trying to resell their good quality smaller size instrument. Please ask for advice.

2. Tuition

Each student must have Individual Tuition in addition to being in the String Ensemble outside of school hours. Private lessons for beginners are approximately 30 minutes duration and cost between \$30 and \$35. **Parental guidance and attendance in private lessons is necessary in helping beginners learn their instrument. Daily playing is also expected and strongly advised to help achieve good development on the chosen instrument.** Payments are to be made directly to the tutor. A list of teachers can be obtained from Myee Clohessy – 0405 070 721

3. Rehearsals

During 2010, *The Amazing Arpeggios* met each Wednesday from 8:15am to 9:00am and *The Playful Pizzicatos* met each Friday from 8:15am – 9:00am. The rehearsal time for next year has yet to be confirmed. You will be invoiced at the beginning of each term and asked to pay within 3 weeks. **Please note, a minimum of 24 hours notice must be given to the tutor for an absentee, otherwise the session will be charged.**

4. Anticipated Costs

String Ensemble Fee	\$10.00 per session (invoiced at the start of term for approx 10 sessions)
Instrument Hire from shops	\$10 - \$30 per month plus deposit (depending on instrument and shop)
GPS Instrument Hire	\$80.00 (\$120.00 for cellos) for 2 terms plus a refundable \$100 deposit
Purchase	Good violins start at \$250 and Cellos at \$650 (depending on size/quality)
Music Stand	\$30.00 (approx. retail price)
Tuition Material	\$40.00 (approx. starting cost)

5. Parent Volunteers

Parents are asked to assist in the running of the ensemble programme. This may take the form of helping set up, volunteering to drive to events, sending out newsletters, taking care of the instrument hire program etc. Parents are always welcome to observe the rehearsals and encouraged to attend the concerts whenever possible.

If you wish your child to be part of the String Ensemble program please fill in the attached application form and return it to the front office no later than **FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER.**

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to call me on 0405 070 721 or email myeeclo@hotmail.com

Many thanks
Myee Clohessy

STRING ENSEMBLE APPLICATION FORM & AGREEMENT

I,....., HEREBY APPLY FOR MY CHILD,
(please print full name)

....., IN YEAR(2011)

TO JOIN THE STRING ENSEMBLE PROGRAM AT GLADESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

ON THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENT

I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ACCEPT THE OBLIGATIONS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES OUTLINED IN THE INFORMATION PROVIDED.

SIGNED

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

MOTHER'S NAME

FATHER'S NAME

CHILD'S NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE (hm).....(mob)

EMAIL

DATE:.....