

## **INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES AT MT HAWTHORN**

In term three of each year, the year two, three and four students at Mt Hawthorn will be completing a Music Aptitude Indicator as part of the assessment process to select **School of Instrumental Music** (SIM) students.

Those selected will have instrumental lessons beginning the following year and will be expected to join either band or orchestra during year 5 to further expand their skill and have opportunities to perform as an ensemble.

Selected students will be offered places in violin/viola (year 3), cello (year 4), flute, clarinet, brass, double bass and percussion (year 5).

### **How many places are offered each year?**

Year 3 - 8 places in violin/viola are offered

Year 4 – 3 places in cello are offered

Year 5 – 22 places offered overall for flute, clarinet, brass, percussion and double bass



The major part of the assessment is the standardised test from SIM which is a musical aptitude indicator. The three components are pitch, rhythm and tunes. It is primarily a listening test but the students are required to write their answers on a standard answer sheet. We will be doing activities in all music classes to help students understand the way the test is run and how to complete the answer sheet in order for them to have the best chance possible of gaining a place in the music program.

While this forms the major component of selection, other aspects will be considered such as effort in class music activities, enthusiasm and interest in music and time to commit to learning an instrument while being able to keep up with other subjects.

In making the decision to select students, there is much consideration but unfortunately, not all children are able to be offered instruments.

*If you are not offered a place but are keen to learn an instrument private lessons are an option with the possibility of joining one of our school ensembles (orchestra or band) if approved by the ensemble director.*

If your child is away on the day of testing, a catch up day will be organised so that all students have the opportunity to participate.

### **Band and Orchestra**

**Orchestra:** Students who have been learning violin, viola and cello are expected to begin orchestra from the start of year 5. Students who learn these instruments privately are also encouraged to audition to be part of this wonderful ensemble.

**Band:** Students who learn flute, clarinet, brass, double bass and percussion are expected to begin band from semester two of year 5 and the duration of year 6. Students who have been learning privately for six months are encouraged to audition and become a part of this fantastic ensemble. Students from other schools in the area are also a part of the Mt Hawthorn Area Band.

**Music Camp:** This is an amazing opportunity for band and orchestra students. It is run by the parents and includes two days of team-building activities, tuition, rehearsals and fun with a final performance for parents to attend. This is usually held at the end of the July holidays.

**Saxophone players are needed** for band and Mrs Hardman has a contact for a private saxophone teacher who comes highly recommended.

If you would like more information about the SIM program or any aspect of the school music program, please come and see me at school or email me [Katrina.Hardman@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Katrina.Hardman@education.wa.edu.au). The SIM website (now known as Instrumental Music School Services) can be found here <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/imss/detcms/portal/>

