

MUSIC SUPPORTERS' GROUP

Overview

The Music Supporters' Group (a sub-committee of the P&C Association) provides essential support to music programs in the school. It provides support to the teachers, information to parents through a variety of communication modes, manpower, financial support through fundraising and supervision at events. It provides resources for both the Choral and Instrumental Programs. Without this support the programs could not exist in the current form and the number of students involved would be greatly reduced.

Regular annual fund raising includes a chocolate drive (done in partnership with the P&C Association), gold coin collections, and the annual school Christmas Carols Night where Music Supporters run the BBQ and sell drinks.

Funds raised are used for:

1. employment of Choral Conductor and accompanist;
2. purchase and maintenance of musical instruments;
3. transport, bus hire;
4. uniform assistance (black pants);
5. sheet music/scores;
6. entry fees to competitions;
7. photocopying;
8. miscellaneous equipment (music stands etc.)

The Music Supporters' Group works because you, the parents and caregivers, participate, so please get involved. There is an extensive range of tasks that volunteer help can assist with on a regular or random basis to suit all types of busy parent timetables. You may like to consider becoming involved in one or more of the following ways:

- attending & contributing to the Music Supporters' Group meetings;
- taking a position on the sub committee: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary;
- running the shoe bank (borrowing scheme for black shoes used in performances);
- transporting equipment;
- setting up and packing up;
- manning the door at concerts;
- assisting with catering at concerts, camps etc;
- being a part of a phone tree, used for quick messages about time changes, cancellations etc;
- being a parent manager of one of the ensembles/choirs;
- helping with the cataloguing of music;
- distributing and collecting music;
- assisting with day to day administrative tasks;
- helping with the chocolate drive or other fundraising;
- helping at the Christmas BBQ;
- taking photos and/or recordings;
- helping with the Music Supporters' Newsletter.

Parent Supervisors

Each ensemble/choir requires at least two parent supervisors, which means we require a minimum of 16 volunteers to perform this essential role. Conductors will call for volunteers at the beginning of the year. Parent supervisors aim to support the conductor in practical ways by looking after the students, checking their uniforms and setting up equipment so that the conductor can concentrate on the student's musical preparation.

Music Supporters' Group Meetings

The Music Supporters' Group meets at 7pm in the evening, twice each term or as required. Membership is open to any member of the P&C Association, and all parents/carers are welcome to attend. The meetings are usually short and run to a publicised agenda under the guidance of the P&C Music Supporters' Group Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. It is a

great opportunity to get an overview of the whole music program and to make new friends. Meeting dates are publicised through the Gazette and Music Supporters' Newsletter.

Music Supporters' Newsletter

The Music Supporters' Newsletter is essential in raising the profile of the music program and communicating its plans and achievements. Feedback and articles are sought from teachers, students, parents, adjudicators and the wider community.

It is one of the newsletter's aims to provide a term timetable of up and coming events to keep all involved informed (these details are discussed at the Music Supporters' meetings). Photos are included and we welcome loans of photographs taken (on disk or paper) and later used in promoting the program. We also seek information on any of the musical achievements of students in the program in competitions, exams, external groups etc. so that they can receive due recognition for their achievements. Music is not an activity, it is a challenging, fun, team lifestyle that lasts into old age. It can bring enjoyment to all - think outside the stave!

Acknowledgments

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