

P&C Newsletter - Term 3 Week 5

Getting to Know our P&C Volunteers Jen Howard - Band & Strings Convenor

Hello BPS families and friends,

Jen Howard here! Delighted to be your Band and String Convener at Beecroft Primary School. Together with Charmaine Soh, we have the privilege of overseeing this extraordinary Band and Strings Program, surrounded by a phenomenal team that includes nine ensemble coordinators, a dedicated string coordinator, an instrument officer, a music librarian/festival organizer, treasurer and secretary. But the true magic happens through our fantastic conductors and music director: Katrina Papallo, David Sismey, and Tim Ferrier. Their incredible talent, dedication, and passion light up our program and create a nurturing environment where our students can thrive musically.

Personally, I'm thrilled to share this journey with my husband, Andrew Howard—a proud BPS alumnus and former BPS Vice Captain—and our twin boys, Henry and Michael, currently in Year 5. They've grown tremendously in our Concert Band and Stage Band, starting way back with the Training Band, where they received unparalleled guidance from our wonderful Conductors. Fun fact: Andrew used to play alongside our very own Tim Ferrier and Tessa Gutierrez in the Golden Kangaroos back in the day! Music truly binds our family, and the joy of watching our talented BPS students flourish through each ensemble is indescribable.

As my children step forward into Year 6 next year, Charmaine and I are eager to find our successors who can carry this torch as Band & String Conveners or any of our open roles (see our Band & Strings update below). Whether you decide to take up these rewarding roles alone or with friends, rest assured that you'll have our full support. With our detailed handbook and guidance, you'll lead our students in continuing the legacy of musical excellence.

We're incredibly proud of our nine ensembles: Training Strings, Intermediate Strings, Advanced Strings, Training Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, Senior Concert Band, Stage Band, and Orchestra. Our upcoming Multicultural Fair on Saturday 13 September will showcase the remarkable talents of our students, offering the public a chance to appreciate their mastery and dedication.

If you're interested in joining this vibrant and rewarding community, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here for a friendly chat at convener.bandandstrings@gmail.com. We're excited to help you embark on this heartwarming journey and ensure the continued success of our beloved program.

With warmth and enthusiasm!

Jen Howard



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Canteen Bites

PSSA Lunch Orders

If your child is attending PSSA and has ordered lunch, please let the canteen know so we can keep it aside for them to pick up. For student wellbeing, we recommend avoiding lunch orders on PSSA days if students will be back late, as eating too late is not ideal.

Noodle & Soup Orders

Some students are not aware they have ordered cup noodles or soup and will approach the canteen to check, which causes delays during our busy lunch period. Please note if your child has ordered noodles or soup, they need to collect it directly from the canteen at lunchtime. Knowing the flavour they ordered will also help us serve them more quickly.

Volunteers Needed

Our canteen is always grateful for extra helping hands! If you're available to volunteer, even for a few hours, we would love your support. It's a great way to meet other parents and help our school community. Please email Jenny or Irene at beecroftpscanteen@gmail.com if you're interested.



Book Week magic in the canteen! 🎉



Mark Your Calendar – Term 3

Sat 23/08	Working Bee
Sat 13/9	Multicultural Fair
Wed 17/9	P&C General meeting (Library)



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Band & Strings Update

ASBOF 2025 – Australian School Band & Orchestra Festival



Our incredible **Stage Band** Conductor, Mr Ferrier kicked off his day at the City to Surf bright and early on the same morning our Stage Band dazzled at UNSW for ASBOF. Despite the pouring rain, our Stage Band didn't let the weather cool their enthusiasm, delivering a performance that earned them the prestigious GOLD award!

The Stage Band specializes in the thrilling sounds of jazz, featuring a talented ensemble of trumpet, trombone, saxophone, percussion, bass guitar, and keyboard. Entry into this dynamic group is by audition, and each musician is also part of another band, typically the Concert Band or Senior Concert Band. Join us in celebrating these brilliant performers as well as Mr Ferrier who bring jazz's energy and excitement to life!

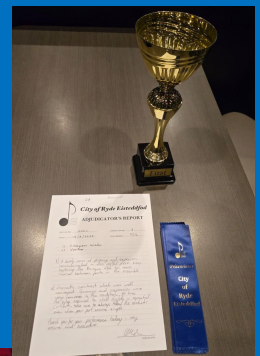
We look forward to the rest of our Band and String ensembles competing at ASBOF next month!



Ryde Eisteddfod

Our **Intermediate Band** and Advanced String ensembles competed at the Ryde Eisteddfod last week, and we couldn't be prouder of our talented musicians as they took the stage. This marked the Intermediate Band's first competition of the year. Although they didn't place, their inspiring performance brought smiles to every face and was a testament to their hard work and spirit. A huge thank you to Mr Sismey, who was thrilled with their performance and expressed his pride at how well they played.

Huge congratulations to Ms Papallo for leading the **Advanced Strings** to victory at the Eisteddfod - 1st place!! Feedback from the adjudicator was that the performance was very "secure and evocative"! We hope this achievement inspires our students to continue practicing and fuels their passion and enjoyment for music. Well done to both ensembles for a great performance!



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Band & Strings

Orchestra

Our full Orchestra rehearsals are in full swing, with all our band and string musicians joining forces to create musical magic! We can't wait to share this stunning ensemble with you all.

Please note the remaining rehearsal Orchestra dates:

Rehearsal 4 (22nd Aug): Band and Strings

Rehearsal 5 (29th Aug): Band and Strings

Rehearsal 6 (5th Sept): Band and Strings



BPS Multicultural Fair - Saturday 13th September

The countdown is on for our eagerly awaited Multicultural Fair, where our nine band and string ensembles will dazzle the public with their performances! By now, you should have received the performance schedule:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hkvDI457jvQmm6YVN_eE5sP9ZvKTmkbl/view?usp=drive_link

Please be sure to check your ensemble's time slot to ensure everyone has the opportunity to savor these delightful performances!

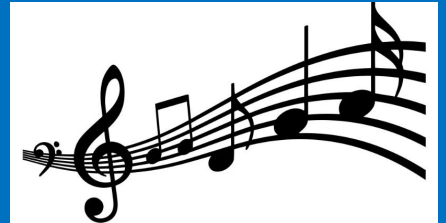
Band & Strings End of Year Concert - NEW DATE & VENUE CONFIRMED

Date: Friday, 28th November 2025

Venue: Cherrybrook Technology High School

Time: 5:30PM for 6:00PM start

Save the date!!!



WE NEED YOU to help keep the Band & Strings Program Alive - Open Roles for 2026

- Band & Strings Convener
- Band & Strings Vice-Convener
- Training Band Recruitment Coordinator
- Music Librarian & Festivals Coordinator

Whether you choose to contribute solo or team up with a friend, every bit of help makes a difference. If you're passionate about this program, consider joining the Band & Strings Committee and be a vital part of our vibrant community. We have several positions open and would love for you to join our team! You'll receive comprehensive training and support, and the best part is, you can work on your own schedule.

Feel free to email us at convener.bandandstrings@gmail.com or chat with us on the playground. Your involvement helps us create unforgettable musical experiences for our kids—let's do this together!