

## AVALON PUBLIC SCHOOL BAND

A sub-committee of the P&C Association



[avbandrocks@gmail.com](mailto:avbandrocks@gmail.com)

# WELCOME !

## Avalon Public School Band Program - Parent Information Memo

Avalon Public School is very proud of its band program which has been an important part of the school for nearly 50 years! Currently we have a large and successful program involving over 130 children in 4 separate bands.

Band is a paid, extra-curricular school activity available to all students from Years 3 to 6. Students, currently in Year 2 (or above), who are interested in joining the band program are now eligible to apply for entry into the Training Band which will commence in Term 1, 2021.

The Year 2 students will have their first introduction to band with a special performance just for them on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Here Mrs Shaw our Director of Bands will discuss each instrument and the program with the children in more detail. You should expect your child to be excited about joining band after this special concert. Our Expression of Interest (EOI) forms are attached here and if you know you are already interested in our band program you can return this form immediately. Extra EOI forms will be distributed to the children at the performance.

All EOI forms must be returned to the silver Band Box by Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> as Mrs Shaw's famous "Blow Tests" where she selects/allocates instruments to each child commence the following week. This slightly mysterious process is based on a number of factors – a child's physical size and strength, their natural pitch, rhythm, coordination, mouth shape and ability to blow AND the important information you provide us on the EOI form. Please be honest on this form as it really helps to create a successful match for our child from the outset. Only children who have submitted forms are called for Blow Tests and these take place during school hours in the Corridor of Learning during Week 5.

We also have an active parent Facebook group for questions, reminders etc which we encourage you can join at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/126713387997369/>

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome any questions you may have beforehand.

Liv Smith and Amy Young  
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### **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BANDS, MRS SARAH SHAW**

In a perfect world every child would have the chance to play a musical instrument and learn to read music. There is an enormous amount of scientific evidence showing the benefits to those who do and those benefits are life-long. It is my great privilege to be part of this opportunity for many students at Avalon Public School. This is of great personal significance to me as my own musical career began here.

Avalon PS Band program enjoys an enormous level of interest and support from the school staff and the parent community. We have a strong parent committee, a team of talented instrumental tutors on board and an additional band director, Charles Wilkinson. Charles is young, a brilliant musician/teacher and a vital part of the future plans for the program.

Band is a fantastic way to introduce children to learning music. For many, the team environment provides a familiar and motivating forum which is much more fun than learning and playing on your own. Regular performances of all the bands create terrific goal setting opportunities, the chance for recognition, encouragement and a huge sense of achievement for the students.

Not all students will become professional musicians but the aim should be to give them the many benefits of the experience in the same way that we encourage all students to play a sport without expecting them all to become elite athletes. Developing well rounded confident adults with lots of options is the priority.

My job as Director of Bands is an extremely rewarding one. I am deeply interested in helping each student to be the best that they can be and have yet to find a student that "just isn't musical". I believe it is a matter of finding the right path for each of them. I welcome open communication with parents as this process works best as a team effort.

As a Band Director I conduct bands from beginner to adult ensembles. I see in action every week the benefits of music for all my band members, from the 8 year olds to the 80 year olds, and I look forward to helping your child get started!

Sarah Shaw  
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