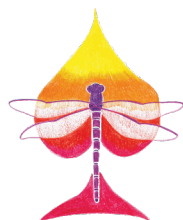


KINDLEHILL INSTRUMENT PROGRAM

Gurunggu bayumi

Children, Towards the Music



Kindlehill School

We very much welcome Parent and Carer participation in the musical culture of Kindlehill. This might include sharing musical expertise with a class, at a School event or accompanying our Students in performance.

Introducing the Instrument Program

It is our great pleasure to invite every child and young person to participate in our Instrument Program, Gurunggu bayumi, Children Toward the Music.

At Kindlehill, music is not an added extra and is essential to the well-rounded development of students. To learn an instrument and be part of a musical social collaboration is a wonderful and enlivening aspect of a Steiner education.

The Instrument Program begins in Year 3. However, this happens within a broader context of music at Kindlehill where music rings throughout every classroom. In the Kindy garden there are songs, bush instrument bands, dances and movement. In Year 1 students are introduced to the sweet recorder and the marimbas, including composition. In Year 2 students are ready for rounds and simple parts!

By Year 3 the students are introduced to the theory of music. The Class Teacher brings enlivening imaginations to the formal skills of reading music, musical notation and rhythm. Notated composition begins. Alongside of this, Year 3 is ready to learn the violin or cello – an instrument that the children have to fine tune their ear to hear each true note. It's tricky, requires attention and perseverance, but the enthusiasm to learn, is something our Tutors very much harness in these small group tutorials.

Music is both art and science. It originates from the Greek word *mousikē*, referring to divine creations produced by the nine Muses. *Mousikē* imbued sacred ceremonies through sound, visual art and dance that marked the milestones and great celebrations of life – seasonal festivities, weddings, and funerals. It connected with each one individually and as a collective. And now, music continues to be a source of energy, as noted by Beethoven, that invigorates, lifts and inspires. It has been part of our story and is our history. At Kindlehill, we want to continue its tradition and build upon it by sharing music with the next generation.

Additionally, neuromusical educator, Dr Anita Collins, has demonstrated that “the effect on the brain of playing music is unlike any other activity...It enhances language processing pathways and improves executive function, which is the part of the brain that makes decisions, regulates emotions and solves complex problems – making it a particularly unique tool for improving learning and behavioural outcomes in school-aged children.”

We invite you to be a part of creating a rich musical culture at Kindlehill, good for your child and good for the School. You can do this by actively supporting your child to value the opportunity to learn an instrument and to practise, practise, practise, as guided by our specialist Tutors.



"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents."

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

The Instrument Program

An information session about the instrument program is held in term 4 for Year 2 and Year 4 students for the following years' Instrument Program. From Year 3 onwards, students begin learning violin in group classes. In Year 5, students can choose to diversify by changing instruments or taking on an additional instrument.

A student may be invited to join an ensemble based on their skill development and commitment to practice. At the Primary School level (up to Year 6), music lessons happen during School time. At

the secondary School level (year 7 and higher), lessons happen outside of School time. This requires extra commitment from these students which is part of their maturing and taking responsibility.

Our Tutors

Elizabeth Cooney – Violin

Elizabeth began violin studies at the age of four and completed a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts at UNSW graduating in 2010. Elizabeth enjoys contributing musically to the Blue Mountains community through collaboration with local musicians, choirs, BMMS and leading local string orchestra Orpheus Strings. Elizabeth is a member of the Kanimbla Quartet who perform regularly in the Blue Mountains and greater Sydney area. Elizabeth has been teaching the violin for fifteen years and is passionate about providing individualised lessons for each student. She strives to encourage and motivate her students to achieve and instill in them a life-long love of music.

Steve Grieve – Guitar

As well as being an active professional musician Steve holds a BA in Anthropology and Political Science (ANU), a Master of Research (WSU) and is a PhD candidate at Western Sydney University. He has recently completed two new albums of original music.

Bronwyn Kirkpatrick – Clarinet and Shakuhachi

After receiving her Bachelor of Music degree in clarinet performance from the Canberra School of Music with distinction, Bronwyn pursued her interest in the shakuhachi flute and was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study in Japan with Japanese masters. She has taught clarinet in the Blue Mountains for over twenty years both privately and in schools.

Jason Thornton – Flute and Saxophone

Jason is a professional woodwind player, accomplished composer and educator who brings a wealth of experience and helps students to reach their full potential. He has been at the forefront of the music industry for the last three decades, touring the world with the historical elite.

Jason Thornton is primarily a saxophonist but plays the following:

Sopranino Sax, Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Eb Clarinet, Bb Clarinet, Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Piccolo Flute, C Flute, Alto Flute, EWI, Piano, Bass and Guitar.

Our Ensembles

The opportunity to practise and perform together in an ensemble allows children to develop valuable social skills of collaboration, teamwork and effective communication including active listening. Being part of an ensemble requires commitment and practice. Students learn the importance of discipline, punctuality and responsibility in meeting their musical obligations. When ensembles perform they add a joyful sparkle to the social fabric of their community.

Kindlehill has three main ensemble groups:

- 1) Junior String Ensemble (Year 3 – 6) lead by Elizabeth Cooney introduces students on how to work and play together under the guidance of a conductor;

- 2) Senior String Ensemble (Year 7 – 12) also led by Elizabeth Cooney, further develops the students' ability to work and play together with more difficult pieces; and
- 3) Wind Ensemble (Year 5 – 7) lead by Bronwyn Kirkpatrick allows opportunity for the clarinets, flutes and saxophones to play harmoniously together.

Annual opportunities for all ensembles and choirs to work together include the Mid Mountains Primary Schools Music Festival, Fairs and Open days.

Purchase of Instrument

Instrument purchase / loan arrangements are made independently of the School by the Parents or Carers. In case of special circumstances, the School may be able to provide a limited number of instruments for a temporary period.

Eligibility for special circumstances includes being a current holder of the Indigenous Scholarship. The Scholarship does not guarantee instrument availability. If you believe yourself to be eligible for the scholarship or a special circumstances arrangement, please organise a meeting with the Music Coordinator S'haila Bernard by emailing shaila@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au.

Instruments currently taught at Kindlehill are:

- Violin
- Cello
- Guitar
- Flute
- Saxophone
- Clarinet

If considering changing instruments or taking on an additional instrument at Year 5 level or higher, communication is to be initiated with the Class Teacher who will then organise a meeting with the Music Coordinator.

If students are interested in taking on an additional instrument, they must demonstrate commitment and have the capacity to take on the additional load. The Music Coordinator will review this on an individual basis.



Enrolments outside of Term 4 and withdrawal

A request can be made to join the program throughout the year. Requests can be made by email to the Music Coordinator.

Withdrawing from the Program

- The Parent/ Carer notifies the School office in writing that the child wishes to withdraw.
- The School office notifies the Music Coordinator and Class Teacher / Guardian.
- The Class Teacher / Guardian facilitate conversation with the child / family to

understand the reason for withdrawal, and attempts are made to engage and resolve the reason to support the child in continuing participation in the instrument program.

- The student is expected to finish the term unless special circumstances prevent them from doing so.
- The Class Teacher / Guardian informs the Music Coordinator who in turn notifies the Tutor and the Office.

Class Schedule and Attendance

The Music Coordinator provides the lesson timetable at the start of every School term to the Tutors and the Office. Parents are informed of the timetable by email, and Students' attendance is marked at the start of every music class.

Absences

Tutor Absences

A Tutor's absence will be communicated to the Parents / Carers no later than the morning of the lesson.

Student Absences

Regular attendance is important and supports the enjoyment and skilful progress of all students. Parents are to notify the School Office of their child's absence no later than the morning of the music lesson. The Office will notify the Tutor.

In cases of any unexplained absences a discussion will be initiated with Parents / Carers by the Class Teacher / Guardian. The Music Coordinator will monitor unexplained absences and address any ongoing issues.

Tutors are notified of scheduled class excursions at the beginning of each Term.



Events and performances

Musical events and performances are a feature of the School and supports the students to have a lasting enjoyment of music. These are scheduled by the Music Coordinator together with the Class Teachers/ Guardians and the Tutors.

These may include lunchtime concerts, after School concerts, Autumn Fair, and Open Day performances.

Parents/ Carers will be notified of the upcoming performances by Class Teachers/ Guardians and in the fortnightly newsletter.





A Culture of Musicality

At Kindlehill, we cultivate a thriving culture where music is enlivening and enjoyable for all. Tutors bring expertise and passion to our students. In turn, we expect our Students to make good of this opportunity, to practise, to take care of their instrument and to be respectful in their lessons.

Respect by the Tutors towards students includes:

- Adapting their teaching style to be supportive of the student's needs.
- Consulting with the Class Teacher/ Guardian for advice regarding any specific needs or concerns.
- Encouraging the student to achieve their best within the social gesture of the Instrument Program.

Students and Parents/ Carers are expected to maintain a level of respect for Tutors, Class Teachers/ Guardians and other attending students.

Respect by the Students towards Tutors and other students includes:

- Being prepared and on time for lessons.
- Bringing all required materials to class - instrument, diary, music books and any other equipment requested by the Tutor.

- Practicing through the week as per the Tutors direction.
- Using respectful language and behaviour towards Tutors and other students.
- Supporting and motivating other students to achieve their best.

Respect by the Parents/ Carers towards Tutors and other students include:

- Informing the office of absences no later than the morning of the day of the lesson.
- Communicating any concerns they may have (towards other students or Tutor) to the Class Teacher/ Guardian and/or Music Coordinator.
- Supporting and encouraging their child to practice. Practice leads to competency and deepened enjoyment. This also supports the consistency and enjoyment of the musical experience.