Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been advised that your child has been offered a place in your school’s Year 5 Band Class. This decision has been arrived at after joint consultation between the Principal, the classroom teachers and Instrumental Music Program staff.

Before accepting this offer I would like to advise you of the benefits to (and the responsibilities of) you and your child should you agree to undertake the Program. It is important that you make all of this clear to your child before advising your school of your acceptance.

Your school contributes over $2,800 per year per band class to the operation of the Program. All of this money is allocated to the purchase and maintenance of instruments, the purchase of music for your child's use as well as the general running-costs of the Program. The Education and Training Directorate employs qualified and experienced classroom teachers who will be the instructors for your child.

Benefits - Your school will provide you with an instrument that belongs to the Education and Training Directorate and administered by the Instrumental Music Program. We guarantee that your child will continue to have an instrument for the remainder of the time spent in the band class at primary school and while we encourage you to use it as if it were your own (in community bands and other groups as well as at school) we also encourage you to look after it as if it were your own. It is important to note that it must be returned to the Program if it requires repairs or maintenance - and a replacement instrument will be provided to your child - as we have qualified repairers to carry out the work.

Your child will be instructed in a Program that is recognised internationally as being unique and has been successfully operating in the ACT for 40 years. This instruction is given in a group situation rather than on a one-to-one basis.

The Program is deliberately limited in the number of students involved so your child’s selection is a bonus to you in the education offered by your school.

Responsibilities - Your child is expected to be involved with the Band Class for the remainder of primary school (Yrs 5 & 6). This obligation is important because it is impossible to replace students who drop out at a later stage - we cannot backtrack to accommodate beginners at a later stage in the progress of the class.

Your support is vital in the development of the child’s instrumental skills. Whether or not you are a musician you can assist with encouragement at home and in ensuring that regular practice is done. Whatever noises you hear in the early stages will improve (I promise!) but they still need encouragement. Practice should be regular -10 to 15 minutes daily in the early stages.

Maximum care of the instrument is imperative. Teachers will provide information regarding care and maintenance. Accidents will happen though and we insist that repairs are not attempted by parents or passed on to unauthorised repairers. You may be asked to pay for the repair or replacement of an instrument which is deliberately damaged by your child, but in almost all other cases there will be no cost to you.

An introductory parent information meeting will be held next Wednesday 2 March at 8.15am in the Turner School band room. The first lesson will be on Monday 7 March at 12.45pm.
Your child’s school-based band teacher is: Julia Ison

Your child’s Itinerant Instrumental Teacher is: Rod Harding

The instrument and music should be at school for regular lessons/rehearsals on:

Monday (Rehearsal) 11:05-11:45am
Monday (Lesson) 12:45-1:30pm
Wednesday (Rehearsal) 8:25-8:55am
Thursday (Lesson) 12:45-1:30pm

If you wish to accept a place in the Turner School Year 5 band, please return the band acceptance to the school by Friday 4 March.

Principal
Instrumental Music Program
THE BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION ON BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Research has found that learning a musical instrument can improve brain development in the following ways:

- Making, storing and retrieving information
- Learning and understanding language
- Regulating their logical and emotional responses
- Understanding and responding to sounds
- Working in teams
- Creating ideas and working creatively

These types of brain developments are associated with the following types of behaviours:

- Improvements in thinking and analytical skills
- Improved academic performance across different subject areas
- Improved social interactions
- Improved attention span
- Improved ability to understand and accept confusion and discomfort when learning new and difficult concepts
- Improved resilience and the ability to cope with change
- Improved brain health that can last into later life

These types of behaviours lead to:

- Greater capacity to maintain positive levels of well-being through life
- The ability to solve problems and find creative solutions that has been identified as a behaviour in high performing professional and effective leaders
- The ability to adapt to new working environments and continue to learn and advance across their working life
- Greater capacity to make considered choices and to be more discerning about career choices, relationships and pathways
- A well rounded human being who can learn effectively and efficiently, perform at a high level academically and professionally while finding creative solutions to problems, understand and be discerning about their own behaviour and maintain healthy levels of brain function into later life.

Developed by Dr Anita Collins in conjunction with IMP staff.
To: Principal, Instrumental Music Program

c/o YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL – Turner School

I have read and understood your letter explaining the benefits and responsibilities of membership of the Band Class operated by the Instrumental Music Program at my child’s primary school.

(Please tick one box below and return this form TO YOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL)

③ We wish to accept the offer of membership of the Year 5 Band Class
③ We do not wish to accept the offer of membership of the Year 5 Band Class

Signature of parent/guardian: .................................................................      Date: .......................

Name of Student ....................................................Signature of student: .........................................................

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