Instrumental Music Coordinator
Owen Downie
ogpdownie@gmail.com

Music Makers
Our partner in instrumental music this year will be ‘Music Makers,’ a team of dedicated teachers who understand the importance of quality group lesson dynamics. Having worked in the industry for more than a decade – we are pleased to be joined this year by Owen and James, who will be teaching guitar, bass, drums, ukulele, keyboard and voice.

The Value of Instrumental Music Education
Research shows that learning music can help your child in many ways, particularly improving:

• memory and reasoning capacity
• problem solving skills
• mathematics and language performance
• self-discipline skills
• concentration, memory and self-expression
• time management skills
• social and team skills.

Rowville Primary School Instrumental Music Program
Rowville Primary School offers students in Years 1 to 6 the opportunity to participate in the Instrumental Music Program. In the past, many of our students have become involved and found that participation enhances both their academic and social development. Students are given the opportunity to be involved in a variety of musical activities throughout the year.
Tuition Fees

Fees for participation in the 2016 Rowville Primary School Instrumental Program are:-

**Semester 1** – 15 Weekly Lessons - $285.00

**Semester 2** – 18 Weekly Lessons - $342.00 or

**Full Year** – 33 Weekly Lessons + all books valued at $30 - $627.00

*(due by Friday 19th February 2016)*

Instrumental Music Lessons will commence in the week starting Monday 22nd February.

It is expected that students enrolling in the program will participate for the full year, even when paying by Semester. In the event that withdrawal from the program is unavoidable, Owen Downie (Instrumental Music Co-ordinator) must be advised in writing, giving one term’s notice of withdrawal.

Instruction Books, Diary and Other Materials Required

Instructional books, practice diary and guitar picks are essential for the lessons to take place. It is recommended that these be purchased directly through Music Makers when paying for the lessons as the teachers purchase in bulk and can therefore pass on the discounted rates to the students. *If a student enrolls for the entire year, these books are provided at no extra cost.*

Lessons

Students are placed in group lessons of approximately two to three students who are at a similar standard. Lessons are provided weekly with a specialist, fully qualified teacher. The school provides instruments for students to use during their lessons including keyboards, guitars and drums. Where appropriate, some students are given solo lessons according to the discretion of the teacher.

Students come out of class for their lessons on a set day of the week, with lessons being 30 minutes long. It is an expectation that music students catch up on any class work they miss. Each participant will receive an Instrumental Music Diary to be purchased at the beginning of the year. The diary must be taken to the lesson and be signed by the instrumental teacher each week then taken home for Home Practice Time to be recorded in the diary and signed by the parent/carer each week.

If your child is unable to attend a lesson due to illness, please notify Owen Downie via email. Make up lessons will then be organised at the earliest convenience.

Every effort will be made to encourage students to attend their lessons, however, where students miss two consecutive music lessons without an explanation, a letter of concern will be sent home requesting a reason for this occurrence. This is to ensure that parents are aware that their
child has not been attending lessons. Please note that refunds will not be provided for missed lessons unless a medical certificate is provided.

**Practice**

In order for progress to be made, it is essential and expected that all students will undertake regular practice at home. Developing the self-discipline that it takes to practice and improve is one of the greatest benefits of studying a musical instrument. Generally students in the first year of learning their instrument should be looking at practicing a minimum of 15 minutes a day, 5 days a week.

It is during the first years of study that practice habits are developed. Parents can help by creating a set time and a private place with a music stand to practice in the home. Children need an approving audience. Be encouraging! Write a positive comment in their Music Diary when you sign it. Let your child know you are interested and listen to him/her practice when possible. Children also may need to be reminded to practice. Even a few minutes are better than no minutes!

**Acquiring an Instrument for Home Practice**

In order to participate in the program it will be necessary to purchase a musical instrument for use at home. These may be acquired at quite reasonable prices from any music retailer. A beginner’s keyboard or guitar can be purchased for as little as $100.00. A drum pad costs around $30.00 and drum sticks are as little as $10.00. Students also need to acquire a music stand (approximately $20-25) for home practice use.

**Timeline for lessons in 2016**

Semester one lessons commence: Week of February 22nd.
Semester two lessons commence: Week of July 11th.
At the end of each semester a week is left free for any make up lessons that may still be required.
How To Enrol in the Instrumental Music Program

Forms will be available for collection from the office, from Michèle Bennett (Performing Arts Director), or via email from Owen Downie (Instrumental Music Coordinator) at ogpdownie@gmail.com.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSON ABSENCE FORM
Please forward to Michèle Bennett – Instrumental Music Co-ordinator

Child’s Name: ______________________________ Grade: ____________
Instrument: ______________________________
Date of Lesson missed due to illness: ______________________________
☐ Medical Certificate Attached
Parent/Carer Name: ______________________________
Parent/Carer Signature: ______________________________ Date: ___________

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSON ABSENCE FORM
Please forward to Michèle Bennett – Instrumental Music Co-ordinator

Child’s Name: ______________________________ Grade: ____________
Instrument: ______________________________
Date of Lesson missed due to illness: ______________________________
☐ Medical Certificate Attached
Parent/Carer Name: ______________________________
Parent/Carer Signature: ______________________________ Date: ___________

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSON ABSENCE FORM
Please forward to Michèle Bennett – Instrumental Music Co-ordinator

Child’s Name: ______________________________ Grade: ____________
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