

mrs Jenean Chandler

Parent

Parkdale Secondary Collage Warren road, Mordiolloc East 3195

## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I have three children attending Parkdale Secondary Collage, my eldest, Lucy in year 11, Belinda in year 9 and Luke in year 7 who are all involved in the music program. Parkdale offers a broad intense music program in which my children are heavily involved. My daughters study vocals, with the most amazing talented singing teacher, who is a specialist vocals coach. While my son is learning drums with a specialist drumming teacher who is new to the school, however there are many specialist teachers in the music department. They offer vocals, brass instruments, percussion, keyboard/piano, guitar and bass guitar from what I know of. Majority are taught by specialist teachers however some teachers do teach another subject. There are currently five music studios and two music classrooms, however they are in the process of having new performing arts facilities including a 125 seat auditorium in which the students will be able to study and perform in without having to hire out halls and theaters.

Most junior classes have two 45 minute lessons per week, not including their instrumental lesson, if they play an instrument and do lessons through the school. More senior students who have chosen to study music, have approximately an hour and a half music class plus their instrumental lesson which go for 45 minutes a week. The children who have instrumental music lessons through the school are also involved in an ensemble which is compulsory with the music lessons. Parkdale has a range of ensembles/bands/choirs including, Stage band, Senior band, Jazz band, Concert band, Guitar band, Parky Voices, and bands made up by students, some even with teachers.

Parkdale also gives students a variety of areas to perform in, including, Parky's got talent which is open to the whole school and is an annual event, battle of the bands, performing at coffee shops, Rotary club dinners and music concerts. The vocal students also participate in mini productions, themed the "Parky Does.." series. Last year was "Parky Does Elvis" and this year "Parky Does Bon Jovi" "Parky Does 90's" and another of the "Parky Does" series, which is yet to be revealed, is lined up for 2013. Also lined up for this year in term three is the "Little Shop Of Horrors" production which everybody connected to the school is very excited about due to the success of last year's "Grease" production. This is one area where the parents are able to get involved backstage helping out with costumes, hair and makeup. Another highlight of each year is Music Camp, which my girls have attended the last two years and will again be attending this year with my son. They have made many friends as camp is held with the music department from two other schools in the area.

If I was to ask my girls what their favorite subject is at school, they would say music. They have described the music department as a family, where everybody gets along and comes

together as one. So for me, music in schools is a highly important area of education, where my children are happy and confident which shows in all their other schooling. I would love to see the government support music in all schools especially Parkdale. The senior students have music programs on their laptops which were part of the government laptop program which also benefits the students and we are grateful for this.

Thank you for your time,  
Jenean chandler.