

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns that the music program at my children's school, **Canterbury Girls' Secondary College**, is in line for a funding cut. I cannot believe that this is under consideration given the importance of music in a child's education. As a low income single parent the only way my children are able to have access to music program is via a subsidised fee structure. If this subsidy were to decrease I would have to withdraw them from music lessons, thus further disadvantaging them from other more affluent students whose parents are able to provide them with many more extracurricular opportunities. They have only had access to music lessons since arriving at high school and it has helped them immensely in their educational and social development. I strongly believe music is just as important as any other subject that is fully funded at high school and funding cuts would impact the most on those who cannot afford to pay. There should be equity in education and not just a quality education for those who can pay.

Music researchers have found correlations between music making and some of the deepest workings of the human brain. Research has linked active music making with increased language discrimination and development, math ability, improved school performance, better-adjusted social behaviour, and improvements in spatial-temporal reasoning, a cornerstone for problem solving.

Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner has theorized that humans have several different types of intelligences—logical-mathematical, linguistic, and interpersonal. He believes that music intelligence is equal in importance to all of them.

Why is music important for children?

-Music helps develop children's language skills

-Music encourages creativity in children

-Music helps develop children's self-esteem: There is no right or wrong, it just is what it is. Listening to different types of music nurtures self-esteem and encourages creativity, self-confidence, and curiosity.

Music helps develop children's math skills: A simple song can include basic math skills such as counting, repeating patterns, and sequencing.

Music helps stimulate children's brain connections: A recent study from the University of California found that music trains the brain for higher forms of thinking especially spatial-temporal reasoning (the ability to see part-whole relationships), a skill used later in math, science, and engineering.

For all of the reasons outlined above, I would implore you to preserve access to a music program for my children and for all children. What kind of society have we become when such an important life skill is not accessible to all children???

When voting time comes I will definitely be throwing my support behind the political party that supports and encourages the performing arts.

From a concerned parent