

Music submission

I am writing this submission from the perspective of a music educator and a parent.

Firstly as an educator:

I am fortunate to teach music at two Victorian Primary schools that have very good music programs. These programs include classroom music lessons, instrumental music lessons, choirs and orchestras.

The children at these schools are happy, well balanced children with a sense of camaraderie and achievement. They all have the opportunity to play, create and enjoy music, either in a group or individually.

The discipline they learn from being involved as part of ensembles and individually is unprecedented.

They learn responsibility, time management, self awareness as well as awareness of others. They learn this by having to remember to bring their instrument and music to rehearsal, practise their part, listen to the teacher and the other members of the ensemble and to work together as well as an enjoyment of music.

These traits show through in their classroom learning as well by being able to organise their books, homework and have a clear, happy mind to accept information.

It is a well known fact that playing music uses both sides of the brain and is a great stimulus.

Unfortunately there are many schools in Victoria that do not have a music program (3 out of 4 the research shows). The children of these schools are missing out on a huge part of a "rounded education". Creating the "whole child" is the aim of both the schools that I teach at and music plays an important part of being able to do this.

Funding is a problem, at one of the schools I teach at, fund raising contributes to the music program, in fact, if it wasn't for the fundraising efforts the music program would be drastically reduced.

Individual music lessons are parent funded at both schools but offered to every child.

As a parent:

I have two children who have been able to benefit from a school music program.

Both children learn an instrument as well as play in ensembles at school. They have been able to travel internationally, made life long friends and develop skills in time management which have transferred to their classroom learning. Both boys achieve well at school and the discipline they have shown towards their study I contribute to their music education.

I believe that music education is extremely important to creating the "whole child" and a well balanced adult.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Sally Connell.

Instrumental and Classroom Music Teacher

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