

Music Program Update

Here at Len Wood, students have been working hard mastering new music, and I am especially proud of our split-grade bands, who have shown maturity and risk-taking in working together in mixed level groupings. I am also especially excited about the start of jazz again at Len Wood!

Concert

We do have a concert coming up, in **January**!

When: WEDNESDAY January 22nd, 2020. 6:00 -7:30pm Please note that due to venue scheduling conflicts, the previous date of Wednesday the 15th is NOT correct. In order to fit all of our performers in one locations, we needed a bigger gym. Thanks for your understanding!

Where: PVSS Gym. The Len Wood band room and gym will NOT be open, so please be prepared.

Who: All band students. Please note that the choir will not be performing at this time. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details on what to wear and when to arrive.

Personal Update

As many of you have heard or seen by now, I am expecting a baby in the new year. As such, I will be heading into maternity leave after the Christmas break, and your student will have a new band instructor for the remainder of the year.

At this point, I do not know who my replacement will be, but they will be a qualified teacher with music and band experience. The concert will still be held, and I anticipate a great performance from your students. I love my job here at Len Wood, and consider it a privilege to teach your students. I am intending to return to our school community after my leave is over.

Rentals

Rentals from the school district will be handled by my replacement and overseen by our District Music Vice Principal, Michelle Honcoop Reed. **Private** rentals will need to be returned at the end of the term (for grade six and six-seven split students) and at the end of the year for grade sevens and eights. If your student is ending band in January, please ensure that you return their horn to Wentworth or Valley Wind and Reed after the concert, and before February 1st to avoid being charged an extra month!

I have immensely enjoyed teaching our bands this year, and am sad to leave them mid-year. However, I am excited at the progress they have been making, and sincerely hope to see them continue with music in the future. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at gdedood@sd83.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Georgia de Dood, B. Ed

Len Wood Middle Band Director

FAQ

Do I have to participate? Yes. Performing is an integral part of band, and we don't play very many concerts in a year. We are a team, and rely on every member in order to do our very best. This is a great opportunity to show what you have learned.

What if I have a conflict with sports or other lessons? If your conflict is a regular practice, please speak to Mrs. de Dood as soon as possible. I am happy to phone coaches and explain why you may be late or need to leave early. They are usually very understanding. If the conflict simply can't be avoided, please speak to Mrs. de Dood as soon as possible and she will help you to arrange an alternate way of meeting the performance outcomes.

What if I am sick? If you are well enough to come to school, you are well enough to come and play. If you are really ill and were not at school that day, please email or send a note from home letting Mrs. de Dood know that you are too ill to attend. She will help you to meet the outcomes in an alternate way.

What if I am really, really nervous? Come and talk to Mrs. de Dood as soon as possible, and she will help you to find ways to face your fear. This is a safe place to take a risk (remember that "I can take creative risks" outcome?) and to walk through your fear. Mrs. de Dood is happy to help talk you through some strategies to help you survive, and maybe even enjoy, the experience.

What if I can't play all the notes yet? Everyone gets better at different speeds- but *practice* is going to be the surest way to improve. Mrs. de Dood basically lives in the band room, and can help you before or after school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday. She is happy to help you at break, lunch, or after school, and she doesn't usually bite. (Monday after school is reserved for jazz rehearsal, sorry!)

What should I wear? Black on the bottom, white on the top. A dress shirt or blouse is best, but if all you have is a white t-shirt, that is fine as well. Please try to avoid logos and graphics. If you wish to wear a skirt or dress, please make sure that you have black tights or leggings, and that your skirt is long enough to play your instrument without experiencing a wardrobe malfunction.

When should I arrive? Please arrive, with all of your materials, 15 minutes before the performance is set to begin. That means you should be meeting in the PVSS band room (7/8s) or student centre (6s and straight 7s) no later than 5:45pm.