

# MURWILLUMBAH PRIMARY SCHOOL SYDNEY CHOIR 2024

**NOTE # 1 – Audition details      1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

Dear Parents,

## **News flash!!!! Our choir to sing at the Opera House on Wednesday 14 August 2024!!!!**

Each year the NSW Department of Education & Training holds a series of four Primary Choral Concerts at the Sydney Opera House. These four concerts feature the best choirs in NSW Public Schools chosen through a NSW State Wide Audition process. Unfortunately, scores of school choirs who audition are not selected. Luckily, each of the fourteen times we have auditioned, our school has been successful. The concerts also feature five or six individual school items for a feature performance. The concerts provide students the opportunity to perform in the Sydney Opera House, work with world class conductors and learn a repertoire of songs in 2 parts from a variety of choral styles. Particular attention is paid to vocal techniques.

Following on from the success and rewarding opportunities our MPS students have experienced by taking part in the concert at the Opera House, I am delighted to announce the fabulous news that our audition to perform at the NSW Public Schools Festival of Choral Music at the Sydney Opera House **has been successful**. We will perform at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 14 August** with a rehearsal at the Opera House held that day. We will also have excursion activities in Sydney. Tickets are available for parents and friends to attend our concert at the Opera House at approx \$45 each.

I now invite our students who are currently in Years 4/5/6 to audition for the choir. Auditions will be held at school on Monday 19 February at lunch time. The students should come prepared to sing Verse 1 of Advance Australia Fair. The audition will be whole group singing as I will need to ascertain that all voices blend into the choir. The audition experience is very friendly and encouraging.

### **Rehearsals**

Our compulsory rehearsals will commence in March (date to be advised) and be held most Tuesday evenings during term time (6.00-7.30pm) and either Monday lunchtime (Sopranos) or Tuesday lunchtime (Altos). At the first rehearsal, each student will receive a repertoire book containing all the songs they need to learn. We will have eleven songs in parts to learn. Books should be brought to each rehearsal. We will also travel, on a school day, in early Term 3, to Ballina to attend a rehearsal with Ian Jefferson, who is the Conductor of the concerts at the Opera House.

A Choir Google Classroom will be established and all singing and backing tracks will be available to download from this Google classroom. Each student will need to have easy access to Google Classroom at home and be prepared to undertake at least 2-3 singing rehearsals at home each week with the choir tracks. They will need come to choir each week to confidently sing the music that was taught the week before.

### **The Excursion to Sydney**

We will also take in educational points of interest while in Sydney.

### **Proposed Details:**

Date:	13, 14 & 15 August 2024
Excursion:	All students to travel and undertake Concert and excursion activities with the group
Travel:	Plane
Duration:	3 days and 2 nights all costs inclusive
Accommodation:	Bunk style accommodation at Sydney Harbour YHA at The Rocks
Entry Fee:	\$30 entry fee per child that we forward to Sydney for entry fee, song book, shirt etc.
Cost:	Approx \$700-\$900 per student, all inclusive. I am unable to give an exact price at this stage until all details are finalised and plane flights have been purchased
Deposit:	\$250 (non-refundable) due Monday 26 February 2024
Concert Dress:	Full school uniform for local performances Black dress trousers and plain black shoes for the Opera House
Excursion Dress:	Casual clothes, joggers, Royal Blue broad brimmed school hat

## **Performances.**

- I would anticipate that the choir will be invited to attend some local performances yet to be determined.
- I will enter the choir to perform at the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts in June 2024.
- After we return from Sydney, we will present a concert for parents, family and friends on a Tuesday evening at Murwillumbah Public School.

## **Please do audition for the choir**

- if you love to sing
- you know you sing well and can sing in tune
- you would love to learn more about singing.
- will be attending Murwillumbah Public School for the whole of 2024
- if you are genuinely and absolutely prepared to join the choir if your audition is successful
- you can maintain concentration and always display the highest standard of behaviour
- you would **absolutely love** to sing in a choir that sounds sensational
- you would like to participate in a fantastic excursion experience in Sydney
- you would love to sing in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House
- you would like the opportunity to perform at local venues

## **COVID-19**

We will follow all current NSW Health COVID-19 Public Health Orders and the NSW Department of Education's policies and procedures at rehearsals and on excursion. We will continue to apply layered COVID-smart measures to reduce transmission risk.

I have suggested to the students they may be able to financially contribute by having some Birthday gifts deposited as cash into an account instead of receiving actual presents. Many grandparents / relatives / friends etc have been very happy to do this in previous years. Students are also able to sell chocolates to offset their excursion costs.

I commend this "Sydney Choir" experience to you for your child. The students have always learned to sing really well, thoroughly enjoyed the excursion, learned a lot about Sydney and had loads of fun!

I am very happy to talk to you if you have any questions or concerns. Please ring the MPS school office on 02 66721467 and leave your details. I will return your call as soon as I can. This will probably be at night, as I teach classes all day.

Please complete the attached application to audition and forward to our school office by Friday 16 February. Auditions will be held at lunch time on Monday 19 February.

**VIKKI ARMOUR**  
**MUSIC TEACHER**

**LES DALEY**  
**PRINCIPAL**

# MURWILLUMBAH PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CHOIR 2024

Please return to school by Friday 16 February 2024

### Application to audition

Child's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

School Year:      4      5      6      (Please circle)

Parent/Guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian contact details      **Mob:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

- I am committed to my child participating in the Murwillumbah Public School Sydney Choir Program and concert at the Sydney Opera House on **Wednesday 14 August 2024**.
- I understand that my child will attend all rehearsals during the day at school and on Tuesday evenings
- I understand that my child is committed to be a member of the choir until the end of the 2024 school year.
- I understand that my child will participate in an excursion with the choir to Sydney.
- I understand I will need to pay for this excursion with the \$250 deposit (non-refundable) due Monday 26 February 2024

**COVID-19 Consent:** I acknowledge that this event/activity is required to be held in accordance with any current NSW Health COVID-19 Public Health Orders and the NSW Department of Education's policies and procedures. I acknowledge and accept that there is a risk that my child may be exposed to COVID-19 whilst attending and participating at this event. I confirm that my child will not attend if displaying any symptoms of illness, and/or if directed to isolate under public health orders.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal endorsement