



Murwillumbah Public School
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23 November 2023

2024 MURWILLUMBAH PRIMARY SCHOOL SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CHOIR

Dear Parents/Carers

Please find information below regarding an amazing opportunity for Sydney Opera House Choir 2024. We will not be taking a recorder group to Sydney next year but are offering the opportunity for choir.

Each year the NSW Department of Education & Training holds a series of four Festival of Choral Music Concerts at the Sydney Opera House. These four concerts feature the best choirs in NSW Public Schools chosen through a NSW Statewide 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. Fingers are crossed for 2024! 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.

I am delighted to announce the fabulous news that we plan to audition to perform at the NSW Public Schools at the Sydney Opera House in mid-August 2024. 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 need to apply by early December so need to ascertain the level of interest from our families. In February, we would hear if we have been accepted and how many students, we are able to take. I would then audition our students to ascertain their inclusion in the 2024 MPS Sydney Choir. The audition will be whole group singing of Verse 1 of Advance Australia Fair as I will need to ascertain that all voices blend into the choir. The audition experience is very friendly and encouraging.

Rehearsals next year would all be compulsory – one each week at lunch time plus Tuesday evening from approx. 6.00-7.30 pm commencing in late February. We will have 11 songs to learn by memory. There would also be some local performances.

Correct school uniform in excellent condition is required for all local performances. This includes plain black shoes.

At this stage there is not a set minimum number we can take but we may be allocated somewhere between 15-30 places as a maximum. I will call for deposits in February when we hear if our audition is successful.

If we don't have sufficient numbers of students interested, I will not proceed with the application. I am unable to provide set details or arrangements at this stage until we know how many places we are allocated. Then, decisions and costing can be made for transport, accommodation etc.

Proposed Details:

Students	15-30 students from 2023 Yrs 3/4/5
Date	Mid-August 2024
Travel	Airplane
Duration	2 nights, 3 days
Accommodation	YHA "The Rocks"
Entry Fee Cost	\$36 entry fee per child if successful.
Excursion Cost	\$700-\$900 per person inclusive of everything
Concert Dress	Full school uniform for local performances. Black dress trousers and plain black shoes for Opera House
Excursion Dress	Casual clothes, Royal Blue broad brimmed school hat
Deposit	\$250 due in February after the auditions

If you are prepared to make a "Firm Expression of Interest" for your child to participate in the 2024 MPS Sydney Choir to sing at the Sydney Opera House (if your child's audition is successful), would you please complete the slip below and return **directly to the school office** by Wednesday 29 November 2023.

It is important that this response is a "Firm Expression of Interest" by your family as we will make the decision to proceed with this choir application based solely on this response. We need to know definite numbers of students to know whether the excursion will be financially viable. Any variations to numbers by families withdrawing from the "Firm Expression of Interest" will cause extreme difficulties for organisation and unfortunately, could jeopardise the excursion for everyone.

I suggest to the students they may be able to financially contribute by having some Christmas / 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. Loose change into a jar also adds up. Students were able to sell chocolates to offset their excursion costs. In previous years, some students paid for their whole excursion by selling lots of chocolates throughout the year.

Vikki Armour
Music Teacher

Les Daley
Principal

Please do not return this form if your child will not be at Murwillumbah PS next year.

**2024 MURWILLUMBAH PRIMARY SCHOOL
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CHOIR
“Firm Expression of Interest”**

If you have given permission for your child to attend this event in the School Bytes Parent Portal, you do not need to return this permission note.

Please complete the “Firm Expression of Interest” below and forward to the school office by Wednesday 29 November 2023.

Current School Year (Please circle): 3 4 5

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Parent/Guardian contact details **Ph:** _____

Mob: _____

Email: _____

I am offering a “Firm Expression of Interest” for my child to participate in the Murwillumbah PS Sydney Choir Program and Concert at the Sydney Opera House in 2024. I understand that if my child is successful in their February 2024 audition, my child will attend all rehearsals and an excursion with the school to Sydney and I will need to pay for this excursion with the deposit due in February 2024.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Student

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Parent / Guardian

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Principal endorsement