

Dear parents

I know it is Jan/Feb and the doldrums have set in. There has been a rash of students forgetting instruments lately. Students will forget....once a term maybe. According to my records, many of the students who forget their instruments are also students who don't hand in practice records. My question is, if they are not practicing, why do they need to take home their instrument? It only doubles the missed learning when they don't practice at home and then leave the instrument at home so they have a band class without it, which is when they notice they may be a bit behind, so then they forget their instrument again.....and the cycle continues. If I am describing your child, at least ask them to leave their instrument at school safely stored in my storage room. By being in class with an instrument and music, they will learn – guaranteed.

The ideal option is to bring the instrument home, practice (even a little bit), then make sure it comes to school on Tuesday and goes home on Thursday every week. February is "Practice Challenge" month, so they will be given a sheet for practicing for the entire month of February. The student who practices the most will get lunch, on me (one per grade). I will also be looking at trends per section and there may be other prizes. Parents must verify and sign the form and it must be handed in on time with the total written **in minutes** (no lates accepted).

Term 2 playing tests will be coming up in February and I am asking that they be completed over the long weekend in February (Feb 15-19). We practice the piece in class during the weeks leading up to the test, (except for grade 8 students) so it is not a surprise or something we haven't worked on.

Thanks for the support.

Kelly