

# SYDNEY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS DANCE



## 2018 FESTIVAL AUDITION INFORMATION PACKAGE

Please find attached in this package - (13 pages in all) - the following information:

- Festival Dates (page 2)
- Costume Design Sheet (page 3)
- Stage Diagram (page 4)
- NEW 2018 Audition Criteria (pages 5-8)
- Publicity Consent Form (these must be issued to your students and held at your school) (page 9)
- Volunteers Form (page 10)
- Festival General Information (pages 11-14)
- Students Say Sheet (optional) (page 15)
- 2018 Audition Schedule (page 16)

Please download and copy these forms for all participating teachers and groups in your school.

**Auditions:** The audition panel will comprise of approximately 5 members of the Dance Committee. We look forward to seeing you at the designated central venue. Please note this is a closed audition – there will not be an opportunity to watch other items.

All paperwork should be handed in at the audition.

Please have ready for the panel –

- Completed costume sheet, showing colours
- Props sheet if required
- Volunteer name/s
- At least one dancer must be attired in an example of each costume
- Any AMENDMENTS to times and dates which you submitted in the online application as unsuitable for your group's rehearsal, performances and matinee. PLEASE REMEMBER performances are scheduled on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Failure to provide all requirements may result in an unsuccessful audition.

## **FESTIVAL DATES**

**Dress Rehearsals:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July inclusive.

**Evening Performances:** From 7.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June to Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> July (including Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June AND Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July).

**Twilight Performances:** From Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June to Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm (including Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June AND Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July).

**Matinee Performances:** From Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July (9:45am, 11:30am and 1:15pm).

# COSTUME DESIGN SHEET

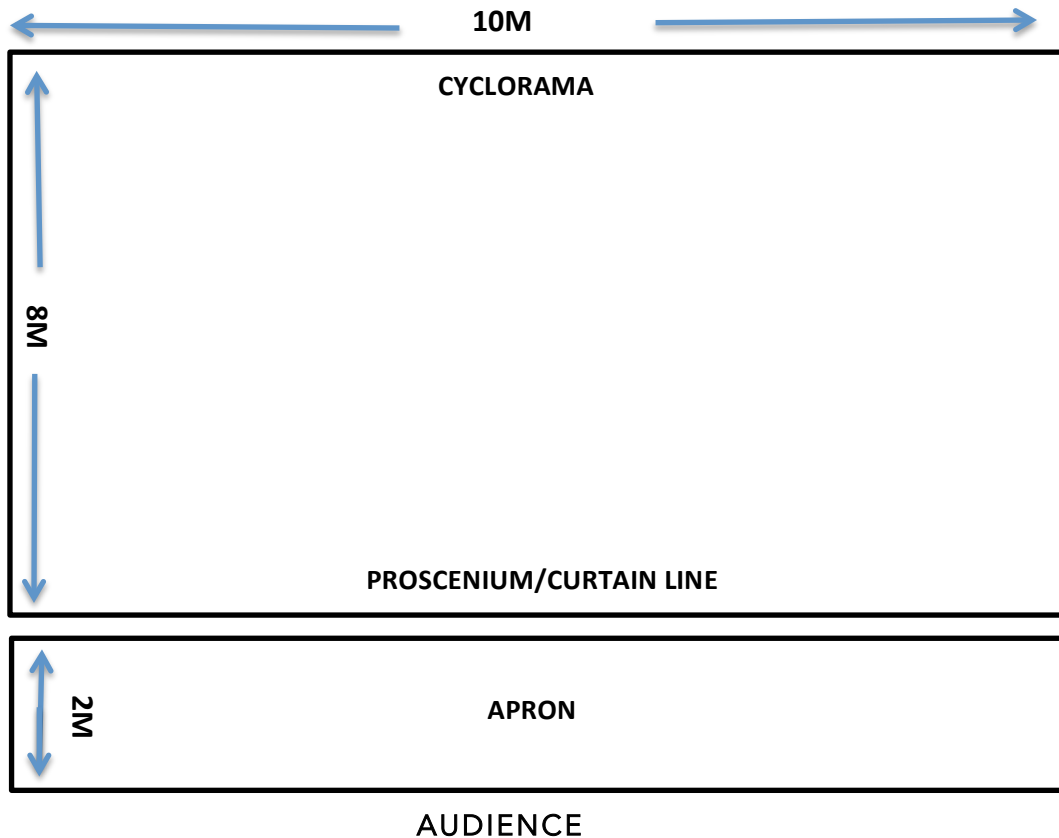
\*Please photocopy as needed i.e. if your item has more than one costume.



SCHOOL

ITEM NAME

# STAGE DIAGRAM



Please indicate on the diagram if and where free-standing set pieces are to be located.

**Stage Width** - From Proscenium to Proscenium - 10 metres

**Stage Depth** - Apron - from Proscenium to Front of Stage - 2 metres

- From Proscenium to Cyclorama (Back of Stage) - 8 metres

**Height** - From Stage level to Lighting Bars - 3.5 metres

\* Please indicate (by circling) if students –

START ON-STAGE    START OFF-STAGE    START ON- AND OFF-STAGE

START DOWNSTAGE OF THE PROSCENIUM ARCH\*

\*Downstage = towards the audience

Upstage = towards the back of the stage

# SYDNEY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Sydney North Public Schools Dance Festival's mission is to provide public school students the opportunity to perform Dance in a professional theatre environment. To this end, the festival is guided by the following principles – \*inclusivity, \*a reflection of the ethos and standards of public education, \*an understanding of dance as a performing art, \*an appreciation for collaborative endeavour and \*aspiration for excellence.

## FESTIVAL APPLICATIONS

Schools seeking to participate in the **Sydney North Public Schools Dance Festival** must apply **online by the due date**. This is not negotiable. The application must be approved by the school's Principal.

- Items must contain **no fewer than 6 and no more than 24 dancers**. Please note this does not mean 24 dancers on stage at any one time; it means items must have no more than 24 performers in total.
- Schools are to enter no more than **2 items for Primary Schools and 3 items for Secondary Schools**. (Any request for a variation to this must be made in the relevant section of the online application and be endorsed by the Principal. All requests will be considered on their merits and will not necessarily be approved.)
- Secondary School items should cover a period of **between 2 and 6 minutes duration** only.
- Primary School items should cover a period of **between 2 and 4 minutes duration** only.
- Individual students are to appear in only one item per school.

## CHOREOGRAPHERS

Items for the Festival should be choreographed by one or more of the following:

- Department of Education teachers
- Students who are currently attending a government school
- Non-Departmental dance teachers who conduct dance programs within the school
- Volunteers with dance experience (parents/ex-students/older siblings)

Choreography by non-Departmental dance teachers and students must be developed with the supervision of a Departmental teacher at that school. Choreography must be original and in accordance with copyright laws.

**Schools that use non-Departmental teachers to choreograph their festival item must complete the relevant section of the online application in order to have their item considered for inclusion.**

# ITEM CONTENT

All items should exemplify the objectives of the Department of Education Creative Arts and Dance Syllabuses. Choices made by the choreographer should be appropriate to the age, gender and stage of development of the students.

Items that are prepared for eisteddfods and/or school-related events that do not adhere to the SNPS Dance Festival Participation Criteria, will not be included.

The following should be considered in the presentation of all items -

## ***Intent***

- Items should be developed with a clear intent/theme in mind. This should relate to how the audience is meant to think, feel or imagine in response. Intent will often involve a thematic approach or the presentation of a theme.
- Intents/themes should be consistent with item titles, program notes and movement, music, costume and prop choices.
- Portrayal of some themes is inappropriate for school-aged students - for example - (but not limited to) romantic relationships, physical infatuation, depression, suicide, sexism, violence, and drug and alcohol abuse.
- Sensitivity should be displayed in the treatment of cultural appropriation and adaptation.

## ***Movement***

- All items should adhere to the accepted **Safe Dance Principles** as outlined by the SNPS Dance Committee. **See Appendix I of this document.**
- Movement should explore the elements of dance - space, time and dynamics and the relationships between performers (including formations and the optimal use and variation of the stage space.)
- Movements of a suggestive nature such as chest and pelvic thrusts, running hands down the body and movement that inappropriately focuses attention on parts of the body must be avoided.
- Acrobatic movement or tricks should not be part of the choreography. **See Appendix I of this document.**
- Extended focus on individual performers/soloists within an item is to be avoided.

## ***Music***

- Please read all lyrics thoroughly and be aware of the intent of the music and its subject matter.
- Where a piece of music contains lyrics, a copy of these lyrics must be included in the festival application.
- Items containing songs with inappropriate lyrics, themes, context and/or sub-context **will not be accepted** (please note this includes edited tracks where offensive lyrics are removed or where a "clean" version has been obtained).
- Songs represented by video clips that contain adult themes or are otherwise inappropriate for students, **will not be accepted**.

- Some examples of songs with inappropriate themes and/or lyrics include (but are not limited to) Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars, Smooth Criminal by Michael Jackson, Starships by Nicki Minaj, Gangnam Style by Psy or Greased Lightening from Grease. If you are unsure about your song choice, please ask for clarification.
- Top 40 hits or current popular songs should be avoided, unless they are relevant to the intent/theme of the item.
- Please be familiar with and adhere to Music Copyright Guide for Schools.

### **Costume**

- Costumes should respect the dignity of all performers at all times. Sensitivity should be shown to all students and all body types.
- Unacceptable costumes include bare or cut-out midriffs, low necklines or V-neck leotards, overly brief shorts, sheer or see-through tops or bottoms, costumes which reveal underwear etc.
- Please be aware that costumes ordered online or not custom fitted, may need adjusting and need to be organised well before auditions.

### **Props**

- Props (hand-held or free-standing) should be integral to the item's intent, comply with WHS guidelines and be safe to load, set, strike and store.

## **AUDITION PROCESS**

**Selection for performance will be by live audition.** This is not negotiable. The live audition process connects schools, teachers, students and the Festival organisers during the preparation phase, so that there is a shared vision for the standards they all aspire to.

- A panel comprising of Sydney North Public Schools Dance representatives will conduct the auditions.
- The auditions will be held at central venues.
- Auditions by video **will not be accepted**.
- All items should be completed or as near to completion as possible at time of audition.
- Audition feedback should be considered and acted upon.
- One student in full costume for each "character" in your item should be presented at time of audition.
- Auditioning groups must be prepared to make changes to costumes that do not follow the criteria above.
- All necessary paperwork must be submitted at the time of the audition.

**Sydney North Public Schools Dance has the responsibility for the organisation of the festival and reserves the right to insist upon adherence to the criteria at any time.**

## ALL TEACHERS PLEASE READ

## Safe Dance Principles

Amongst the responsibilities of the teacher's ongoing duty of care is to consider accepted principles of safe dance practice. All movement activity entails potential risk of injury and the teacher cannot eliminate it altogether, but should mitigate it in class and choreographic scenarios.

The Australian Curriculum defines Safe Dance Practice as '*the practice of selecting and executing safe movement. The focus is on providing dance activities and exercises which allow students to participate without risk of injury. All dance movement should be performed relevant to an individual's body type and capabilities*'.

Certain movement done by certain individuals is often deemed "**contra-indicated**" – i.e. **should not be attempted**. This will depend on the age, experience, skill level, alignment, strength, flexibility and control of the individual. Given that teachers work with students who often lack in these qualities **there are many movements**, which are contra-indicated.

**The main areas, which are at risk of injury, are –**

- **the knee**, which is susceptible because it is a hinge joint, which works optimally in one plane.
- **the foot and ankle**, which are relatively small structures which bear large loads, particularly when they leave and return to the ground.
- **the back**, because it is susceptible to injury, because it is structurally complex, with its network of bones, cartilages (discs), muscles and nerves and its great potential for movement.

**Unsafe Movements** include (but are not limited to) –

- **Forced extension of muscles** (stretching) in manoeuvres like full splits, leg mounts, reverse leg mounts, penchés
- **Full head or neck** rolls
- **Hyper-extension** of the back – in elements like back arches, bridges, walkovers (Forward or Backward)
- **Any form of "knee drop" or "toe-over"** – single leg or two-legged, "Sarah Jane", "Toe-breaker"
- **Any uncontrolled or unaligned landing from a jump**, (frequently as a result of poor "form" in the air)
- **Hyper-flexion** (extreme bending) of the knees (under load) i.e. deep knee bends
- **Loading the back with weight** (lifts or weight-sharing) where the shoulders, hips, knees and feet are not aligned.
- **Movements** which involve **ballistic (bouncing) stretching of muscles**
- **Acrobatic elements** – cartwheels, aerial cartwheels, biranis, somersaults, flick-flacks, assisted flips, fly-rolls. Frequently these are poorly performed and controlled and when executed in a space full of other bodies, represent a risk to other performers.

Please note that much of the movement noted above often has very little relevance to the theme or intent of the dance work presented. These are the "Ta Da!" or "Look Mum, No Hands!" moments and relevant, interesting and impressive alternatives are always available.

**The SNPS Dance Committee reserves the right to prohibit the use of unsafe, high-risk or poorly executed movements or elements.**



# SYDNEY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS DANCE



## PUBLICITY & PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM

Parents/Guardians are asked to complete this form and return it to your school's dance teacher as soon as possible.

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's name

To perform in the 2018 Sydney North Public Schools Dance Festival, to be held at Glen Street Theatre, from

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

and to be involved in promotional activities for this event.

This may include still and video photography. I approve the latter use of any audio or video recordings and still photographs associated with the production, for the promotion of the Sydney North Public Schools Dance Festival and/or the Department of Education.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS CONSENT FORM IN YOUR SCHOOL**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL

Successful running of the festival requires assistance from teachers and their participating schools.

Assistance is required with program sales and backstage and holding room organisation during the two weeks of the festival.

Please supply the name of someone to assist in this vital role.

**N.B.** Teachers in charge of groups who volunteer to assist will be allocated a performance when their group is **NOT** programmed to perform.

Please complete and bring to your audition.

**Each school must supply at least one teacher.**

Please print

SCHOOL:\_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER:\_\_\_\_\_

Unsuitable dates

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# FESTIVAL GENERAL INFORMATION

## DUTY OF CARE

Teachers responsible for the performing group must remain with their students at all times in the holding areas before the performance. Teachers are responsible for the behavior of their students in these areas – IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRODUCTION CREW TO SUPERVISE YOUR STUDENTS. Performers will not be able to sit in the auditorium during a performance.

## BACKSTAGE ETIQUETTE

Changeover time between items should not exceed 20 seconds. All groups must move quickly to their starting positions in a blackout and **exit Prompt side (stage left)** after their performance.

Curtains are provided before or after some items primarily for announcing purposes. The number of curtain drops in any performance is essentially minimized to avoid unnecessary delays. Groups must adhere to all directions given by backstage staff at all times. There should be no noise in the wings.

All performers must wait for their cue from the nominated stage crew before entering the side stage area, or moving into position on stage.

## STAGING

The stage area at Glen Street Theatre is approximately 10m x 8m, with an additional 2m in front of the house curtain.

All staging – props, platforms, blackouts, flies etc. **MUST BE SUPPLIED, TRANSPORTED AND COLLECTED BY YOUR SCHOOL.**

All staging supplied by your school must be collected after your final performance by the teacher in charge. Items not collected will not be the responsibility of the Festival Committee.

## MUSIC

### **FORMAT**

Music must be recorded on a CD. Please do not bring a USB to your audition – we do not always have the facilities at the schools we are in, to play USBs. Each item should be burnt onto a separate blank disc. Each CD must be labeled with item name and school.

As stated in the Timeline for Teachers (available on our website), music must be submitted by the closing date of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June. This can be done in 3 ways:

1. PREFERABLE - Hand in your music on CD, in its FINAL version, on the day of your audition
2. Email a file of your music to [kimberley.peade@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kimberley.peade@det.nsw.edu.au)
3. Post your CD/s to the following address to arrive by the closing date:  
Attn: Clare Goetze  
NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus  
Campbell Pde, Manly Vale 2093

PLEASE NOTE – WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING MUSIC ON THE DAY OF YOUR DRESS REHEARSAL AT THE THEATRE. ALL MUSIC WILL BE LOADED PRIOR TO THE REHEARSAL PERIOD.

A second copy of your CD must be available at rehearsal and performances.

## Do not use rewritable CDs or MP4 Files.

The CDs should be collected at the end of your school's last performance or they will be disposed of.

## USE OF PROPS

Minimise the use of bulky or heavy props, or props that require complex set-up (Remember the recommended changeover time). Props should be of a size which allows them to be moved through a standard doorway and should be completely stable when free-standing.

Choose materials for props that are lightweight and sturdy.

Hand held props are personal props and should be managed by the performers – not left backstage unless stored in a labeled box.

Label all props and flies clearly with school and item name.

Avoid choreography that concludes with scattering or leaving of numerous props on stage. These are rarely retrieved satisfactorily in a blackout and might detract from the presentation or mood of the next item.

If any sets or props prove dangerous or unmanageable, the backstage manager reserves the right to veto their use.

## LIGHTING

The objectives for lighting a stage might include – **ILLUMINATION, DIMENSION, SELECTIVITY, ATMOSPHERE AND INTERACTION.**

The degree to which these aims are achieved will depend on many factors, not the least of which are the size and complexity of the lighting rig and the amount of time spent in rehearsal 'plotting' the lighting cues.

The lighting designer's **aim is to create a theatrical illusion by subtle combinations of the above objectives.**

All too often teachers, choreographers and parents emphasise the first objectives **ILLUMINATION** (at the expense of the others).

The desire to necessarily 'see their faces' and identify each individual performer, often is the overriding concern. While positive visibility may well be important it should not be achieved at the expense of other objectives (for instance **atmosphere** and **selectivity** are almost impossible to achieve in a fully lit state).

The prime concern for the choreographer, giving instructions to the lighting director, should be for the item to be a piece of theatre not necessarily an identification parade.

If **ATMOSPHERE** and **SELECTIVITY** are objectives, it is probably best to err on the side of DIM as opposed to bright and again be guided by the illusion or look you wish your item to have.

**The Dance Festival lighting rig is likely to include the following features:**

**Cyclorama colours** – red, blue, green and white.

**Stage washes** – red, blue, white and whole stage or isolated soft edge **Profiles or specials** – hard-edged circular beams, which illuminate 9 circular areas of stage from above.

**Side lighting** – in red, blue, amber and white. The corridors of light are particularly effective in dance as dancers move in and out of the light, sliding to the dimension of depth, with a modeling effect on the body.

**Back lighting** – a light source from behind the performer(s) which can help give depth to the stage separating action from scenery, lighting heads and shoulders, casting a shadow forward.

**Front of house lighting** – illuminates the front view of performer. Can be isolated from one side or other or center and again in colours red, blue or white.

**Floor lighting** – Corridors of hard edged light which illuminate the floor or low levels from the diagonals or soft edged light from the floor which casts shadows on the cyclorama and adds to the dimension of the performers.

## SPECIAL EFFECTS

**Mirror ball** – rotates at varying speeds throwing thousands of tiny spots of light into orbit around the theatre.

**U.V.'s** - ultraviolet light from above and in front, **highlight** white and fluorescent colour in costumes, props and sets.

**Strobe** – Flickering white flashes at variable speeds – should be used sparingly (maximum time of 7 seconds).

**Chase, Cycle or Flicker Effects** – Can be plotted to produce a planned or random sequence of flashing light – again should be used sparingly.

**A Range of Gobos** (patterned shapes, which can be manipulated with colour and movement.)

## PLOTTING AT DRESS REHEARSAL

During dress rehearsal, each teacher / choreographer will have the opportunity to sit with the lighting technician in order to program lighting states for the item (s). As a general rule – **the number of lighting states will be around five or six, if necessary.**

The changes from state to state will usually correspond with a point in the movement or music (called cue-point) and should be described as accurately and succinctly as possible. Where possible, cue points will also be assigned a running time by the sound operator. The actual changes in lighting states, called 'cross fades' will usually be slow and subtle unless the teacher / choreographer desires a sudden change.

It is desirable for each item to have two run-throughs at dress rehearsal. The first one, while the lighting states are worked out and the second, when the programmed states are established at their proper cue-points.

## **TEACHER / CHOREOGRAPHERS SHOULD REMEMBER -**

The focus of particular lights and the programming of states into the computer are fixed, so that performers need to work in the light as planned at dress rehearsal.

The shortage of plotting time at dress rehearsal is often the critical limitation. Some preconceived ideas may help in this regard. Teachers should be aware that during the first run the technician may be well behind the action.

The lighting technician will try to avoid states, which have been frequently used in other items.

To give beams and definition to the lighting, a light harmless haze is used.

**Happy rehearsing and best wishes to all for another great Festival.**

## **SNPS DANCE**

# 2018 SYDNEY NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## DANCE FESTIVAL

### ***STUDENT QUOTES***

*(OPTIONAL - For possible inclusion in the official program)*

Please photocopy this page as many times as you need. Pass the copy/copies around the group and ask your students to write a brief comment about – “Dance” or “Dancing” or “Their Dance” or “The Dance Festival” or “Being Onstage” or “Being at the Theatre” or “Rehearsals” or “Being part of a Dance Group”.

Bring the page(s) to the audition and hand it to the panel, with your other paperwork.

We will then consider including these comments with the student’s school and first name in our official program in a special page, “Students Say...”

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

Student First Name and Year	Comment
	..... .....
	..... .....
	..... .....
	..... .....
	..... .....
	..... .....
	..... .....
	..... .....

# 2018 SNPS DANCE FESTIVAL AUDITION SCHEDULE

See below for your school's audition **date, venue and time**.

Wednesday May 2		Thursday May 3		Friday May 4		Monday May 7	
Venue: Mimosa PS		Venue: Turrumurra PS		Venue: Harbord PS		Venue: Hornsby Nth PS	
8.30	Mimosa PS 3	10.00	Turrumurra PS 2	9.00	Harbord PS 2	9.00	Hornsby Nth PS 3
9.15	Belrose PS 3	10.30	St Ives PS 2	9.30	Narraweena PS 2	9.45	Mt Colah PS 2
10.00	Kambora PS 2	11.00	Pymble PS 1	10.00	Cromer PS 2	10.15	Asquith PS 2
10.30	Terrey Hills PS 2	11.15	Turrumurra Nth PS 1	10.30	Curl Curl Nth PS 3	10.45	Berowra PS 2
11.00	Forestville PS 3	11.30	Gordon East PS 2	11.15	NBSC Freshwater 1	11.15	Hornsby Sth PS 2
11.45	Wakehurst PS 2	12.00	Wahroonga PS 2	11.30	NBSC Manly 3	11.45	Waitara PS 2
12.15	Killarney Hts PS 2	12.30	Turrumurra HS 2	12.15	NBSC Mackellar 3	12.15	Asquith GHS 3
12.45	Frenchs Forest PS 2	1.00	St Ives Park PS 1			1.00	Wideview PS 2
1.15	The Forest HS 2	1.15	Warrawee PS 2			1.30	Hornsby Hts PS 1
1.45	Davidson HS 3	1.45	St Ives Nth PS 2			1.45	Mt Kuringai PS 1
		TBC	Bradfield SC 1			2.00	Cowan PS 1

Tuesday May 8		Wednesday May 9		Thursday May 10		Friday May 11	
Venue: Castle Cove PS		Venue: Manly West PS		Venue: Ryde East PS		Venue: Cheltenham GHS	
9.30	Castle Cove PS 2	9.00	Manly West PS 3	9.00	Ryde East PS 1	9.00	North Rocks PS 2
10.00	Anzac Park PS 1	9.45	Allambie Hts PS 3	9.15	North Ryde PS 1	9.30	Normanhurst West PS 2
10.15	Northbridge PS 2	10.30	Balgowlah Hts PS 2	9.30	Gordon West PS 1	10.00	Epping Hts PS 2
10.45	Artarmon PS 3	11.00	Balgowlah Nth PS 2	9.45	Greenwich PS 2	10.30	Normanhurst PS 2
11.30	Chatswood PS 2	11.30	Manly Vale PS 2	10.15	Eastwood PS 2	11.00	West Pennant Hills PS 2
12.00	Lindfield East PS 2	12.00	Manly Village PS 3	10.45	Boronia Park PS 2	11.30	Pennant Hills PS 2
12.30	Willoughby PS 1	12.45	Beacon Hill PS 2	11.15	West Ryde PS 2	12.00	Thornleigh West PS 1
12.45	Roseville PS 2	1.15	Mosman PS 3	11.45	Riverside GHS 3	12.15	Kuringai CAHS 2
1.15	Cammeray PS 1	2.00	Mosman HS 2	12.30	Killara HS 3	12.45	Cheltenham GHS 3
				1.15	Hunters Hill PS 2		
				1.45	Lane Cove West PS 1		
				2.00	Beaumont Rd PS 1		

Monday May 14	
Venue: Newport PS	
9.30	Pittwater HS 1
9.45	Newport PS 3
10.30	Mona Vale PS 3
11.15	Narrabeen Nth PS 2
11.45	Wheeler Hts PS 2
12.15	Avalon PS 3
1.00	Barrenjoey HS 2
1.30	Elanora Hts PS 2
2.00	Bilgola Plat PS 1
2.15	Narrabeen Lakes PS 1

## PLEASE NOTE

**The number next to your school name is the number of items you have applied for.**

If you are unable to make your time, could you please arrange a swap.

As you can see, we have a large number of schools and items to include.

There may be some times available towards the ends of each day's program.

The schedule is very tight and in some cases is fitting in with school routine.

Please try to be at the venue **15 mins before** your school's allocated time.

Be aware that due to circumstances, we may run late.

**Please notify Sue Brandenburg (Festival Coordinator) of any changes - [susan.brandenburg@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:susan.brandenburg@det.nsw.edu.au).**

Thank you. We are looking forward to another great festival.