Performing Arts News: Term 1 2015
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What’s happening in 2015?

2015 has certainly started with a bang and I have been putting together lots of different experiences for everyone to look forward to. In performing arts our term 1 learning focus for all year levels is:

- Foundation (Prep): What are the Performing Arts? Students will sing, dance, move and play during our sessions.
- Year 2/1: Learning to play the ocarina.
- Year 4/3: Learning to play the recorder.

We will also be very busy with opportunities like band and academy, excursions, The Schools Spectacular, Geelong Schools Music and Movement Festival and the Poppy Kettle Festival.

Academy and the School Band

The school band is a fantastic extension activity available to all capable and interested students from years 3-6. We rehearse every Thursday afternoon for an hour. The Academy is a platform for students to become part of the school band and is held on Friday at recess. With the help of our music captains and other band members, students can learn enough skills on the instrument of their choice to enable them to join in the band. The instruments they can choose from are the guitar, keyboard, drums, ukulele and marimba. Students who would like to be part of our band need to demonstrate commitment and ability by attending academy each week and working hard to learn their instrument. Both Academy and band will start this week.

Marimbas

At the end of our 2014 school year myself, a bunch of kids and one of our Dads, John Vermeulen headed to North Geelong Bunnings where we spent the day making two bases for our new marimba chime bars. We are now the proud owners of four marimbas which extends our ensemble participation to 12 students. I can’t thank John enough for all his hard work and for giving up his own time to help us out. We are working on a fifth marimba through a wood work group which has been developed by John Dalitz and Amelia Jolly through the expressive arts program.

Victorian States Schools Spectacular 2015

The Schools Spectacular is a professionally produced production that showcases and celebrates the vast and extraordinary talent of students in Victorian states schools. Most excitingly, this event is performed at the Hisense Arena in Melbourne to an audience of thousands. Proudly Hamlyn Banks Primary School has been a consistent member of the massed dance ensemble and again 20 of our senior students have been invited to be part of the production. The Schools Spectacular team this year is myself, Amelia Jolly, Sladana Devcic and Bianca Cockerill. We are well into the planning and information in regards to rehearsals, fees, etc. will be sent home this week. Stay tuned!
Year 7 Music Program

At HBPS we have a number of students in year 6 who have exceptional skills and knowledge in music. These are kids who take music lessons or have been highly involved in the performing arts program over a number of years. As a means of extending these students beyond what they already do in class time, we are offering a year 7 music class. During this session we are trialling a program called “Music Futures” which is an inventive approach to music education. Musical Futures believe that music learning works best for young students when they are involved in making music, drawing out students’ passion for music with an informal, collaborative classroom environment. This is an exciting step for HBPS and not something that is offered in other local primary schools.

Instrumental Teachers at Hamlyn Banks Primary School.

At HBPS we are lucky enough to have two very experienced and highly regarded instrumental teachers. Paul Carrigg has taught guitar for many years at Christian College and is currently working at several schools in Geelong including Belmont High School. Meegan Baker is a piano and keyboard teacher. She works at a number of schools including Geelong Grammar and Sacred Heart Girls College. Meegan also works as a classroom music teacher based at a primary school in Geelong. If you would like your child to learn either of these instruments contact details for both these teachers are:

- Paul: Guitar – 0433 826 997
- Meegan: Piano & Keyboard – 0417 100 096