Performing Arts News: Term 1 2016
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What’s happening in 2016?

In preparation for 2016 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 ukulele/singing
- Year 4/3: Musical Futures: Let’s Play.
- Year 6/5: Musical Futures: Let’s Play.

We will also be very busy with opportunities like band and academy, excursions, The Schools Spectacular, Geelong Schools Music and Movement Festival, the Marimba Ensemble. This year we have the school concert to look forward to!

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 Ensemble

Over the past two years I have been putting together enough marimbas, eight in total, for a whole class to use. We have built them, borrowed and grabbed them when other schools haven’t wanted them. Marimbas are best described as giant xylophones and are really fun to use and perform on. We now have enough marimbas for a really decent marimba ensemble. Over the next couple of weeks I will be asking students from years 5/6 to nominate to be part of the ensemble. This will mean the commitment of one recess or lunchtime a week, sometimes more. We will also be using the marimbas in all year levels over the year during class time.

Victorian States Schools Spectacular 2016

The Schools Spectacular is a professionally produced production that showcases and celebrates the vast and extraordinary talent of students in 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, Jess Upton, Cassie Cook and Bianca Cockerill. We are well into the planning and information in regards to fees will be sent home this week. Stay tuned!
Musical Futures: Just Play.

Over the past six months I have been part of a pilot project to implement a teaching and learning program called “Musical Futures”. This is a particularly 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 is not something that is being offered in other local primary schools in our area. This program is running in all classes from year 3 to year 6 and students have so far enjoyed learning the guitar, keyboard, bass guitar, and singing, chair drumming and performing together as a whole class band.

Music and Movement Preschool Play Group

At Hamlyn Banks PS this year we have our own pre-school music and movement play group. At the play group the children singing, dance, pretend and play. This group is for students aged 2-4 and is an opportunity for parents to bond with their children through the joy of music in interactive and fun sessions. Classes take place on Wednesday’s at 9am in the Arts Centre and run for roughly half an hour. Classes are free to HBPS families and a gold coin donation would be appreciated from families out side of the school. We have been having a great time already but we would love more families to become involved. Hope to see you and your little person there!

Instrumental Teachers at Hamlyn Banks Primary School.

At HBPS we are lucky enough to have a very experienced and highly regarded guitar teacher. Paul Carrigg has taught guitar for many years at Christian College and is currently working at several schools in Geelong including Belmont High School. If you would like your child to learn the guitar please contact him on: 0433 826 997.

We are currently in the process of employing a new piano teacher. As soon as we have organised someone I will let everyone know.
BECAUSE OF MUSIC:

I CAN be a singer.
I CAN be creative.
I CAN be smart.
I CAN be a reader.
I CAN be active.
I CAN be a learner.
I CAN be a team player.
I CAN be joyful.
I CAN be a thinker.
I CAN be a listener.
I CAN be aware of others.