

## Music/Band Newsletter Article - Term 2 2025

The music program at Axedale Primary School has been challenging this term with a range of extra curricula clashes, but such is the talent at our school that all things in music are still going ahead with great success! And, I have to remind myself that the clashes are due to our kids either being very successful in other areas of school life, or they are being provided lots of other terrific opportunities through our school.



The Prep students have begun term 2 learning about the many different percussion instruments we have at APS, including some really interesting ones such as the claves, the guiro, the zipper, djembes and the tone block! Towards the end of term 2, they have had a few lessons on the ukuleles - a first for prep kids at Axedale!

The dance sessions and carpet drumming have continued with more challenging moves and rhythms being incorporated into these activities.

A new addition to this year's music program is 'Genre Wars' — an initiative designed to help students listen to, analyse, critique, and discuss the emotional impact of music as part of their curriculum. Running from grades 1-6, at the beginning of the year, students brainstormed a fairly impressive range of genres from their own knowledge and experience. I then added a few alternative genres, and then they battled! Each week we have been playing 2 mins of 2 different genres. Children discuss how the songs made them feel, what they liked about them, or what they didn't enjoy - then vote for their favourite! We are heading into the semi-finals this week, and should have the semester 1 winner by the last day of term, so stay tuned for the winner...



Grade 1-2's are also enjoying the drum and dance sessions, but we've also worked extensively on our ukulele skills - with great success I might add. All children can confidently play a C chord and an A chord. We hope to challenge Yousician in the last few weeks of term...



The grade 2-3's are doing well with their drumming sessions and are capable of playing some complex rhythms to match the awesome soundtracks we've drummed too. They have also played the ukulele's on occasions but are hopefully gearing up for the tabletop drum kits and keyboards next semester.

Grade 3-4 have once again put in a super effort learning a range of complex instruments and it always amazes me how talented and hard working the children are! They are currently learning to play 6 different instruments as well as composing their own song. Guitar, the keyboard, drums, bass guitar, ukulele and vocals are the choices the children have, while many are composing their own song using GarageBand which will include 2 verses and 2 chorus'.

The grade 5-6 students have been advancing their skills on the range of instruments offered at Axedale as well. They have worked on playing with both hands on the keyboard using the correct fingers, playing the guitar without any aides, playing more complex drumming rhythms including adding drum fills and using the videos from our Martian Maze Music Movement website when playing bass and ukulele (PS. Anyone can access our website - just type our website name into google!).

And then there's our choir and band report. The term has been challenging for the band with only 2 proper jam sessions so far, but they are working hard on 3-4 songs that should be ready to perform mid term 3. We've also welcomed 5 new band members who have been a marvellous addition to our current band crew and our shirts will be ready to show off early next term!

Choir with Lou is also moving along nicely, with plans to perform a song with the rock band well on track for term 3. Lou is loving the "vibe" of the choir where they not only have lots of fun, but the singing skills are continuing to improve. Lou has been most impressed with her choir leaders, particularly Lily Torr!

Last but not least, a big shout out to our wonderful instrumental teachers! Lou continues to love working with the talented vocalists at Axedale, and Harry, who is now almost completely booked up with students, says it's his favourite day of the week! If you're interested in learning the guitar with Harry, make sure you get in touch with me (or the office) to enquire about lessons.

So, music is as alive and strong as ever at Axedale Primary, which makes my job so much fun!

**Keep *singin'*, *strummin'*, and *swingin'* those hips!!**

**Kaine Marsh**

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