

Music - Term 1

Music classes at Axedale have been a little different in the senior grades this year. Normally students begin the year choosing 5 of 7 different instruments to learn for the year, and then spend 4 weeks on each instrument building their skills. Students can choose to learn how to play the guitar, keyboard, bass guitar, drums, ukulele, vocals or producing their own song on Garage Band. However, this usually ends up in a lot of “changing minds” when they start playing them for a range of reasons.

So this year, senior students (grades 3-4 & 5-6) have done “Taste Sessions” where each week we spend a lesson on learning one of the 7 instruments on offer. We have also used ‘Yousician’ as an extra challenge/motivation tool and the kids have absolutely loved the activity and produced some impressive results! We even played a few Red Hot Chilli Pepper songs!

We have also started our “Genre Wars” competition. At the beginning of the year students collated around 40 different genres of music, and each week a “spinning wheel” allows us to choose two challengers to face off. We pick a random band from each Genre, then a random song from that band. We’ve listened to everything from Ska, Heavy Metal and Punk to Rock, Dance Pop and Grunge! This topic is allowing the students to be more creative with both their thoughts and ideas about music and how they express themselves when it comes to listening to music. We are trying to use factual information and listening to the different dynamics each genre and song present - I’ve LOVED the conversations we’ve had, even when I don’t agree with them!

The junior students have been working hard on their creative dance skills, and this is always a learning curve for me! The new songs the kids choose, most of which I haven’t heard before, are a great way of expanding my musical tastes but also giving me ideas to work on with the school band! And of course, Axedale Primary School kids LOVE their country music - I’m slowly becoming a Coombs and Bryan fan!

The junior students are also working hard on their carpet drumming skills. Using their feet and hands the students play in time to the many different beats and rhythms of the mixed tapes we play along to each week. This exercise is like the alphabet of music - the better their rhythm skills, the easier it is to play the “big” instruments when they reach grade 3.

Band is also smashing it this year and with only 5 students left over from last year they’ve been able to knock out a song already! They hope to perform it either this term or early next term, and then the search for new band talent will begin. And with all the kids currently learning guitar with Harry, or singing with Lou, Axedale Primary is certainly NOT short of talent!

Looking forward to a bigger and better term 2!

Keep singin’, strummin’, and swingin’ those hips!!

Mr Marsh

