



MELVILLE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Music Matters

Melville Senior High
School Music News

Issue 16
11th April 2014

News

We commenced 2014 by welcoming four new teachers to the Music Department. Mr. Lachlin Brooks-Crew is a classroom Music Teacher as well as Swing Band and Senior Concert Band Director. He has enjoyed taking the Swing Band to perform at primary schools to enthusiastic and inspired students during the term. These include Kardinya Primary School on 6th March, Melville Primary School on 12th March and Bibra Lake Primary School on 2nd April.



Swing Band performing at Kardinya PS

Mr. John Davis is a School of Instrumental Music (SIM) teacher and has taken over from Mr. Robert Matthews to teach brass. Ms. Priscilla Powell is a SIM Classical Guitar teacher who is replacing Mr. Paul Hines who is currently on long service leave until Term 3. She is also directing the Classical Guitar Ensemble. We have a Visiting Artist with us, Ms. Stephanie Ryan who is teaching vocal students and directing the Melville Vox Vocal Ensemble. Ms. Ryan is in her final year of completing her Bachelor of Music (Contemporary) at WAAPA. Our vocal program has been growing over the past five years, and

next year we look forward to establishing a compulsory Junior Choir for all Year 7 and 8 Music in Focus students. This is quite common to see in most schools that offer a good music program, as there are many benefits to singing. The established Melville Vox Vocal Ensemble will continue to cater to students in Years 9 – 12. In almost all tertiary music institutions around the world, instrumentalists are required to take sight singing, aural courses and choir in order to imagine, specifically and accurately, how the music sounds in order to competently perform music and or lead ensembles. Singing the symbols off a score helps students to internalise and make sense of what they see, so that they can improve their intonation, rhythm, pitch and harmony and as a result, become better and literate musicians.

We also welcome Mr. Chris Booth. Although Mr. Booth has been teaching percussion at Melville SHS since 2010 and is not new to the school, he is new to directing the Intermediate Concert Band this year.

The Music Department has begun making preparations for the double intake of students in 2015. Approximately 100 students set the academic test that was held on 2nd April for Year 6 students and 3rd April for Year 7 students. The next step is to audition each of those students individually. This will commence in week 2 of Term 2 and applicants will be notified of their acceptance after 14th May.

We are also keeping a close eye on the national curriculum developments. The curriculum has been drafted and is currently being validated and we

anticipate implementation within the next year or so.

Thank you to the large number of parents who attended the Music Information Evening, which was held in the Library on 13th February. As well as welcoming new Year 8 music parents, topics covered on the night included some of the changes in the running of the Music Department, namely the addition of an option stream of classes in Years 8 and 9 (Music Appreciation) alongside the established school-based specialist classes (Music in Focus) and the introduction of iPads in the classroom for Year 8 and 9 students. Of course, iPads aren't designed to replace a music class, but they are proving to be an engaging and supplementary aid for some students. The number of educational activities can be supported by music applications is numerous.

The first Music Support Group (MSG) meeting was held on 25th March. This integral parent body helps the Music Department immensely by raising funds for upgrades, purchases, instrument maintenance etcetera, as well as setting/cleaning up food and drink stations during music events. We are always looking for more enthusiastic parents to join the group. The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday 13th May at 4pm in G19.

Thank you to the gentleman who donated a guitar amp to the school recently. The students are making very good use of it. The Music Department is always looking for gifts or sponsorship, so if you are able to help, please let us know.

By Ana Milas

Friends of Melville Music

Our parents would have noticed an increased communication via email, which is in response to Melville trying to be more "green". We ask parents to please make sure to check their emails regularly and to notify the school as your email or contact information details change.

If you or someone you know would like to be on our Friends of Melville Music database and receive newsletters and information on upcoming events, please let us know and we will include your email in our database.



WACE Rehearsal Day

On Sunday 6th May, Stage 2 and 3 Music students from Melville Senior High School participated in the School of Instrumental Music WACE Performance Rehearsal Day at Churchlands Senior High School. The day provided an excellent opportunity for students to perform exam pieces in front of an audience, receive feedback from experienced music teachers, and listen to students from other schools perform on similar instruments.

I performed Charlie Parker's 'Billie's Bounce'. I was a little bit nervous, but I was keen to receive feedback on my playing style and my improvisation. As there are no other students studying stage 2 Jazz saxophone at Melville, I was also looking forward to watching jazz saxophonists from other schools perform.

I was very happy with my performance, and although it wasn't a formal assessment I was pleased to receive some positive feedback. I found the day enjoyable and invaluable, and I'm looking forward to more exam practise opportunities.

By Maximilian Wickham, Swing Band Captain

Inside this issue:

News

Upcoming Events

Performances

Friends of Melville Music

Music Brunch

Commendations

Ensemble rehearsals

Contacts:

Mrs Ana Milas
Teacher in Charge of Music
9330 0290
Ana.Milas@education.wa.edu.au

Mr Lachlin Brooks-Crew

Music Teacher
9330 0290
Lachlin.Brooks-Crew@education.wa.edu.au

Mrs Alanna Sherwood

Head of Arts Technology
9330 0385
Alanna.Sherwood@education.wa.edu.au

Commendations

Students are mentioned for positive contributions towards the Music Program. This may be demonstrated through their work in class, during SIM lessons, at performances or in ensemble rehearsals.

Congratulations to:

Charmaine Bishop - Yr 8
Sophia Sunthang - Yr 9
Shannon Hevron - Yr 10
Maximilian Wickham - Yr 11
Oliver Richards - Yr 12

Music Matters

Teacher Bio

Lachlin Brooks-Crew is the new music teacher at Melville Senior High School. After graduating from St Stephen's School, Carramar, Lachlin's positive experiences in high school inspired him to pursue a career in teaching. He attained a degree in Classical Performance from WAAPA in 2012, before undertaking the Graduate Diploma in Education.

Music and music education has been a long-term focus for Lachlin and he has thoroughly enjoyed his first term at Melville Senior High School, teaching the enthusiastic Year 9 option class, as well as directing the Swing Band and Senior Concert Band.

Music Brunch

The Music Brunch was quite a successful fundraiser for the music department, held on the 30th of March in the Carly Smith Studio. The location was supposed to be more open, but unfortunately there was a light amount of rain, so we could not set up the stage outside in the lower school quad like hoped for. This reduced the size of the audience but in no way the quality of the performance. All of the ensembles and bands chosen to perform did so to the best of their ability and made the morning a very successful and enjoyable event.

Biggest thanks on behalf of all the students in the music program to Mrs. Milas especially and all the other teachers and parents that lent a hand to making the morning what it was.

By Oliver Richards, Music Captain



More photos are available for viewing by visiting [Melville SHS Performing Arts Facebook page](#).

Bicton Primary School Fete

Recently, the Melville SHS Swing Band was invited to perform at Bicton Primary School's 110th anniversary celebration, on Saturday April 5th. The day was filled with events such as football clinics, Zumba, and many other activities, including an undercover music area. The Swing Band attracted a large audience, performed to an excellent standard and received very positive feedback from Bicton staff, students and the community who attended. Well done, Melville Swing Band!

By Lachlin Brooks - Crew

Upcoming Events in Term 2

- **Term 2 commences** - 29 April
- **MSG meeting** - 10 June, 4pm
- **MSG meeting** - 13 May, 4pm
- **Performing Arts Variety Show** - 23-25 June

Attendance

By now, our youngest students have settled in well and are aware of expectations of a high school music program. It is great to see that band/ensemble rehearsal and instrumental lesson attendance is improving. It is essential that students attend all rehearsals in order to improve their skills and achieve an acceptable performance standard. All classroom teachers have been emailed instrumental timetables and students are asked to remind their teachers of their lesson times.

Ensemble Rehearsal Times

Swing Band - Monday 3-4pm

Intermediate Concert Band - Tuesday 3:15-4:15pm

Melville Vox Vocal Ensemble - Wednesday 7:40-8:40am

Senior Concert Band - Wednesday 3:15-4:30pm

Classical Guitar Ensemble - Friday 7:40-8:40am