

News

We commenced 2015 by welcoming two SIM teachers at Melville SHS; Kate Hare has taken over from Annette Daniels teaching flute and Stephen Taylor has taken over from Simon Jeans teaching electric guitar and bass guitar.

For the first time, we welcomed Year 7 students along with the Year 8 students into the program. We now have close to 170 students taking part in music at Melville. It has taken some time for everyone to settle into the new term. There were many anxious faces at the beginning of the year, but everyone has now settled into a routine and students are busy learning and practicing for the year ahead.

One of the issues that always arise with the younger students is attending instrumental lessons. Although classroom teachers are emailed all lesson timetables at the beginning of each term, some students shy away from reminding their classroom teacher of their upcoming lesson. Students are expected to remind teachers when they will be missing class prior to their lesson taking place, especially if there is a test or assessment scheduled. If the lesson is taking place at the beginning of Session 1, students are asked to collect a slip from their SIM teacher and present it to their classroom teacher, so that they are not marked absent. Lessons occur once a week, on the same day each week but a different time. It is important to note that instrumental lessons are classes. There are detailed syllabi for each of the instruments, specialist teachers are

allocated FTE and classrooms (at a range of schools), students sit assessments and receive a report at the end of every semester. It is important for students to attend as many lessons throughout the term as possible in order to improve and to meet the course requirements.

One of the new initiatives in the Music Department this year is the establishment of a compulsory Junior Vocal Ensemble. This ensemble is for all Year 7 and 8 music students enrolled in the Music in Focus stream and anyone else receiving SIM lessons. Singing will help students to internalise and make sense of a score, improve their intonation, rhythm, pitch and harmony and as a result, become better and literate musicians.

Thank you to the large number of parents who attended the Music Information Evening, which was held in the Carly Smith Studio on 10th February. The agenda included lessons, ensembles, performance opportunities and attire, iPads, senior school pathways, PR and support. A music events calendar was handed out along with a handbook and parents were provided with an opportunity to ask questions.

The first Music Support Group (MSG) meeting of the year was held on 17th March. This integral parent body helps the Music Department immensely by raising funds as well as setting/cleaning up food and drink stations during music events. This meeting mainly focused on fundraising for the upcoming music tour that will take place in July. The next

scheduled meeting is on Tuesday 28th April at 4pm in room G16.

This years' WACE/ATAR Rehearsal Performance Day was held on Sunday 29th March at Churchlands SHS. Melville students that performed on the day were Joule Candido (trumpet), Oliver Toole (electric guitar), Maximillian Wickham (saxophone) and Bradley Cann (classical guitar). Students were placed into sessions based on the instruments they play. They performed a song and were given constructive verbal and written feedback on the day by a panel, which comprised of SIM teachers and examiners.

Thank you to Jean who donated trombone scores and music books to the school recently. The Music Department is always looking for gifts or donations, so if you are able to help, please let us know.

Applications for the music program in 2016 have now closed. Auditions will take place 28th – 30th April. Late applicants will be placed on a wait list and auditioned on a needs basis.

The Music Department has increased their communication with students and parents via Connect. We ask parents to please make sure to check emails regularly and to notify the school as your email or contact information details change.

We wish everyone a safe and well-deserved break. From all of us in the Music Department, Happy Easter!

By Ana Milas

Inside this issue:

News

Jazz Summer School

Performances

Teacher Bio

Instrumental Lessons

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 0296

Lachlin.Brooks-Crew@education.wa.edu.au

Mrs Alanna Sherwood

Head of Arts&Technologies

9330 0385

Alanna.Sherwood@education.wa.edu.au

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.



Swing Band Performances

Over the first half of Term 1, the Melville SHS Swing Band travelled to four primary schools, namely Spearwood, Melville, Winthrop and Palmyra, in order to promote the music program for two main groups: for the Year 5's and 6's who will soon be making the transition to high school, as well as the younger students who may be interested in getting into music. With the addition of new members including Cosmo Batley (Piano), Murray Brims (Drums), Marisa Gardiner (Vocals), Ashley Hurley (Guitar), Isha Sai (Trumpet), Ashley Ure (Trumpet), Morgan Ure (Trumpet), and Zarah Suamili (Vocals – who was warmly welcomed back by her old school, Palmyra!) as well as some energetic new tunes, it meant that the audiences were clapping and dancing along, and the band was highly praised by each school. Overall, it seems the visits were a great success – well done Swing Band!



By Lachlin Brooks-Crew

Swing Band performing at Spearwood Primary School

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:

Ethan Hardy Atkins- Yr 7

Shizuka Lau - Yr 8

Rachel Lawson - Yr 9

Hannan Dempsey - Yr 10

Bradley Cann - Yr 11

Oliver Toole - Yr 12

Music Matters

Teacher Bio

Steve Taylor is a multi-instrumentalist with a passion for music and music education. Seven years of tuition in the SIM program led him to study classical trombone at the University of Western Australia, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education and extensive performance experience in a range of classical, jazz and contemporary styles (WASO, jazz combos and big bands, various rock bands playing originals and covers). As an educator, Steve has spent the last seven years teaching secondary classroom music and instrumental lessons throughout the southern Peel region, only returning to Perth for good in late 2014. His current projects include playing horns and bass guitar with The Mr Sims Quintet jazz combo (plug: monthly gig at Little Creatures Next Door in Freo), managing life with a toddler and attempting to fit in time for video games.

This is his first year teaching electric guitar and bass at Melville Senior High School.



Attendance

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. It is also important students attend all performances. All classroom teachers have been emailed instrumental timetables and students are asked to remind their teachers of their lesson times ahead of their scheduled lesson.

WAAPA Jazz Summer School

Over the summer holidays, ECU's Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) held a three-day jazz summer school. I was fortunate enough to participate in this program, wherein I was given the opportunity to learn a variety of skills relating to jazz composition and performance. The composition component involved the students writing our own blues compositions under the tutelage of Jamie Oehlers (Senior lecturer at WAAPA and one of Australia's leading jazz musicians). Along with various other staff at WAAPA, Oehlers also performed numerous jazz standards for us, followed by the opportunity for the students attending to ask questions about the staffs' technique and jazz musicianship. Another large component of the summer school was the opportunity to play and perform with the other students. The group was split into four smaller ensembles, each containing around seven members and led by a different member of staff at WAAPA. Each ensemble contained a full rhythm section and two to three melody instruments. In these groups, we rehearsed and finally performed jazz charts such as *Autumn Leaves* and *Dream a Little Dream of Me*, with all participants given the opportunity to solo improvise. Performing in these groups was a great experience, as it allowed a unique insight into the world of jazz performance and gave us the ability to play with dedicated and talented peers. In this way, the event was truly worthwhile and I would highly recommend the summer school for anyone who enjoys learning jazz, improvising and performing amongst friendly and talented musicians in an environment that will challenge you to become a more proficient performer.

By Sean Hayes, Senior Concert Band Captain

Instrumental Lesson Days & Teachers

Flute	Mondays	Kate Hare
Percussion	Tuesdays	Rachael Flynn
Clarinet & Saxophone	Wednesdays	Wayne G'Froerer
Voice	Wednesdays/Thursdays	Stephanie Ryan
Brass	Thursdays	John Davis
Classical Guitar	Thursdays	Paul Hines
Electric Guitar & Bass	Fridays	Stephen Taylor

Ensemble Rehearsal Times

Swing Band - Monday 3-4pm in G20

Intermediate Concert Band - Tuesday 2:50-3:50pm in Carly Smith Studio

Melville Vox Ensemble - Wednesday 7:40-8:40am in G20

Senior Concert Band - Wednesday 3:15-4:30pm in G20

Junior Vocal Ensemble - Thursday 7:40-8:40am in Carly Smith Studio

Classical Guitar Ensemble - Thursday 3-4pm in G20