

Rhythm, Strings, and Resilience in Performing Arts!

There is plenty of fantastic energy coming from the Performing Arts room this term as our students dive into hands-on music-making! Our Year 3 and 4 students are learning chord shapes, finger placement, and strumming patterns on the Ukelele, while our Year 5 and 6 classes are tackling bucket drumming, turning high-energy beats into organised rhythm as they focus on pulse, dynamic control, and listening as an ensemble. Our year 1 and 2's are working hard at rhythmically coordinating their movements in time to the music. This has resulted in fun games and hand clap patterns and much laughter as we try to coordinate our movements together! Our Preps are enthusiastic as always, and are having great fun practicing their singing voice, learning to differentiate dynamics in music around us, and moving their bodies to a steady beat.

Learning a new instrument can feel a little tricky at first. Sore fingertips from pressing down on ukulele strings or feeling rhythmically "tangled" on the drums is a completely normal part of the process!

It's easy for students to feel a bit disheartened when a chord doesn't sound clear right away or a drumming pattern feels too fast or awkward. However, that initial struggle is where the real growth happens. Getting good at an instrument doesn't happen overnight, it requires resilience, patience, and a willingness to try again when things get tough.

I try to remind students that mistakes aren't failures, but proof that they are learning something new! Keep practicing, stay persistent, and celebrate the small wins along the way. Year 5 and 6 students have been told they can practice at home using drumsticks on a chair, bucket, or any other hard surface (the carpet is a perfectly acceptable practice place also if your ears struggle!). Year 3 & 4 students who are keen to practice at home can purchase a cheap Ukulele from Kmart, Big W etc, or head to your local music store to get further information ([these](#) are what we use in class). Ukelele's tuning apps can be found online, and the strings are tuned to G, C, E, & A. Please note, that if your student is Left Handed, and don't already play the Ukelele, they are currently learning on a Right handed Ukelele. This is very common and is a great skill for them to persist with.

I encourage you to chat with your child about what they are learning in Performing Arts this term and cheer them on as they build both their musical skills and their perseverance!

If your student is interested in learning an instrument through private school lessons, please utilise this [link here](#) to reach out.

Blessings,

Mrs Vivienne Holbrook