Hello Staff, Parents, Carers and friends

In this week’s newsletter I wish to highlight the 3rd Music-Arts camp which was held at Camp Clayton on Wed 13th November, Thursday, 14th November and Friday, 15th November.

This year, the length of the camp was extended by an extra day and this was largely due to the extra numbers of students who were expected to attend. As you’re all aware, many students with disabilities are invited to attend from regular schools. These students are accompanied by their teacher assistants.

Wednesday was set aside for the early childhood students to attend, whilst Thursday was the day that Primary and Senior students joined together to participate in a variety of outdoor experiences as well as the workshops on offer by the artists and musicians.

Friday was set aside again for all students to come together to practise an item for the concert followed by a barbecue lunch with parents, carers and friends in attendance.

This year, the daily program was varied to cater for age groups, although some previous artists and musicians returned due to popular demand to entertain and engage our students.

Artists – Jan Marinos & Evelyn Antonysen shared their talents and expertise with all students and staff members who experimented with brushes, paints, droppers and dyes on silk. The colourful banners designed under the direction of Jan were displayed by students during the concert on Friday. Evelyn demonstrated another technique with students of dabbing different coloured dyes onto a small segment of silk then sprinkling salt over it to produce special effects. This technique resulted in every student and many staff members making a brooch as a memento of the experience. Every brooch was an original!

Dates to Remember
6th December – Reports due home
11th December – Leaver’s Dinner
12th December – End of year picnic
18th December – Final assembly
19th December – Final day for students

Public Holidays
Friday 29th November – Devonport Show

Term Dates
Term 4 – 14th Oct to 19th Dec
Harpist - Geoff Winder played to small groups of students and allowed many to strum and engage in the music at close range. This was a sensual and relaxing experience for all students! The small harp which Geoff presented to the school recently was also available for students to freely explore sound.

Didgeridoo and drummer - Jerra & Darryl engaged the early childhood students and provided hands-on sensory interactions with their appealing instruments.

Dance and mime - Lynette Goud (formerly Butler) used masks and rhythm for students to interpret zoo animals in partner dancing with the early childhood students all taking part.
Hip-Hop dancer – Jade Cook a Grade 9 student from Parklands High entertained the Primary and Senior students with his amazing moves. He worked with our students on some simple steps and produced an exciting act for the concert on Friday which everyone applauded.

Devonport High’s Drumming Band – under the direction of Gail Elliott was a thrilling rhythmic experience for the primary and secondary students to engage with.

On Thursday evening after our evening meal, students and staff who were staying overnight gathered to hear Stacey Jenkins, a blind young woman who played the piano and sang. Stacey continues to have weekly lessons with Jacqui Astley on Mondays after school at SOSE Devonport. Thank you Stacey for sharing your talents with us!

The music camp is dependent on the wholehearted support of the entire team of staff across both campuses. Hours of planning by Jacqui Astley happens months ahead of the actual date and the overall success is due to the commitment of individual staff members who are willing to stay overnight to care and support every student who is sleeping away from their home.

With the extended length of days, detailed planning was required to ensure that bus transport in particular could be carefully scheduled and I sincerely thank Sue-Ann Beaumont & Joanne Corvinus who liaised with each other, Jacqui and other staff members ensuring that the day’s itinerary ran as expected.

A memorable and fun event enjoyed by everyone!

Kind regards,

Grace
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