Primary Music
Welcome to the first Primary Music Newsletter which provides information on what is happening in the music classrooms as well as all of the music ensembles that we have in The Rockhampton Grammar School.

ELC Kindy Music
This year our on-campus Kindy class is lucky enough to be able to have music in the Primary music classroom where they now have access to a much larger range of musical experiences. This term we are working on pitch singing and how to keep the beat at a range of different speeds.

The students had the chance to play the glockenspiel where we learned how to play the note B while also trying to learn how to play together at the same time.

Year 1 Music
This Semester the Year 1 classes are doing a focus unit on what is music? Students will respond to music and consider where and why people make music.

During our first lesson I asked some of the students what they thought music was and here are some of their responses:

**1T**
Eddie – it is a song
Mitchell -clapping
Kailey – dancing
Harley – noise that sounds nice

**1G**
Clara – a sound that you enjoy
Ruby – a sound that is good to listen to
Delany – listening to the beat

**1S**
A high and low sound

Prep Music
This term the Prep classes are looking at a number of different songs and rhymes that involve numbers, like Engine Engine Number 9 and 10 Cheeky Monkeys. Students will also be looking at a number of songs that will help the development of their fine motor skills such as the crab walk which is shown in the photo below. Later this term the Preps will also start working on their Eisteddfod Novelty song “Be’in Green”. More details about this will follow in the next few weeks.

Year 2 Music
Throughout the course of Semester 1 students in Year 2 will be doing a focus unit on rhythm and beat where they will develop their aural skills by exploring and imitating sounds, pitch and rhythm patterns using their voice, movement and body percussion. Students will have the opportunity to create and compose their own rhythmic compositions which they will share with their class mates.

This year, the Year 2 students are also starting recorder for the first time. In the past this hasn’t started until Year 3. Through playing the recorder students are learning how to read and write music while at the same time having fun learning a new instrument. So far we have learnt how to hold our recorders in the correct hands and have learnt the finger positions for the note B. We are getting really good at playing time to rock and the Summer Shake.
Year 3 Music
Term 1 for Year 3 music is looking at two well-known children’s books/stories which include Peter and the Wolf and also Carnival of the Animals. Through watching and listening to these stories children are being exposed to the elements of music such as dynamics, pitch, temp, texture and timbre.

Throughout this unit students are also able to express how music makes them feel and talk about what the music is trying to tell us. It is also a great introduction for young students to the concept of the orchestra.

So far we have looked at Peter and the Wolf. See if your child can tell you what instruments represent what characters in the story.

Year 3 is also starting recorder for the first time this term and are all progressing well.

Year 4 Music
This term Year 4 students are to create their own accompaniment to the well-known children’s song “What shall we do with a drunken Sailor”. In small groups children are composing their accompaniments, which is to be performed to the class in the form of body percussion where they can only use the body to make different types of sounds.

At the end students are then going to write a response on how they feel they went through the whole process from start to finish.

Students will also keep continuing to play the recorder learning a new of new notes as well as keeping up their music theory.

Year 5 Music
As parents have already discovered, the Year 5 students are all learning a string, woodwind, brass or mallet percussion instrument this year and have taken them home.

The following YouTube clip can help you and your child understand the fun they are going to get into this year and the possibilities for their musical future -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWCLymxMIPU

The Year 5 students will be requiring an Interactive Practice Studio copy of the text book we use to practice to. This can be downloaded onto your IPAD via the ITUNES store or your Android Tablet via GOOGLE PLAY. Details will be found in the email that has been sent home this week. The Year 5 classes break up into three groups learning strings with Miss Danielle Boto, Brass/ Electric Bass/ Mallets with Mr John Evenhuis or Woodwind with Miss Brienna Isokangas.

Families of children who are hiring a School instrument will have their School accounts billed for $40 for the use of this instrument for the entire year. This reduced hire price is only for Year 5 students.

Year 6 Instrumental Music Opportunities
Instrumental students in Year 6 are encouraged to become a member of the Primary Percussion Ensemble, Primary Concert Band, Year 4 – 6 Vocal Choir, Primary Rock Band or Primary Jazz Ensemble. If families wish for their child to continue to have an instrument at home there are two options: hire an instrument from RGS at $200/ year or hire/purchase your own instrument (Green Brothers Music http://www.greenbrothers.com.au/).
Primary Ensembles

Grade 1-3 Vocal Choir
Rehearsals for this group are on every Wednesday at second lunch in the Primary music room. This group is taken by Mrs Williams and this year is being assisted by Miss McMurtrie. Students in this group are currently working towards two sections in the Rockhampton Eisteddfod. More details for those students involved will be sent home via emails.

Please remember we also welcome new members.

For more information regarding this group please contact Mrs Elisa Williams by email ewilliams@rgs.qld.edu.au

RGS Music Council Fee
The RGS Music Council is a parent support group for the Music Department covering the Upper Primary and Secondary music programmes. This group purchases much needed instruments for all of the instrument ensembles, print music for all ensembles when required, holds Music Recitals that these groups can perform in and funds workshops and tutors for the Instrumental programme. If your child is in Year 4-6 Vocal Choir/ Primary Band/ Beginners Band/ Primary Jazz or Primary Rock Band, the RGS Music Council will be sending an invoice for $40 for your child’s involvement in 2016.

Primary Rock Band
This group is taken by the talented Mr Rooks and rehearses every Tuesday up in the Secondary school band room from 7.45am to 8.30am. For more details please contact Mr Rooks by email on jrooks@rgs.qld.edu.au

Prep & 1 – 3 Signing Choirs
These signing choirs are directed by Mrs Adair Mehlhose. For more details please email Mrs Mehlhose on amehlhos@rgs.qld.edu.au

4 – 6 Signing Choir
This group is directed by Mrs Wendy Goldston. For more details on practice times please email Mrs Goldston on wgoldston@rgs.qld.edu.au

Years 4-6 Vocal Choir
The Year 4-6 singing choir rehearses every Tuesday at second lunch in the Primary music room and is conducted by Mrs Whitehead. They are presently well into rehearsals for the upcoming Rockhampton Eisteddfod, learning two numbers titled Sing in Harmony and In My Closet. The children have been thoroughly enjoying these pieces, especially In My Closet as it elaborates on the interesting things children find in their closets. Details relating to Eisteddfod performance dates and times will be sent home once finalised. Please contact Mrs Whitehead for more details by email on swhitehead@rgs.qld.edu.au