

Term 1 has been an exciting time for the Music Department at NEGS. With Mrs Hughes joining NEGS as Secondary Music Teacher and Ms Wright in the Junior School, NEGS now boasts two experienced Orff Schulwerk practitioners. As a result of this student-focused pedagogy, the performances this term have been pretty amazing so far.

Of course, none of this could have happened without the enthusiasm and hard work of the students. In only one term they have achieved so much and we are so very proud of them.

*Sincerely,*

*Mrs Susanne Hughes and Ms Hester Wright*

### **Primary Music News**

From Preschool to Year 6, NEGS students have enjoyed their term of music-making. Every single Junior School student has two Music lessons a fortnight with a specialist Music teacher, Ms Wright and Mrs Hughes. Kindergarten to Year 6 also attend a weekly choir session with Ms Wright, an internationally qualified choral and vocal expert.

Pre-K and Kindergarten have spent the term singing and playing percussion instruments. Years 1-2 moved on to learning the recorder, a tricky instrument to master as many families will know. Through movement and singing they learn simple but fun songs that are then transferred to the recorder. We have worked hard on good posture, playing with correct fingers and breathing well so we play without squeaks. Even other teachers say we sound good so we must be doing something right!



Years 3-4 have a Strings lesson each week with our wonderful teacher, Ms Natasha Dyason. In these lessons, each student is assigned a violin, viola or cello and learns how to play simple open-string songs. We are learning not only to play notes and rhythms on our instruments, but techniques such as *pizzicato* and *arco*, and how to play as a class ensemble. Year 3-4 Strings will perform at the Armidale Eisteddfod in May.



Year 5 have Music lessons with Ms Wright, in which we have learned how to play Orff instruments such as marimbas, xylophones and glockenspiels. We learn our songs through games and singing, and we then learn how to improvise and accompany ourselves on percussion instruments. This allows us to develop ensemble skills as well as the courage to create new tunes and to multi-task by singing and playing simultaneously.

Year 6 are working on xylophones and unpitched percussion instruments, developing their ensemble skills with Mrs Hughes. They have been learning a number of songs and are now starting to improvise, which is amazing! They are gaining more and more confidence and coming up with beautiful melodies.

Our co-curricular ensembles, Songbirds and Saumarez Strings, are also looking forward to performing at the Armidale Eisteddfod in May and June. Any student from K-6 who sings is invited to join Songbirds next term, rehearsing Wednesdays at 8am with Ms Wright. All string enthusiasts are similarly welcome at Saumarez Strings with Ms Dyason on Mondays (rehearsal time is TBC).

We hope all Junior School students have a relaxing break so they're ready for another busy term of music making!

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### Secondary Music News

The year started with an Open Day on Valentine's Day - and the inaugural performance of the Year 9/10 Music Elective students. The same students also performed in two assemblies - and at the time of writing, they are preparing for a very special performance at the Father's Dinner.



*Caption: Eilish Morgan, guitar; Philippa Hunt, piano; Jessica Emmery, voice; Zara Fairbank, drums*

The Year 7 Band was incredibly successful as well. These girls are all new to NEGS this year, but they have quickly found their way to the music building - in fact, they spend most of their lunchtimes there!

As a result, they performed beautiful arrangements of 'Dance the Night away' and 'Horse with no Name' at the Masonic Lodge on St. Patrick's Day. The residents were visibly moved and enjoyed their performance very much.





*Caption: Annabelle McCrohon, drums; Helena Toomey and Charlotte Yarger, piano; Hannah Gale, saxophone; Charlotte Perry and Gemma Poe, guitar*

A smaller group of Year 7s also performed at the Monday assembly in Week 9 with such confidence it is hard to believe that at the beginning of term, most had never held an instrument!

Our Year 12 HSC Music 1 student, Ruby Holgate, delivered an amazing performance of 'Fever' during the Monday Assembly. She was accompanied by Wendy Griffith (bass) and Jack Cavenagh (drums).

 2025\_March\_17 Ruby assembly.MOV

Finally, we had South American tunes during the Armidale Autumn Festival Parade! It's not easy to play on the back of a truck when it's moving, but the kids did brilliantly. NEGS was the only school in the parade with live music! So we are doing something right!



*Caption: Charlotte Perry, Helena Toomey and Mrs Hughes, marimba; Habeeba Ibrahim, Charlotte Yarger and Jaylee Burns, percussion*

We are super proud of all the achievements and all the hard work that has gone into this term. The Music Department is becoming a very exciting place to be. We wish all students a relaxing break and hope they come back with even more energy and enthusiasm for music next term!

### **Is your child interested in playing an instrument?**

At NEGS, we offer individual instrumental and voice lessons to suit beginners through to advanced learners. Our visiting music tutors teach in the Forster Music Building, in our specialised teaching studios and learning spaces. NEGS students perform regularly at school events, external community events and the Armidale Eisteddfod. Most of the instrumental teachers are employed through NECOM (New England Conservatorium of Music). All of our tutors are highly qualified in their area and have extensive experience in teaching young people.

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please follow these steps:

- 1) Discuss with your child which instrument they would like to learn (see the list below).
- 2) If your child's chosen instrument is taught by a NECOM tutor, please complete the [NECOM Enrolment Form](#) at your earliest convenience. Lessons cannot commence without this.
- 3) If your child's chosen instrument is piano/organ or voice, you may contact Mr Peter Sanders or Ms Hester Wright directly, via the email addresses provided below.
- 4) Your tutor will advise the NEGS Music Department upon commencement of your child's lessons.
- 5) NEGS Music Department will assist tutors in the timetabling of lessons where required. Students will be notified of their lesson time by their tutor and all tutor timetables will be displayed on the noticeboard in the Music Department.
- 6) Either NECOM or your tutor will invoice you directly for their services.
- 7) Please purchase any books or equipment recommended by your tutor prior to commencing lessons. A NEGS Music Diary will be supplied to your tutor.
- 8) Should you like to hire an instrument from NEGS, please fill out the [instrumental hire form](#).

Feel free to contact the music department with any questions!

[music.admin@negs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:music.admin@negs.nsw.edu.au)



## NEGS INSTRUMENTAL TUTORS AND CONTACTS

<b>Strings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violin</li> <li>• Viola</li> <li>• Cello</li> <li>• Double bass</li> </ul>	<b>NECOM Head of Strings</b> Ms Joanna Fairs-Wu  Call NECOM on <b>(02) 67882135</b> or enrol here: <a href="https://necom.org.au/new-student/">https://necom.org.au/new-student/</a>
<b>Brass:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trumpet</li> <li>• Trombone</li> <li>• French horn</li> <li>• Euphonium</li> </ul>	<b>NECOM Head of Wind &amp; Brass</b> Mr Paul Marshall  Call NECOM on <b>(02) 67882135</b> or enrol here: <a href="https://necom.org.au/new-student/">https://necom.org.au/new-student/</a>
<b>Woodwind:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flute</li> <li>• Clarinet</li> <li>• Oboe</li> <li>• Bassoon</li> <li>• Saxophone</li> </ul>	<b>NECOM Head of Wind &amp; Brass</b> Mr Paul Marshall  Call NECOM on <b>(02) 67882135</b> or enrol here: <a href="https://necom.org.au/new-student/">https://necom.org.au/new-student/</a>
<b>Keyboard:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piano</li> <li>• Organ (<b>Not NECOM</b>)</li> </ul>	<b>NECOM Head of Keyboard</b> Sheila Guymer  Call NECOM on <b>(02) 67882135</b> or enrol here: <a href="https://necom.org.au/new-student/">https://necom.org.au/new-student/</a>  <b>Other</b> Mr Peter Sanders (piano & organ, limited availability - please contact directly) <a href="mailto:peter.sanders63@bigpond.com">peter.sanders63@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Voice</b>	<b>NECOM Head of Vocal</b> Sheila Guymer  Call NECOM on <b>(02) 67882135</b> or enrol here: <a href="https://necom.org.au/new-student/">https://necom.org.au/new-student/</a>  <b>Other</b> Ms Hester Wright (please contact directly) <a href="mailto:hesterwrightmusic@gmail.com">hesterwrightmusic@gmail.com</a>
<b>Contemporary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guitar</li> <li>• Bass</li> <li>• Drums</li> </ul>	<b>NECOM</b> Mr Jack Cavanagh  Call NECOM on <b>(02) 67882135</b> or enrol here: <a href="https://necom.org.au/new-student/">https://necom.org.au/new-student/</a>