

Classroom Music

Why do we include a Music Program in the school? Consider the following reasons:-

1. A Music Education program provides opportunities for emotional response and an aesthetic experience for its students. Often times, students will utilize music as an outlet for expression that is sometimes unavailable to them in other academic areas.
2. Mental capacity and intellect are stimulated through the exploration and creating of music. There is a connection between music and the development of mathematical thinking. Mathematical concepts are developed as children sing and memorise songs, explore patterns, sequence and musical notation.
3. Music Education instils "life values" in students. Some of these include; discipline, cooperation, social skills, and building good character. Knowledge of music technology, music history, music theory, and music culture reinforces knowledge in other academic subjects as well.
4. Development of creativity. Music can create an imaginary world that stimulates a child's creativity.
5. Music will often create a sense of school spirit, which will in turn provide the students with a sense of self-worth which will almost always reflect a positive attitude.

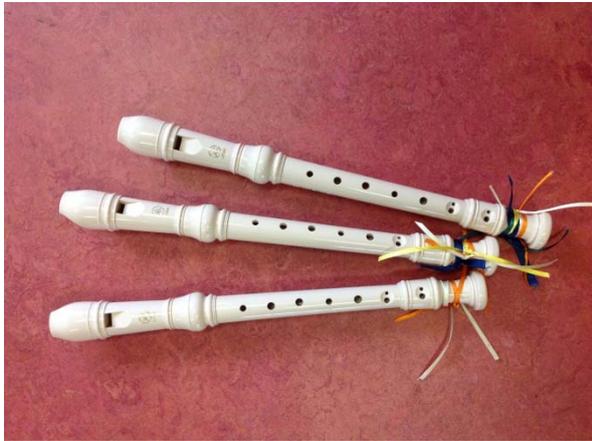


St Sebastian's Classroom music program is based on the 'My Mini Music Book' series. Here is the link - <http://www.myminimusicbooks.com.au/>

There is much singing in music lessons using the Kodaly method (<http://musiced.about.com/od/lessonplans/p/kodalymethod.htm>) which develops aural skills and intonation, i.e., the ability to stay in tune.

This is combined with the use of tuned and untuned percussion instruments, recorder, glockenspiel and ukulele playing.





The recorder is a very effective way for students to learn to read music. Perhaps this is why it has been used for so many years! Children are given a coloured ribbon to signify a 'belt' which indicates their level of competency, the ultimate goal being a 'black belt'!

Glockenspiels are also used to play simple melodies and this also stimulates the memory.



The ukuleles are used to accompany singing and add rhythmic interest to the music.

All the above skills are used to develop aural, memory, fine motor skills and co-ordination.

The Classroom music program also investigates music in different styles and eras, opening the ears of the students to a broader view of the music world.

There must be an element of 'fun' in the music classroom and this comes in the form of musical singing games, movement and music challenges!!



St Sebastian's Choir

Students in the upper grades attend choir rehearsal weekly in preparation for two big choral events – the Queensland Catholic Music Festival at Villanova College, and they participate in a mass choir event, the Catholic Primary Schools Choral Festival. These events occur in August and/or September each year.

Upper School Mini-Musical

Each year the students from the upper school also perform a Mini-Musical which incorporates all elements of the Arts – music, drama, dance, visual arts and media arts. This is presented to the whole school community and the students look forward eagerly to this annual event.