

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent."
– Victor Hugo

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without." –
Confucius

Last week, I had the absolute pleasure of taking twenty six remarkable little beings on a trip to Terranora, the Gold Coast and Dream World. It was, in many ways the culmination of an amazing year. I have been delighted with everything we have achieved this year. I would like to thank the staff of the school for their flexibility and support. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate your children. They have been a pleasure to work with.

It's all about the journey.

While the GPS Band has performed regularly this year, to me the emphasis is on the journey. We have an active Beginner Band of approximately twenty students. Many of them will be the basis of what should be a very successful 2013 Senior Band. I hope they have all enjoyed the journey as much as I have. We should start the year with a Senior Band of about forty five students. This year we started with nine so things are looking good.

Performances

This year our band has performed at school assemblies, Education Day Book Reading in the Park, the Frog Pond Opening at GPS, as part of the Senior Citizens mini tour to retirement villages in Grafton, the GPS School Fete, at Terranora and Dream World and our GPS Presentation Day 2012. We will be performing at a shopping centre concert and at our Infants Xmas Concert. Credit where credit is due The instrumental staff, from the Clarence Valley Conservatorium, have been great. Peter, Sharon, Kris and Jake have been fantastic. Garret Salter came on board late and has been a real asset. I have loved their enthusiasm and commitment. I could not ask for a better team.

Saying goodbye to a few

It is with a tinge of sadness that we farewell our Year 6 students. We are only losing a few. They have been terrific. I hope they have the opportunity to pursue music next year where ever they end up.

IN 2013

I am absolutely pumped. Terranora will be visiting us. If you have not heard our school choir, you should. It is amazing. There is talk of a tour and the choir are keen to join us if it can be arranged. I

have moments of madness. I have dreamt up a plan for a fundraiser that, if the logistics can be sorted will be an absolute ripper. I may need some help. Currently it is in 'Secret Squirrel' mode as it is an original idea that others would steal. I will keep you posted.

My thank you list

- I would like to publicly thank Mr Randall for his support and his ability to 'think outside the square'. He has given me unconditional support. (Principals like this are a rare breed indeed.)
- I would like to thank Mrs Robertson (the engine room of GPS). Her behind the scenes work has been amazing.

- I would like to again thank the GPS staff (what a team!). I would also like to acknowledge my trusty sidekicks Miss Rhonda, Miss Karen and Miss Selina who came on our trip away and were phenomenal.

- I would like to thank the delightful group of children that have been a pleasure to work with. Obviously they are well supported at home. Thank you. My mum and dad were not flushed with funds. They went without to ensure that all of their five children were given the gift of music. It is a gift that I have always treasured and one that I enjoy sharing. I guess it was a gift that keeps giving. It is a gift that you, in turn, are offering to your children.

I guess Plato said it all when he said,

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

Have a safe, enjoyable break. See you next year.

TIM KEOGH