



ROKEBY HIGH SCHOOL

We will achieve

Night of arts

ROKEBY High School presented an evening of Arts Celebration on October 23.

Parents, friends and members of neighbouring communities were invited.

The night turned out to be a great success with twice as many people as we expected.

More than 80 students were involved in the performances.

Among the entertainers was our senior rock band, Against the Odds.

Rock bands from different grades also performed alongside dance groups, concert bands, guitar ensembles and guitar soloists. There was also drama and a visual arts display.

The rock bands gained everyone's attention with their original music and covers from popular rock music.

Our dance group prompted people to tap their feet to the great rhythms. The dance group was choreographed to popular tunes like *Hey Mickey* by Bewitched.

The drama groups showed great skill with comedy and satire, presenting short plays, dialogues and monologues.

The acoustic guitar attracted a lot of attention with classic songs like Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven*.

The very expressive visual art display included paintings, drawings and collage.

With the great turnout, Rokeby High was able to show what we can do with the talent we have at our school.

We gave everyone a really fantastic night, leaving them with great memories.

Parents said they loved to watch their children performing to such a big crowd.

We hope to have another arts evening to again show our spectacular talents.

Rokeby excels musically

THE music department at Rokeby High School covers all areas of music and performance.

This year we have a class called Advanced Music Performance. This course involves all practical work, specialising in rock band presentation and composing of original material.

The most experienced senior rock band works towards competing in the annual TasMusic Rock Challenge.

This year Rokeby High's Against the Odds beat the odds — and five other bands — to win the high school section of the competition.

Against the Odds has been chosen to play at the big Gone South rock concert this year on the main stage. This is a very exciting opportunity for any band, especially a high school band.

Rokeby High also runs a general music course. This involves theory and practical work.

Two specialist tutors visit the school regularly to teach brass, woodwind, drums, bass and guitar. They assist the



AGAINST THE ODDS: Winners of this year's TasMusic Rock Challenge.

rock bands as well as the concert band.

The Rokeby Concert Band plays at school assemblies and community events.

On September 4 the concert

band participated in a combined schools concert at City Gate. Some of the pieces Rokeby played were *Sabre Dance* by Adam Khatcaturian, *A Billy Joel Portrait*

written by Billy Joel and arranged by Jay Bocook, *Jag by Bruce Broughton* and *Hymn for Band* by Hugh M. Stuart.

The following day the con-

INSET: Rokeby High Schools first (and hopefully not last) all-girl band, Side Shock.



cert band performed at the Howrah Sunshine Centre. The music was very well received and the members of the centre were kind enough to donate \$100 to the school's music department.

Working out own studies

ROKEBY High School is taking an innovative stance on learning thanks to their Negotiated Time class.

Students are using this relatively new class to learn from Web CT (virtual classrooms).

There are a variety of Web CT classrooms to choose from, ranging from Sports Science to Office Administration.

Students can also "negotiate" their time with the teacher to work on school assignments or on a school year book.

A variety of accredited



short courses can be awarded following this work.

Rokeby High is one of the few schools that successfully offers students a class to choose a subject not offered in the school's regular classroom environment.

NEGOTIATED ACTIVITIES: Students take advantage of online computer classrooms during a Negotiated Time class.

Learning essentials

ROKEBY High School is undertaking a new curriculum called the Essential Learnings. This curriculum involves five areas: thinking, communication, personal futures, social responsibility and work futures.

The Essential Learnings are designed to assist students with life after school.

The five elements help students to see the purposes of what they are learning.

To be able to adapt to new things as they arise and to be resilient throughout life, students need to develop skills in the areas of thinking, communication, investigation, deliberating, reflecting and making judgements.

Essential Learnings can help students understand what they are learning and how it might help through school and beyond.

A group of 11 grade eight students undertook a four-week program which involved solving problems by themselves.

The students would get together for three or four double periods a week to work on a general theme of inventions.

Students engaged in group discussion and worked on their own.

At the end of the four weeks, students completed a survey on how they thought the Essential Learnings program had helped them. The students all said it had

helped them to be more inquisitive in their learning and to ask more questions.

They also emphasised that they had developed a deep understanding of the issues they had been considering.

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