THE WAY

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LANGUAGE IN JUNIOR SCHOOL

In the Modern Languages classroom, learning a new language goes far beyond books. One of the most joyful and effective ways for students to engage with another language is through songs and dancing.

Songs help children remember new vocabulary and phrases using catchy tunes and repetition. When students sing, they are also practising pronunciation and rhythm, often without even realising it. Adding movement through dance makes learning even more powerful. Actions linked to words help children make connections and understand meaning more deeply.

In our recent lessons, students have learned traditional dances and sung along to cultural songs. These activities boost confidence, build teamwork, and create joyful memories that last well beyond the classroom.

Kindergarten students have been exploring the Dharug language by learning a song called Warami, Ngallowah, Mittigar. After learning the words and their meanings, the children created and played with a “chatterbox” filled with the Dharug lyrics, turning the song into a fun, hands-on game. This interactive activity not only helped them remember the words but also sparked meaningful conversations about respect, language, and connection to Country.

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Year 1 students have been discovering the vibrant culture of Spain, with a special focus on the traditional flamenco dance. They learned about the colourful costumes, passionate music, and expressive movements that make flamenco so unique. The children were excited to try out some simple flamenco steps, clapping rhythms and moving to the beat of the Spanish guitar.

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Year 2 students had a fantastic time learning body parts in Spanish through singing and dancing. Using a lively song called Tengo un cuerpo, they sang along while performing the matching actions. By moving their bodies and repeating the words through music, students built their confidence in speaking Spanish while having a great time with their classmates.

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Year 3 explored Colombian culture through the traditional cumbia dance. Students practised basic dance steps and deepened their cultural understanding by creating colourful cumbia dancer crafts to take home.

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Across all year levels, music and dance have become powerful tools for language learning. Through songs, movement, and creative activities, students are developing not only language skills but also a love for cultural diversity.

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