

way, for sure. I'm someone who isn't exactly confident, and I spend so much of my life just going, 'I don't know, I don't know.' But it even reached me, which is kinda crazy. I really appreciate my time here."

Some of the younger campers showed signs that music is going to be a lifelong choice. Take Kylie Lazzarino, for instance. She could be seen on one of the camp days walking around twirling her drumsticks even when she wasn't prepping to play.

Lazzarino, 11, has been playing drums for a year and was part of Sci-Fi. "Our band is awesome," she said. "Everybody is awesome. Obviously, it's normal to be nervous, but I'm also really excited."

Lazzarino said that it was great to experience band life and to also expand her own taste in music beyond rock and into genres like hip-hop and country during the drum lessons.

"I'm definitely going to keep playing," she said.

both part of the camp. Lovely is the frontperson for the youngest band, charmingly named The Shehuahuas.

Lovely and Francis' mother, Diana Sawyer, was front and center on the last day to see her daughters' work. Sawyer said that Lovely and Francis have been talking a lot about their experiences to her—and teaching her a thing or two about music.

"Lovely used words like, 'We did the hook today,' or 'We worked on the chorus,' all of this terminology about music," Sawyer said. "And I know nothing about music, so it's been great for me, too. They've been super excited about all of it, including the radio show and the other bands they met."

Sawyer shared that she was "concerned at first, not that they wouldn't fit in, but how content they would be here. Usually in a new environment, it takes them a long while to acclimate to what's happening and warm up to people. But from the very first day, they were very comfortable. I think that's because of all of the individuals

One band's name was Sorry I Forgot to Shave.



COURTESY/HOLLAND PROJECT

in the program, that they were all girls, and they were OK with that. It relaxed them."

Another young musician, Blue Boots drummer Ruby Nixon, was like Lovely Hunt in that she learned a completely new instrument for her performance. Her mother, Melissa Hafey, said that the goal was just to see if Ruby could find her own way in music with other girls in the same boat.

"It was not easy on the first day, or the weekend before, because she was really nervous to get started," Hafey said. "It was all new people, and she was doing something new and challenging in front of people she didn't know. But, she seems to be doing great now. She hung out with her bandmates

last night at Food Truck Fridays, and I think she's going to be sad that it's over at the end of the show tonight."

The parents of Sorry I Forgot to Shave singer Grace Smith said their daughter also wants to continue on with music, maybe even with the band that formed at GRR. Brett and Tracy Smith came down from Alpine Meadows to see their daughter's band close the show.

"She went last year to the Rain City Rock Camp for Girls in Seattle and had a fantastic experience there," Brett Smith said. "She was hoping to find something to do that was local so she could connect through the community throughout the year. She comes to shows at the Holland Project quite a bit."

Tracy said she's noticed a definite transformation in her daughter during the week of the camp.

"I've just seen a lot of confidence and her being comfortable with herself," Tracy said. "I don't know if you can even ask for more as a parent of a teenager, for them to be OK with who they are. It's been beautiful." □

TRANSFORMATIONS



The young drummer's bandmate, singer Francis Hunt, found out about GRR through a flier given out at the local Doral Academy. In fact, Francis and her sister, Lovely Hunt, are



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