

## Music Support Group meeting 21 February 2008 commenced 7.30pm

A different format from the usual meeting procedure was adopted for the first meeting of 2008, as I was keen to harness the energy of all the new and experienced parents. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting.

**1. Welcome new and experienced members:** Played a game of "human bingo" to raise energy levels, and for people to chat and get to know each other a little.

**2. Introduce and describe the purpose and functions of the MSG:** Parents who are interested in having their kids in music are the ones who are also interested in supporting in whatever ways they can in making the music programmes work well. The school, the students the teachers and other parents appreciate that. It was noted that we all lead very busy lives with work and family commitments so it's good to be able to spread the load.

Some projects or jobs we do are things that can be done at home at night, by email or phone, other things need a physical presence at the school. These are now on the website at [www.mlshspc.org.au/activities](http://www.mlshspc.org.au/activities):

- Concerts: (6 helpers per concert) Sell concert tickets and provide tea, coffee and milo for a gold coin donation. (The students especially enjoy the milo after their performance.)
- Scores: (3-4 people) Sort, stamp and catalogue all the music scores; maintain and update the catalogue as new works are purchased.
- Venue: (5-6 working party) Focus on assessing needs and finding solutions for growth of Music Dept - soundproof practice studios, classrooms and adequate performance spaces.
- Communication: (5-6 working party) Gather as many email addresses as possible for use by Music staff to advise students of rehearsal and performance times, venues etc.
- Art Auction: (3 core working party, 10-20 extra helpers on the day & night) A major fundraiser and community event held each year in June. A core group of MSG and SVAPA parents form a working committee, and enlist the help of many more parents and students on the day and evening of the event.

**3. Commitment:** Parents were asked to volunteer for at least one of these activities. Lists will be circulated shortly to each person who has committed to one or more of the groups listed above. (Art Auction volunteers have already been contacted.) If you find you are unable to attend, please find another person to take your place, and let the other members of that group know of the switch.

**4. Report from Shaun Molewyk, Head of Music:**

- explanation about ensembles, bands, performances;
- communication is strongly encouraged between parents and teachers;
- process of instrument allocation for Year 8s;
- hire and insurance of instruments;
- instrumental lessons and rotating timetable so not too many lessons of other subjects are missed;
- China Tour 5-25 April;
- school camp now 16-18 May (to be confirmed) and
- first concert 28 May (to be confirmed.)

**5. General Fundraising** – update on \$25 voluntary contribution.

Shaun Molewyk and I met with Milton Butcher on Thursday 14 Feb to discuss the fact that the \$25 voluntary music contribution and the Music Department's \$25 fee to cover its costs were not on our invoices from the school.

Milton explained that there are technical difficulties in putting on the voluntary contribution. The upper part of the invoice is generated from the timetable for that child. The lower part, where the voluntary contributions are listed, is a whole school generic list and cannot differentiate between music and other kids, so it is either listed for all or none. As we are all aware, it was none in 2007 and 2008.

In future (for 2009), a separate invoice for music students will be issued with the normal invoice. Milton has talked to Christine Richardson, chair of the School Council, about starting this process in May 2008 for 2009. I will put in a submission to the school council to get that \$25 happening for the 2009 school year. School Council ratifies the request, then the process to actually organise and produce the invoice and match it all up in the school's computer system starts. It all has to be in place by early November 2008 to go out to parents a good two months before school starts.

For 2008, Milton is prepared to issue an invoice anyway. Because of the shortage of staff this won't happen until the middle of March or so. I have emailed Milton a copy of the "Please explain" flyer to go with it.

### **6. Next meeting**

Thursday 8 May 7.30pm Music building

**7. Meeting closed** at 8.30pm

### **Report not tabled at this meeting:**

#### ***Treasurer's report***

The committee raised funds (mainly from the 2007 Community Art Auction: \$8417 and from other fundraisers over 2006-7: approx \$5000) to:

- Sponsor the Singapore/Malaysia Tour and commit funds to assist with the 2008 China Tour
- Purchase a Casio Piano
- Purchase assorted musical instruments
- Replace timpani
- Purchase microphones, leads and stands
- Provide hot drinks at all concerts throughout the year

#### ***Apologies***

Milton Butcher, Cindy Spight, Jo Penkin, Jo Parker, Joanna Milligan, Nina Jones, De-Ann Raphael, Sue Mulholland, David Gibbons, Jocelyn Edmonds

#### ***Committee***

Committee members are those as listed in the minutes of the AGM of Sept 2007 apart from David Hawkes as his daughter is no longer part of the music programme.

Penny Scott  
Convenor  
26 Feb 2008