

Dear Parents/Guardians

3 February 2009



In 2009 the band program will be run by the Upper Hunter Conservatorium instead of the school. This change has been brought about because of staffing changes at our school this year. This means that the Conservatorium will be running the band program with the schools support. The main Concert and Training Band practices will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm-3pm. The Concert band will begin their practices this week with the training band starting later this term. (You will be informed when this will happen.) The Concert Band will be conducted by Robert Thompson, while the Training Band will be conducted from the beginning of Term2 by Rowan. Both bands will also rehearse at recess on another day with members of our staff taking them. The day of the week is yet to be decided and will depend upon staff availability and the schools organisation. Fiona Moon will conduct the Concert Band and Suzy Heagney the Training Band on these days. Katrina Hackett will be the School Coordinator of the band program.

The Conservatorium will charge \$35 a term payable to the Conservatorium at the beginning of each term. This fee covers the cost for a qualified conductor for one hour weekly tuition, practice copies and access to Conservatorium resources. There is also a \$12 annual registration fee payable to the Conservatorium unless already registered. The school will not be charging any fees and the fee for the hire uniforms will need to be decided upon at our first band committee meeting on Wednesday 25th February 6-7pm in The Parsonage.

The Band Committees focus for 2009 will primarily involve fundraising and organisation.

This band program is similar to those run in many schools through-out the Hunter Valley. It is very exciting for us to be involved in this band initiative.

There will be a band camp during the Easter break for all Upper Hunter Conservatorium students. It is to be held here at Singleton Public School. Information will come out about this shortly-keep your eye out for this as you will need to get your application in quickly to secure a place for your child, as numbers are limited!

Music Lessons are still required to be in the band and are available through the Conservatorium. The school is not involved in the individual lessons, this is an arrangement between yourself and the Conservatorium.

Robert will meet the band on Wednesday 4th February at 2pm in the hall ready for the first rehearsal. All the information from the Conservatorium will be handed out then. Robert has new pieces for the band that are fun, challenging and entertaining. Student who were in Training Band last year may attend Concert Band practices over the next few weeks where they will be assessed if they are ready for Concert Band or need to further develop their skills in Training Band.

We look forward to an exciting, music filled year of band in 2009.

Katrina Hackett
Fiona Moon
Suzy Heagney

Lynne Montgomery
Principal