Marching Band

The Pembroke Marching Band was expecting a busy start to 2012 with a new Music Director and a number of new students. We were booked to play in the Adelaide Festival Fringe Parade, until they had a change of direction and we found that our services were not required this year.

Our pending gig is probably the biggest one of the year as we prepare to represent Pembroke School in the Adelaide Anzac Day Street Parade on 25 April. As we are one of very few school Marching Bands, it is a great honour for us to be able to represent the School and pay our respects to the returned service men and women who march and/or are remembered on this very special day.

Giving due respect to the fallen, as well as to the service men and women of Australia, is an onerous responsibility, one that we have not taken lightly. We have been fortunate to have had some specific coaching in marching and the required etiquette from Mr Jeff Hale. Jeff is the current Australian Champion Drum Major and leads the Unley Concert Band in parades on a regular basis. He has assisted us in improving our marching and drill work so that we look ‘very sharp’.

Georgia Symonds is our Drum Major and I know that she has particularly enjoyed the expert advice and tutelage that has been made available to us in this area.

Marching bands are a unique breed in that they give their time to add a dimension to a widely variable range of community events. While the Anzac Parade is a very important and significant event, others are more joyous and relaxed, such as the Christmas pageants that we will march in later in the year. The weather in Adelaide can be unpredictable, so the development of suitable uniforms is important. We are currently investigating extending our uniform to include a Band hat, to offer suitable sun protection and look appropriate as a piece of our uniform.

When you are at home watching the Anzac Parade on television on 25 April, look out for the Pembroke Marching Band as they represent our School and show that we care and respect the legacy of our returned service men and women.

Mr Pope
Director of Music