

For Immediate Release
January 10, 2007

For more information contact
Monica Kraft or Anne Riley
(510) 668-6077
e-mail: info@msjpups.org
websites: www.msjhs.org
www.msjpups.org

Fremont Band Traveling to Australia's Gold Rush Town

Mission San Jose High School's (MSJHS) Marching Band and Orchestra received the honor of an invitation to Australia's longest continuous running festival in April. Sought out by the Bendigo Easter Festival, the MSJHS band was just what they were looking for – a community that had gone through a Gold Rush which had attracted and retained Chinese immigrants as well as being a quality band with international credentials from prior performances in Spain, Scotland, Holland, England, and France.

Similarities between Bendigo and Fremont are striking. Bendigo experienced a Gold Rush, possibly bigger than California's. In 1851, Bendigo was an outpost to the gold fields. During California's Gold Rush in 1849, Mission San Jose was an agricultural center and the Mission buildings became the hotel, general store, and post office.

The Chinese heritage is an integral part of Bendigo. Just as in Fremont, the Bendigo Chinese community, drawn by the Gold Rush, has influenced their communities. Bendigo also has the world's oldest Imperial dragon, Sun Loong, on display in their Golden Dragon Museum, when it's not being used in parades!

To provide scholarships for this prestigious trip, MSJHS's Performing Arts Department and Parents of Universal Performers invite the public to their 12th annual Jazz Dinner and Dance fundraiser, *Sunset Over Paradise*, at the Marriott Hotel Grand

Ballroom in Fremont on Friday, February 9th, 2007, from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. *Sunset Over Paradise* will feature MSJHS's acclaimed Jazz Band performing toe-tapping jazz and swing music under a Caribbean sky. The evening includes a delectable three-course dinner, silent auctions, and raffles for a variety of valuable gift baskets. Tickets are a bargain at \$55 per person for live entertainment and fine dining. Semi-formal attire is requested and proceeds from ticket sales and auctions will support Performing Arts students. Donations, advertising, and sponsorships, are also greatly appreciated!

Please call (510) 668-6075 or visit the web at www.msjpups.org for tickets and information.

Mission San Jose High School's Performing Arts Department includes award-winning instrumental music, vocal music, and theater programs. The Parents of Universal Performers Foundation (PUPs) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating, fostering, and encouraging the Performing Arts at MSJHS.

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