Year Level Singing Program

Benefits of large group singing:

- Gives students another opportunity to ‘speak’ the language of music during the week
- Establishes a culture of singing in your school community
- Enables music staff to team teach, share their strategies and ideas and to ensure all staff are on the same page with expectations, methodology approach and continuity of performance repertoire for School assemblies and special events.
- Gives the homeroom staff an opportunity in the school timetable to meet collegially. This is a carrot for school leadership to support you in leading such a program. But, it must be a side benefit, NOT the main aim as you will need to enlist staff at certain times so they can assist in management of large groups for musicals and end of year events etc.

Strategies:

1. Sit in chairs for Years 3 up
    - Chairs set up in House groups with space between each house and enough room ideally between each row for supervising teachers to walk through.
    - Chairs in lines of 10 with ‘man overboard’ chair at end of each row for students who needed to consider their behaviour.

2. Posture – Position 1 – heels on the floor, back off the chairs
    - Position 2 – relaxing

3. Song words on the screen

4. **4 Step Approach**

    This is the key to the success of the program. It enables students to learn more complex songs phrase, by phrase.

Teacher uses fingers to show which step they are up to:

1. T sings – Stu listen
2. T sings – Stu mouth the words
3. T sings – Stu mouth the words & show the melodic contour.
4. Students Sing as Teacher listens (doesn’t sing with students)

determining whether students have successfully ‘caught’ the phrase. If errors, then T sings again while asking students to show their learning in some way.

5. Less talk from the Teacher – start stretching from the start as students enter

6. Use of Formative Assessment
    - Show your learning by all showing answers to questions
        - Either/Or
        - Number of phrases, sounds on a beat, number of times a word appears in the phrase/song

7. Listening and Questioning. Students could:
    - derive metre
    - conduct
    - answer questions
    - perform a body percussion