

## TERM 2 2016

### From the Principal: Lia Tedesco

Term 1 commenced well, with 1877 enrolments at this point in time.

We have enrolled 121 international students, 113 students into the International Baccalaureate Diploma level, 25 home schooled students, and 794 students at primary level. Languages with most enrolments are French (263), Italian (218), Chinese (199), Spanish (190), Japanese (163), Khmer (128), Persian (103) and Korean (102).

Professor Rachel Nordlinger, from the University of Melbourne, recently wrote a compelling article about the value and importance of multilingualism in *The Conversation* (1<sup>st</sup> March 2016). Following please find an excerpt:

*“Why are Australians so resistant to embracing multilingualism, especially when it comes to our nation’s Indigenous languages? Why can we not see the value of our nation’s linguistic heritage, and the wealth that languages bring?”*

*Language is central to what it means to be human. Each individual language reflects another way of talking about the world, another framework for solving communicative problems, another example of the cognitive capabilities of our species. Each language is also a repository of accumulated knowledge about the world; knowledge that is lost when languages are no longer spoken.*

*However, some stark facts illustrate quickly how fragile our linguistic diversity is: 96% of the world’s languages are spoken by only 4% of the world’s population. The dire predictions are that half of the world’s 7000 languages will have disappeared by the end of this century – a rate of more than 40 languages lost per year. The Asia-Pacific region is home to half of the world’s languages, 250 indigenous to our own country. All our Indigenous languages are endangered.*

*Some believe that language diversity is problematic, and that speaking one language produces harmony and unity. Interestingly, however, those who express this view seem to assume that it should be their language, English, that is chosen for this purpose.....*

*The majority of people in the world are multilingual. Mainstream Australia, however, is fiercely monolingual....*

*The majority of people across the world speak at least two languages. Australia is proud of its multiculturalism. It’s time for us to catch up with the rest of the world and embrace multilingualism as well.”*

### Linguistics Research Colloquium

The University of Adelaide is hosting a Linguistics Research Colloquium over the course of this year. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge for attendance, and RSVP is not required. Sessions are all at 3:00pm at the Napier Building, Room 209, University of Adelaide. Term 2 sessions of interest are as follows:

- 4<sup>th</sup> May: Dr Rob Amery, University of Adelaide: *The Kurna Dictionary Project*
- 25<sup>th</sup> May: Professor Nick Evans, Australian National University (ANU): *Multilingualism as the Primal Human Condition*

### Public Seminar

Professor Nick Evans will also be our guest speaker at our Public Seminar to be held on the evening of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, at the Education Development Centre, Milner St, Hindmarsh, at 6:30pm. You are all welcome! RSVP is not required, and the event is free.

Professor Evans is an ARC Laureate Fellow at the Australian National University, and the Director of the ANU ARC Centre of Excellence for Languages.

### **Study Tours!**

Nothing improves language skills like being in the country and speaking to the locals!

We are excited to inform you that the preparation for our French Study Tour and our Italian Study Tour, both taking place at the end of Term 1 2017 (7th - 28th of April) is well underway.

### **Study Tour to Spain**

Our study tour to Spain departs on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April, with 27 students and 5 teachers! They are spending a week in Salamanca, a week in Seville and a week in Granada, attending language lessons each morning and undertaking cultural activities each afternoon. No doubt they will return with greatly enhanced linguistic skills!

### **Study Tour to France**

As part of this tour students will be undertaking an intensive French language course in the beautiful medieval city of Rouen; and they will also be visiting many important historical sites such as Mont St Michel, the Bayeux Tapestry, the Somme Battlefields and of course the iconic landmarks of Paris. Students will be particularly privileged to be in France for Anzac Day when they will attend the Dawn Service at the Australian War Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux. The study tour is open to students of French who will be in years 10, 11 or 12 in 2017. The first information session was held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, but if you missed it, we will be conducting a second session on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the School of Languages. Please contact Shontelle Stanyer on 83014807 or at [shontelle.stanyer341@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:shontelle.stanyer341@schools.sa.edu.au) to register your interest or for more information.

### **Study Tour to Italy**

This Study Tour will be based in Verona, the beautiful city of Romeo and Juliet. Students will have the opportunity to attend a language school each morning, visit the city and surrounds each afternoon, and also meet students from our sister school in Verona. We have also included excursions to the magnificent Renaissance city of Florence, the canals of Venice, Assisi and the Vatican Museums in Rome. Students of Italian in Years 10, 11 or 12 in 2017 will be able to take part. We will hold our first information session on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm at the School of Languages, 255 Torrens Road, West Croydon. Please register your interest by contacting Ivana Quadrelli at [Ivana.Quadrelli324@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Ivana.Quadrelli324@schools.sa.edu.au).

### **Languages Alive!**

During the October school holidays, the School of Languages will be holding our inaugural Languages Alive! event, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. This exciting initiative will give primary aged students the opportunity to try out up to four different languages for a day and be exposed to a variety of stimulating cultural activities. Students may choose to attend one day only (\$25), or attend on both days (\$40). Further information will be available in the coming months – watch this space! We encourage you to spread the word about this event!

### **Learn the Kurna language!**

For those of you who wish to learn Kurna, the traditional Language of the Adelaide Plains, you may be interested in the following websites developed through the Linguistics Department of the University of Adelaide:

- Kurna Language Learning Series: <http://bit.ly/kurna>
- Kurna for Kids: <http://bit.ly/kurna2>

### **Lions Clubs International**

The Lions Youth Exchange Program provides youth aged 16 – 21 the opportunity to live overseas during their end of year holidays. The program enables students to immerse themselves in a new culture, enjoy sightseeing and practise their language skills. Applications close 30 June 2016. For further information email: [l.hemsworth@bigpond.com](mailto:l.hemsworth@bigpond.com) or visit [www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye)

The Lions Leo Club is open to 12 – 30 year olds, and focuses on the development of leadership skills, teamwork and community service. For further information:

[www.lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/leos](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/activities/youth/leos)

### **Student Achievement Term 1**

Reports for the first term will be mailed out during the school holidays. Please read the reports carefully and do not hesitate to contact the teacher if you have any questions or you would like more information about any aspect of the report.

### **Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews**

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews will be held in week 3 of term 2 (16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May). These interviews provide a valuable opportunity for a two way conversation between parents/caregivers and teachers to discuss student progress and to explore ways of helping them to achieve success in their

language studies. The letters of invitation will be mailed home with reports. If you are unable to attend the interview, please note that our teachers can be contacted by ringing our office on 8301 4800 or by e-mail (the email address appears on the weekly Teaching and Learning Plan that your students are given each lesson).

To make the most of these interviews it is suggested that:

- you plan specific questions you wish to ask
- you identify and communicate factors teachers need to be aware of in relation to your child's learning
- students also attend.

After the interview, it is important that parents follow up with their children on matters discussed at the meeting, by:

- acknowledging strengths
- discussing areas where improvements can be made
- encouraging your child to take responsibility for their own learning.

### **Year 12 Vacation School**

We are once again pleased to be able to offer this exciting opportunity for year 12 languages students.

#### Location

School of Languages, 255 Torrens Rd; West Croydon

#### Date and Time

Wednesday, 13th July, 8:30 am to 4:00pm

#### Languages

Stage 2 Continuers level: Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish.

#### Program

- A focus on the SACE curriculum statement and preparation for the year 12 exam
- Opportunities for oral exam practice in the target language.

#### Contact

- Registration forms will be sent to schools during Term 2. They will also be available on our school web site at: [www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au](http://www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au)
- For further information about this program please contact Thorl Chea : [Thorl.Chea707@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Thorl.Chea707@schools.sa.edu.au)

### **Staff News**

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed the following staff to the school:

- Daniel Mecklin – Indonesian
- Yox Ortiz Matos - Italian

- Bhola Dhamala – Nepali
- Thai Minh Dang - Vietnamese

And we have farewelled the following teachers:

- Jinap Ato – Indonesian
- Stefanie Angelini - Italian
- Lucy Im - Korean

We are also pleased to welcome the following student teachers from the University of Adelaide in Term 2:

- Jiyun Gao – Chinese and Japanese
- Katelyn Schulz – French.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Our Student Code of Conduct makes very clear our expectations of students and the consequences that will follow when these expectations are not met. The Code emphasises that students are responsible for their own behaviour and that all behaviours, positive and negative, are a choice and lead to consequences. It is underpinned by the assumption that teachers have the right to teach and students the right to learn in an environment that is safe and free of harassment and discrimination.

The management of student behaviour is a responsibility shared by the School of Languages, parents, students' day schools and of course the students themselves. Parents can expect that lateness, absence, disruptive classroom behaviour, or failure to complete work on time will be followed up by teachers or coordinators at the School of Languages. Please note that the student Code of Conduct, our Attendance Policy, Cyber Safety Policy and Drug Policy are on our school website: [www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au](http://www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au)

### **School Council**

The School Council AGM was held on Tuesday 15th March. I am pleased to introduce Council members and Office Bearers for this year:

Dr Kate Cameron	<i>Chair; Parent representative: Italian</i>
Olga Kostic	<i>Treasurer; Parent representative: Italian</i>
Dr Michelle Kohler	<i>Secretary; Parent representative: Italian</i>
Craig Bowyer	<i>Chair: Public Relations Committee; Parent representative: Italian</i>
Andrew Scrimgeour	<i>Modern Languages Teachers Association representative</i>
TBA	<i>Multicultural Education and</i>

	<i>Languages Committee representative</i>
Kathryn Sergeant	<i>Parent representative: French, Indonesian, Italian, Spanish</i>
Gupta Rakesh	<i>Parent representative: Hindi</i>
Thori Chea	<i>Parent representative: Khmer</i>
Ivana Quadrelli	<i>Staff Representative</i>
Lia Tedesco	<i>Principal</i>

There is still one parent representative and one student representative vacancy. Please contact Lia Tedesco if you are interested.

At the AGM, we heard Associate Professor Angela Scarino tell us about the newly established Ministerial Committee for Multiculturalism and Languages Education. This committee has inter-sectoral and community membership, and provides advice to the Minister for Education and Child Development on multicultural education, languages and the internationalisation of education.

Its Terms of Reference include:

- Promoting the teaching of languages in South Australian early childhood services and schools from early childhood through to the completion of Year 12 schooling, with a view to engaging all South Australian children and young people with languages other than English;
- Supporting the preservation of languages and cultures, as expressed in the S.A. ethnic schools system and in other community activities that promote the preservation of languages and cultural diversity;
- Encouraging the internationalisation of teaching and learning in South Australia, by:
  - setting out an international context and vision for South Australian early childhood services and schools
  - encouraging the growth of international perspectives in government and non-government education and early childhood systems, and
  - building stronger relationships with other countries through cultural and student exchanges.

In undertaking this work the Committee will form partnerships with educators, education systems and authorities, early childhood services, schools,

tertiary institutions and non-government organisations in South Australia, nationally and internationally; and engage with students, families and the wider South Australian community.

## Key Dates Term 2

<p><b>Week 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b> - first day of term</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 3:00pm</b> – Research Colloquium at Room 209, Napier Building, University of Adelaide: Dr Rob Amery, <i>The Kurna Dictionary Project</i></li> <li>• <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 6:00pm</b> – French and Italian Study Tours Information meetings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Caregiver/Student/Teacher interviews</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm</b> – School Council meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 3:00pm:</b> - Research Colloquium at Room 209, Napier Building, University of Adelaide: Professor Nick Evans, <i>Multilingualism as the Primal Human Condition</i></li> <li>• <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 6:30pm</b> – Public Seminar at the Education Development Centre at Milner St Hindmarsh. Professor Nick Evans, <i>Unspoken, Unheard: when our languages go, what do we lose with them?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b> – Public Holiday - All classes cancelled</li> <li>• End of Semester 1</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semester 2 begins</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 7pm</b> – School Council meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 12 midyear written examinations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 12 midyear oral examinations</li> <li>• <b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b> - last day of term</li> </ul>
<p><b>School holidays: 11<sup>th</sup> July – 24<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term 2 reports distributed</li> <li>• Term 3 newsletter distributed</li> <li>• Year 12 Vacation School – <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b></li> </ul>