

TERM 2, 2020

From the Principal: Lia Tedesco

Term 1 commenced well, with more than 2000 enrolments at this point in time – higher than in 2019, which was already a record!

Languages with the most enrolments this year are Chinese (285), Spanish (267), French (241), Japanese (169), Italian (162), Khmer (145), Nepali (136), Vietnamese (126) and Korean (118).

This year we are pleased to have established a number of new programs and new Teaching Centres:

- Chinese at Pilgrim School, Aberfoyle Hub
- Chinese at St John's Grammar, Belair
- Nepali at Northern Adelaide Secondary College
- Nepali and Vietnamese at Parafield Gardens High School
- We have added Persian to our offerings at Paralowie R – 12 School
- We have introduced a new SACE French for Industry course at our Torrens Road site.

Important Covid-19 information

As the situation in regard to COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Department for Education continues planning and operating in accordance with advice from SA Health to support the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and the broader community.

Regular updates from the Department will be posted on the School of Languages website as they are made available. To date, there have been no Covid-19 cases reported that have affected our students or staff.

At the School of Languages, most classes are continuing until such a time as schools are closed or you are advised otherwise.

We have, however, **cancelled or changed** a number of school events, including:

- Our four **April study tours** to Italy, Japan, New Caledonia and Spain are postponed. Parents and students have been informed. We are still obtaining information from our travel providers regarding refunds and postponements. We ask parents and students involved in these tours to please be patient. As soon as we have definite answers we will let you know.
- Our **April school holiday programs** of Languages Alive! and Let's Talk! Have been cancelled. Parents who have made bookings through Ticketebo have been notified and will be reimbursed. Further information will become available in due course regarding the availability of these programs in the July school holidays.
- Our **Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews**, which are usually held in Week 3 of Term 2 (11 - 16 May), are now cancelled. These interviews provide a valuable opportunity for a three way conversation between parents/caregivers, students and teachers to discuss student progress and to explore ways of helping them to achieve success in their language studies. In their place, we encourage you to contact your child's teacher via Edmodo or email to organise a

telephone interview. The teacher's email address is available on the Lesson Plan, which is available each week. Or you can contact the school on 8301 4800, to leave a message that you wish to talk to your child's teacher.

- The **School Council AGM** will be held on Tuesday 24th March, via skype, instead of our school Conference Room. If you wish to participate, please email Lia.Tedesco771@schools.sa.edu.au for the instructions to join.
- **End of Term 1 reports** are usually emailed to parents and mailed to home schools during the school holidays. Should there be a school shutdown it may not be possible to distribute these until a later date.

Please also familiarise yourselves with and follow the advice outlined below.

Current advice on self-isolation and staying at home

In-line with Commonwealth advice, you are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days if:

- you have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- you have had close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- you have arrived from overseas travel from any country (as of midnight Sunday 15 March 2020).
- Please inform us as a matter of urgency if any of these apply to you or your student

Stay home if you are sick

It is important that any staff or students who are unwell stay at home and recover to avoid the spread of winter illnesses (not just COVID-19).

Please be aware that:

- if a student becomes unwell with flu-like symptoms while in our care, their parents/carers will be contacted immediately, and infection control practices enacted

- any staff who are unwell will be sent home and will be advised to see a medical practitioner as soon as possible to seek advice on the period of absence.

Cleaning

Cleaning services are being increased at all Department children's centres, preschools, schools and offices. This will include more regular and thorough cleaning of door handles, lift buttons, and wiping down common areas such as meeting room tables and administration areas (reception desks).

Hygiene Products and Supplies

The Department has placed a large order of supplies, and will advise us when these become available.

Hygiene standards

Personal hygiene and the hygiene standards in our schools are critical to reducing the risk of infection.

All children and staff are encouraged to:

- wash their hands regularly, particularly after using the toilet and before eating
- avoid spreading infections to others by staying home if they are unwell
- cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue.

Resources and posters are available from [SA Health](#).

Social distancing

As a precautionary measure, all schools are adopting practical social distancing measures, including cancelling or postponing events.

Contact details

It is vital that we have the ability to contact all parents/carers at short notice, ideally via email or mobile. Please ensure that you advise us immediately of any changes to your contact details.

In the event of school closure

Learning activities will be provided, through Edmodo, for students to undertake during any

period when the school may need to be closed. Parental supervision of this work is encouraged. Teachers will be contactable through Edmodo and their email address.

More information

As we all know, things are moving quickly. The department is working closely with SA Health to ensure we have access to the latest advice on how to keep our staff, our students and community safe.

If you have any questions you can call the government's coronavirus health information line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Term 2 class relocations

Tuesday 5th May: All AHS classes relocated to the School of Languages.

Staff News

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

- Arabic: Neven Daoud will be replacing Salwa Tawadrous while she is on sick leave during Term 2
- Chinese: Wendy Deng
- Dinka: Peter Dau
- Indonesian: Lyndall Chittleborough
- Italian: Marta Markowska
- French: Elisabeth Entraigues is replacing Catherine Skene while she is on Long Service Leave.

The following preservice teachers from the University of Adelaide will be joining us in Term 2:

- Chinese and Japanese: Chenming Kang
- Spanish: Emily Cowgill

Andrea Corston, Co-ordinator: Asian Languages and Marketing and Promotions has been seconded to the Education Department for the rest of the year. Lucia Gentilcore is now working in that role.

Congratulations!

Congratulations are due to one of our 2019 students, Hagen Steiner, who achieved the highest result for IB German HL. Hagen was awarded the 2019 Gebrueder Grimm Prize from the South Australian German Teachers Association.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, a number of our 2019 SACE Stage 2 students were awarded merits for outstanding achievement in their language studies. One of these students was Mai Nguyen, who achieved a merit in Vietnamese Continuers, and tells us below about her Vietnamese language learning journey, and the impact this has had on her world view.

My family and I come from Vietnam. We moved to Australia when I was 5, so I can't say I remember much about my childhood there. However, growing up in a foreign country, it was almost too easy to slip into another skin, another way of life - the use of my mother tongue dwindled day by day, and I even began to prefer foods such as pizza over rice. How shocking! That aside, it was immensely important to be living in a country where I was provided with the opportunity and support to learn Vietnamese.

In primary school, I began studying Vietnamese at an Ethnic School, and eventually moved to the School of Languages during my secondary education. Through these experiences, I have been able to salvage a core part of me that indisputably defines who I am. I have been able to develop a deeper understanding of my own native tongue, and the culture central to Vietnam. I have gained an entirely new perspective of the world, and learnt how to become an open-minded, understanding and respectful global citizen. I have met and become lifelong friends with exceptional individuals of diverse backgrounds and nationalities. Most importantly, I have been able to cultivate a strong sense of self, and can now confidently take pride in my cultural identity as a Vietnamese-Australian.

Learning Vietnamese has had a significant impact on my daily life. Being able to communicate in another language has helped me gain an

appreciation for the traditions, religions, arts and history of Vietnam. By learning Vietnamese, I am not only more conscious of my grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, but of the cultural customs and ways of life for the Vietnamese people. It's as simple as helping my mum prepare exotic meals passed down from my great-grandma, or singing along to the words of my favourite V-pop song. I now have a stronger connection with the culture and geography of my country, and through it, have also gained the opportunity to improve my listening, reading and writing skills in Vietnamese. One real-life, practical example is Skyping with my grandparents - their English barely surpasses the few basic greetings, so it is particularly beneficial to be able to coherently converse with them in Vietnamese, asking them how their day has been, whether their health is well, etc.

Recognising the cultural foundations for my own attitudes and behaviour helped me become more empathetic of others' backgrounds, and has been a fantastic, eye-opening experience when interacting with other people in my day-to-day life.

I believe there are countless benefits of learning an additional language, both for development of the self and for potential future prospects. The ability to communicate in multiple languages is becoming increasingly more valued in a world where global enterprises are taking charge. It is therefore much easier to build a lasting, stable relationship with clients and companies when the challenge of a language barrier does not exist. Furthermore, in fields such as health and medicine, doctors and medical professionals who can communicate with their patients in their native tongue are much more likely to have success in diagnosing them and finding a suitable treatment. Scientists and engineers capable of explaining their ideas and findings in multiple languages will be able to increase the quality and accessibility of their work. For students interested in moving overseas, learning a second language also opens additional doors to opportunities for studying or working abroad.

Language is a way of expressing our feelings, thoughts and desires to the world around us. As

such, I would like to sincerely thank my parents, and my teacher Mrs. Ngo for supporting me throughout this journey, and for providing me with the opportunity to express myself through the Vietnamese language.

I believe that to learn an additional language is an invaluable experience which enables us to truly understand one another and form lasting bonds throughout our lives.

Careers Forum: Languages for a Global Job Market

On Thursday 25th June 2020 the School of Languages will be holding a **Careers Forum: Languages for a Global Job Market** for parents and students. Research confirms that in a highly connected and globalised world, learning a language and developing intercultural understandings enhances employment and career opportunities. The aim of this forum is to showcase, through a panel of invited speakers that many employers including Australian Government agencies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) seek language capabilities when recruiting staff. It will also highlight that being able to speak a language develops students' critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills which are highly sought by many employers. Speakers will include:

- Sean Keenihan, prominent SA lawyer and Chair of the South Australian Tourism Commission for 4 years
- Elizabeth Day, SA Director, DFAT with vast experience as Political Counsellor for the Australian Embassy
- Olga Kostic, current SA Business Manager, Easy Skills, with extensive experience as a Senior International Executive and board member of the Minister's Multicultural Education and Languages Committee (MELC)

WHEN? Thursday 25th June 2020 from 5.30-6.45pm

WHERE? Education Development Centre, 4 Milner St, Hindmarsh, Room G11A

HOW MUCH? FREE, registrations will open this term through the Ticketebo website

SAVE THE DATE!

Year 12 Vacation School

Preparation is well underway for the annual *School of Languages Vacation School* for Stage 2 languages students and teachers. These SACE exam preparation workshops will be available for Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish at Stage 2 Continuers Level.

Promotional flyers have been distributed to all South Australian schools with Stage 2 language enrolments, encouraging them to save the date for these popular workshops, which have a focus on exam preparation; conversation and discussion, reading and responding, listening and responding, and writing in the target language. Highly experienced teachers provide students opportunities to discuss language structures suitable for each section of the exam, marking criteria, past examiners' reports, and teacher advice.

Vacation School will run on **Wednesday 8th July 2020** from **9.00am to 3.30pm** at the **School of Languages**. In addition, this year we will be inviting students and their families to stay on from 3.45-4.30pm for an information session on *Languages pathways at university* presented by university lecturers.

Registrations for both events will open in Term 2 so make sure you save the date!

Key Dates Term 2

Term Two begins week beginning Monday 27th April

Week 2

Tuesday 5th May:

All AHS classes relocated to the School of Languages

Week 3

Parent/Caregiver/Student/Teacher interviews; please make an appointment for a telephone interview with your teacher via email.

Week 5

Tuesday 26th May, 7:00pm:

School Council meeting

Week 7

Monday 8th June:

Public Holiday - All classes cancelled

End of Semester 1

Week 8

Semester 2 begins

Week 9

Year 12 midyear written examinations

Thursday 25th June, 5.30-6.45pm:

Careers Forum at the Education Development Centre, Milner St, Hindmarsh

Week 10

Year 12 midyear oral examinations

Tuesday 30th June, 7:00pm:

School Council meeting

Saturday 4th July:

Last day of Term Two

TERM 2 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

5th July – 19th July

Term 2 reports emailed

Term 3 newsletter distributed

Wednesday 8th July:

Year 12 Vacation School

Let's Talk! and Languages Alive!

(dates to be announced)