

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Lia Tedesco**

2020 has been an exceptional year for the School of Languages, thanks to the dedication and commitment of the staff and Council members.

We look forward to 2021, when we will be introducing a number of new programs and teaching centres:

- Auslan: Year 8 and Adult Beginners, at Nuriootpa High School
- Auslan: R-7, Year 8 and Adult Beginners, at Torrens Valley School
- Chinese: R-7 at Annesley Junior School
- Chinese: R-7 and Spanish: R-7 at Burnside Primary School
- Indonesian: R-7 at Nairne Primary School
- Japanese: R-7 at Torrens Valley School
- Khmer: R-6 and Spanish: R-6 at Settlers Farm School
- Thai: R-7 at the School of Languages
- SACE Stage 2 French for Industry at the School of Languages

Lessons will commence in the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

For an updated timetable, please visit our website at [www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au](http://www.schooloflanguages.sa.edu.au)

For enrolment information call our office on 8301 4800.

Please note that the office will be closed from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

I wish all students, parents and the School of Languages broader community a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

## FAREWELL TO STAFF

We recently farewelled the following teachers:

- Naomi Clare: French
- Sung Hyun Hong: Korean
- Jonny Doughtry: Indonesian
- Shawnee Mephram: Japanese
- Catherine Skene: French
- Lorena Pineda Gonzalez: Spanish
- Hisako Diggins: Japanese

And we celebrated the retirement of Lean Hor So, who has been teaching Khmer at our school since 1987!

We thank them for their contributions to our students and to our school; and we wish them all well in their future endeavours!

## PARENT AND STUDENT SURVEYS

Our student, parent and staff surveys were conducted in August this year, with overall positive results; particularly in relation to students being challenged to achieve their personal best, and teacher responsiveness and support.

## GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION

Dilrajveer Singh, one of our Year 12 students of Punjabi, and Tessa Carella, one of our Year 12 students of Spanish, were selected to attend the Governor's year 12 student leaders' reception at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Wednesday 7 October.

Thank-you to Dilrajveer and Tessa for representing our school at this event!

### FRENCH FOR INDUSTRY CLASS

3rd Year Adelaide University Archeology student Joseph Sarunic delivered an entertaining and insightful 90 minute lecture about the History of France to our students of *French in Industry* in Term 3.



### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR SCHOOL IN PARLIAMENT

On 17<sup>th</sup> November, the Minister for Education, the Hon John Gardner, acknowledged the progress of the government's Languages in Schools initiative; and the work of the School of Languages, in the House of Assembly.

The following extract is from Hansard:

*I particularly want to commend the School of Languages, an outstanding institution in our public education system, for some of the work they are doing. There are two particular programs, one of which has been introduced and one of which has been dramatically expanded as a result of the Marshall Liberal government's election commitments.*

*In relation to Languages Alive!, which is a holiday program particularly targeted at primary school students, we have seen those holiday programs conducted across South Australia, including in regional areas. They have continued this year. In the October school holidays, Languages Alive! was offered to primary students over five days for seven languages, including Arabic, Auslan, Chinese, French, Italian, Nepali and Spanish. The other program is Let's Talk!, a new program for senior secondary students to really help them nail*

*the complexities of their language studies. They study seven languages over two days, including Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish.*

*The students reported that they were terrific programs. For Languages Alive!, 88 per cent of students reported (and this is the quote) that 'it was awesome', 10 per cent enjoyed it 'a lot' and 2½ per cent enjoyed it 'a bit'. In learning about other languages and cultures, 81 per cent reported that they improved 'heaps' and 51 per cent reported that they improved 'a lot'. For Let's Talk!, 51 per cent of students engaged said that it 'exceeded expectations', 49 per cent said that it 'met', none were disappointed, and 74 per cent will attend it again.*

You can also see the Minister for Education in action in this youtube clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvwa2md2Qus>

### FRENCH AWARD

Catherine Skene won a national Award of Excellence for French teachers. Her award was presented at a virtual award ceremony on 26 November (La Journee du Prof). She was also interviewed on SBS French radio during that week.

Congratulations Catherine!

### VACATION SCHOOL

Our Vacation School 2020 was extremely successful once again. It attracted 178 participants from government, catholic and independent schools. The program catered for students of Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish at Stage 2 Continuers level. Highly experienced teachers provided students with opportunities to discuss language structures suitable for each section of the end of year exam, marking criteria, past examiners' reports, and teacher advice.

The students found it to be of immense benefit, both as a preparation for their language exams and as an opportunity to practise their language skills with students and teachers from other schools.

## PATJI-DAWES AWARD 2021

### Nominations now open!

The purpose of this award is to honour outstanding achievements in teaching languages by an accomplished practitioner in Australia.

Achieving proficiency in another language is one of the great learning experiences and language teachers deserve recognition for their work.

The teaching may take place in any setting – school, community school, university, private language school, government department, Indigenous community, etc. What matters is that the learner is led, by the teacher's inspiration, to a high level of mastery in the chosen language.

Nominations are sought from those who have achieved a high level of fluency in their chosen language, and who wish to honour their teacher. The Award is provided by the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language at the Australian National University in Canberra; and sponsored by the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations, and the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities.

### Nominations close 8 March 2021

Nominate here -

<http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au/education-and-outreach/dawes-award/>

### LONG STANDING SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES/KOREAN HIGH SCHOOL SISTER SCHOOL FRIENDSHIPS MAINTAINED VIA TECHNOLOGY!

Over the last 4 years, Year 11 and 12 students studying Korean with us have enjoyed making new friends and practising their language skills with students from the Foreign Language High School and Jeil High School in Gimhae, South Korea. An exciting part of this sister school relationship is a Korean Study tour which our School organizes to provide our students with a complete cultural and linguistic immersion, as part of their Korean studies.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year, the study tour was cancelled but the sister school relationship is still going strong! Students are in regular contact through Edmodo and video conferencing. Some highlights of this year's activities have included conversations on the impact that the Covid pandemic has had on both countries and the Cultural Mystery boxes exchanged by post were opened and discussed. Our students treated their South Korean friends in Gimhae to a range of Australian delights such as Vegemite and Tim Tams! During Zoom meetings, students also exchanged stories about their school life and free time activities, all resulting in a very enjoyable intercultural experience. Feedback from students showed that the best part of the Zoom meetings was when they were given the opportunity to form small groups in breakout rooms to have closer conversations with each other.

