

TERM 2, 2023

From the Principal: Lia Tedesco

Welcome back to Term 2; and a particularly warm welcome to those of you who joining us for the first time in term 2.

Every year I am often interviewed by Year 11 and 12 students who are undertaking their Research Projects, to outline why Language learning is an important endeavour. I am always very pleased to answer questions such as these, as it provides a great opportunity to promote the many benefits of being bilingual or multilingual; and for our students to be aware of the value of learning languages.

In addition to the obvious benefits of being able to communicate with people from other languages and cultures (valuable in its' own right), learning languages enriches students intellectually, educationally and culturally.

Intellectually: there is much evidence of the intellectual benefits that accrue from learning languages. Benefits include the development of creative and critical thinking, lateral and analytical thinking, and problem solving skills.

Educationally: languages education is a key ingredient in a comprehensive and well-rounded education. In addition, there is evidence that through learning languages, students' literacy skills (including skills in English literacy) are strengthened.

Culturally: students learn about diversity; and that there are many different ways of viewing and being in the world, and that 'our' way is not the only way. This helps to build social cohesion and openness to other world views and perspectives.

Learning languages can also open up many positive career opportunities for our students, who will be competing on the global stage in their chosen careers, and competing with students from other countries, many of which demand and expect language learning as part of the curriculum throughout schooling. For our students, not having at least one other Language will put them at a distinct disadvantage.

More bilingual and multilingual people also helps to build Australia's strategic, economic and international development, at a time when the movement of people and ideas across the globe is accelerating and expanding.

We are indeed proud of our more than 1700 students who are learning a language with us this year; and who make the effort week after week to attend classes after hours, so that they can develop as linguistically and culturally aware citizens of the world.

Mobile Phones

As you would no doubt be aware by now, all schools have been asked to develop a new Mobile Phone Policy to replace the policies developed in 2021. Those policies do not allow students to use their mobile phones (or other digital devices) during lessons, unless for a designated learning activity. The key change with the new policy is that students will not be allowed to access their phones during the break as well as during lessons. Our school will be implementing the new policy from the beginning of Term 3. Key elements of the School of Languages new policy will be summarised in the Term 3 newsletter.

AGM and Governing Council

At our Governing Council AGM on Tuesday 28th March, we welcomed the following:

Continuing parent representatives:

- Henrik Wallgren (Chinese)
- Herbert Schwarz (Chinese)
- Christine Feinle-Bisset (German)
- Kaitlyn Gray (Japanese)
- Paola Alonso (Spanish)

New parent representatives:

- Cameron Riches (French and Japanese)
- Kirsten Lee (Korean)
- Ana Nedeljkovic-Brankovic (Serbian)

Student representatives:

- Natasha Weber (Japanese)
- Anaya Mehta (Spanish)

Community representatives:

- Brett Shuttleworth – Community Language Schools South Australia
- Kazuko Glass - Modern Languages Teachers' Association SA
- Representative of the Multicultural Education and Languages Committee is yet to be appointed

Staff representatives:

- Danielle Popovic (Coordinator and French teacher)
- Ben Anderson (Coordinator and German teacher)
- Flor Groenen (Acting coordinator and Spanish teacher)

The following Governing Council members were appointed to the executive:

- Henrik Wallgren (Chair and Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee)
- Cameron Riches (Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Advisory Committee)
- Flor Groenen (Secretary)

Governing Council works actively to ensure that the views of parents/carers and students are represented. Please email the school if you

would like one of the Governing Council members to contact you.

Languages Alive!

During the April school holidays the world of different languages and cultures will once again come alive through the R-6 **Languages Alive!** program offered by the School of Languages and funded by the State Government. The program will provide students with interactive language learning experiences in Auslan, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Serbian and Spanish. The program is designed to generate a love for learning other languages. Dates and venues:

- Tuesday 18th April: School of Languages (sold out!)
- Wednesday 19th April: School of Languages (sold out!)
- Thursday 20th April: Bridgewater Primary School (sold out!)
- Tuesday 27th April: Berri Primary School
- Thursday 28th April: Auburn Primary School

\$10 per student per day

School Card/Health Care Card Holders: FREE

To register:

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/languagesalive/>

Let's Talk!

Years 10-12 students of Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish will once again get the opportunity to develop their speaking skills at the **Let's Talk!** program being offered at our school during the April holidays (18th and 19th April, 10.00am-3.30pm. Engaging and interactive language/cultural experiences will be facilitated by highly proficient, expert teachers. Groups will be capped at 12 students per language.

\$10 per student per day

School Card/Health Care Card Holders: FREE

To register:

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/letstalk>

Introducing our 2023 Student Council

We are thrilled to announce that the 2023 School of Languages Student Council is now established! Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as members:

- Natasha Weber: Year 11 IB Japanese
- Anaya Mehta: Year 11 Spanish IB Ab Initio
- Saffron (Xiangfan) Chen: Year 12 Chinese Background
- Cara Parker-Thomas: Year 11 Korean Beginners
- Hamida Rezai: Year 12 Persian Continuers
- David Perry: Year 12 Spanish Continuers

Special congratulations to Natasha Weber and Anaya Mehta, whose nominations for Chair have been successful. As Co-Chairs, Natasha and Anaya will represent the School of Languages student body at Governing Council meetings and will provide leadership for all student-led activities.



Anaya Mehta



Natasha Weber

It's still not too late join the Student Council! For more information contact Maribel Coffey, Assistant Principal, Public Relations at: Maribel.Coffey885@schools.sa.edu.au

2023 Poster Competition back by popular demand!

On the 14th June 2023, the School of Languages will once again be inviting R-12 students to demonstrate their appreciation for languages and cultures by using their creative and artistic skills to design a poster. This year the theme will be Languages: discover yourself, discover the world!

Entries will be categorised according to four groups:

- Category A: Junior Primary (R-3 students)
- Category B: Primary (Years 4-6)
- Category C: Middle Years (Years 7-9)
- Category D: Senior Secondary (Years 10-12)

Plan to enter and be in the running to receive \$100 prize money and a Certificate of Excellence for winners in each category.

Poster entries will close on 4th August; this will give students time during the July school holidays to get creative!

Our Hindi primary classes celebrate

In India the Holi festival is celebrated between February and March to mark the start of Spring season, harvesting of the new crop and new beginnings with the land and with people. Just like children do in India, our R-3 Hindi students enjoyed this wonderful and very colourful cultural experience while developing their language skills.



Our Yr 4-6 Hindi students also celebrated while learning Hindi! This time through a local tradition called Harmony Day. The **Living in Harmony** theme promoting values of respect, fairness and inclusion provided our students with the opportunity to celebrate their rich racial, cultural, linguistic and spiritual diversity. Individual portraits were drawn and mounted onto a class collage representing that **Everybody Belongs**, the slogan for this year's Harmony Day.

Exciting global connections with schools in Spain

We are thrilled to announce that with the support from the Education Office, Spanish Embassy, Canberra, our primary and secondary Spanish classes have established a sister school relationship with two schools in Spain. We will be taking learning Spanish beyond the 4 walls of our classes by setting up on-line communication with students attending **Padre Manjón Primary School** in **Salamanca** and **Lauro High School** in **Barcelona**.



Our students will continue to develop their intercultural understandings, improve their language skills and make new friends with students from these schools, through the exchange of stories, photos, and videos about their daily life in each country.

Our school exhibits at International Education Services event

This term we were delighted to accept an invitation from the Department's International Education Services to exhibit our school and promote our language offerings at their official event, held to welcome a record number of new international students and their families to South Australian schools.

The day-long expo took place at Pridham Hall at the University of South Australia and was divided into two sessions to cater for primary and secondary students. We were very excited to promote our 22 language offerings to over 600 students.



Staff News

In Term 2, there will be a few staff changes:

Teachers starting, or returning, in term 2:

- Isabel Feng: Chinese
- Daniel Micklem: Indonesian
- Reena Aftab: Japanese
- Sunghee Cho: Korean
- Viviana Molina Rosas: Spanish
- Minh Pham: Vietnamese

We will also be welcoming two Pre-service teachers from the University of Adelaide:

- Muyuan Zhong: French
- Yueqi Xu: Spanish

To the following staff we say thank-you and farewell:

- Yuan Zhu: Chinese
- Ellis Robb: Indonesian
- Vannak Mey: Khmer

Staff on leave:

- Ben Anderson: Coordinator, in Terms 2 and 3
- Halina Pietrzak: Coordinator, weeks 1 – 5 in Term 2 (replaced by Flor Rangel)
- Anne Reuter: Assistant Principal, weeks 1 – 5 in Term 2 (replaced by Matt Brown)
- Parky Anderson: Korean, in Term 2
- Marta Montero Lomas: Spanish, weeks 1 – 6, Term 2
- Phuong Ngo: Vietnamese, in Term 2

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held in Term 2 Week 4 (22-27 May). These interviews provide a valuable opportunity for parents/carers and teachers to discuss student progress and to explore ways of helping them to achieve success in their language studies. You will receive an SMS on Monday 8th May, with an attached letter outlining the Parent Teacher Interview process for this year.

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.

Key Dates Term 2

Week 1

- Classes begin week beginning Monday 1st May.

Week 4

- Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher interviews
- **Tuesday 23rd May, 7:00pm:** Governing Council meeting.

Week 7

- **Monday 12th June:** Public Holiday - All classes cancelled
- Launch of Poster Competition
- End of Semester 1

Week 8

- Semester 2 begins

Week 9

- Years 11 and 12 midyear written examinations

Week 10

- Years 11 and 12 midyear oral examinations
- **Saturday 8th July:** Last day of Term Two

TERM 2 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- Term 2 reports emailed home and sent to feeder schools.
- Languages Alive! and Let's Talk! Holiday programs