

TERM 3, 2024

From the Principal

Welcome to Term 3. We hope that students have had an enjoyable break and are ready to dive into their language learning this term.

Assessing intercultural language learning

For almost two years, we have been working on a whole school professional learning program to develop students' intercultural capability through their language learning. We have partnered with A/Prof. Angela Scarino from the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures at UniSA, to learn about the most contemporary theories of language learning and teaching, that develop students' language learning and capability to engage with diverse peoples.

What does this mean? Well, teachers have developed learning maps that show the concepts, learning intentions and language content to be taught at certain year levels. This year, we have been developing units that provide more detail about rich learning experiences and evidencing this learning. Assessing capabilities is particularly challenging but we are leading nationally in this space through our sustained focus and work in this area. Here are a few comments from our recent whole staff Focus Day:

- *Learning is more enriched when we have intercultural understanding.*
- *Provoke student learning by problematising common topics, flipping the perspectives, and moving from tasks to meaningful Intercultural experiences through rich resourcing.*
- *Incorporate Intercultural understanding to engage students and make their learning experience more meaningful.*
- *There is no better PD than working collaboratively and sharing thoughts and ideas with your colleagues. It is very inspiring.*

Strategic Plan and Site Learning Plan

We are currently developing our strategic directions and engaging with the Department's new Public Education Strategy. We now have Site Learning Plans (not Site Improvement Plans), and external school reviews will be replaced by Internal School Reviews (we await more details).

Overall, there is a stronger focus on learning for the whole organisation, and a rich sense of student learning – more than literacy and numeracy – including aspects such as dispositions, capabilities, effective learning, and student agency. We'll keep you updated on these directions as we continue to work through what these mean for SoL.

Classes at Adelaide High School in 2025

We are pleased to advise that starting in 2025, classes at Adelaide High School will start and finish a little earlier.

Through discussion with the Principal of Adelaide High School, we have arranged for a one-year trial with class times as follows:

- All classes start 4.45pm
- Years 7-9 conclude at 7pm
- Years 10-12 conclude at 7.30pm.

This change follows feedback from students and staff about the benefits for improved concentration, intensity of teaching and learning, and attendance.

We hope that the change will be beneficial for families and we will monitor the change during 2025 to evaluate if it is having a positive impact.

Public use of Croydon campus

Last term, as Principal, I met with the Minister for Education, the Principal of the Adelaide Secondary School of English, and members of the local community regarding access to school grounds, particularly for exercising dogs, at our Croydon base. The Minister listened to concerns of all parties and his office is preparing a proposal to try to reach a mutually agreeable use of the space. We will provide further information as it becomes available.

Meeting of Governing Council

We held the first meeting of our new Governing Council on Tuesday 11 June. Our committee comprises the following members:

Parent representatives:

- Henrik Wallgren (Chinese)
- Kirsten Lee (Korean)
- Yox Ortiz Matos (Spanish)
- Wathnak By (Khmer)
- Michael Ditillo (Auslan)
- Boguslaw Topor (Polish)

Student representatives:

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

Staff representatives:

- Ana Nedeljkovic-Brankovic (Teacher of Serbian)

Community representatives:

- The Multicultural Education and Languages Committee (to be advised)
- Community Language Schools South Australia (Brett Shuttleworth)
- Modern Languages Teachers' Association SA (Miriam Parsons)

We are open to parent and student views and if you would like to contact the Governing Council, please do so via: dl.1802.admin@schools.sa.edu.au

Our People

Introducing ...

My name is Barbara Smith and I am the Assistant Principal: Students, Staff and Community Engagement. I have had the privilege of teaching Japanese/Chinese at the School of Languages since 2006 and have taught years 7–12 in both Beginners and Continuers pathways. I still feel the same enthusiasm and joy about my work here as I did on my first day – it is a truly unique school and we have a wonderful group of dedicated, hard-working passionate language teachers and support staff from all over the globe who make it that.

Over the past 20 years I have been fortunate enough to work across two school sectors and develop a range of experience, from teaching Japanese and leading curriculum in Catholic schools, to working as

Project Officer with the Teachers Registration Board. Prior to teaching, I worked as a Translator/Interpreter of Japanese.

Our new chapter at this school is an exciting one and I hope that we will be able to provide more ways for many of you to be more engaged with our school community. If you have ideas and would like to be involved please do not hesitate to reach out.

Staff News

This term we welcome Boguslaw Topor, teacher of Polish at Adelaide High School.

We also wish to welcome our teachers of Punjabi:

- Harpreet Sandhu: Punjabi, Croydon
- Raj Sandhu: Punjabi, Valley View

We are pleased to welcome back Herr Erik Brasse who has just completed an intensive three-week scholarship to study in Germany awarded by the Goethe Institut.

Recent Events

Spanish Awards

We are thrilled to announce that three of our School of students were selected as recipients of the STASA (Spanish Teachers' Association) and Spanish Embassy Award for Excellence for 2023.

Miguel Angel Rosas and John Dwyer (pictured below with teacher of Spanish, Flor Rangel) were recognised in the category of SACE Spanish Continuers, while Rosario Lopez was honoured in the category of IB Language B (pictured left).



These are prestigious accolades that recognise outstanding achievement in Spanish language and culture studies, demonstrated through high level of

proficiency in Spanish, and deep understanding and appreciation for the language.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Miguel, John, and Rosario for their outstanding achievements. Their success is a testament to their hard work, determination, and passion for the Spanish language. We are confident that they will continue to excel in their studies and make us proud in their future endeavours. Viva el español!

German Award

Congratulations to Thalia Kilimann, who has been awarded the Schiller Prize, at the 2024 SA German Teachers' Association Conference.



This is a prestigious prize awarded to the top performing background speaker of German. Here are some of Thalia's reflections, in German with English translation, about her time at SoL learning German:

Wenn ich an meine Zeit als Deutschschülerin an der School of Languages denke, fällt mir als Erstes unser angenehmes Klassenklima ein. Ich habe es genossen, mit anderen kulturell interessierten Schülern in Kontakt zu kommen. Da viele Schüler einen persönlichen Bezug zu Deutsch hatten, gab es oft Momente, in denen Familiengeschichten erzählt wurden oder die Klasse sich über ein sprachliches Konzept unterhalten hat. Auch wurde Wissen oft verknüpft mit Medien, wie zum Beispiel Zeitungsartikeln oder Podcast-Episoden, was sehr spannend war. Es wurde also nicht nur die deutsche Sprache gelernt, sondern auch ein Stück weit deutsche Kultur. All das hat zu meinem Interesse am Lernen und Benutzen von Deutsch beigetragen - daran erinnere ich mich gerne.

When I think back to my time as a German student at the School of Languages, the first thing that comes up is the pleasant classroom atmosphere. I enjoyed meeting other culturally interested students. Because lots of students had a personal connection to German, there were often moments in which family stories were told, or where the class discussed a particular use of language. Knowledge was often connected with media, for example newspaper articles or podcasts, which was really fascinating. We

didn't just learn the German language, but also, to a certain extent, about the culture. All of that contributed to my interest in learning and speaking German – I like thinking back about it.

Enrichment Programs – July report

Let's Talk! again proved to be an excellent opportunity for Stage 1 and 2 languages students to strengthen their speaking skills. Here's what they had to say:

- ☞ *The program exceeded my expectations as I learnt a lot of new vocabulary as well as developing my speaking skills.*
- ☞ *I was able to improve my fluency with fun activities. These activities were also catered to an appropriate level so that I did not feel stressed or overwhelmed.*
- ☞ *My biggest growth point was engaging in group conversational style presentations. Allowed me to improve my vocab, pronunciation and expressions.*

Languages Alive! welcomed 182 primary languages students across 5 days and 4 venues. Students experienced a range of engaging learning in AUSLAN, Chinese, German, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi and Spanish. They all had lots of fun!

Here's what some of the parents had to say

- ☞ *A great way to give children experience in another language in a fun and positive way*
- ☞ *It is extremely important for us as multilingual family, to be able to continue and improve language skills/ learn different cultures/ make new friends!*
- ☞ *Kids have fun while they are learning new languages*

Upcoming Events

International Cultural Immersion

We are pleased resume international cultural immersion opportunities for students, otherwise known as Study Tours. In October 2024, SoL is partnering with Para Hills High School to take our students of Japanese to Kashima, Japan. On the horizon for 2025 are tours to Spain and Italy.

If you are interested in our 2025 tours, please contact our Coordinator Curriculum and Global Connections, Ben.Anderson511@schools.sa.edu.au

Enrichment Programs – Languages Alive!

During the October 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 a variety of languages. The program is designed to generate a love for learning other languages.

Dates and venues:

- Tuesday 1 October: SoL, Croydon
- Wednesday 2 October: SoL, Croydon
- Tuesday 8 October: Bridgewater Primary
- Thursday 10 October: Kangaroo Island Community Education
- Friday 11 October: Kangaroo Island Community Education

Enrichment Programs

Preparation and Revision for Exams Program (PREP) (formerly known as Vacation School)

Year 12 students of Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish will again have an opportunity to consolidate their languages learning and prepare for the upcoming SACE exams at the **PREP (formerly Vacation School)** program in October. Details are:

Wednesday 2 October 10.00am-3.30pm at SoL, Croydon

Government school/School Card/Health Care

Card Holders: **FREE**

Non-government students: \$60

Registrations for enrichment programs will open soon

Celebration of Achievement

During Term 2 we sought the views of our community about our end of year Celebration of Achievement event. We received almost 300 responses from students, 70 from parents and 25 from staff. The overwhelming response was to hold separate events for primary and secondary, that are student-centred and family friendly.

Following this, we have been exploring options for separate primary and secondary events. We will work with students and staff to plan the events in more detail and share these with families later in Term 3.

2024 Multimedia Competition

This year our student competition has been reimagined to provide greater creative opportunities for entrants.

Posters are welcome but we also encourage entries of songs, short films, social media clips and creative writing pieces such as poems, stories and reflections.

The competition will open on the 1 July and will **close on 30 August**.

Get creative! Use humour! Be playful! Reflect on how learning a language has opened you up to new thinking, feelings and possibilities! How has it helped you to connect with other people?

Find a unique angle around the theme:

My Language Learning Journey

Guidelines and Entry Forms are on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Winners from each category will receive \$100 prize money and a Certificate of Excellence. All entrants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Student Council 2024

In a school like ours, it's really important to have a student group who can share their perspectives on school life and shape our school for the better.

WE INVITE STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED!

HAVE A SAY IN OUR SCHOOL!

For more information contact our Coordinator, Student Engagement, Danielle Popovic at Danielle.Popovic904@schools.sa.edu.au

Re-enrolment for 2025

As we approach the middle of the year, we are beginning to prepare for enrolments in 2025!

Parents/carers of students in Year 10 and 11 will be sent an SMS in Term 3 with a link to information about our re-enrolment process. This process will take place in **Term 3 Week 5**.

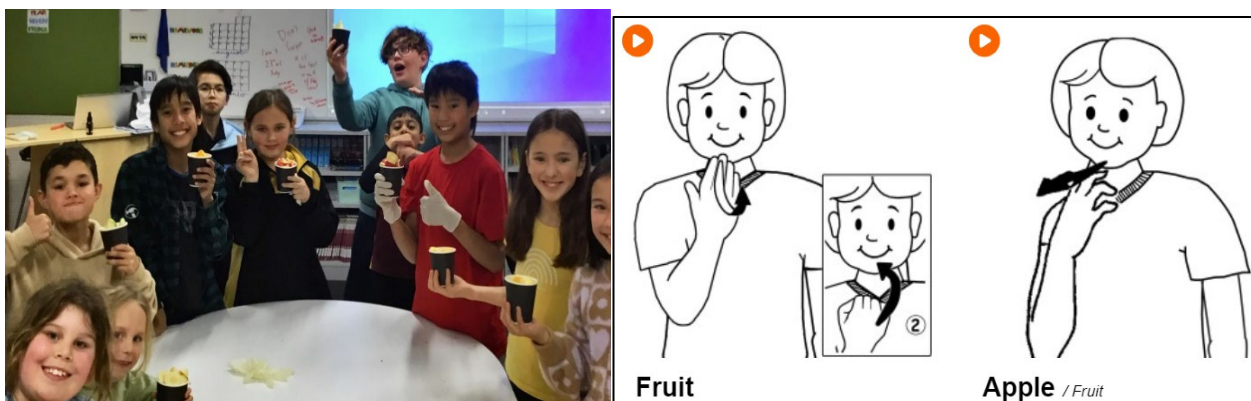
Students who intend to continue studying with us in 2025 will receive a Letter of Acknowledgement in Term 3 Week 9 in class, and a Confirmation of Re-enrolment letter in Term 4 Week 6/7 in class. If your child is absent for this, the information will be posted.

If you have any questions about re-enrolment, please visit our website or contact us.

Exciting learning experiences

Did you know that the School of Languages offers AUSLAN for students R-12 and adult learners?

Here's a glimpse at some of the learning taking place in one of our primary classes.



Students have been learning about healthy eating and how we can help our bodies to grow stronger bones and muscles, clearer eyesight, healthy tummies, hair and nails, and even help our emotions. Students love to learn AUSLAN for fruit, vegetables, colour and bodies. They have learnt how to communicate their preferences for the different fruits in the fruit salad they made in class.

Key Dates Term 3

WEEK 1

Monday 22 July: Classes resume

WEEK 2

R-6 Term 3 2024 enrolments close

WEEK 3

Stage 1 Semester 2 2024 enrolments close

WEEK 4

2025 enrolment information for Years 10-11 available on website

Parent survey opens

WEEK 5

Tuesday 20 August: Governing Council meeting

WEEK 6

Friday 30 August: Multimedia Competition entry deadline

WEEK 7

Friday 6 September: School closure day

WEEK 8

WEEK 9

WEEK 10

Tuesday 24 September: Governing Council Meeting

Friday 27 September: Student reports emailed to parents

Saturday 28 September: Last day of Term 3

TERM 3 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 1 October: Languages Alive at SoL

Wednesday 2 October: Languages Alive at SoL

Wednesday 2 October: PREP at SoL

Tuesday 8 October: Languages Alive at Bridgewater Primary School

Thursday 10 October: Languages Alive at Kangaroo Island Community Education

Friday 11 October: Languages Alive at Kangaroo Island Community Education

TERM 4

Monday 14 October: First day of Term 4

TERM DATES 2024

Term 3: Mon 22 July – Sat 28 Sept

Term 4: Mon 14 Oct – Sat 7 Dec: last day R – 10 classes.

Last day Year 11s: Week ending Sat 30 Nov.

Last day Year 12s: week prior to final exam. *Dates to be advised once SACE and IB exam schedules are finalised.*