



February
2011

ETHNIC SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER

Community Languages Schools
Where Language and Culture Come Together

WELCOME TO 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

Hopefully the 2011 will bring our students and our school communities much success. No doubt you are refreshed, rested and ready to take on the important role of delivering stimulating language and cultural activities and that the 35,000 plus students in over 40 languages in Victoria are motivated and ready to achieve strong results and outcomes.

At this time we keep in our minds and hearts those who have suffered in the recent floods in Queensland and subsequently in other States. We also remember at this time those who two years ago perished in the Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria, those who survived but may still be carrying the scars of this horrific event. We watch carefully the fires in WA and have in our thoughts those living through this.

All these disasters have brought with them suffering, loss of life and property. They have also shown the ***true Australian spirit - the spirit of mateship and community***. They have shown how reliant we are on each other, how communities are at times made stronger when we all pull together.

In 2011 let's reinforce this lesson, reinforce these values, the values of support, commitment and helping one another.

Our community schools will be stronger, our communities will be stronger, our children will be stronger and so will we.

There are many challenges before us in 2011. We must ensure that our schools are well managed, that education leadership is offered, that our programs are effective and inclusive and that our student receive the best possible opportunities to learn.

Community Languages Australia (CLA) and the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria (ESAV) are looking forward to strengthening our connections with schools, forming new partnerships and engaging with new stakeholders. We look forward to providing schools training and professional development programs and opportunities to experience best practice. Our students need to be exposed to effective programs with teachers and instructors who can deliver classroom programs that are stimulating.

Priorities for 2011

- ✓ Strengthening partnerships with School Council and Principal Associations
- ✓ Provide an exciting Training and PD program
- ✓ Strengthen our language networks
- ✓ Expand the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- ✓ Conduct a forum for our Year 10-12 student - 'Languages contributing to my future'
- ✓ Examine ways of dealing with rental issues
- ✓ Revamp our website and link with all school websites
- ✓ Launch our communication and promotion kit - *Community languages schools - delivering strong outcomes*
- ✓ Conduct State and National conferences
- ✓ Negotiate an improved national insurance policy with increased coverage

Ethnic Schools Association
of Victoria Inc.

Languages & Multicultural
Education Resource
Centre

150 Palmerston Street
Carlton 3053
Ph: (03) 9349 2400
Fax: (03) 9349 1295

Email: info@esav.org.au
Website: www.esav.org.au

ABN 97 461 789 657

Continue our priorities for 2011

- ✓ Seek additional funding from a range of sources for schools
- ✓ Participate in 2011 Education week programs in May
- ✓ Provide comment and consultation on the National Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) - *Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages*
- ✓ Increased volunteering and community giving amongst community languages schools

We want to do all this in partnership with you, consult with schools and create new partnerships.

We invite you on this journey.

At this time we say welcome to the recently elected Baillieu government. We welcome The Minister for Education - The Hon Martin Dixon, The Minister for Multicultural Affairs - The Hon Nicholas Kotsiras and the Parliamentary Secretary for Education - Inga Peulich, MLC. Both Ministers and the parliamentary secretary have had strong connections with languages schools. The Baillieu Government has committed to an increase in the per capita funding for our schools of \$70. Funding is now \$190 per student.

CLA and ESAV are pleased with the outcome as there were many discussions prior to the election with both Parties. The increase of funding brings with it more responsibility for schools to ensure stronger programs, more opportunities for students, more professional development for teachers and instructors? We have to ensure we are delivering **QUALITY PROGRAMS**.

Community Languages Australia and ESAV also acknowledges and thanks the outgoing Brumby Government - the former Premier, Minister for Education Bronwyn Pike, Parliamentary Secretaries Liz Beattie and Steve Herbert for their support whilst in office.

One of the great strengths in Victoria is the bipartisan support our communities receive. We also extend our best wishes to the former Chairman of the VMC George Lekakis who has now moved to Business Victoria and thank him for his support.

On February 28, 2011 at the Richmond Town Hall all schools will have the opportunity to meet with our new Ministers - Martin Dixon and Nicholas Kotsiras. You are invited and requested to bring one student in a national costume with you.

This will be an opportunity for you to hear our Ministers outline their visions and also to meet with them in an informal way. Bookings are essential.

Our goal for 2011: *Increase quality, effectiveness and outcomes with the focus on our students.*

**Stefan Romaniw OAM,
Executive Director**

MEET AND GREET – NEW MINISTERS

**Monday February 28, 2011 - 6.00pm - 7.30pm
Richmond Town Hall, Bridge Road Richmond**



**Minister for Education, The Hon Martin Dixon MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, The Hon Nicholas Kotsiras MP**

Community Languages Schools' teachers, administrations and parents are invited to meet and greet both new ministers for Education and Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship.

- Both Ministers will speak about Government policy on languages education, the role of community languages schools and funding commitments to community languages schools over coming years.
- A great opportunity to meet with Ministers, discuss your issues and enjoy the company of your community languages school colleagues.
- Light refreshments will be served

**RSVP by 22 February 2011,
Ph: (03) 9349-2400 Fax: (03) 9349-1295**

Email: abubaker.fahry.f@edumail.vic.gov.au

MEDIA RESPONSE

LANGUAGES EDUCATION DOES WORK

Minister Nicholas Kotsiras responded to an article in the Herald Sun on February 3, 2011 written by journalist Steve Price in which the journalist advocated for the abolition of languages

The increasing relevance of languages in the modern world

The article which appeared in *Herald Sun* on 3 February 2011 entitled *Let's ditch the study of languages*, is inaccurate.

It is inaccurate to assert that students don't need to learn a language other than English because "English is the universal language of business, technology and education" and it is inaccurate in that it fails to acknowledge the compelling evidence-based research of the benefits of languages learning.

In this age of information, communication and global markets, the ability to communicate effectively in languages other than English is of paramount importance. Virtually all of the highest-performing nations on the recent Program for International Student Assessment exam require second-language learning. This is not a coincidence.

For a long time Australia, like other English speaking countries, has been living in the hope that English would not be merely a powerful international instrument, but would actually become the lingua franca of the world.

New and old societies and economies, Europe and East Asia for example, are powerful players in world affairs.

The West and the English language remain fundamental presences; Australians should indeed value their immense luck in being able to communicate in a truly international language, but should also remember that other countries and societies cultivate English or other languages as well as their own.

There are significant educational benefits for students who learn languages, for example enhanced thinking and learning skills, as well as greater vocational options later in life in a wide range of career pursuits. Learning another language can also give students an insight into another culture and can lead to greater intercultural understanding. Languages are important for both the enrichment of communication within Australian communities and for the effective promotion of Australia's interests internationally.

Our students deserve an education that will prepare them to be global citizens and proficiency in at least one language other than English is a critical part of this preparation. Second-language learning will not only enhance the global competitiveness of Australia and the global competence of individual students, it will also help students to learn their first language more effectively and deeply.

Australia's multicultural and multilingual nature and its geographic location demands an understanding of, and an appreciation for, languages and cultures and a capacity to adopt fresh approaches to problems affecting a culturally diverse society. When combined with language skills, these understandings have the potential to improve inter-cultural communication within Australia's diverse society, contribute to the development of a more harmonious society and increase our international standing as a multicultural and multilingual nation.

European, Asian and Arabic languages are all important languages and have a key role to play in the future of Victoria.

Australia is currently at the heart of a region of booming economies — China, India and South-East Asia all present Victoria with opportunities for the future. There is also the potential for Victoria to become the Asian languages capital of Australia.

The learning of a European or Arabic language is equally important from a personal, cultural, social and economic viewpoint.

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Complacency and passivity can make us slip from a position of advantage into a position of disadvantage.

This is illustrated by the decline in the teaching and learning of languages in Victorian government schools since 1997. Without urgent intervention and renewed effort this decline is likely to continue. That is why our Government is committed to making the teaching and learning of languages other than English an essential part of every student's education. We are committed to the teaching and learning of languages in schools, in community settings and throughout the community in order to maintain and increase our languages resources.

Under our Multilingual Victoria Plan we have committed to:

- Revolutionising languages education in Victoria by creating one of the world's most diverse and effective Languages Other Than English (LOTE) programs.
- Introducing compulsory LOTE classes for every Victorian primary school, with a long-term plan to provide LOTE learning for every government school student from Prep to Year 10 by 2025.
- Building a cohort of language teachers qualified and trained to world's best practice standard.
- Increasing the number of qualified language teachers by introducing scholarships for undergraduate teachers and qualified teachers to study languages.
- Enhancing and supporting the role of community language schools, including by increasing the per capita grant and securing an agreement for community language schools to utilise government school facilities after hours.

The Baillieu Government is committed to addressing the challenges in relation to the provision of languages in schools, and is committed to a long-term plan to improve the teaching and learning of languages.

Nicholas Kotsiras MP
Victorian Minister for Multicultural Affairs & Citizenship

2011 VICTORIAN STATE COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

Sunday July 3rd, 2011
Story Hall, RMIT University

Theme: *Community Languages Schools - Benefiting Australia - The How and Why?*
Put it in your diary!!



Picture: 2010 Victorian Community Languages Schools Conference

Expressions of interest for presentations are opened: have an idea about what you would like presented or do you have something you wish to present please contact ESAV info@esav.org.au

AFESA COUNCIL MEETING

Partnership and strong outcomes for students



The Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Associations (AFESA) - Community Languages Australia Council met in Melbourne on Saturday February 5, 2011 to endorse plans for 2011 and beyond in the community languages schools sector. State and Territory representatives, the Executive Members and Executive Directors presented reports for the past 6 months.

Council applauded the Victoria, NSW and SA Government increased support for community languages with increases for community languages schools.

- ❖ Victoria has increased its support from \$120 per capita to \$190 by \$70
- ❖ NSW after many years of no increases has seen an increase from \$60 - \$120 by \$60
- ❖ SA now offers \$140 per capita

Apart from per capita funding, these States have also committed to support in areas of needs based funding, professional and materials development.

Community Languages Australian, State based Associations and other States and Territories have resolved to enter into discussions to seek increased funding. Council resolved to support the current consultation. Meetings in ACT and Queensland are scheduled over coming weeks.

Council endorsed the following:

- ✓ A Communication strategy for 2011.
- ✓ Support for **Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages Draft**
The National Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has launched the Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages document - Public consultation has commenced and It requires Council's input.
- ✓ Support for volunteering and community building
- ✓ This will involve schools organising fund raisers for the flood appeal
- ✓ Making Starlight Children Foundation as the Charity of Choice for our schools
- ✓ Funding AFESA

The Council also endorsed the following:

- ✓ Part of the national funding model will include contributions from State Associations. This is to be done on the basis of per capita model \$2.20 per student.

AFEEA members will need to plan for the introduction of the per capita model. This will involve:

- Conducting a General meeting of members to provide information
- A resolution at an AGM that funds be transferred
- Negotiations with Department on the process of transferring funds

The process will commence in the first part of 2011 and introducing the process in the second half of 2011 or latest first part of 2012.

Council members reported on a wide range of activities in States and Territories and their plans for 2011.

The meeting was a positive step in setting ongoing strategic aims and goals

NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORMED WITH VICTORIAN SCHOOL COUNCIL ORGANISATIONS (VICSSO)

Community Languages Australia, ESAV and the Victorian School Council Organisations (VICSSO) have formed a strategic partnership.

VICSSO President Nicholas Abbey, CLA Executive Director Stefan Romaniw and ESAV Executive Officer Fahry Abubaker met recently to discuss ways of cooperating. It turned out to be a very fruitful discussion with a number of outcomes and ongoing dialogue.

This partnership should lead to a better understanding between school councils and community languages school management. It will lead to planned round table with participation from CLA, ESAV, VICSSO, Principal Associations, DEECD representation and others to discuss cooperation and better working relations.

Currently we are also examining the following proposal;

Given the broad interest in personalised learning together with the closely related questions of school partnerships and governance, and given the feedback that VICSSO received to a recent discussion paper, CLA, ESAV and VICSSO see a first step useful to develop a collaborative Personalised Learning Project (PLP).

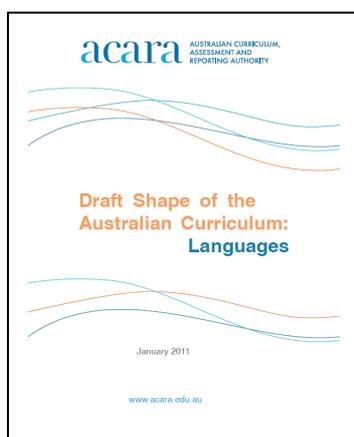
Such a project may begin with a meeting of interested individuals. **Over time**, a PLP, which would be designed as a **co-owned** project, may involve:

- A number of school community and stakeholder roundtable discussions - in rural, regional and metropolitan areas. The discussions could obviously provide opportunities for broad-based conversations and reflection, and for identifying and sharing the best ideas and practices.
- An online PLP interactive forum for educators and school communities to discuss the challenges of personalising learning. Principals, teachers, parents, students and others could participate. A PLP 'Talking about Practice' series of e-learning videos could also be produced.
- A PLP e-newsletter to give momentum to the project by providing case studies and other information about how schools across a range of settings are personalising learning. An e-newsletter could also respond to issues raised in the roundtable discussions and online forums.

Personalised learning has obvious implications for the role of principals and other educational leaders, dialogic teaching, parent participation, school community partnerships, pedagogy, the use of technology, student voice and leadership, school clusters and networks and resources.

***This is real life project that has great potential in assisting our schools to provide stronger programs
Again - Watch this space!***

SHAPE OF THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: LANGUAGES



The National Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has launched the Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages document. Public consultation has commenced and It requires your input.

You can find the document at http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/Draft+Shape+Of+The+Australian+Curriculum+The+Arts-FINAL.pdf

We look forward to your schools contributing as we will prepare a national submission.

- ❖ Do you have any ideas?
- ❖ Do you wish to comment?

Please send to afesa@netsol.net.au by March 28, 2011

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY – VOLUNTEERS - FLOOD APPEAL

Community Languages Australia has resolved to collect donations for flood relief victims. Our schools are encouraged in the February to April period to hold fund raising activities to support flood victims.

This is a wonderful way of teaching civics community service to our school communities.

Helping others in need - giving cheerfully to help others

Hold a bar-b - que, a raffle, and call for donations and look for ways of collecting funds.

Please make the effort and be part of this national activity. All cheques are to be sent to AFESA, 150 Palmerston Street Carlton, 3053 by **April 22, 2011**.

STRALIGH CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Community Languages Australian - Charity of Choice in 2011



Have you heard of Starlight Children Foundation? Do you want to know more?

Go to <http://www.starlight.org.au>

About Starlight

Living with illness or injury can cause enormous strain in the lives of children and their families. The pain, loneliness and isolation that sick children feel dominates their lives, and they often miss out on normal experiences that healthy children take for granted.

Physical recovery is only part of the solution. Starlight delivers innovative programs designed to make children happy and lift their spirits when they need it most. Starlight brings fun and laughter to children no matter what their illness or where they live.

Mission

- to brighten the lives of all seriously ill children and their families.
- support them throughout their journey by providing the opportunity to be distracted from the pain and stress of their treatments and to simply be a child again,
- to experience special and often transformational moments and to be together as a family enjoying activities that those with well children often take for granted

Starlight is a wonderful charity assisting children and their parents around Australia in time of need, when children have chronic or long term illness and are in hospital.

We will support this Foundation through 2011. Each school community is asked to commit to a range of fundraising activities between May and November 2011.

This is a great opportunity to teach our children how to work as volunteers, the benefits it brings and the good it does not only for those receiving support, but individually for the person giving.

AFL INTERNATIONAL CUP



In August 2011 - 33 men's and women's teams will be taking part. Your community can get involved in supporting your countries team!

Watch this space for further details

www.afl.com.au

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

The Insurance policy has been enhanced to cover property damage and also provide Volunteer Insurance. A copy of the public liability insurance policy is available in our office. if you would like to obtain a copy please contact our office on 03-9349-2400. Please note that the current policy is valid till April 1st 2011 and the new one will be issued afterwards.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (DEECD)

▪ 2011 Per-capita Grant

Funding application package has been forwarded by the DEECD to all eligible (currently accredited) schools. If you have not received your copy please contact immediately Mr Kypros Kyprianou, Senior Project Officer, Community Languages Schools by telephone on 9349 2861 or by e-mail to Kyprianou.kypros.k@edumail.vic.gov.au.

When completing your submission documents make sure that you enter ALL required information. A check list was also provided with the package to assist you in preparing and submitting all necessary documentation.

All documents must be submitted by no later than 29 April, 2011.

▪ Opening New Campus Policy

If you plan to open a new campus please contact Mr Kypros Kyprianou to be advised on the required process to get the new campus accredited for funding purposes. Please note that students attending new campuses will not be funded unless prior accreditation is sought and received for these campuses.

▪ Accreditation Process for 2011 and beyond:

Community languages schools whose Accreditation expires in December 2011 will be reminded by the Department of Education in March about applying for reaccreditation. Applications for renewal of current Accreditations beyond 2011 or for Accrediting new schools and/ or campuses usually close by end of September. Schools are advised to start preparing all necessary documents well ahead of the closing date"

A copy of the accreditation list can be found on the following link:

<http://www.communitylanguages.org.au/Documents/2011-Accrediation-Guideline.pdf>

ESAV MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please find enclosed a copy of 2011 ESAV Membership Renewal Application; all member schools are requested to complete the attached form and also to make sure that they are financially members.

You contribution is important

All cheques (\$30) should be made out to ESAV membership

2011 ESAV ACTIVITIES

Information about the following activities (semester 1) will be sent to all member schools via mail and email shortly

- Victorian Community Languages Schools' Conference (Sunday July 3rd)
- LOTE Methodology Course
- Professional Development Program
- First Aid Course:
 - Level 1 & Level 2
 - Anaphylaxes & Asthma

USEFUL CONTACTS

▪ ESAV OFFICE (info@esav.org.au)	03-9349-2400
▪ STEFAN ROMANIW (sromaniw@bigpond.net.au)	0419-531-255
▪ DEECD – COMMUNITY LANGUAGES PROGRAM	03-9349-2861
▪ LANGUAGES & MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION RESOURCES CENTRE	03-9349-1418
▪ VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION	03-9651-0651
▪ VICTORIAN CURRICULUM ASSESSEMENT AUTHORITY	03-9651-4300
▪ OAMPS INSURANCE BROKER	03-9412-1555
▪ ETHNIC COMMUNITIES' COUNCIL OF VICTORIA	03-9349-4122
▪ MODERN LANGUAGES TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA	03-9349-5759