



Principal's message



It's nearly a year since we moved to Petersham so we have almost seen the full cycle of our trees and beautiful gardens. I hope you have had the opportunity to visit us here

for classes, or Parent and Carer Interviews. There is another chance to visit: **Open Day on 14 September 2019** when visitors can see the school and participate in some of our language and cultural activities. Put it in your diary!

This term, our school was belatedly awarded the 2017 Secretary's School Achievement Award. It is very pleasing that the award has finally been found. The application was co-written with our late Deputy Principal, Frances Selby and I am very proud that the school's excellence has been recognised.

As you'll see in this newsletter, our students have been coming for wonderful Lesson Days and they are practising their language and expanding their cultural knowledge. Our staff have also been sharing their professional expertise with other teachers across the state and engaging in their own professional learning- on the use of technology, caring for students with health issues, leadership and course writing.

This term, we will start Korean lessons for

students of Petersham

Public School. The students will also be coming over to use our facilities to cook some of the produce from their kitchen garden. I'm looking forward to that!

In the April holidays, the Thai Buddharangsee Community Language School held a 2 week workshop for students studying Thai dancing and music. They capped it off with a concert for the Consul General of Thailand. The school was so happy here at NSL, they are now holding language and culture lessons here every Sunday. We also have the ABCD Portuguese Community Language School running here on Tuesday afternoons.

I would like to pay tribute to one of our amazing ex-students, Theodore Vasilopoulos, who, just before he died in April, was awarded the prestigious Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize for outstanding achievement in his HSC while overcoming enormous obstacles. His father has recently written a [newspaper article](#) about his son and his successes. Theo was an amazing student of many languages, a keen football manager and a charity organiser. He was so positive and worked hard until the end. This is a very sad loss.

Hilary Hughes
Principal



AWARD

THE SECRETARY'S SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Director, Educational Leadership for the Marrickville Principals Network, Ms Virginia Pacey, presented to the NSW School of Languages the Secretary's School Achievement Award from 2017. Due to the school changing campuses and moving to Petersham the award was handed to NSW School of Languages Principal Hilary Hughes at a school staff meeting.

This award acknowledges NSW School of Languages' outstanding achievement and service to public education. The school's application

centred on the upgrading of online courses, the transition to online record keeping using the Distance Education Management System (DEMS), the new Korean stage 6 and Indonesian 100 hours courses which are available to all NSW schools and the establishment of the Korean Immersion Centre (Hana Centre). Included in the application was a trial of teaching the 100 hours mandatory Languages to rural and remote schools. We are continuing this scheme in 2019 with Tottenham and Barellan Central Schools.



PRESTIGIOUS BROTHER JOHN TAYLOR MEMORIAL PRIZE

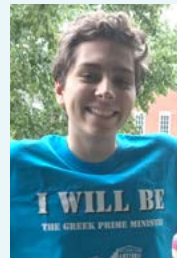
In March, one of our 2018 HSC cohort was awarded the prestigious Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize from NESAs.

At Parliament House, Minister Stokes presented this award to 3 NSW students who have excelled in their HSC despite enormous struggles.

Our student Theodore Vasilopoulos achieved Band 6 in Modern Greek and German at our school, and also in Chinese at his own school- and Band 4s in 2 Extension subjects.

Theo was in Germany still receiving treatment for his third bout of cancer so his acceptance speech was read by Darryll Hopkins, his school Supervisor from the Australian International School in Hong Kong.

"I felt gratitude that (my teachers) never gave up



on me; gratitude that they kept me focused when I didn't have the energy to keep going; and profound gratitude that they always believed I could achieve my goal of finishing school and go to university."

Theo was offered a place in Kings College Cambridge to continue his studies. Sadly he succumbed to his disease and died in April before he could fulfil his dream. We send our heartfelt sorrow to Theo's sister Olivia, who was also our student, and their parents.

"It was a privilege to have known this incredible young man. Theodore personified courage and determination, he shared generously his intellect, his humour and his aspirations." – Ros Kriewaldt



From Left: Mr Tom Alegounarias, President of NESAs, Mr Darryll Hopkins, Theo's Supervisor, Australian International School in Hong Kong and The Hon. Rob Stokes, Minister for Education



SUPERVISORS DAY



Supervisors Day is an annual event that allows home school teachers who supervise students studying with NSW School of Languages to visit the school in person. During this afternoon, they are able to gain a better understanding of how the school operates and what is expected of them in their supervisor role. It is also an opportunity to meet their students' language teachers in person and to go on a tour of the school.

Just over 50 supervisors from all over the Sydney metropolitan area attended this year's Supervisors Day. NSW School of Languages appreciates the time and effort supervisors take to attend these afternoons and for their ongoing commitment to supervising students who study with us – we could not do our jobs without them!

ITALIAN

"In April, Year 9 Italian students came in for our face-to-face lesson day. This was our first time visiting the school, seeing our teachers in person and meeting our fellow students, so it was slightly nerve-wracking. However, we had an amazing day of learning and meeting new people. Throughout the day we ate delicious gelato, learnt about the Italian Carnevale, a festival occurring before the fasting period, and La Commedia Dell'Arte, an improvised form of comedy and pantomime. We studied the personality and costumes of the characters of Commedia Dell'Arte, and having been inspired by these characters we made our own masks with paint and other accessories. Overall, it was great getting to know everyone and it was a fantastic, fun-filled day of learning.

*" Rowena Taylor and Honora Monagle
– students of Italian*



EducationPerfect

NSW School of Languages students have used Language Perfect in the last month answering 178,317 questions with 2,238 logins and spent 335 hours on line. Here are some of our student comments:

Lara Cabrelle (learning Italian): "Grazie signora. Using this helps me understand many of the terms especially the imperfect"

Olivia Elston (learning Korean): "It's really helpful!! I want to get in the habit of using it daily..."

Language Perfect has updated Italian, French and Korean. They have developed a new advanced Language in Action section which is a valuable resource for all our senior students.

If you haven't used Language Perfect you are encouraged to consider subscribing at this link:

<http://worldseries.educationperfect.com/payment-ohs.html>

It is available in the following languages:

German, Japanese, Indonesian
Russian, Korean, Chinese, Greek
Korean, French, Italian, Spanish
Latin, English as a Second Language

Please note that Language Perfect does not cater for Extension courses, Language in Context and Language and Literature courses.



JAPANESE

FACE-TO-FACE LESSON DAYS

In April Year 9 and Year 10 came to their lesson day and participated in a variety of activities that took the students on a learning journey of discovery. Rather than sitting on chairs at desks all day, students went on a treasure hunt around the school campus where they had to follow directions, read a map and instructions in Japanese making origami at each checkpoint. Students participated in group activities talking about themselves

and describing people in a variety of language games. The tasks varied from card games to visual stimuli describing famous people. For lunch students sampled the traditional Japanese *obento* lunchboxes.

The aim of the lesson day was to have students using the Japanese language that they have learnt in their Canvas online lessons. The students may have thought they were only having fun but the teachers saw students taken out of their comfort zone and



challenged to use the Japanese language in various settings and situations. The teachers promoted peer learning where students were given a scenario which they had to solve. This lesson day received the Principal's Term One best lesson plan award.



FUTURE SUCCESS



"I went straight to University after completing my HSC. I didn't exactly know what I wanted to do at the time, but I knew that I wanted to put my Japanese ability to good use so I chose Teaching.

While I was studying Japanese with NSW School of Languages I was passionate about languages, but after my first teaching practicum, I became more passionate about teaching languages and spreading cultural awareness. This inspired me to study abroad in Japan for one year, in order to further polish my language skills and cultural knowledge. I am a full-time Japanese teacher now teaching in a high school on the Central Coast and I am really enjoying the job.

I wanted to use this opportunity to thank NSW School of Languages for their support during high school and allowing me to explore my passion, especially Anna Peers-Hooper, who was my Japanese teacher at the time. I still remember dreading the

weekly phone lessons but they definitely helped me with my confidence in speaking Japanese. So, thank you again and I will strive to remember and pass on all the lessons you have taught me going forward."

Kelvin Yong

studied Japanese in Years 9 - 12 at NSW School of Languages (2009-2012)



CALLING ALL COSPLAYERS!

NSW School of Languages Open Day will be held at our campus in Petersham on **September 14th (Saturday 1-4pm)** and the Japanese Faculty wants YOU to join the fun on this special day.

This invitation is open to all students in our Japanese courses. We don't mind if you are a skilled cosplayer or just want to try cosplay at least once in your life.

All we need you to do is look fantastic and parade around the school for an hour. If you are interested, please go to Moodle and click Yes, I will come in cosplay.

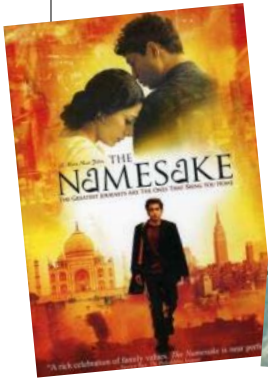
ESL

English as a Second Language (now also known as EAL/D) has had a very busy and productive year, having introduced the new Year 12 syllabus this year. After studying the poetry of famous indigenous poet, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, students moved on to the novel study, reading *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri and considering themes of identity, and generational and cultural clash presented in the text. Students have

recently embarked on the study of a brand new documentary film, *Reindeer in my Saami Heart*, by cinematographer Janet Merewether, which takes them to the far north of Sweden and the culture of the indigenous Saami people. Along with brand new perspectives of this far away region and its freezing climate, students are developing insight into the lives of these traditionally nomadic, reindeer herding people and their struggle to retain their land and culture.

Our students, who come from countries across the globe, including India, Tibet, China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand, are engaging well with the course through video conference and Adobe Connect video lessons.

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CHINESE



In May, Year 11 came for their second Face to Face lesson. In the morning the students revised activities to help them prepare for their first assessment. After lunch, Year 11 Chinese in Context students participated in a debate with their peers. Students not only practised language expressions but also formed a stronger bond with their classmates by working together. Year 11 Beginners students learnt about traditional Chinese Blue and White Porcelain art. While listening to some beautiful Chinese songs, they created their own porcelain art using paint and paper plates. Look how focused they were! Year 11 Chinese Continuers students played "Ti Jian Zi" (Shuttlecock) which is a traditional Chinese leisure sport. Students really enjoyed playing it!



 KOREAN



YEAR 11 KOREAN BEGINNERS

안녕하세요! (An nyeung ha sae yo)

Year 11 Korean Beginners students had their first induction, starting the day with an introduction to the course, followed by ice breaker games to make new friends. The students revised the *Hangeul* script and greetings and learned to write their names in Korean. In groups, students introduced themselves with

a group name and a chant just like K-Pop stars. In the afternoon, to understand the culture of Korean entertainment, students played traditional games which were fun but challenging. A delicious Korean-style buffet was served for lunch.



YEAR 9 AND 10 (100 HOURS)

The Year 9 and 10 Korean students came together for their first Face-to-Face lesson and had a fun and productive day getting to know each other, revising the fundamentals of the Korean alphabet, practising greetings and playing cultural games with new friends. After enjoying a Korean lunchbox '*dosirak*', students had the opportunity to participate in creating musical rhythms using traditional percussion instruments, *Jang-gu* sticks and *Sogo*. Following the instructions of the teacher, students formed into groups and practised playing rhythmic patterns along to the traditional Korean folk song *Arirang*. It was a rewarding day filled with learning and fun activities. We cannot wait to have the students back!



YEAR 12 KOREAN BEGINNERS

The face to face lesson day for Year 12 Korean Beginners students was in Term 1. Many of our keen students participated in sessions that are aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of the course outcomes and exam techniques. Students had the opportunity to gain practical study tips through videos made by former Year 12 students who achieved outstanding results in their Korean HSC exam. Students valued the speaking mock test session where each student practised their speaking skills and had individual feedback from teachers and their fellow students.



YEAR 10 (200 HOURS) AND KOREAN IN-CONTEXT

At the Term 1 Lesson Day for Year 10 (200 hours) and Korean In Context, students enjoyed meeting their teachers and friends from the previous year, as well as having fun with the lesson activities. The highlight was the K-Pop dancing competition and cooking '*ddeok-bokki*'. The finished product was so good that it had to be shared with other teachers in the faculty. It was thumbs up from all students. Well done!



MODERN GREEK

FACE TO FACE LESSON DAY

Another successful face to face lesson day was had by Modern Greek Year 12 Extension students in May. The whole class attended and continued building their strong knowledge of the text set for study and the related issues. We had a productive lesson focusing on the new style assessment requirements and students prepared speaking tasks which they presented to their classmates. All students contributed valid and insightful ideas and gave constructive feedback respectfully on each other's presentations. Teachers were impressed by the students' sensitive and generous support of their classmates and willingness to extend their own abilities and help others achieve. At lunchtime, we had a Greek delicacy, *spanakopita*. Students expressed their enjoyment of the day and we, as teachers, would like to express how delightful this group of students is.



A TEACHER'S REFLECTION:

“A few days ago, I had the pleasure of instructing Year 10 students for a face to face lesson. As a Distance Education school, it is not often that we communicate ‘live’ with our whole class of students. This group showed unparalleled commitment to their subject and lesson, so much so that one travelled all the way from Newcastle and three others from the Northern Beaches. This commitment makes us teachers try harder to deliver the best we can for our students.

It was a great day, full of different activities, including Quizlet games where students approach the board and make their selections or match the words. It is fun learning Modern Greek! Well done all around! ”

Bill Gionopoulos



RUSSIAN

FACE TO FACE LESSON DAY

In the recent Lesson Day our Year 9 students presented their mid-year projects to the class. Their presentations included autobiographic narratives and reflections on their native towns or other Russian cities and towns. The presentations were very creative and engaging. A number of students shared interesting family stories

with their fellow students. One of our students, Andrey Avramenko, even went to the trouble of contacting and interviewing his grandmother in Belgorodsk, Russia. It is Andrey's great effort and personal perspective that made the difference. His presentation was a big hit according to our students. Well done, Andrey!



GERMAN

YEAR 11 BEGINNERS LESSON DAY

The vibe was positive as our smiling 11 Beginners students reunited for their second German Lesson Day of the year.

There was lots of grammar on the agenda, but no need to fear! The presentations were creative and animated. Students showed their understanding of grammatical case by holding up flashcards in response to questions. Verbs were practised in small groups where students threw over-sized dice to pick up a card and give the correct form.

Then over to the kitchen! Armed with a recipe entirely in German, students formed groups where language skills, pragmatism and inter-personal skills were all put to the test. Franz-Josef, Emperor of Austria (from 1848-1916) would have been proud! Students turned out his namesake *Kaiserschmarrn* (the Emperor's torn pancakes) and the aroma of the rich buttery mixture cooking wafted all over the school!

After lunch, students put themselves in the shoes of celebrities and interviewed each other's persona in German on topics such as family and hobbies. As a final



activity, students watched and discussed the next episode of their German "soapie" set in Berlin. Will Christian ever be able to impress Tanja? Can Petra control her jealousy? Bring on Lesson Day 3, so that we can find out!



AN EXCURSION TO THE GOETHE INSTITUTE

Our students and teachers attended a German Beginners HSC Speaking Day hosted by the Goethe Institute, with teachers and students from schools around Sydney and the Central Coast. The students enjoyed working in small groups, practising their German speaking skills on various HSC syllabus topics and rotating through different sessions run by attending teachers. Students had a lot of fun at the end of the day taking part in a 'speed dating' activity – they spoke to one another in pairs in German for the whole hour! This practice will no doubt be invaluable for the students when they have to impress the markers for the upcoming Trial and HSC speaking exams.

LATIN

NATIONAL LATIN EXAMINATION

Years 10, 11 and 12 participated in the National Latin Examination, a test given annually to Latin students across the United States and around the world. The first section tests a student's knowledge of grammar and vocabulary in the comprehension of Latin. The next section of the exam assesses a student's knowledge of the Roman world. The questions on the final section are based on information contained in a passage in Latin.

All deserve congratulations for their effort, and in particular the following students
Gold Summa Cum Laude: Aeowyn (Y10), Ava (Y10) and Vihan (Y12)
Silver Maxima Cum Laude: Alex (Y10), Lucy (Y10) and Natalie (Y11)



SPANISH

STUDYING SPANISH AT NSW SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES

“I had a great experience studying Spanish at NSW School of Languages. I really enjoyed learning and engaging with the Spanish teachers as they were very supportive of all the challenges I was experiencing with learning a language by distance. Distance education was a positive experience as it was good to have individual one-on-one lessons rather than being in a classroom with other students. In this way, my teachers could give me feedback tailored towards my strengths and weaknesses, which allowed me to improve exponentially. Additionally, by having some face-to-face lessons during the year with other students, it gave me something to look forward to throughout year 12. These were always fun, enjoyable and a great way to make friends who were going through a similar experience and who shared my interest in the Spanish language. Overall, I would highly recommend NSW School of Languages to anyone interested in studying a language through distance education.”

Kori Saravia Lucio
class of 2018



FRENCH

PROPOSED STUDY TRIP - AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS OF FRENCH!

We are thrilled to announce our proposed Study Tour to France in 2020!

The proposed trip includes:

- All travel and accommodation expenses
- 12 days in Aix-en-Provence with an authentic homestay experience
- 20 hours of French language classes at the Alliance Française in Aix-en-Provence in the south of France <https://afaixmarseille.org/en/>
- Local cultural excursions in Aix-en-Provence, Marseille,

Nîmes and Cassis

- 1 night in Nice with local cultural activities
- 3 nights in Paris with cultural excursions, including the Louvre Museum and the Palace of Versailles

The anticipated cost is \$6,800 per student, subject to change according to numbers and exchange rates.

The trip is open to all students currently enrolled in Year 9-11 French.

Contact:

Please indicate your interest in this study tour by emailing Adam Hashambhoy, French Teacher and excursion co-ordinator, Ph: 9381 4857 or adam.hashambhoy@det.nsw.edu.au



NEW CALEDONIA STUDY TRIP 11-19 APRIL 2019:

FRENCH LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

After months of planning and anticipation, 16 excited students and 2 even more excited teachers headed off for Nouméa on the second last day of Term 1. Less than 3 hours later we had set foot in la Nouvelle Calédonie, one of France's overseas departments, for a 9 day French language immersion adventure.

Our first night was spent in a hotel at Anse Vata, one of Nouméa's most popular tourist strips, complete with a long beach, palm trees, windsurfers and locals playing *pétanque*, the first signs of an interesting mix of cultures. By bedtime, the students had already put their French into practice, ordering their meals in a restaurant

and greeting hotel staff.

The next morning, we arrived at our French language

school CREIPAC before 8am, where students met their teachers and very quickly got to work in the first of their French language classes. After lunch, we saw the sights of Nouméa from *le Petit Train* with an interesting commentary in French from our bilingual guide. In the afternoon, the students met their host families, with whom they would stay for the next 5 nights, immersed in the everyday life of these local families.

Each day was an opportunity to hear and speak French, and to discover something new about the interesting and diverse culture of New Caledonia, with the host families, at the language lessons, or taking part in cultural activities. Among the most memorable experiences was the opportunity to enjoy local hospitality on Amédée Island, with Polynesian dancing, coconut picking, a climb to the top of the lighthouse with spectacular views of the coral reefs and a banquet with an amazing array of foods representing the many cultures present in New Caledonia. We also observed multitudes of fish and green sea turtles from a glass-bottomed boat and later some of us had fun swimming with turtles who were happily chomping on the seagrass not far from the beach.

Our final day was spent at the impressive Tjibaou Cultural Centre where we learned some more about the local Kanak culture. With the expert help and guidance of George and his team, we helped to prepare and cook a *bougna*, a traditional Kanak feast of local vegetables and meat wrapped in banana leaves and tied together with palm fronds, all cooked in an underground fire pit. We then donned traditional *pareos* (sarongs) and shared the meal, eating from traditional plates that we had made ourselves from woven palm fronds lined with banana leaves.

It was a whirlwind adventure! The feedback from the students was that it was a most memorable and worthwhile experience. As accompanying teachers, it was impressive to observe an increase in the confidence of the students when interacting with others and speaking French. It was a great opportunity for them to put into practice the French language skills they had been working so hard on back home, in an authentic French-speaking context.

Margaret Lattimore
and Adam Hashambhoy -
French teachers.



NEW CALEDONIA STUDY TRIP 2019:

“Salut! Je m’appelle Genevieve Blandin de Chalain. I am a year 12 student currently doing my HSC French Beginners course. Last holidays I took part in the New Caledonia study trip. At first I wasn’t sure how much the trip would benefit my French skills and really I just wanted to go for a holiday! I was nervous of course, but before we left we got to meet all of our classmates who were also going on the trip. When we arrived we were taken to a hotel for the first night with all the other students. This gave us the opportunity to learn more about one another and we all became really good friends. We were all at different levels so it was nice to know we had one another if we got stuck.

We went to school and had French lessons at CREIPAC each day, we learnt a lot there. However the most beneficial and FUN part of the trip was the homestay. We had five nights of homestay on the trip, but I wish we’d had more. I stayed with the Sarrotte family who are New Caledonia locals and they were absolutely lovely. They didn’t speak any English so I learnt to become more confident and develop my speaking skills and vocabulary. Every night we would sit down at the dinner table to a huge spread of beautiful French food and talk for at least two hours. I really made an effort to extend my vocabulary and my ability to respond on the spot with phrases and words I already knew. Of course there were times when I didn’t have the right words to express exactly what I wanted or I couldn’t understand (Google translate in emergencies!) but it was good to sit and listen and be fully immersed in the beautiful language and culture. On Sunday we didn’t need to go to school so we spent the day alone with our families to do activities they would do on a typical Sunday. For my family that meant waking up early and heading off to the fresh food markets with the mother Martine, where we bought fresh fish, vegetables, bread and *pâté* because on Sunday we had a

big lunch with their extended family.

I also spent a lot of time with my host sister Audrey who is a year older than me. We got along wonderfully, in fact, we are still in contact now. We baked together, played French board games and watched movies that I knew from back home but in French. It was experiences like this that made my time over there extra special and memorable, to be in someone’s home in a family much like my own but in a completely new country speaking a different language.

I was sad to return to Australia but I am so thankful for the people I have met and the memories I have made. Going to New Caledonia has expanded and accelerated my knowledge of the French language very much. I now feel so much more confident in my ability and have a much stronger passion for the language, because now I can really see where it can take me, the people you can meet and the places you can explore. It really is an amazing thing and I strongly encourage everyone who is presented with the opportunity to go on a trip like this, or even an exchange if you’re lucky enough, to take it! I can assure you, you will not regret it. For me next year I will be going on an exchange to France for a year for university and I cannot wait! ”

Genevieve Blandin de Chalain



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