

TERM 4, 2023

# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from NSW School of Languages



NSW SCHOOL  
OF LANGUAGES

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Principal - Teresa Naso



## Principal's message

Dear School Community,

It is amazing how quickly the year has flown by. This term has been busy with final assessments for students in Years 9 and 10. Our 2024 Year 12 cohort have completed their first assessment task.

We thank all our stakeholders who have completed our annual survey. We have valuable data on improvements we can make for 2024.

This term we also celebrated World Teachers' Day. It was a great day for us teachers to reflect on the reasons we do what we do every day. Most of us became teachers because we had a great role model teacher ourselves.



Photos: NSL staff celebrating World Teachers Day



It is great to see the federal government launching a campaign to encourage people to become teachers. NSL has been actively supporting a number of pre-service language teachers over the past few years.

One of the pre-service teachers we had this term was ex-student Kiara Lim,

*"Teaching was the last thing I thought I would do, but my studies at this school completely changed my path. My name is Kiara Lim and I'm about to enter a new chapter of my life as a Korean, Indonesian and EAL/D teacher. As a young and impressionable youth, I first heard of the NSW School of Languages (or as I knew it then, Open High School) at my main high school in Year 10. Faced with the daunting choice of HSC subject selection, this school offered language courses which piqued my interest and offered me the chance to learn about my personal background. I never would have guessed how this choice would later inspire me to become a teacher myself.*

*I enrolled in the Indonesian Beginner's Course in an attempt to study something that would help me connect to the Indonesian side of my family and serve me well in my career. The one-on-one lessons, although daunting at first, quickly grew to be enjoyable and inspiring as my teacher, Ibu Chris, journeyed with me through my learning. Through my studies, my eyes were opened to new aspects of my identity and I grew to understand a whole new culture and society. I personally experienced how the mentorship and guidance from a teacher can build and inspire oneself. Seeing this impact in myself sparked a new dream. I wanted to become a teacher. Education truly shapes the minds and lives of students and I wanted to be a part of the positive influence that I experienced first-hand. I have been blessed to return to the very school which inspired and shaped me for my final teaching internship.*

*Once a beginning language learner at the NSW School of Languages, I am now a multilingual teacher standing at the beginning of my professional career as an educator."*

We now anxiously await our HSC results and are in the midst of planning for 2024. For the students and families who have come to the end of their studies, I wish you all the best for your future. And remember that languages open doors to new cultures, fostering global understanding and enriching personal perspectives. Proficiency in multiple languages enhances communication skills, creating opportunities for diverse connections and fostering a more inclusive and interconnected world.

**Teresa Naso**  
**Principal**



## Important dates at NSL - Terms 4 2023 and 2024

### Term 4 2023

- Wednesday 22 November: Year 12 Assessment Task 1 All courses (Except EAL/D)
- Monday 4 December: Year 12 EAL/D Assessment Task 1
- Friday 15 December: Term 4 student lessons finish

### Term 1 2024

- Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 January: Staff Development Days (no student lessons)
- Thursday 1 February: Term 1 student lessons commence
- Wednesday 14 February: Year 12 Extension Assessment Task 1
- Tuesday 27 February: Parent Information Webinar
- Wednesday 6 March: Supervisors' Day
- Monday 11 – Friday 22 March: Year 12 Assessment Task 2 in home schools
- Monday 25 – Thursday 28 March: Year 10 Assessment Task 1 in home schools
- Thursday 28 March: Year 12 EALD Assessment Task 2
- Friday 29 March: Good Friday Public Holiday (no student lessons)
- Monday 1 April: Easter Monday Public Holiday (no student lessons)
- Wednesday 3 April: Year 11 EALD Assessment Task 1
- Friday 12 April: Term 1 student lessons finish

### Term 2 2024

- Tuesday 30 April: Term 2 student lessons commence
- Monday 10 June: King's Birthday Public Holiday (no student lessons)
- Friday 5 July: Term 2 student lessons finish

### Term 3 2024

- Tuesday 23 July: Term 3 student lessons commence
- Friday 27 September: Term 3 student lessons finish

### Term 4 2024

- Monday 14 October: Term 4 student lessons commence
- Wednesday 18 December: Term 4 student lessons finish

## School Bytes excursion payment system

On Tuesday 31 October, our Business Manager, Jason Sellick and School Administrative Manager, El Thorley, attended the School Bytes training session at the Department of Education head office in Parramatta. We will be moving excursion payments over to the School Bytes system this term and payment instructions will be supplied with excursion information as they occur.

**Jason Sellick**  
Business Manager



## Student Awards 2023

Congratulations to all students who have won awards this year - you have worked hard and shown great commitment to your language studies!

### Long Tan Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the Long Tan Awards for 2023.

Year 12 award - **Jasmin Bohle - HSC German Continuers**

Year 10 award - **Jocey Ayers - Year 10 Japanese**

NSW School of Languages teachers nominated students for this award. The award criteria: Leadership, Teamwork, Values, Problem Solving, Resourcefulness, Communicator, Cooperator and Community Involvement.

**Here is an excerpt from each of the student's nominations:**

#### Year 12

*"I would like to nominate Jasmin Bohle for the Long Tan Award. As Jasmin's German teacher in the German Continuers and German Extension courses at the NSW School of Languages for the last 16 months, I have witnessed Jasmin's commitment to her language studies and have learned about the commitment to her community.*

*Born in Australia to Chinese and German parents, Jasmin has been brought up in three cultures and learned very early on to appreciate and negotiate between different views and values, making her an attentive and effective communicator.*

*Jasmin demonstrates these reflective communication skills during online speaking lessons with me as well as with her peers during lesson days at our school.*

*Jasmin shows resourcefulness when faced with difficult situations. In terms of her language studies, she has demonstrated this by continuing to produce high quality work for her German courses under time pressure during assessment weeks at her home school. She also communicated with me when she was finding it difficult to meet a due date so we could develop an alternative work schedule that would allow her to complete work on essential content in a timely fashion. I believe Jasmin's ability to approach problems openly, proactively and with a positive mindset sets her apart."*

**Martin Koester**  
**German teacher**





## Year 10



*"In the last 18 months I have come to know Jocey as someone who readily takes opportunities to show leadership, solve problems and cooperate with others in her class. During her time at NSL she has become someone whom others can depend on and look up to on Lesson Days. I know I can count on her to do her best to be friendly and interact with every other student. Because of this, I feel she exemplifies the ideal NSL student."*

*Jocey is an excellent communicator in English and also in Japanese and has the ability to get her ideas and opinions across whilst maintaining respect for others and being humble.*

*Jocey's favourite Japanese anime is 'My Hero Academia' because of its themes of what it means to be a hero, including putting others before yourself, being tolerant and non-judgemental when challenged, and being willing to understand people on a deeper level."*

**Katie Zerefos**  
**Japanese teacher**

## Reuben F Scarf Award

Congratulations to Elijah Johnson in Year 11 Japanese Beginners. Elijah's teacher, Mrs Zerefos wrote:

*"Elijah Johnson has shown remarkable resilience and tenacity in his approach to his Japanese studies, despite a number of obstacles. He is studying Year 11 Beginners Japanese."*

*At the start of the year, he was finding it very difficult to complete the written work in tandem with his Canvas work and he found uploading his work to be very difficult in an organisational sense. With the help of his teachers at school, he is now submitting work regularly and participates enthusiastically in our speaking lessons on the phone.*

*Eli is going to Japan on his school trip (with Ballina Coast HS) on 21/10 where I expect he will find many opportunities to try out the Japanese he knows.*

*Eli always has interesting questions about Japanese grammar and vocab and has developed his knowledge and curiosity to a very high degree."*

**Katie Zerefos**  
**Japanese Teacher**

## Ampol All Rounder Award

NSW School of Languages presents this award to Romey Fanning in Year 12 Italian Beginners and Year 12 French Extension. We wish to congratulate Romey on her success.

### Here is a excerpt from her teacher's nomination.

*"Romey participated in the creation of a farewell video for the NSW School of Language Italian Beginners students of 2023. This was an initiative of the High Potential Gifted Education (HPGE) Committee.*



*She has been an inspiring study pal and mentoring guide for her classmate, Ruben, while learning Italian at the New South Wales School of Languages (NSL), supporting him with the more challenging tasks and boosting his motivation to choose Italian for the HSC.*

*Romey is a very positive person and always tries to have a positive attitude. Although in the past she was more anxious and stressed, now instead she uses her mistakes, failures or setbacks as motivation or as tools to improve and develop into a happier and more open person and to impact positively on others.*

*She is also highly passionate about language learning, studying both French and Italian at NSL, Indonesian at the restaurant where she works and has been learning Korean during her free time, inclusive of after school Korean lessons.*

*Romey finds that learning languages opens many doors in life and gives opportunities to connect with new people, such as the school exchange program she did in the South of France over Christmas. She was able to visit Paris, spend a month going to school and two weeks of holidays, throughout the whole trip exploring the different cities of France with her host family, improving her skills in French and gaining a deep understanding of French culture.*

*Whilst Romey was in France, she continued pursuing her musical interests by doing KPOP, hip-hop and contemporary dance classes and guitar classes at school where she sang in front of her peers. Similarly, her French peer came to Australia on exchange for six weeks and got to better understand Romey's perspective."*

**Elisabetta Rossi**  
**Italian Teacher**



## Practicum students at NSW School of Languages

NSW School of Languages has continued to partner with universities to provide internship placements for practicum students from University of Sydney and University of NSW as they begin their teaching career journeys. Thank you to all staff and especially supervising teachers for being passionate about passing on knowledge and sharing language teaching expertise with the next generation of language teachers.

*“안녕하세요 and apa kabar! My name is Kiara Lim, and I am currently one of three interns at the NSW School of Languages. I am particularly excited and honoured to be at this school for my final practicum, as I once studied at this very school for my Indonesian HSC studies. As a young student, this school enabled me to connect with and learn about a part of my background that would not have been possible at my home high school. I am a first-hand witness to the opportunities that the NSW School of Languages provides. Now, as alumni, it has been especially rewarding to work in the same faculty that my previous teachers worked in. While I can teach Indonesian, Korean is currently my focus during this internship. I have witnessed the hard work and great teamwork of the Korean language team, and I am filled with drive and hope for the beginning of my professional teaching career.*

*Distance education has a long history, and it is at the NSW School of Languages where 21st-century educational practices are happening!*

*With new technologies emerging and a deeper understanding of the need for flexibility in educational discourse, this school is helping define what true distance learning means. Connecting with students online and one-on-one has enabled me to further hone my own pedagogical skills in an unprecedented way. Under the guidance of my supervisor and head teacher, I can certainly say that I have been warmly welcomed and supported as a burgeoning educator.*

*I truly encourage anyone who is interested in learning about distance or language education to come by the NSW School of Languages. I am sure you will walk away with fruits you did not expect to gain.”*

**Kiara Lim**  
**Practicum Teacher**



Photo: Kiara Lim, Practicum Teacher





Cindy Xin

*"Instead of a workplace, I prefer to regard NSL as a big family since everyone is so supportive, friendly, and caring. I am extremely grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from the teachers in my faculty who profoundly influence and shape my pathway of being a patient, supportive, and inclusive teacher."*

*I've wanted to be a teacher since Kindergarten because I love the feeling of caring and supporting others, and I hope that I can have a positive impact on others."*

*Since I started teaching, I have found that teaching is more about responsibility. My attitudes, actions, and words can easily influence my students. I will always reflect critically and improve my teaching practice to support my students in a more effective way. I'm always healed by the smiles of my students, and I will treasure those precious presents forever."*

**Cindy Xin**  
**Practicum Teacher**



Photo: Cindy Xin discussing lessons with her supervising teachers



*"Hi, everyone! I am a pre-service teacher from UNSW."*

*It is a great opportunity for me to be able to do my practicum at NSL. I really enjoyed teaching Japanese here and had a wonderful teaching experience during the past few weeks. Distance teaching is something I have never experienced before; it is surprising how much meaningful communication I can make with students in a relatively short class time every week."*

*The unique lesson days at NSL are also remarkable experiences, I am so happy that I get to see the students face to face. It was so much fun spending time with students, supporting them and seeing them so engaged and enjoying the day."*

*It is fortunate for me to have this opportunity, and I believe this practicum experience would definitely support my confidence in my future teaching career. Many thanks to my supervising teacher Poulos sensei, and of course all the teachers from the faculty who are being patient and supportive all the time. Being part of the NSL community has been an amazing experience."*

**Jie Chen**  
**Practicum Teacher**



Photos: Jie Chen, Practicum Teacher

## Celebrating excellence: NSL staff shine at Metropolitan South Principals Network Awards

Excitement and pride filled the air as NSL staff attended the prestigious Metropolitan South Principals Network Awards on Thursday 2 November, held at the fabulous newly built Canterbury South Public School. The event provided a platform to honour the outstanding contributions of educators and support staff across the region, and NSL had two exceptional reasons to celebrate.

**Jing Huang**, a dedicated member of our administrative and support team, received the School Administrative and Support Staff Award for her commitment to ensuring the smooth functioning of our school. Jing's tireless efforts behind the scenes have made a significant impact on the NSL community. Her instrumental role in our enrolment process has had a positive impact on both colleagues and students, thanks to her attention to detail, organisational skills, and dedication to her work.

Another shining star from our NSL family is Spanish teacher, **Hayley Scheuermair**, who was presented with the Early Career Teacher Award. Hayley has made valuable contributions to the development of the online Spanish courses and has worked as coordinator of two of the largest Spanish courses in the school – Stage 5 Spanish and Spanish Beginners. She initiated a video exchange activity with a high school in Spain to help students develop their skills in communicating with native speakers. Hayley's passion for teaching Spanish and her innovative approach to education have left an indelible mark on her students. Her dedication to nurturing young minds and fostering an environment of learning excellence is truly inspiring.

The Metropolitan South Principals Network Awards not only celebrated the achievements of these exceptional individuals at NSL but also served as a testament to public education in NSW. We congratulate Jing and Hayley on their well-deserved awards and thank them for their unwavering commitment to our school and its community. Congratulations to Jing and Hayley!

**El Thorley**  
School Administrative Manager



Photo: Janelle Byrne – Deputy Principal, Peng Zhao, Jing Huang, Hayley Scheuermair, Jessica D'Sylva, Dino Scheuermair and El Thorley – School Administrative Manager



Photo: El Thorley – School Administrative Manager, Hayley Scheuermair, Chris Pevy-Buenen – Director Educational Leadership Marrickville Principals Network, Jing Huang and Janelle Byrne – Deputy Principal



Photo: Hayley Scheuermair, Chris Pevy-Buenen – Director Educational Leadership Marrickville Principals Network and Jing Huang



## KOREAN 한국어



Photo: Kasama Srivanichakorn with her first prize award at Korean speech contest

## Year 12 Korean Beginners - 2023 Korean speech contest

Kasama Srivanichakorn, our Year 12 Korean Beginner student, has won the 1st prize in the 2023 Korean Speech Contest. Kasama has been offered the opportunity to participate in the Korean Education Program for International Youth held at Hana Global Campus in Incheon, South Korea. She will be our NSL ambassador from Australia!

## Candles light bright!

Year 12 Korean students recently gathered to celebrate their accomplishments. A highlight of the event was crafting and exchanging their personalised candles, cheering each other on for their incredible journeys ahead. We sincerely hope students embrace this new chapter with optimism and great anticipation!

Photos: (left) Year 12 Korean Beginners farewell Lesson Day and (right) Year 12 Korean in Continuers farewell Lesson Day



## 2023 Korean performance contest

Students' hard work and talent are truly commendable! Oliver Cole and Zongan Yang came equal 2nd place in the 2023 Korean Performance Contest. Oliver's singing left audiences in awe, while Zongan's solo performance captivated everyone. Additionally, we extend our congratulations to Patricia Hartono. She secured the 3rd prize in the artworks stream. Well done!

Photo: Patricia, Oliver, Zongan with their Korean Performance Contest awards



## Student exchange program experience in South Korea!

"Hi! My name is Citrine and I am currently doing an exchange program in Daegu (대구) South Korea for three months from August to November."

### Why did you choose to go on exchange to Korea?

"I chose to go to Korea for my exchange because I have been studying the Korean language for over three years. I am also deeply interested in the culture, music, media, and food. I thought it would also be a great experience to improve my Korean skills as well as get to know what life is like as a Korean student."



Photo: Citrine in front of Hanok, a traditional Korean house



### Where are you staying?

*"I am currently staying in Daegu, which is the third largest city in South Korea following Seoul and Busan. To be a bit more specific, I live in the north part of Daegu called Buk-gu. I am currently living with a really sweet host family where I live with a host Mum, Dad and two younger sisters."*

### How is your school experience? Is it different to school in Australia?

*"School in Korea is quite different to Australia. The school day typically starts early and ends quite late. One of the major differences is that classes are held in one classroom where teachers move from class to class. This is unless you have special subjects such as art, music, and sports where students have to go to separate classrooms. As expected, Korean students are very passionate and diligent about their studies. Most of the students attend private tutoring after school. There is also something called yaja (야자), which are night study periods at school that start right after school ends and finishes at 9pm. During this time, students do their homework or catch up on individual study. Yaja is not compulsory, but many students attend to revise and consolidate their study."*

*I believe the language skills that I learnt from NSL helped me on my exchange program to a great extent. Knowing the school subject names beforehand came in handy when adjusting to life here. The cultural lessons have also been helpful in understanding the traditional and historical background of Korea. Learning Korean at NSL also taught me valuable cultural lessons such as showing respect to one another and social etiquette in the community."*

### What are some of the highlights of your exchange?

*"If I were to mention just one highlight of my exchange it would be going to E-World with my school friends after school. E-World is one of the most popular amusement parks in Daegu."*

*The biggest highlight was riding the roller coasters, eating food from the stalls, going ice skating, and staying out until the park closed."*

*Everything in Korea is also located in close proximity, making it very convenient. I was surprised to find five convenience stores within a 10-minute walk from my house. There are also various restaurants and unique shops such as study cafes (a café to drink tea and study), comic book cafes, cat cafes (you can play with cats while you have tea), PC room and Noraebang singing room), which are common in Australia."*

### Did you make new friends?

*"I made many new friends and close acquaintances during my time here! I spend time with other exchange students from all around the world, who also live in Daegu, alongside my classmates who I hang out and spend the most time with. They've all been really supportive, fun, kind, and helpful with helping me adjust to my new setting."*

### Would you recommend going on exchange to other students?

*"I would definitely recommend if not encourage those who are considering going on an exchange trip to not hesitate! It's such a wonderful, eye-opening experience that teaches you resilience, courage, acceptance, love, and tolerance."*

**Citrine Hui**  
**Year 10 Korean**



Photos: (Top) Busan Gamcheon cultural village, (Bottom) Visiting E-world with friends



## Nihongo Tanken Centre excursion

Thirty students and three teachers travelled to Kirrawee High School to visit the Nihongo Tanken Centre on Wednesday 20 September.

The Tanken centre provides a stimulating and authentic Japanese environment for students to develop their Japanese language skills. *Nihongo Tanken* means exploring Japanese in the sense of an adventurous expedition into Japanese language and culture.

When the students and teachers arrived, they were asked to remove their shoes at the entrance hall called the genkan, because they were walking on tatami hand woven straw mats. The centre is like a separate house built on the site of Kirrawee High School. The students were immersed in the Japanese language (with no English) for the day. The students were divided into teams completing activities within the four skills- speaking, listening, reading and writing.

JAPANESE  
日本語



Photos: Year 9 students. (From top) Spring team, Autumn team, Summer team and, student and teacher group photo

## Year 9 and 10 Lesson Days

Year 9 and 10 (100 hour) Japanese students, for their lesson day, worked on exam technique, created *Orizome* (Japanese traditional scrolls) and were introduced to the art of folding material (*furoshiki*) to carry belongings. To make the *Orizome*, the students folded and tied very thin Japanese paper into a small triangle, then dipped this into food colour dye. After eating an authentic Japanese obento lunch, students opened their dried artwork which revealed a colourful, unique pattern. This was attached to the student's name written in Japanese calligraphy to make their *Orizome*. The *furoshiki* session was presented online from the Japan Foundation. Students created cloth carriers for drink bottles, laptops, books and even watermelons!



Photos: (left) Toby Harper (Yr 10) folded a watermelon carrier, (centre) Students displaying their Orizome and (right) Cyan McKinnon (Yr 9) created a furoshiki bottle carrier



## Indonesian courses promotional video

### INDONESIAN Bahasa Indonesia

A promotional video for the Indonesian courses at the NSW School of Languages has finally been filmed, edited and is on the way to being published! This video features Ibu Ida, Ibu Christin, Bapak Ibrahim and the intern Ibu Kiara. With the hope of increasing interest in the Indonesian language courses available, this video will be available for the public and prospective students to watch.

It is the hope of the faculty that this video will help introduce the options available for studying Indonesian at our school and demystify what it is like to study through distance education. The video was filmed in both the physical Indonesian classroom - where face-to-face lessons take place - and the faculty office where online lessons take place.



Photo: A sneak peek of a scene from the video

We encourage any schools or students who may be curious about the going-ons in the Indonesian faculty to watch our new video!

## Reflections from Year 12 Indonesian students

*"My choice to learn a language for Year 11 and 12 was an easy one. I've always enjoyed the rewarding nature of learning new languages and the culture that comes with it, so when it came to picking my units, I knew what I wanted to do. I chose Indonesian for two reasons; my dad studied Indonesian for his HSC and in university and so did my grandparents. Another reason was how easily I could apply this language during my family's almost annual trips to Indonesia.*

*Learning a language in a completely online environment was a learning curve from the usual classroom environment. It required constant motivation ensuring that you allocate enough time to complete modules on time and being prepared for the weekly speaking lessons with your teacher. Personally, having a completely online course provided relief from the other five subjects and it gave me time for quiet study and wasn't too drastic thanks to COVID-19 online learning. Another reason why I highly enjoyed studying at NSL was the in-person lessons that occurred once a term. It was here where I really polished my skills and compared and made friends with the other people in my course and ultimately made the experience of learning Indonesian feel more connected and enjoyable.*

*In Year 12, due to the similar learning format from Year 11, I was able to adjust and learn from my mistakes in Year 11 to more effectively learn the language. Making sure I knew my vocab back to front was my weak point across the entire course so, with the help of the Quizlets that NSL provided, I was able to allocate time out of school to revise my vocab and make note of the vocabulary that was more commonly used compared to the niche words that only appear in certain topics.*

*I am not going to lie, learning a language is hard, but with unconditional support from my teacher, Mrs Harsojo, and her constant feedback and areas I could improve in, Indonesian quickly became one of the most rewarding and enjoyable subjects. This was made clear when I travelled to Bali in January 2023 and was able to have conversations with the locals and let them also give me tips on how to improve or substitute for words to speak in more colloquial phrases. Just watching the reactions of a tourist saying simple phrases such as "What's the time?", "your house is beautiful", or "That's too expensive!" in their language was so rewarding and I encourage everyone to (if possible) make an effort to learn the local languages of places you may visit to share in this same rewarding experience.*

*I have thoroughly enjoyed my Indonesian Beginners learning experience at NSL and although it had its challenges, its unique learning style and quality of teachers, as well as providing the gift of communication made this experience one that I will forever be grateful for."*

**Charlotte Owens**  
**Year 12 Indonesian Beginners**



*"The Indonesian Immersion Day gathered HSC Indonesian Students from across the state for a morning of speaking practise before our exam. Students were able to spend 10 minutes conversing with Indonesian teachers and volunteers from The Australian Indonesian Youth Association before rotating to another speaker. This allowed students to become more comfortable talking to different people and also provided an opportunity to get different feedback from teachers from other schools.*

*There was a break for morning tea when we could chat with other students while sipping on some delicious Teh Botol (Indonesian sweet tea) and eating some Indonesian snacks such as Beng Beng (Indonesian chocolate bar with rice bubbles).*

*Overall, I found the day to be very valuable. Practice like that proved vital in improving my fluency before the oral exam, and as a distance ed student, it gave me the opportunity to meet other Indonesian students. I'm very grateful to the Monte Saint Anglo College, volunteers from AIYA and the teachers who gave up their time to make this day for us. It was memorable and very helpful."*

**Eleanor Hughes**  
**12 Indonesian Continuers**

**RUSSIAN**  
 Русский

## Art and language learning go together



Photo: Mish Hinton and various pieces from his artwork

Mish Hinton, one of our Year 11 Russian Continuers students, loves Russian culture and this has inspired his love of painting. Mish enjoyed studying the topic of 'Art and Entertainment' in his Continuers course and was keen to learn more about the famous Russian paintings and artists. He enjoyed discussing his ideas about art and artists with his teacher.

One of Mish's paintings is the Saint Basil's Cathedral, an Orthodox church in Moscow's Red Square. Here is what Mish had to say about his artwork:

*"Russian lessons give me an opportunity to develop my Russian language skills and to learn about Russian culture. One of my favourite works is St. Basil's Cathedral. When I was in Moscow, I really liked the cathedral for its colours and originality. It was very difficult to draw, but now I have a piece of Moscow at home".*

**Mish Hinton**  
**Year 11 Russian Continuers**

**GERMAN**  
*Deutsch*

## Kate Agnew's scholarship to Germany

"Hallo! Wie geht's? I'm Kate and I'm currently studying the German Continuers course with the NSW School of Languages. In July, I was lucky enough to travel with an international group on an all-expenses covered month long trip to Germany as part of a scholarship competition run by the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD) and selected in Australia by the Goethe Institute. To receive the scholarship, I made a video submission, had an interview, and wrote a document application (pretty much all in German!).



*Bubbling with childish excitement, we marched through Sydney airport. No adults, we were free, and ready to find our gate to set off on the journey of a lifetime. I settled down on the plane and made friends with my flight partner - one of the four winners from Australia. And though I was beyond grateful for the opportunity ahead of me, I was filled with a deep sense of trepidation. I wasn't allowed to speak English for the next four weeks - my German wasn't that good; it was my first time overseas - no parents to guide me; how would I make friends without English? And though these fears were rational, and I will not understate the struggle of being in a country where you can't speak the language, I need not have worried.*

*After those exhausting 26 hours in the air, it was easily the best month of my life. Why? Well, countless incredible experiences, lifelong friends and more. But mainly because I could just be. Away from the hubbub of Sydney, away from my friends and family and community, I was able to simply be myself. And from my initial struggle, trying to connect with my group and understand my tour guide, by the end I think I was a changed person - better at German sure, but also gifted with the independence and confidence of knowing I can survive and thrive away from the comfortable familiarity of home. Perhaps that's why I was so devastated to leave on the last day; we all were, because we knew that we had built something special there in Germany - friendships across hundreds of countries, incredible experiences, and a shared sense that the world was at our fingertips.*

*But what did we do there? Well, the first lovely week we spent in Bonn. There we did historical and political tours, ate delicious food, attended a university seminar, hiked to castle Drachenberg with old dragon legends, and presented all about our country at an international evening.*

*Next up the little old spa city, Bad Homburg, very near Frankfurt, where we spent two weeks living with host families. It was possibly the most worthwhile experience of the whole program. I did everything with my host sister: cycling to school, ballroom dancing, eating ice-cream with her grandparents, swimming in a lake and so on.*

*With a teary farewell we left for Munich, where the travelling began again. Aside from the occasion where I was utterly lost in a crowd without a phone, this city treated us very well, with (another!) castle, traditional Bavarian food and the obligatory (alcohol-free) beer. But my finest memory is climbing Zugspitze where we froze while tobogganing and fighting with snowballs, before descending to a gorgeous alpine lake where the temperature was surprisingly sunny, and we swam and paddled swan boats.*

*And finally, Berlin, a city buzzing with culture and arts. We visited unique installations, the Reichstag, Christopher Street Day, and a live Cabaret musical performance.*

*That brings us back to the final night where we came together as an international group for the last time and partied until late. It was hard to say goodbye, but now back at home in my same old routines, I feel proud and confident to be a world citizen, with global friends, and a special place in my heart for Germany."*

**Kate Agnew**  
**Year 11 German Continuers**



## German Beginners Lesson Days

Our Year 12 German Beginners students have been actively engaged over the past two terms, honing their culinary expertise during our Lesson Days. Among their culinary creations, they skillfully prepared homemade Spätzle (noodles) with a delectable blend of cheese and onions for a delightful lunch. Additionally, the students showcased their baking prowess by crafting and creatively decorating scrumptious *Lebkuchen* (gingerbread), a cherished traditional German Christmas delicacy.



Photo: Homemade Spätzle (noodles)



Photos: Year 12 German Beginners students with their culinary creations. From left to right - Sam, Jaz, Nara, Sophia, Charlotte and Jaz

**CHINESE**  
中文

## Term 3 Lesson Day

Term 3, 2023, was an exciting time for Chinese students. Year 12 students were preparing for their Year 12 HSC exams. Face-to-face lesson days were designed to provide intensive learning and exam preparation sessions to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for their final year of high school.

In addition to academics, the term also embraced cultural diversity with a special cultural activity. Students across all grades came together to make mooncakes. This activity coincided with the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrated on August 15th according to the lunar calendar, although it fell in September this year. This cultural experience fostered a sense of community and appreciation for different traditions, enriching the students' educational journey.



Photo: Year 12 students with Principal, Ms Naso



Photo: Year 10 students making Mooncakes at NSL Lesson Day



Photo: Year 12 students making Mooncakes at NSL Lesson Day



## Lusophone updates

### PORTUGUESE

*Português*

Portuguese teachers have been very busy this term ensuring all students continue to engage in lessons, devising assessments, writing, recording audio for the new courses and creating enriching lesson days.

We are grateful to the the Portuguese government and the Camões Institute, which is generously offering tablets for temporary use to both students and teachers. These tablets come preloaded with digital content in the Portuguese language, providing valuable educational resources. Every student will gain access to a diverse library containing literary books, as well as a digital platform known as "*Português Mais Perto*." You can explore this platform at [portuguesmaisperto.pt](http://portuguesmaisperto.pt) Teacher Silvia Vasco has been coordinating the hand-over of these tablets.

Our teachers Mariana Damiao and Laura Penido, have been dedicating their time to ensuring the Year 12 Continuers course is filled with grammar experiences, modern content and cultural references in their modules.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Year 11 Portuguese Continuers course next year! As passionate educators, we are dedicated to creating an engaging and dynamic learning environment where students will delve into the richness of the Portuguese language and explore the diverse cultures of the Lusophone world.

Our focus extends beyond language acquisition and practice; we are committed to fostering critical thinking skills that empower students to analyse and reflect on their own lives and the realities of the Lusophone communities. Through interactive discussions, thought-provoking activities, and a curriculum designed to inspire curiosity, we aim to provide a transformative educational experience for our students. Together, let's embark on this exciting journey of exploration and intellectual growth as we navigate the vibrant tapestry of Portuguese language and culture.

We are still accepting enrolments for 2024. Please listen to the [interview](#) from SBS Portuguese radio regarding the launch of our new course and share with your lusophone community.



Photo: from left to right: Silvia Vasco, Mariana Damiao, Laura Penido, and Maria Perez. Portuguese course writing team

## Dress like a teacher day!

“¡Hola, me llamo Juliana! y yo soy profesora... o al menos me he vestido como tal.

“Hi, my name is Juliana, and I am a teacher... or at least I have dressed like one”.

*I wonder if you can tell the difference between us.*

*I took an interest in learning languages, as I wanted to travel and communicate with other people around the world, just like other students. When I first joined Spanish Beginners, I only knew of a few words from my Filipino heritage that are the same or similar in Spanish: libro (book), kutsara (cuchara in Spanish and spoon in English), and tenedor (fork). But after spending these past two years learning from the very best, my whole Spanish experience was worth every moment, as I was able to meet the most amazing group of peers who also shared the same passion as I did. The help and persistent support that I received from the Spanish faculty was amazing, and I enjoyed every lesson as if I were learning in person. When I would visit the school for in-person lessons, I would always learn something new about Spanish and Hispanic culture by cooking food ¡muy deliciosa! was always the best. So what better way to show my appreciation for everything than by dressing up like my favourite teacher?*

*As I finish my HSC, I hope for future students to develop a close relationship with their teacher and the school, so that maybe one day they too will ‘dress like their favourite teacher’.*”

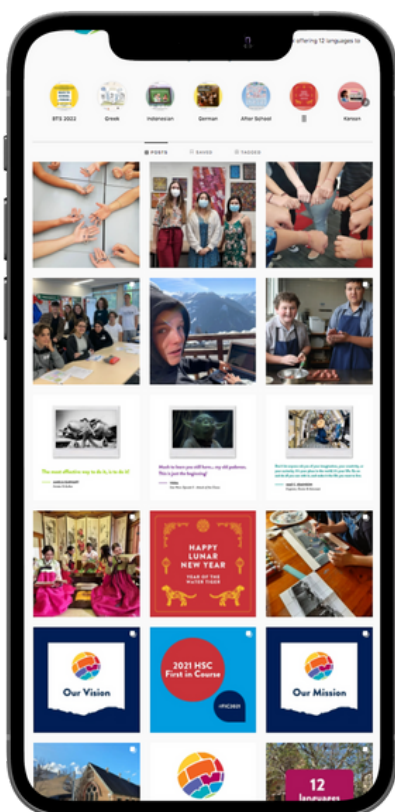
**Juliana Adetunji**  
**Year 12 Spanish Beginners**

**SPANISH**

*Español*



Photo: Juliana (left) “dressing like her teacher” Mrs Vasco (right)



## NSL Instagram

Follow us [@nswschooloflanguages](https://www.instagram.com/nswschooloflanguages) to keep up-to-date with all the latest news and events from our school. We will also share important information and updates from NSW Education and other relevant cultural and language-related posts.

You may also like to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nswschooloflanguages) for more in-depth posts about lesson days and school updates.



**MODERN GREEK***Ελληνικά*

Photo: Andrew Caramanis with his teacher Ms Dimtra Polly and NSL Deputy Principal Ms Janelle Byrne

**2023 SICLE Awards - Greek and Me**

On Sunday 12th November the Sydney Institute for Community Languages Education (SICLE) held a Greek Language Awards Ceremony for the student competition, **Greek and Me** at the University of Sydney. Presenters included Professor Ken Cruickshank, Director of SICLE and Mr Yannis Mallikourtis, Consul General of Greece in Sydney.

Participants came from Independent schools, Secondary College of Languages and public schools including NSL.

There were 15 entries in the final category. Congratulations to NSL student Andrew Caramanis, Year 10 who was awarded first place for his video and received enthusiastic applause for his interpretation of **Greek and Me**. Professor Ken Cruickshank emphasised the importance of learning a second language to brain development and cultural awareness.

Andrew took the initiative to enter the competition. He has been studying Modern Greek at NSL for two years and will be continuing his studies with us to Year 12.

**Ms Dimitra Polly**  
**Modern Greek Teacher**

**FRENCH***Français***Exploring the art of quiche making at NSL**

Year 11 French Beginners students were fortunate enough to explore the art of quiche-making during their Term 3 Lesson Day on Friday, August 18, 2023.

All the ingredients were painstakingly shopped for and prepared in advance, so that all the students had to do was follow the recipe for this iconic French dish.

The students had fun lining the quiche dishes with pastry and mixing up the batter while following the recipe in French after watching a short video demonstrating its preparation.

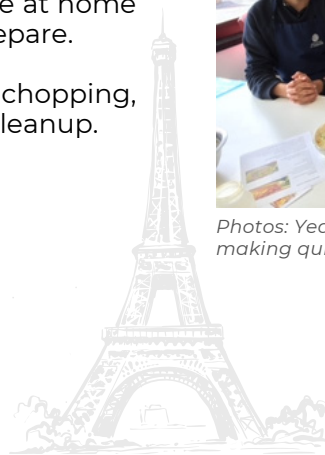
The end result was a filling and delicious lunch treat that the students enjoyed with a fresh garden salad. Hopefully, some of them were also inspired to make a quiche at home for their families after realizing how easy it is to prepare.

Un grand merci to Mme Hassell for her precision chopping, as well as her invaluable help with shopping and cleanup.

**Helen Saranantopolous**  
**French Teacher**



Photos: Year 11 French Beginners students making quiche in their Term 3 Lesson Day





## Where will studying a language take me?

William Nickl, in French Beginners (HSC 2024), has combined his love of creating pastries with learning French as he prepares for a career as a pastry chef. William's specialties are French pastries (1st prize at the 2023 Royal Easter Show) and he has chosen to complement his love of pastry cooking with studies in French Beginners.

See the news story here:

[facebook.com/watch/?v=247375221532052](https://facebook.com/watch/?v=247375221532052)



Photo: William Nickl

### Why did you choose to study French?

*"I picked French as a senior subject because I want to work and live overseas as a pastry chef, especially in France, and I thought knowing the language will help me with finding a job and navigating my way through the country."*

### How will learning the French language and culture help you in your chosen career?

*"As I am training to become a pastry chef, learning about the French language and culture will help me in my career for the rest of my life. Lots of French pastry chef write books in French which are not usually available in English for another 12 months. Knowing French means I will have access to the latest literature on French pastry making a year earlier than I would have. This will be a huge help to me in my career."*

### You will be taking part in the study trip to France in 2024. What do you hope to gain from this in-country experience?

*"I hope to gain a few things from this trip. The main one being my French speaking skills and understanding what other people are saying. But also new ideas for me to use in pastry competitions. I hope to try a new pastry most days while I am in France."*

### Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

*"In 5 years' time I would have just finished my apprenticeship and will be ready to move overseas for six months to two years. This is where learning French will really start to become extremely helpful as I am not only limited to English speaking jobs. And, as I plan on moving to France and working in many Europe countries where French is a largely spoken language, it will be of huge benefit to me."*

### Have you been able to use your French in a real- life situation?

*"I recently went to France. I was on a bus full of English speakers. The bus driver only spoke French and Spanish. I was able to use my French to translate the driver's instructions. For example, when we made a stop for sightseeing, the bus driver asked me to translate his instructions from French into English about how long we would be stopping and what time to return to the bus. I was really pleased with myself that I was able to perform this role."*

**William Nickl**  
**Year 12 French Beginners**



## EAL/D Focus on Writing task

Our EAL/D students have Focus on Writing as one of their modules. Descriptive writing is one element of writing. A task given to our students was to describe a food either for the first time or a favourite dish using language features and being creative. Below are some of the samples of their writing.

*"On a Friday night mum cooks our favourite dish which is creamy mushroom pasta, you can see how she cuts all of the ingredients that are needed for the dish like onion, bacon, mushroom etc. the sound of the knife and the chopping board and the rough surface of the chopping board are heard around the kitchen, as she starts cooking. The aromatic smell spreads all over the house.*

*"Good morning, everyone! My name is Kai and I was born in Vietnam. I moved to Australia when I was 12 and I have been studying here since Year 7."*

### Queencie Lusanta - Wadalba High School

*"A Baklava looks like a block of pastry that is covered with pistachios, almonds and walnuts inside it. It smells like the sweetest and most flavoured honey in the world. When I feel it, it is crispy and flaky, and it tastes like the sweetest dessert in the world. When you put it into your mouth, you can hear the crushing voice of the nuts and it melts in your mouth like soft lollies."*

### Kirshma Yusufi - Woolgoolga High School

*"British scones: The pastry was flaky but not too flaky to the point it would crumble by just one touch. Pairing the scones with the sweet red strawberry jam and white sweet cream enhances its exquisite taste. The sound of the oven bells ringing indicating that the pastry is done, gives a sense of excitement as to how the pastry would turn out and taste. The inviting aroma spreads through the whole place as soon as the pastry was taken out of the oven. As soon as I took a bite, an enjoyable taste of sugar and sweet cream enveloped my mouth. The pastry's warmth enhances its enticing flavour. It was an unforgettable experience."*

### Charmaine Guites - Wadalba high school

*"I am in heaven when I am eating pizza. I have a lot of favourite foods, but pizza is the best one that I have eaten in my life."*

### Bahara Yusufi - Woolgoolga High school

*"As I held the croissant, its golden-brown exterior with powdered sugar sparkled under the sunlight. The buttery aroma enticed me, and with a delicate crunch, I tasted its flaky layers. The mingling of buttery richness, subtle sweetness, and airy texture danced on my tongue, leaving a luscious coating. A sip of coffee enhanced the experience, and the harmonious pairing left a memorable impression of comfort and satisfaction, making me eager to savour the croissant again."*

### Mehtab Kaur - Woolgoolga High school

## “Teachers meet Teachers PD” community language workshop

On 25 October in a community language workshop, two of our teachers, Prof. Romano and Prof. Rossi, presented a workshop for the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools with the title “Teachers meet Teachers PD” to share the experience of the High Potential and Gifted Education committee within our school.

During the workshop, Prof. Romano and Prof. Rossi engaged the participants with their insights, strategies, and personal experiences.

Our NSL students’ stories inspired the attendees who explored the tools to paint a more holistic picture of their own students, their passions, and their abilities.

Practical ideas and strategies were shared for them to meet their students at the right level of challenge. Additionally, they started reflecting on the paramount importance of knowing their students and connecting with them to plan for them effectively.

In the process, the participants started to recognise the potential of the DAT (Differentiation Adjustment Tool) as a valuable resource to start experimenting in their own classrooms. They started developing an awareness on how to find potential and unmask excellence in every single student.

Prof. Romano and Prof. Rossi look forward to continuing working with our students and teachers to achieve equity through inclusion and excellence in all domains.

**Elisabetta Romano and Elisabetta Rossi**  
Italian Teachers

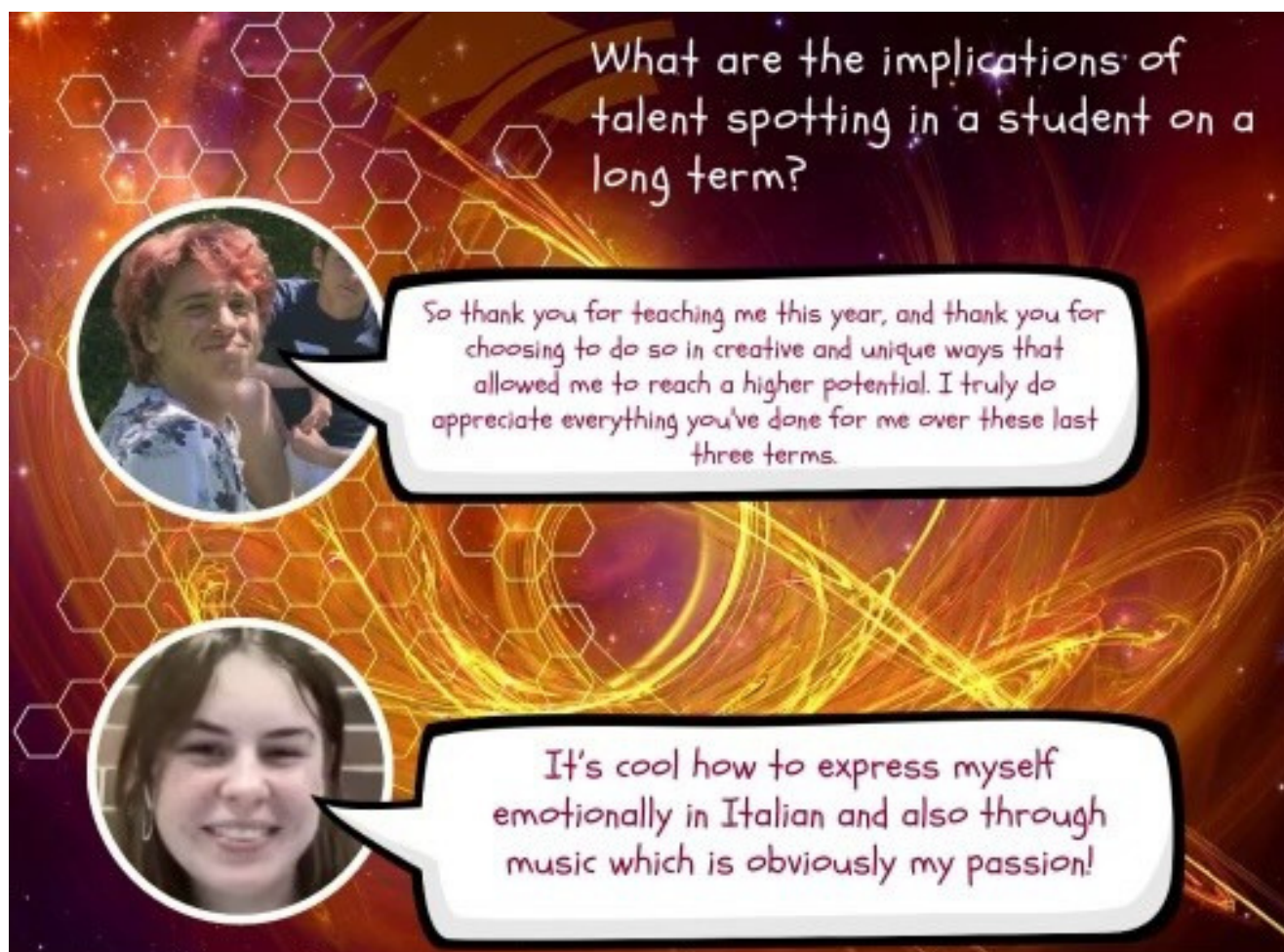


Photo: Students' comments after completing work based on their specific talents. Raven wrote a poem based on Aboriginal concepts and Romey sang in Italian.



**LATIN**  
*Lingua Latina*

## Anni decimi discipula Romam ivit

*Salvete dicipuli discipulaeque. Hodie multa audiamus de itinere a nostra discipula facto. Illa Romam ivit atque multas pulchrasque imagines photographicas cepit.*

*Ecce eius iter lingua Angla descriptum:*

*"Hi everyone! My name is Casper, and I am taking the Year 9 and 10 Latin Course. One of my favourite things to do other than learning other languages is to sing, and I am very lucky to be a member of the Australian Girls' Choir for over 10 years now, starting when I was 6 years old. Recently I had the wonderful opportunity to go on our International Tour 2023, the first one the AGC have had since Covid after a four year hiatus. I and 55 other members of the choir from the six different cities we are based in (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra), had the incredible honour to go on a three week tour of Italy and France.*

*We started off in Rome, then moved on to Marostica, spending a day in Venice, then Annecy, St Amant de Boixe and finishing off in Versailles after spending a day in Paris. Those three weeks I spent there were honestly the best three weeks of my life, as I made so many new friends, saw the most incredible sights and sang and danced in hundreds of years' old churches, some even as old as the 11th century, or even the church in the Vatican city where Mozart performed in a few hundred years ago. It truly felt like history followed us wherever we went, and that the legacy of the choristers who had come before us, and the civilians who would have lived there thousands of years ago, were seeing what we were doing and singing along with us.*

*Being a student of Latin, I am often asked what the point of learning a 'dead language' is, and people tell me that because no one speaks it anymore that there is no use for it. Sometimes it's hard to argue, but during this trip, I really felt as if the language I was learning was so important to understanding parts of human history. When we were in Italy, Latin followed me wherever we went. In a village surrounded by a castle (Marostica), in a church celebrating 50 years of the Australian Embassy to the Holy See (Rome) and even in a church in Annecy, France. Walking around and being able to understand and read centuries' old inscriptions on historical walls is a memory that I will never forget, and even seeing in person the ruins of the places I learnt about, like the Circus Maximus, or the Colosseum brought me such joy. I'm sure I was insufferable to my friends because every second I was translating something new, or taking pictures to translate when I got back home to Australia. The reason I give people, when I am asked why I learn this language, is because it is so rewarding and this tour did nothing but reaffirm that.*

*Now that I'm back home and back at my schoolwork, I'm reminded every time I start a new module how incredible our history truly is, and what the point is of learning such a difficult language. I am so grateful for the opportunities I've had this year and am looking forward to the opportunities yet to come both with Latin, and with the AGC. Hopefully, I'll get to go again, but regardless, this experience I've had is one that I will never forget. I give all my thanks to my parents, the AGC staff and fellow choristers (Sarah, for being my model in Venice), the amazing families who hosted us, and to my beautiful Latin teacher, Franca Calorio, for giving me a stunning new angle to human history."*

**Casper**  
**Year 9 and 10 Latin**



*Photos: Casper on her AGC International Tour 2023*