

Principal's welcome

As we start the 2016 School year, I wish to welcome our students, teachers and parents. A special welcome to students who are enrolling for the first time. We started the preparation for this year in Term 4 of last year: we rationalised classes, introduced new languages in some centres and prepared an exciting range of curriculum and administrative publications.



I wish to congratulate all of our Year 12 students on their VCE results. Once again we are delighted that 23 of our VCE students received the top mark in Victoria for their language. Some of them are mentioned on the next page. The students come from both our Centre classes and our Distance Education section. Last year we took the opportunity at a number of forums to acknowledge the contribution of the VSL during the past 80 years, since the school began in 1935. In that period the school has grown from one centre and two languages to 40 centres and 50 languages. Dozens of languages have been accredited at the VCE and thousands of students have been assisted by the language choices available to them.

We continue to prepare professional learning programs to enhance staff capacity, improve learning outcomes for students and increase engagement and success. We are also working on a number of other projects:

- We are in the third year of auspicing *VET in Schools*, which provides additional language choice to senior secondary students who are not background speakers
- We will be teaching Year 11 Karen and Year 11 Vietnamese First Language for the first time, as well as Chin Hakha at the Year 12 VCE level.
- We will continue to work with teachers to assist low-candidature languages to retain their VCE accreditation.
- We will commence the preparation of a Distance Education course for Hindi.
- We will work with the Regions to run English as an Additional Language for students in rural Victoria.
- We will pilot a video-conferencing program to teach students in a small number or rural schools which do not have language teachers...and there's more!

As is known around Australia, Victoria is leading the nation in terms of the number of languages and the number of students who study languages, especially at the VCE level. This will be further strengthened by the directions outlines in the new policy of "The Education State."

Best Wishes to all of our students and teachers for a satisfying school year in 2016.

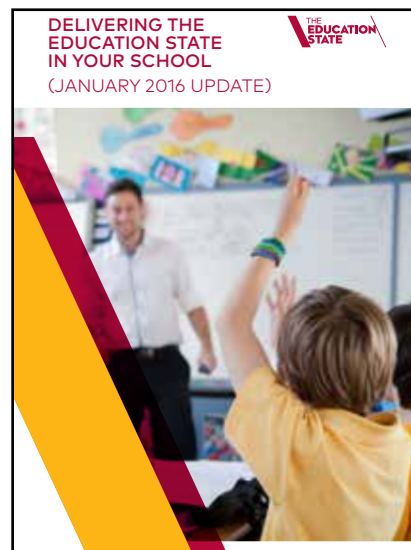
Frank Merlino
Principal

Implementing "The Education State"

The Victorian government last year announced new funding, new initiatives and new priorities for our education system.

The new plan, called 'The Education State', was developed after a period of consultation. The plan aims to build an education system that produces excellence and reduces the impact of disadvantage. As part of the school briefings which took place in late 2015, the VSL was informed about the themes and targets of 'The Education State'.

The goal of "The Education State" is to improve outcomes for every student, in every classroom, in



every school and in all communities. Key themes of 'The Education State' include an emphasis on developing the wellbeing of the whole child, not just their learning. In addition, it underscores that great teaching means more than just a focus on reading and maths.

Another key theme of 'The Education State'

is the need for consistent measures of student and school performance. As part of the VSL's Annual Implementation Plan, we have identified two school improvement initiatives that we will focus on.

The first of these is building communities. This involves engaging with the community in order to improve student learning. It sees parents and carers as partners. It also includes building strong networks with schools, services and agencies.

The second initiative that the VSL has identified is curriculum, planning and assessment. This is an area that promotes excellence in teaching and learning, and it involves drawing on evidence based, high impact teaching strategies to improve outcomes for our students.

We look forward to including these initiatives in our school's Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan.

Congratulations to our 2015 VCE Students - Highlights

The Victorian School of Languages congratulates all of its 2015 VCE students, with a special mention of those who obtained Top Scores, namely marks between 40 and 50. A study score of 40+ is a significant accomplishment and those students who gained this should all feel proud of what they have achieved. A special mention to those students who received the perfect score of 50.

Here are some of last year's VCE highlights:

- Some 1,700 of our students sat for Year 12 VCE examinations in a range of Languages.
- 10.5 per cent of the students achieved a 40+ score.
- 43.8 per cent of students were male and 56.2 were female – a very good ratio but not a perfect one.
- 23 of the students received the top mark in the State for their language.
- The top Victorian marks were in Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, Dutch, Filipino, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese 1st language, Japanese 2nd Language, Khmer, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Serbian, Sinhala, Spanish, Vietnamese.
- Six students received the perfect score of 50.

We hope to have profiles of the students who topped the State in the next Family & Staff Bulletin. Ten students who excelled are:

- Larissa Schulz (German) - 50
- Sofia Vamvakidou (Greek) - 50
- Hermanya Malhotra (Hindi) - 50
- Gaetano Cunto (Italian) - 50
- Khoa Trang (Vietnamese) - 50
- Saran Kim (Japanese 2nd Language) - 50
- Tianqi Yang (Chinese 1st Language) - 47
- Djipa Mehmedalijan (Bosnian) - 49
- Angela Grace Setjadiningrat (Indonesian 2nd Language) - 47
- Amanda Disilvestro (Spanish) - 47

We hope that as many of our VCE students as possible take the opportunity to study their language at a tertiary level. On an individual level language learning helps you to become better at problem-solving, more perceptive, better able to deal with abstract concepts, better at multi-tasking, more empathetic and more creative. It also involves getting immersed in another culture, a new way of looking at the world.

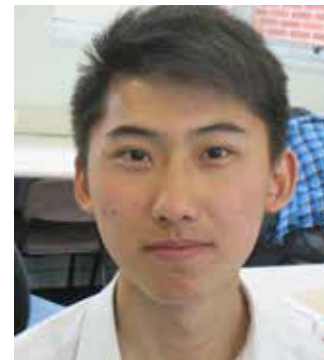
To find out at which University a language can be studied go to the new Universities Language Portal Australia at www.ulpa.edu.au

Thank you to the support provided by the teachers, parents and friends.

We wish all of last year's VCE students every success this year with whatever course they are undertaking.



Sofia Vamvakidou (Greek)



Tianqi Yang (Chinese 1st Language)



Djipa Mehmedalijan (Bosnian)



Saran Kim (Japanese 2nd Language)



Amanda Disilvestro (Spanish)



Gaetano Cunto (Italian)



Hermanya Malhotra (Hindi)



Angela Grace Setjadiningrat
(Indonesian Second Language)



Khoa Trang (Vietnamese)

Back to School - Study Tips for Parents in 2016

As we start the new VSL school year, here are a few tips for parents to get their young learners off to a good start.



1. **Be positive**

Your child is making a fantastic effort in undertaking language studies, usually as an extra to other school studies. Parents need to be supportive and positive about the benefits of language learning and acknowledge the commitment of their children as well.

2. **Be organised**

It is of paramount importance that the start to the new school year goes well. Successful habits need to be established early. Students often set themselves up for success by getting into a rhythm and doing well early on in their studies and not getting behind. Ensure that your child does not have any distractions and makes a smooth start to the new year by following these tips:

- Ensure that your child's enrolment and attendant administrative requirements are completed as soon as possible.
- Make sure that required stationery, textbooks, dictionaries, VCE study designs etc are purchased.
- Be clear about pick up and drop off arrangements.
- Organise a study place and a regular study/homework time for your child at home.
- Keep track of the VSL session times as Public Holidays affect our calendar.



3. **Be involved**

If you speak the language that your child is studying, practise with them whenever possible. You may also like to volunteer to be a classroom assistant (see the Centre administration staff to discuss procedures). If you do not speak the language ask your child to 'debrief' at home and just describe to you what they have learned after each session. You may even enjoy being taught some basics by them! Sharing is a very effective motivator.



4. **Attendance**

Ensure that your child is attending regularly. Disrupted attendance is the key cause of reduced performance, loss of connection and motivation. Missing one session means missing out on one week's work.

5. **Stay in Touch**

Communicate with VSL staff to be as involved as possible in your child's progress.

- At the start of the year, be sure to say hello to your child's teacher
- Ensure you attend Parent/Teacher interviews
- Call our staff if you are unclear about procedures, class activities or student progress
- Keep up to date with school events and initiatives by reading our newsletters and regularly checking our website

6. **VCE Students**

All of the above tips apply equally to VCE students as they do to Years 1-10. All VCE students must meet attendance requirements to obtain the VCE. For VCE specific advice, there are a number of good online resources. One of these is the Youth Central website which offers advice to new VCE students under the following categories:

1. Balance is Important
2. Don't Compare Yourself to Others
3. Find Your Own Best Way to Study
4. Actually Try in the GAT (No Really - Try)
5. SACs Are Intended to Prepare You for Exams
6. Don't Stress Too Much

You can find detailed discussion of these at:

<http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/studying-training/secondary-study/6-tips-for-surviving-year-12>

Another good source of information is the State Library of Victoria's Ergo website: Ergo - Study Skills

There you will find a helpful range of studying tips and advice.

<http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/learn-skills/study-skills>

Good luck and best wishes for the 2016 academic year!

Victorian Curriculum F-10 to be implemented in 2017

The new Victorian Curriculum F-10 was launched on 14 September 2015 by the Premier, the Hon. Daniel Andrews MP and the Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino MP. The Victorian Curriculum is the final iteration of the AusVELS Curriculum, incorporating the Australian Curriculum into a framework that reflects Victorian standards and priorities.

This is an important moment in the history of education in Victoria. The new Victorian Curriculum will be

implemented in 2017 and it will provide a common basis for all Victorian schools to develop teaching and learning programs that will ensure every young Victorian is equipped for life and work in the 21st century. It builds on previous curriculum conceptualisations, such as the Curriculum and Standards Framework of the 1990s, the Victorian Essential Learning Standards of the 2000s, and the Victorian Curriculum for 2016.

The new Victorian Curriculum is based on important conceptualisations of learning and principles of curriculum design.

Firstly, the Victorian Curriculum is structured according to levels of learning achievement, not years of schooling. This enables the development of targeted learning programs for all students, where the curriculum is planned in relation to the actual learning level of each student, rather than their assumed level of learning.

Secondly, the Victorian Curriculum will include four capabilities for student learning which teachers will be expected to report. These capabilities are **critical and creative thinking; personal and social; intercultural;** and **ethical**. The Victorian Curriculum design represents these capabilities as sets of knowledge and skills that can and often should be taught through the disciplines, but are not fully defined by any of the disciplines. These capabilities enable students to develop the values, dispositions and self-efficacy often associated with '21st-century skills'. In the Victorian Curriculum, these capabilities include standards that enable teachers to monitor and report on student progress.

The Australian Curriculum does not include a language specific curriculum for every language taught in Victorian schools. The new Victorian Curriculum F-10 will incorporate the Australian Curriculum but it also reflects specific Victorian priorities and standards. The VCAA has developed a curriculum for Roman and Non-Roman Alphabet languages which will allow any world language to be offered by a Victorian school. Currently, more than 45 languages are taught in Victorian schools. The AusVELS curriculum already caters for all these languages within one curriculum by grouping languages into six categories; Roman alphabet, Non-Roman alphabet, Character, Sign, Classical and Victorian Aboriginal Languages. There is a common achievement for each language category. The Victorian Curriculum Languages will continue to allow for language specific curricula that focus on the distinctive nature of each language and the communities who use them. Each language has its own curriculum content and achievement standards.

The Victorian School of Languages will provide teachers with substantial professional development throughout 2016 so as to begin implementing and reporting against the new achievement standards for each language from 2017.

The current AusVELS curriculum and standards will still be used as the Framework at the VSL in 2016.

The new curriculum is available on the Victorian Curriculum website: <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

Distance Education Awards Day

The VSL celebrated the achievements of its students at the annual Distance Education Awards Day, held on Saturday 5 December 2015.

On the day, one hundred students from Years 7 - 10 were awarded an Academic Achievement or Best Effort Award. Principals and supervisors from several home schools attended, including Wycheproof P-12 College, Eltham S.C., Sacred Heart College (Kyneton) and Viewbank College.

A number of supervisors from the students' home schools also attended, and these people are an integral part of the students' progress. In addition, Maree Dellora from the VCAA and Dr Bruno Mascitelli, School Council President were also present.

Students and their families came from all over Victoria to attend the function, including from towns such as Whycheproof, Boort, Wangaratta, Wunghnu, Longford,



Section of the audience

positive experience of learning French by Distance Education. Anoushka and Rajat are continuing their language studies at university. They said that "learning French has been both an enriching and immensely rewarding experience. It has challenged us and taught us many skills, which we have managed to translate across all facets of our lives."

Entertainment was provided by Noriko Tadano, a Shamisen player, and by Laura Pollock, a singer and also a Distance Education student of Italian. The Japanese



Eloise Ford (with baby sister) who studied Chinese, French and German with teachers Mr Loh and Mrs Song

Ballarat, Shepparton, Morwell, Fish Creek (Gippsland), Swan Hill, Apollo Bay, Warragul, and Aireys Inlet. The MC was Heather Rae, German teacher. Principal



Nariko Tadano, Japanese shamisen player

Frank Merlino spoke of the VSL's important role in providing for the teaching of over 50 languages in the community. Catherine Bryant, PhD student at Swinburne University, presented some highlights of her research on the history of the VSL. Other speakers on the day included Anoushka Lal and Rajat Lal, former Distance Education students of French, who spoke about their



Ms Christine McKersie, Principal of Wycheproof P-12 College, with students Eloise Gretgeix & Hannah Mill

and Italian performances were a fitting way to conclude the 2015 school year, which was the 80th anniversary of the VSL's establishment, and these were the very first languages taught in 1935. Students were presented their awards by Thomas Greiter, Distance Education Manager. Photos were then taken with both students and their teachers.

After the presentations, many parents and students took the opportunity to tour the VSL's office area to gain some insight into the school's operation. Thank you to Enzo Calati and his committee, and to everyone who assisted and attended.

School Updates

www.vsl.vic.edu.au

Key 2016 Term 1 Dates

22 January	Head Office staff return
25 January	AP's & Area Managers return
27 January	Government school Teachers resume
6 February	Centre classes commence
24 February	New teachers PD
7 March	VCE Top Scorers Evening
22 Feb-9 March	School Council elections
12 March	Labor Day Weekend - no classes
12-20 March	Cultural diversity week
19 March	Final Day Centre classes for Term 1
22 March	Distance Education Parent-Teacher Interview Day
25 March	Good Friday
16 April	Term 2 Centre classes begin

New VSL Publications/Materials 2016

Chinese Year 10 Distance Education course
Amharic Grades 1 and 2 Resources
German 12 Online Course
Indonesian 12 Online Course
Italian Exam Practice Kits
Chin Hakha VCE Units 1&2 Textbook
Japanese Extension Workbook 5-7
Tamil Prep/1 workbook
Tamil 2 Workbook

Others currently in progress include:

Hindi VELS level 2 textbook
Bosnian VCE
Karen VCE
Sinhala VCE

Term 1 Professional Development

27 - 28 January	Distance Education Professional Development days - Thornbury
30 January	Centre Staff PD
25 February	New Centre Staff Induction

From the Archives: [The first ever newspaper article from 1935 about our school](#)
- and a more readable version

Course development 2016

- Italian 11 Online course
- French 11 Online course
- Hindi Beginners Online course
- Hindi Level 2 Workbook
- Turkish 12 Detailed Study
- Karen VCE Workbook
- Bosnian VCE Workbook
- Sinhala VCE Workbook



Distance Education Awards Day - French students with teachers



Distance Education Awards Day - Indonesian students with teachers

Teaching of Japanese.
Providing that a sufficient number of applicants is forthcoming a Saturday morning class for both boys and girls will be conducted by Miss J. C. Ryan at the Mac. Robertson Girls' High School. Miss Ryan, who has completed a course in Japanese at the Melbourne University, is a member of the Williamstown High School staff.
There should be quite a number of children who should be capable of taking advantage of this course, for it is an innovation that should appeal very strongly to those who have a flair for learning languages. Japan is our nearest powerful neighbor, with whom we hope to build up a reciprocal trade. Therefore, it behoves us to learn something about her language, and her habits and customs.

The Age 12 February 1935

Mac. Robertson's Girls' High School – Teaching of Japanese
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The Age 12 February 1935

2015 TOP VCE STUDENTS

The Victorian School of Languages congratulates all of its 2015 VCE students. The following students distinguished themselves by receiving marks between 40 and 50. The 23 students who topped the State in their language are highlighted in bold below.

*denotes perfect score of 50

Arabic

48-Martha Tadros

46- John Awad
44 Taj Aldeeb
42 Teeba Mazin
42 Aya El-Halabi
41 Maryna Ayshoa
41 Saad Alkassab
40 Fan Dawood
40 Narmeen Marooki

Bosnian

49 Djipa Mehmedalija

44 Selja Duzel
42 Lana Radulovic
40 Belma Halilovic

Chinese 1st Language

47 Tianqi Yang
41 Yu Chen Zhang

Croatian

46 Jure Plestina

45 Enya Martic
40 Ana Drvoderic

Dutch

42 Peije Pepijn Russell

Filipino

46 Erika Danielle Genota

45 Janelle Hernandez
42 Diana Bianca Hipolito
40 Bonojett Dailsay
Baluyot

French

42 Thomas Panazio

German

50 Larissa Schulz*

47 Lotta Lu Klann
46 Maximilian Grote
45 Sarah Joan Mahne-Brown
45 Paul Didaskalu
45 Leah Sdrojek-Heenan
44 Alexandra Steyer
44 Julia Soltwisch
43 Isabelle Bond
43 Isabel Marsh
43 Marc Ronald Banks
43 Marco Giustibelli
42 Lisbeth Jasmin Radtke
42 Nicolette Shallvey
42 Alexandra Vladimirov
41 Klemens Haberberger
41 Myra Elita O'hagan
41 Lennard Julius Radtke
40 Nikolaus Wrobel
40 Eva Scheuerlein
40 Jonas Wilson

Greek

50 Sofia Vamvakidou*

41 Filitsa Kapeleri
41 Theodoros
Benehoutsos
40 Christina Tsopela

Hindi

50 Hemanya Malhotra*

48 Mansi Aggarwal

44 Meghna Aggarwal

43 Ashana Khurana

Hungarian

42 Szilar Kristian Szekely

Indonesian 2nd

Language

47 Angela Grace
Setjadiningrat
44 Audriana Arifin
43 Samuel Yeoh
43 Matthew Maximillian
43 Nizar Haqqy Jufri
43 Shreya Suresh
43 Aldo Trizarashidi
42 Rochelle Ong Kwa
Pranadi

41 Arthur Chiew

41 Jordi Sutanto

41 Nadya Susanto Ang

41 Toby Isaac Lewis

41 Lila Selene Van Breugel

41 Jeremy Jason Widjaja

40 Fidela Kurniawan

40 Mei Lee Low

40 Chung Yuan Chuo

40 Stefano Gunawan

40 Michelle Patricia

Lukman

Italian

50 Gaetano Damiano

Cunto*

49 Chiara Angeli

48 Jeremy Asiedu

45 Paolo Rocchetti

45 Valeria Impicciche

45 Riccardo Serbolonghi

44 Ambra Soci

44 Estelle Isabel Kate

Sutherland

44 Isabella Francesca

Bruna Frezza

43 Pamela Kontic

43 Edoardo Brunetti

42 Deborah Placidi

42 Francesco Barrese

42 Lucia Mathilda Soriani

42 Jacopo Nuti

42 William Phillip Marzella

41 Marco Cicero

41 Benjamin Gary Hubber

40 Annika Rose Rue

Rigg

40 James Anthony

Canfailla

40 Ilaria Matruglio

40 Aimee Susan Collard

40 Giulia Patricia

Mcnamara Palma

Japanese 1st Language

40 Natsumi Matsuyama

Japanese 2nd Language

50 Saran Kim*

47 Mana Ohashi

46 Alisa Louise Urokohara

43 Eric Jun Loong

42 Cynthia Leung

42 Joy Shi

41 Sachi Liston

41 Aska Narai

41 Yisong Yu

40 Leon Carroll

40 Taisei Sasaki

Khmer state top score

45 Veng Chou Taing

40 Sokuntheary Kien

40 Sreyneang Yous

Korean 2nd Language

46 Sanyi Sam Kang

40 Minchul Kim

Latin

40 Leta Zoe Elias

Macedonian

45 Natasha Petkovska

41 Kiril Stamenkov

Persian

45 Fatemeh

Heidaritabrizi

45 Saeeda Lodin

45 Ehsan Sadeghi

43 Mahsa Mahmmodvand

43 Parisa Ghane

42 Maryam Moravedeh

41 Keivan Davoodi

41 Fatima Guli

41 Zahra Khavari

40 Zahra Akhlaqi

Polish

43 Dominique Pielach

Portuguese

40 Aidan Marcus Scott

Punjabi

49 Jasleen Kaur Grewal

44 Harshjot Kaur Bindra

42 Jaskiran Kaur

42 Arashdeep Dhaliwal

42 Sukirat Kaur Sidhu

42 Sanamdeep Shokar

40 Prabhjot Kaur

40 Harpreet Kaur

40 Maninder Singh

Romanian

44 Stefania Andy

Koshnav?

42 Kristian Szekely?

42 Sarah Ciortuz

40 Sandra Ionescu

Russian

40 Anastasia Michelle

Yarovaya

Serbian

40 Danijela Zukancic

Sinhala

45 Nishadi Nethmini

Withanage

42 Huiruni Arundi

Dassanayake

40 Chathuni Bungiriya

Spanish

47 Amanda Sofia

Disilvestro

45 Gabriela Del Castillo

42 Javier Alex Zentner

Cross

41 Rodrigo Garcia-Mulder

41 Patricia Del Carmen

Guzman

40 Cesar Eduardo

Pinochet Fernandez

40 Mariana Espinel

Ramirez

40 Amit Rotenberg

Turkish

40 Berfin Zeynep Cakir

Vietnamese

50 Khoa Trang*

48 Lien Ngoc Phan Dinh

46 Thi Ai Loan Bui

46 Linh Phuong Nguyen

45 Khue Ai Minh Tran

44 Phuong Nga Nguyen

44 Minh Thi Vo

42 Hoang Minh Chenh

42 Hieu Huynh

42 An Ly Nguyen

42 Linh My Trinh

41 Thi Nhu Quynh Truong

41 Quynh Phuong Le

41 Quang Nghiep Ly

41 Hoang Vinh Phuc Ho

40 Triet Minh Nguyen

40 Nguyen Minh Chau

Katie Pham

40 Hong Ngoc Nguyen

40 Quang Vinh Tran

40 Y Nhu Ngoc Tran

40 Yen Hai Phung