

LANGUAGE PRESS

Darwin Languages Centre - Term 1 - 2023



DLC Starts Auslan Classes

Auslan is the name used for Australian Sign Language, and is the natural language signed by members of Australia's deaf and hard of hearing community.

In Term 2, DLC will be offering Auslan classes on a Tuesday (4:00pm to 6:00pm) as part of our after-hours language program. This is for students in grade 3 and above. Already we have had lots of interest in students enrolling next term, and we can't wait for the first class to start. Clayton Hanson (pictured right) will be the tutor, and he is well associated with Deaf Connect.



HAPPY EASTER



Term 2 Important Dates

Mon 7 Apr - DLC Term 2 starts

Sat 22 April - First Saturday

Class Term 2

Sat 17 Jun - Last Saturday

Class Term 2

Fri 23 Jun - Term 2 ends

We have recently created a partnership with Leanyer Primary School, and we are now delivering Auslan as part of our in-schools program and so far it has been a huge success!

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DLC



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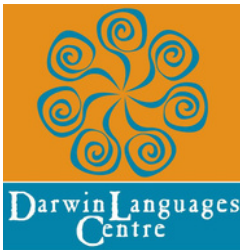


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Message from the Principal

Kevin Northcote



Yesterday, I watched a teacher teaching a Year 3/4 class Indonesian. It was an engaging lesson. Not only were the students learning to speak and understand Indonesian, but their teacher was asking probing questions, the 'why do you think', 'what could be the reason' type questions. She was helping students make the connections between English and Indonesian, comparing the two languages. Students were talking about the position of adjectives and the use of suffixes. It really was an excellent lesson. You could see students making meaning of what they were learning. That lesson reinforced my belief that the learning of any language be it Indonesian, French or Japanese has a multitude of benefits, and once you have grasped a second language, it becomes easier to learn other languages.

There has been so much research done about the benefits of learning another language, I find it so sad that many people still do not value languages education. The monolingual mindset of many Australians continues to be a major obstacle.

I congratulate all our students here at the Darwin Languages Centre for making the effort to learn a new language. It does not matter if you can only say a few words in the target language. It is just the beginning, and it takes perseverance and a lot of patience.

Enjoy the holidays, stay safe and we hope to see many of you back next term. For those who are playing sports next term, have fun and we will see you when the season is over.

Kevin Northcote
Principal

NEWS 07

BEST CLASS STAY UP TO DATE: ntnews.com.au

CLASS TIME'S A-WASTING

MATTY HOLDSWORTH

How our kids are falling behind world

AUSTRALIAN children will have spent 11,000 hours in the school classroom by 15, thousands more than their international peers yet their little evidence showing the extra time is productive.

According to the latest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development findings, no country worldwide has such high compulsory instruction time requirements.

Australia, together with Denmark, are the only OECD countries requiring more than 10,000 hours of instruction in primary and lower secondary, and sits far higher than the OECD average of 7540 hours.

In some cases Australia's total of 11,000 hours is nearly double other nations.

Yet when it comes to global testing requirements, like the OECD's highly cited Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), Australia drops to a lowly 2nd place overall. The PISA testing measures global performance in mathematics, reading and science, with Australia placing 29th, 15th and 16th for each category respectively.

In European OECD countries like Finland, Germany and Poland, which all ranked above Australia in PISA results, students are required to spend far less time in the classroom prior to Year 10. In the

international education system of Finland, which rejects standardised testing, students will spend five years less time in the classroom than Australian peers by the time students sit the PISA test. Finnish, German and Polish kids do not begin primary school until age seven.

Leading educational researcher Paul Sahlborg who migrated from Finland to Australia to join the Gonks Institute for Education, said there was no evidence that showed Australia's time in the classroom defered.

In Finnish school, classes are divided into 45-minute blocks followed by a 15-minute break and the school day usually ends at 2pm. Students are free to remain at school for extra-curricular activities to study or do homework or to go home.

"Schooldays in primary education in other OECD countries are often significantly shorter compared to Australia," University of Melbourne Prof Sahlborg said.

However, Prof Sahlborg said there was no correlation between a student's instruction time and academic performance in school.

Less time in schools would save money to support those children who have special educational needs, he said.

"Every single hour costs a list of money, so this much schooling makes it an expensive area," Prof Sahlborg said.

The Cranian Institute's education program director Dr Jordana Hunter did not recommend slugging the time Aussie kids spend in schools.

Dr Hunter said while Australia was on the higher scale among OECD countries, the said the 1000 hours was similar to comparable countries like Canada and the United States.

Ms Hunter said there was no clear relationship between PISA outcomes and the hours spent in schools.

"What matters more is the quality of teaching," Dr Hunter said.

"There is clearly room for improvement for Australia in terms of lifting student out-

HOW WE COMPARE

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

Australia
Net teaching time in hours per year: 840
Students per staff: 16
International ranking: 21

Finland
Net teaching time in hours per year: 680
Students per staff: 12
International ranking: 10

Poland
Net teaching time in hours per year: 631
Students per staff: 11
International ranking: 11

Germany
Net teaching time in hours per year: 658
Students per staff: 19
International ranking: 19

Japan
Net teaching time in hours per year: 750
Students per staff: Not available
International ranking: 6

South Korea
Net teaching time in hours per year: 622
Students per staff: Not available
International ranking: 7

Canada
Net teaching time in hours per year: NA
Students per staff: 21
International ranking: 8

New Zealand
Net teaching time in hours per year: 522
Students per staff: 17
International ranking: 15

Ireland
Net teaching time in hours per year: 900
Students per staff: NA
International ranking: 12
Source: OECD at a glance 2021

ROBBING KIDS OF GIFT OF LANGUAGE

ELLOW SPINROUWELLIS

AUSTRALIAN children are being stripped of their right to succeed academically due to a lack of mandatory second language learning, a leading researcher has claimed.

Professor Anne Marie Morgan, a researcher with the Australian Federation of Language Teachers Associations, said the evidence for developmental and academic benefits of second language learning is "absolutely unequivocal".

"We'd be one of the few countries in the world not to have our citizens bilingual, if we don't have language learning made compulsory," she said.

"There is a massive bank of research literature on the benefits of bilingualism, everything from better cognitive performance, fluency in all languages... through to social harmony reasons.

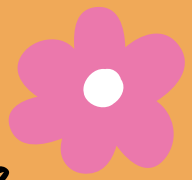
There is no national requirement for language learning, with each state and territory taking different approaches," Professor Morgan said all school students should undertake a minimum of three 40-45 minute lessons per week, with a full bilingual program of 50/50 split learning the best practice. Denise Morandot, Acting General Manager of the Alliance Française in Sydney, said Australia as a neighbouring island nation needs to catch up to the rest of the world.

"The truth is today, 60 per cent of the world population speaks at least two languages. The big risk I see is being left behind," he said.

Killarney Heights Public School in Sydney's north has a special approach to language education, embracing a "true immersion" bilingual program.

Years 1 to 6 are taught half French, visual arts, science and history units in French and half in English.

To read the full article follow this link:
<https://www.pressreader.com/australia/the-chronicle-8992/20230228/281651079304202>



Let your language and creativity bloom



DLC Celebrates Harmony Week

Harmony Week was in full bloom at DLC!

We created a wonderful display at the entrance of our school to share with all of our staff, students and visitors. We celebrate diversity every day at DLC, as it is one of our values. We welcome everyone, and everyone belongs!

All students received a packet of free seeds to plant at home with their families.

Throughout the week DLC students were also invited to take part in our Harmony Day "Unleash your Creativity" design competition. See the amazing designs and the winning creation on Pages 5 - 7.



DLC Celebrates Harmony Week



Unleash your Creativity!

Harmony Week Competition Winners

DLC was overwhelmed with the amount of student entries we had for our Harmony Week Competition. The judges had the hard task of picking the winners, with so many amazing designs to choose from. Congratulations to all of our winners, who are pictured over the next few pages showcasing their wonderful ideas, which were made into either a coaster or bookmark, using our new laser printers. We appreciated the support from the NTG Office of Multicultural Affairs via a Harmony Grant. Thank you to Sergei our laser printing expert for making these ideas come to life. Great job everyone!



Overall Winner - Emily Tjhung



Unleash your Creativity!

Harmony Week Competition Winners



Unleash your Creativity!

Harmony Week Competition Winners



Unleash Your Creativity

Harmony Day Competition Winners

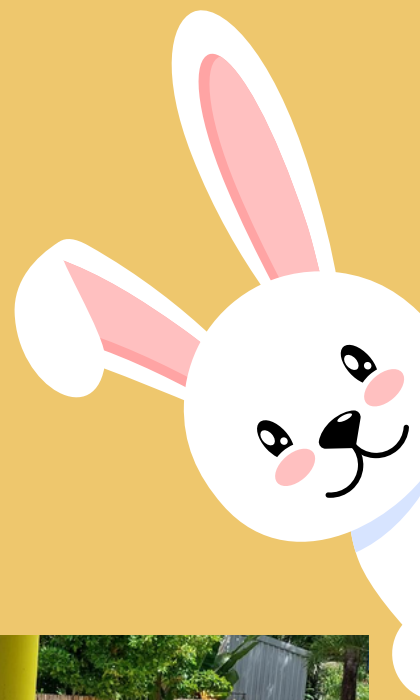
Overall Winner - \$50.00 Gift Card
Emily Tjhung - Mandarin Comb Advanced
Bookmark & Coaster

Runners Up

- Crysleia Chin - Mandarin Junior 2A - Coaster
- Lagan Arora - Mandarin Int 1A - Coaster
- Mina Fialko - Mandarin Comb Int - Coaster
- Jolin Lay - Mandarin Int 2A - Coaster
- Athanasia Rigas - Greek B - Coaster
- Henry Hubbard - Japanese C - Coaster
- Mia Summers - Japanese Background - Coaster
- Violet Mayfield - Spanish A - Coaster
- Eleanor Kaye - Spanish B - Bookmark
- Serey Chenda - Mand Comb Int 1A - Bookmark
- Andrew Ding - Mandarin Int 2A - Bookmark
- Isla Joswig - German Junior B - Coaster



Easter Egg Hunt



Students were really excited when the Easter Bunny arrived at DLC. Throughout the week our students have been hopping around the school grounds to find hidden eggs to exchange for chocolate eggs. One lucky winner each day found the 'special chick egg' which won them a chocolate bunny!

Lots of fun was had by all. Happy Easter to all our students and families.



Using language in the real world



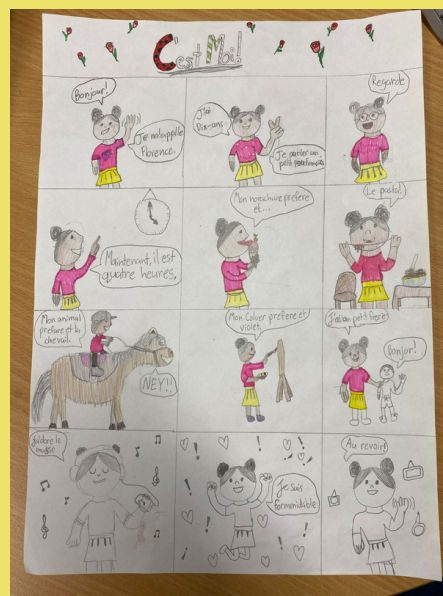
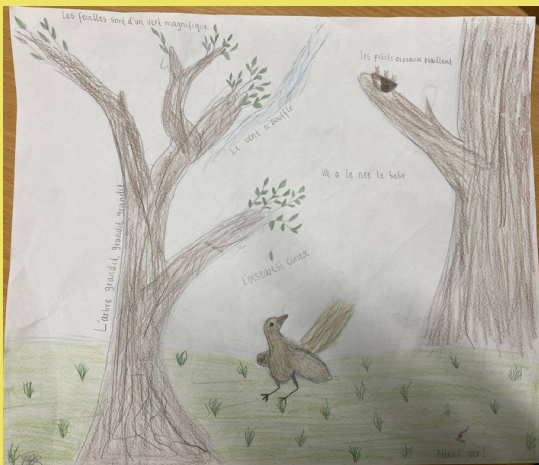
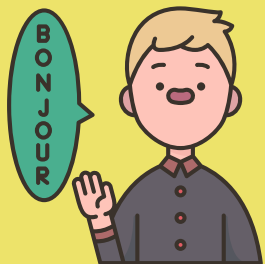
This term our in-schools program teacher Ibu Asnat started a language exchange between her students at Driver Primary School and students in Citra Bangsa Primary School in Indonesia.

Her Grade 5/6 had to opportunity to use their language learning to communicate with students their own age via Zoom. Students at both schools used Bahasa Indonesia and English to introduce themselves and play an online game. It was exciting for all involved to use their language beyond the classroom and to see connections you can make when you speak more than one language.



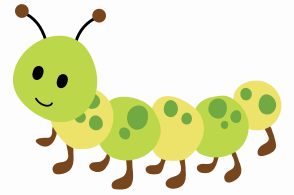
French C - Comics

Students in French C investigated how to tell the time in French and the use of past and future tense of regular verbs. They worked to create their own comics and presented them to the class. Here are just a few of the creative comics that the students produced!

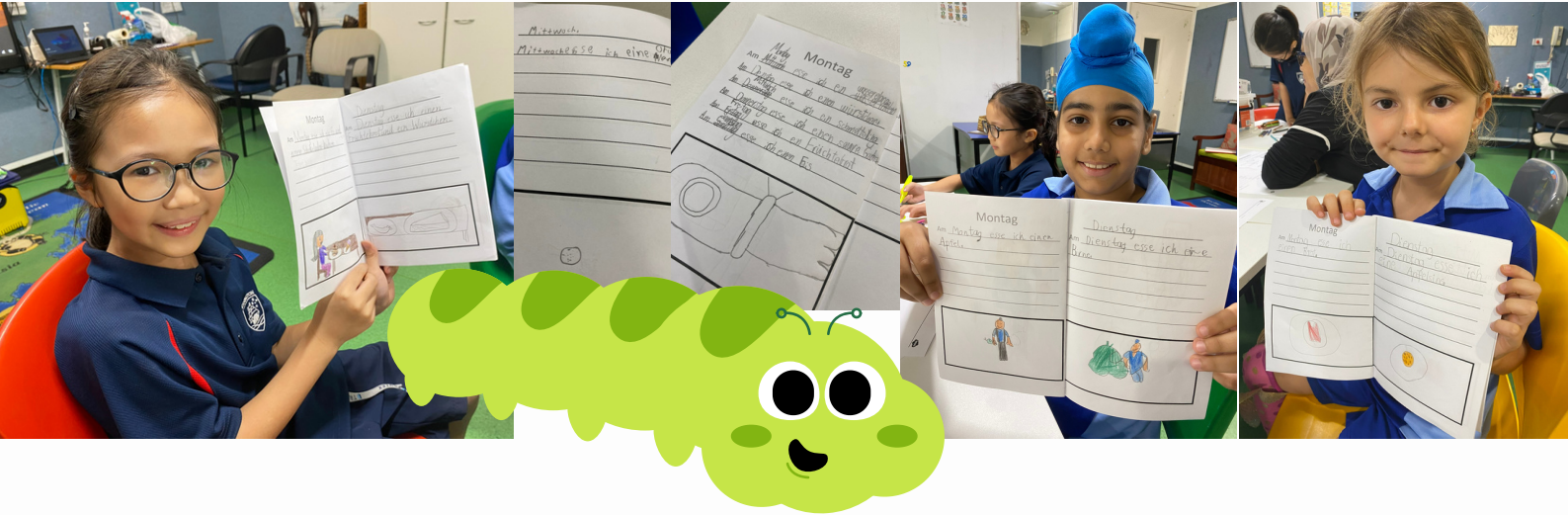




German Junior A The Very Hungry Caterpillar



This term students in German Junior A explored the text 'Die kleine Raupe Nimmersatt' (A Very Hungry Caterpillar). They used the language of days of the week and food to create their own books as a culminating activity. Well done!



Spanish Junior painting Easter Eggs "Huevos de Pascua"



Term 2 Notices

Invoices Term 2

Invoices for Term 2 - 2023 fees will be sent out in Week 2.

Please could we ask that payment is made within 2 weeks of receiving the invoice.

Failure to make payment or arrange a payment plan may result in your child losing their place at DLC.

Office Hours School Holidays

DLC Office and Library will close for the Easter Weekend Public Holidays - from Friday 7 April to Monday 10 April.

Office hours will be Tuesday 11 April to Friday 21 April 9:00am - 3:00pm.

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE
FROM THE DLC TEAM!

Not returning in Term 2?
Please let us know
as soon as possible

Please email us at
dlc.nt@education.nt.gov.au
or call 8997 7000.

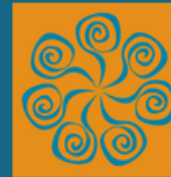
We currently have students
waiting for a place in Term 2.



2023

TERM DATES

AFTER HOURS CLASSES



Darwin
Languages
Centre

TERM 1

6 FEB 2023 -
6 APR 2023

FIRST SATURDAY CLASS
4 FEB 2023

LAST SATURDAY CLASS
1 APRIL 2023

TERM 2

17 APR 2023 -
23 JUNE 2023

FIRST SATURDAY CLASS
22 APR 2023

LAST SATURDAY CLASS
17 JUN 2023

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

TUE 25 APR - ANZAC DAY
MON 1 MAY - MAY DAY
MON 12 JUNE - KINGS
BIRTHDAY

TERM 3

17 JUL 2023 -
22 SEPT 2023

FIRST SATURDAY CLASS
22 JUL 2023

LAST SATURDAY CLASS
16 SEPT 2023

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

FRI 28 JULY - SHOWDAY
MON 7 AUG - PICNIC DAY

TERM 4

9 OCT 2023 -
15 DEC 2023

FIRST SATURDAY CLASS
14 OCT 2023

LAST SATURDAY CLASS
9 DEC 2023

