

Saturday School of Community Languages

Connection Diversity Excellence

Newsletter
Semester 2
2019





From the Principal

Term 4 is upon us and I find it hard to believe that Year 12 students have completed their Higher School Certificate exams. I am very proud of all our wonderful students and their dedicated teachers. I wish our 2019 graduating students all the best for this next exciting phase of their life. I hope that they look back with fondness at the time they have spent at Saturday School of Community Languages and know that they will always be welcome here. By choosing to study a language for the Higher School Certificate, they have opened a door to their pathway to further education, training and employment opportunities. They are well equipped to embrace life beyond school and to make a significant contribution to the future of their world. From all of us at SSCL, we wish you success and happiness in your future endeavours.

This year as the school embarks on the implementation of the new Language K-10 syllabuses developed by the NSW Educational Standards Authority, teachers have been very busy writing scope and sequences and units of work for Years 7-10 classes. Teachers are working collaboratively, sharing ideas and developing assessment tasks, so that students are provided with opportunities to reflect and think critically when developing their language skills. The leadership teams at each of the centres have been working closely with their teachers, as we aim for all teachers and students to continuously grow and develop in their teaching and learning. Scope and sequences for Year 7-10 can be accessed on our website.



Many of the leadership teams have been working on revising and updating our policies. The Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Remote Students Policy are now available on the school website. In line with the Department's new High Potential and Gifted Education Policy, our school has updated the Acceleration Policy to ensure that every accelerated application is dealt with consistently and fairly.



In September, many of our staff attended the Australian Federation of Modern Languages Teachers Association conference in Tasmania. The conference provided opportunities for teachers to gain insights into languages pedagogy at a national and international level, as well as supporting many networking opportunities for our staff across many languages.

The Saturday School is often invited to cultural and community events. It is wonderful to see so many of our teachers participating in these activities outside the school grounds. Recently, I was privileged to attend the Polish Teachers Conference, hosted by the Polish Consulate, the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Korean Education Centre and the Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.



This year we have also launched our Facebook page and school Twitter account. Please follow us by clicking on the icons to discover some of the wonderful work taking place in languages classrooms every Saturday morning across our 15 centres.

Wishing everyone all the best for the upcoming festive season and I look forward to another busy and exciting year ahead in 2020.

Sana Zreika

Principal



All things Polish!

Feature Article



Recognising our amazing staff

Congratulations to our Polish Language teacher, Mariana Lacek who was awarded the prestigious Polish Government medal recognising her contribution to the Polish culture. Mariana has taught Polish at the SSCL for many years and is currently teaching at Chatswood HS Centre as a Stage 6 teacher. Congratulations to Mariana!

Polish HSC Graduation Ball - 40th anniversary of the Polish HSC in NSW

The Polish Teachers Association in NSW hosted the 15th Annual Polish HSC

Graduation Ball to acknowledge and celebrate the graduating class of 2019 and the 40th anniversary of the Polish HSC in NSW.

The Ball was held at the Polish Club in Ashfield, where 17 graduates from the Ashfield, Chatswood and Liverpool Centres were joined by their families and friends. For most of the graduates, the evening marked the end of 13 years of attending Polish language classes at community languages schools and at the Saturday School of Community Languages. The event was a celebration of their outstanding achievements.



Congratulations to the graduating Polish class of 2019! We are confident that they will maintain our Polish traditions and continue to nurture their knowledge of the Polish language. We hope they will become ambassadors for Poland and our beautiful Polish language.



Polish Language Teachers Conference

The Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Ms Monika Kończyk, hosted the Polish Language Teachers' Conference which brought teachers together to unpack how to continue engaging students develop their Polish language; the use of technology and the development of speaking skills in learners of Polish as a second language.

Gosia Vella

Polish Language Teacher, on behalf of the organisers, Marianna Lacek OAM – Chatswood Centre, Monika Bray – Liverpool Girls Centre and Barbara Magolan

Arthur Phillip High School Centre

Year 12 – 2019 HSC

Term 3 passed very quickly for our seven Year 12 classes with all HSC students sitting their HSC Oral examinations. This year we had a large cohort of HSC students in the following classes:

- Arabic Continuers – three classes
- Arabic Extension – two classes
- Persian Continuers – two classes
- Turkish Continuers – one class

At the end of the term we farewelled our out-going HSC classes of 2019, with an impressive Graduation assembly. Family and friends attended to celebrate with our Year 12 students, who were presented with certificates for completing their course of study in their language. Certificates for recognition of academic excellence in coming first in the course at the Centre, to acknowledge academic improvement, and for exemplar attendance were also presented at the assembly.

Students were treated to a delightful morning tea, which was hosted by our wonderful Year 11 students. The written HSC exams are now finished and we look forward to seeing our students' results later in December.



Year 11

The Year 11 group have completed their Preliminary Course in the following languages:

- Arabic Continuers
- Persian Continuers
- Turkish Continuers

At the start of Term 4 students began their HSC studies and we implemented the HSC additional Extension Course in Arabic.

Years 7 – 10

Our junior students are now heading into the busy end of year assessment period. Year 10 students are working towards their final assessment and grade compilation, and we will shortly be submitting Year 10 Grades for the Record of Student Achievement (RoSA) certification.

The Junior Turkish class has been working on a video presentation, and we would like to thank Ms Canan Korkut for her work in supporting her students through script writing, filming, editing and presenting the film. Well done to all involved!

Congratulations to Mr Yigit

Our very experienced Assistant Supervisor, Mr Irfan Yigit was honoured and congratulated by the Rotary Club of Holroyd where he was presented with a Vocational Excellence Award. Mr Yigit has worked extensively within vulnerable communities including communities where English is spoken as an additional language or dialect, low socio-economic communities and with students and their families with complex backgrounds. Throughout his varied career Mr Yigit has demonstrated significant abilities as an educational leader and his ability to lead the establishment of new educational initiatives has been highly regarded. Mr Yigit has a genuine commitment to ensuring all students are known, valued and cared for.

Finally, we are very excited about our move into the new Arthur Phillip High School. This long-term building project is finally coming to fruition, and we move into the new premises at the start of 2020. We are busily packing up the Centre, and look forward to setting up in the new school.



Ashfield Boys High School Centre

Where will learning Modern Greek lead you?

The value of learning your background language is immeasurable. The richness of a society is determined by the interesting layers that it is made up of – like an intricate tapestry design is made up of colourful threads and varying textures. Background language is an integral part of identity and to relinquish your background language is to relinquish a significant aspect of identity.

Modern Greek has been taught in NSW for more than sixty years, originally in community languages schools and later in public and independent schools. Greeks have always placed great value in maintaining their language and culture.

The benefits of learning a language are numerous – there are cognitive, social and personal benefits. Learners can benefit from making significant connections with people and culture through the study of their background language. For students of Greek, they can make connections with the Greek diaspora and broaden their professional and social networks, sharing ideas and areas of interest. This is particularly relevant in the increasingly connected world in which we live.

Learners of Modern Greek also contribute to the centuries-old tradition of maintaining the language and preserving the Greek culture. They are able to maintain links with family and others and are able to participate in aspects of the culture that interest them, broadening their scope in areas of interest such as music, literature, art and sport.

Learning a language can also increase professional opportunities because it develops intercultural knowledge and adeptness - qualities that are becoming increasingly desirable in the modern workforce, especially in the global context.

Είμαστε cool, μιλάμε ελληνικά! (We are cool, we speak Greek!)



Maria Lomis

Teacher of Modern Greek

Why I enjoy learning Greek

My first experience with the Greek language began at a young age. My father put a great emphasis on the language. We listened to Greek news, we travelled to Greece and we spoke Greek at home. My formal Greek education began in 2010 when I was six years of age. Every Thursday afternoon, I attended the Greek school at our local Parish.

After I finished primary school, I continued learning Greek in high school. Since then, I have met many other Greeks and developed many friendships with my classmates. I have not only learned about Greek culture, but in a wider sense, I have learned about many other cultures as well. At Saturday School, I don't only learn about grammar, but also about politics, history and even Greek cuisine. I have learnt things that I would not have been able to learn at a normal school.

Learning the Greek language was not a decision or a choice. It was something very natural, as my father spoke to me in Greek when I was younger, and continues to speak with me in Greek. I love the Greek language as it holds large cultural significance, so it benefits us to learn a language with such historical value. However, the main reason as to why I learn a language is to recognise my roots and my identity.

The other thing I have noticed due to learning a language is that I was skilled at learning other languages at school such as French and Italian. I have also seen many Greek films where, without my knowledge of the Greek language, I would not have understood what was going on, but if I'm honest, the subtitles also helped.

In total, the Greek language has opened a different world to me, and I hope it opens a different world to other youth.

Anargyros Kallos

Year 9 Modern Greek



Bankstown Girls High School Centre

Although we are a small Centre, we have always been proud of the close working relationship that all members of our Centre, including executive staff, clerical staff, teaching staff and of course students and their families, have developed over many years.

Our Centre is a place that our students love to come to. We often have students return to visit after they have completed their Higher School Certificate exams to thank the staff for the caring, supportive environment that has been created and to tell us how it helped their progress and educational outcomes.

The last day of Term 3, 2019 was an important day for our Year 12 students, as it was the culmination of many years of involvement with the SSCL. At our Year 11/12 Assembly, we honoured Year 12 students in three languages with awards for Outstanding Achievement:

- Emilija Gasoska – Macedonian
- Crystine Soriano – Filipino
- Eszter Duzs – Hungarian

Eszter Duzs was also awarded a certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Attendance. Eszter has the magnificent record of never having missed a class in her senior years, a truly great achievement. Well done Eszter!

Three of our Year 11 students were also awarded certificates at the assembly:

- Marko Anastasov – Macedonian
- Clare Anorico – Filipino
- Renata Konya – Hungarian

Congratulations to those students who received awards, which were well deserved.



Dimitar Makesoski

Macedonian Graduation Ball

On Friday 8 November, our Year 12 students attended the Macedonian Graduation Ball organised by the Macedonian School Council of NSW. The event was attended by parents and family members of the graduates as well as representatives from the Saturday School of Community Languages and other distinguished guests. It was a brilliant night and an excellent way to celebrate the efforts and achievements of our Year 12 students.

Traditionally, the Macedonian School Council of NSW awards a return ticket to Macedonia to a student who has been studying the language at SSCL for at least 5 years. We were thrilled that our student, Dimitar Makesoski won this award on the night. Congratulations Dimitar!

Farewells

On a sad note for all of us at the Centre, we have farewelled our much admired Assistant Supervisor, Dorothy Ming. A drop in our numbers unfortunately meant that Dorothy had to leave us, however we are pleased to report that she is now happily based at the Kogarah High School Centre as Assistant Supervisor. We all wish Dorothy great success at her new Centre.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff members, students and parents/carers for their continued support of the Bankstown Girls High School Centre and we all look forward to many more years of great outcomes for all students who continue their study of languages with us.

Birrong Boys High School Centre



Celebrating our Year 12 students both near and far

Our Centre provides engaging educational experiences for students studying Chinese in Context, Chinese and Literature and Vietnamese Continuers for the HSC through a remotely accessed connected classroom. The students attend our class from locations throughout NSW and they are an integral part of the weekly class experience and highlight the cultural connection that we provide to students outside of the Sydney metropolitan area. One of our students from Albury High School, Jo Hin Chan, spoke as one of the class leaders at the Year 12 graduation ceremony, as seen on screen in the picture below. It has been a privilege to provide high quality language teaching to these students, enabling them to maintain a strong connection to their heritage in NSW schools.



Outcome driven and student centred educational practice

At Birrong Boys High School Centre, staff are proud of our student centred and outcome driven educational practice, catering for students with diverse learning needs.

Positive and healthy relationships have been established with our host school, Birrong Boys High School, and the community. With the generous support of the host school, staff and students are able to take advantage of the school facilities. This photo shows some of our Year 11 cohort completing an assessment task in the school library.



Birrong Girls High School Centre

Every year the Birrong Girls High School Centre hosts an assembly and luncheon to celebrate the Year 12 graduation. This event is an emotional but joyful occasion for our students and signifies an end to an important stage of their school life. We are very proud of all our students and we wish them all the success in the HSC and in their future endeavours.

At the assembly, a number of Year 12 students were acknowledged for their outstanding achievements in the Arabic Continuers and Extension courses offered at the Centre.



Congratulations to Hawraa Al-Husseini who was awarded First in Course for both Continuers and Extension at the centre.

A special mention also to Nadin Sadek and John Nouseir for their outstanding effort in their language studies at the Centre.

Najah Jbili and John Nouseir gave moving and personal speeches at the assembly, which included mention of every Year 12 student.

A huge thank you to our Year 12 teachers, Mr Nicolas Kalouche and Mr Talal Sabih for their hard work, commitment and effort in teaching and preparing their students for the 2019 HSC.

Thank you also to our Curriculum Coordinator, Mr Hilal Chanaoui, relieving Coordinators, Ms Nada Gemayel-

Saliba and Mrs Athar Selbokh, for their guidance and support of the Year 12 students over the past two years.

Thank you to the parents and relatives that were in attendance at our graduation and to our office staff, Mrs Heiser and Mrs Santos for their ongoing hard work and commitment to our students.

Reflection from a Year 12 student of Arabic

My name is Najah Jbili. I came to Australia as a refugee from war-torn Syria in 2016.

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than being given the opportunity to share my amazing experience at the Birrong Girls High School Centre, where I studied Arabic for my Higher School Certificate.

Although I am in Year 11 this year, I was fortunate that I was able to accelerate and sit for my Arabic HSC studies in 2019, as I had a good solid foundation in Arabic prior to coming to Australia.

Being part of this amazing school has enabled me to challenge myself and to enhance my knowledge of the Arabic language. It also provided me with an opportunity to consolidate my sense of cultural belonging.

Studying at the Saturday School of Community Languages is an incredible opportunity for students to expand on their language skills and develop their mother tongue. I loved attending school on Saturdays, not only because of the excellent learning and teaching provided, but also because of the caring and nurturing environment.

I have been fortunate that I have met many great students at the school, who have become life-long friends. The teachers were supportive, encouraging and inclusive of all students in the classroom. They set high expectations for students and always went out of their way to provide the necessary knowledge and work ethic for students to succeed in their learning. This allowed everyone to do their best and become a better version of themselves.

Thank you to all the staff and students at the Birrong Girls High School Centre for making this place so amazing and welcoming. A special thank you also to our hard working Centre Supervisor, Mr Jim Tsafis, for his great leadership and support.

I will always remember the Saturday School as it has a special place in my heart.

Najah Jbili



Chatswood High School Centre

Polish classes at Chatswood Centre are making a significant impact at school and in the community.

There are two Polish classes at our Centre: Juniors with 11 students (taught by Ms Wieslawa Nowacka) and a class of 13 Seniors (taught by Mrs Marianna Lacek OAM). This year, out of 17 Polish HSC candidates in NSW, almost half are from our Centre. They have attended their classes regularly and are well prepared for their exams.

"My dear friends", said Mrs Lacek as she farewelled them at their graduation ceremony, where they proudly received their certificates, "despite some obvious differences between us – our ages, our life experiences, our roles in the community and our families, there is a common denominator which we share and that makes us equal: our love of our Polish culture, and of the Polish language that is such an integral part of the culture. Language helps us carry our culture from generation to generation. The HSC is not the end of your engagement with Polish, but the beginning of new era - Immerse yourselves as adults in the culture of your origin, and contribute to our Australian society with the best aspects of Poland's culture!"

Each student was given a personalised one page verse depicting their strong points and achievements, composed by their teacher.

Our Centre enjoys the promise of increased enrolments in the near future, with Junior classes expected to benefit from graduates from The North Shore Polish Primary School coordinated by Ms Elizabeth Cesarski.

Junior Spanish excursion to La Latina

Written by Camila Camero

On September 28th the junior Spanish class went on an excursion to a local restaurant, La Latina. The students went as a result of their term 3 assignment around Hispanic food. For the project, the class was asked to pair up, choose a Spanish food item and create a page for a website. Students choose foods from Empanadas to Alfajores and professionally showcased them on the website. Two of the students chose to create their page about Arepas and decided to look at La Latina, which initiated the excursion. Prior to the excursion, everyone chose what they would be ordering and practised talking to the waiters with each other. On the day of the excursion, the class walked to La Latina, an independent, local restaurant located in Chatswood. The class ordered from an array of foods and drinks in Spanish and enjoyed breakfast seated outside in the sun. After everyone finished with the food we took some photos and walked back to Chatswood High School to finish up our morning and a successful term in Spanish.



Our website: End Product

Written by Catherine Rodriguez



Click here to visit our website:

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/la-comida-hispanica/a-tour-through-the-hispanic-culinary-world>

The Saturday School of Community Languages has the mission to promote culture and keep alive the relationship with background languages and has done so for over 40 years.

Through this experience the Junior Spanish class has had the opportunity to learn about food, engage in conversations with parents and friends and explore family traditions that they would have not done otherwise.

Our website is an open invitation to explore culture and language from another perspective while engaging in learning experiences.

While carrying out this project, we all experienced the language rather than studying it while having an impact in the community which aligns perfectly with the principles of the new syllabus.

Kogarah High School Centre

Term 3 has been a very busy and productive term for teaching and learning at the Kogarah High School Centre. The term ended on a celebratory note with the farewelling of Year 12 students, after thirteen years of primary and secondary education.

On Saturday 28 September, Year 12 students, parents and staff attended the Year 12 Graduation ceremony where we recognised the students' achievements as a school community both in and out of school, highlighting that each and every student had been on a successful journey and grown through every experience and opportunity provided by their teachers, friends and family.

I would like to congratulate all students from our Saturday School of Community Languages Centres for successfully completing the Higher School Certificate. The Higher School Certificate is the most important educational milestone, and at this stage the conclusion of perhaps the most formative period of your lives. As you leave us, you take with you the emblems, documents, and momentums of your schooling, your reports, certificates and written acknowledgment that will reflect your positive contribution in preparing you for the world of work.

Your life will be about dreams and how you made them realities, it will be about your challenges and how you dealt with them, and it will also be about your promises and how you fulfilled them.

Once again congratulations on your achievements and we wish you the best for your future.



"All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them" – Walt Disney

Liverpool Boys High School Centre



Year 12 Student Leadership Committee Initiative

This year we have developed a leadership program to provide opportunities for student contribution to the Centre and the Saturday School of Community Languages as a whole.

The Year 12 Student Leadership Committee is coordinated by the Assistant Supervisor, Mr Dimitrios Kametopoulos. The committee meets twice a term to plan upcoming events. Fifteen student representatives were selected to take part in the leadership program from the Arabic, Croatian and Vietnamese classes.

Arabic student, Ardowan Al-Mandawi and Vietnamese student, Thi Kim Ngan Mai acted as MCs for the Semester 2 assembly. The students did a wonderful job of introducing the speakers and assisting in the presentation of merit certificates.

The largest event of the year for the Year 12 Student Leadership Committee was the organisation of the Year 12 Graduation ceremony as well as the production of an online Year Book. The student MCs at the ceremony were Croatian student, Martina Mrsic and Arabic student, Mariam Akoba who both received praise for their professional presentation. The Saturday School of Community Languages Principal, Ms Sana Zreika attended the ceremony as well as the Director, Educational Leadership for the Liverpool Network, Mr Nicholas Magriplis.

Year 12 Certificates were presented to the graduating students by their teachers and the Director had the honour of presenting the Year 12 Student Leaders with their Leadership Certificates. This leadership opportunity has given our students the opportunity to exercise their leadership qualities and to make Liverpool Boys High School Centre an important part of their school life. We look forward to developing this valuable program in the future.



Liverpool Girls High School Centre

All teaching staff at the Liverpool Girls High School Centre are engaging in a professional learning program designed to further enhance quality teaching and ensure consistency of practice in the development of quality lessons for our students. It forms part of a rigorous program of teacher professional development workshops that our staff undertake each term. The professional learning program aligns with the Saturday School of Community Languages 2018-2020 School Plan and seeks to improve teachers' impact on student progress by identifying the practical steps needed to create engaging and quality lessons.

Featured Class – Bosnian Years 7-10

This term, Bosnian students have been looking closely at Bosnian culture and have studied a unit of work on food. Students created a dialogue about ordering food at a Bosnian restaurant. They were then able to record their dialogues, which was a great opportunity to practise their speaking skills and also a lot of fun. Recently, one of our students had a serious accident, so we sent her some flowers with a card we made for her written in Bosnian.



Ms Senida Krcic with some of her Bosnian students

Featured Student – Tomasz Kawa

Tomasz Kawa, a Year 12 Polish student from LGHS, played a central role in an artistic program organised by Macarthur Polish Saturday School, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

Tomasz was awarded a certificate of merit by Mr Adam Gajkowski, President of The Polish Federation of Polish Organisations in NSW, for his ongoing involvement in events that promote and support significant Polish historical landmarks. The event was also attended by the new Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney, Mrs Monika Kończyk and Mrs Marianna Lacek from the Polish Teachers' Association.



Tomasz receiving a certificate from Mr. Adam Gajkowski



Tomasz and his colleagues delivering the play's narrative

Merewether High School Centre

New Enrolments

It has been a very busy but productive year at Merewether High School Centre. Due to a large increase in numbers, we were very happy to be able to form a second Chinese class this term. Welcome back to Ms Supai Zhao who has ten years of teaching experience in the Saturday School. Ms Zhao and Ms Ren have a wide variety of skills and experiences to share with our students. We are very lucky to have them as part of our team.

Remote Students Program

Our Remote Students' Program continues to grow and improve. This program gives our students the opportunity to study their heritage language and culture when we are not able to form a class at Merewether. Remote students attend the Merewether High School Centre on Saturdays to use a variety of digital meeting tools to connect with another class in either Sydney or Wollongong. When asked what had been the highlight of his year at Saturday School, one of our remote students responded *"knowing another year group from Sydney and that many children also share similar childhood experiences to me"*.

Thank you to Ms Monica Liu and Mr Tommy Zheng, teachers from the Birrong Boys High School Centre, for providing these students with such a wonderful experience.

Another highlight of this program was for our Greek student, who studies remotely with the Smiths Hill High School Centre. Yorygi was able to participate in a cooking lesson, learning how to make Greek meatballs. He linked with Smiths Hill using Adobe Connect on a laptop that was placed in a small kitchen area at Merewether High School. Yorygi was then able to actively participate in the lesson and the Executive Team looks forward to sharing the products of the next cooking lesson.

Open Day 2019

Our annual Open Day was held in Term 3. It was very encouraging to have so many families and friends attend to see samples of students' work, hear about their experiences at Saturday School and watch an entertaining performance of a popular Chinese song and dance. Visitors also enjoyed participating in a *Quizlet Live* game, experiencing the interactive technology used in our lessons.

Student Survey

To assist us with planning for 2020, this term we asked students for some feedback on their experiences at Saturday School. A selection of responses is included below.

What has been the highlight of Saturday School for 2019?

- The chance to make food.
- Socialising with new friends and learning new skills to apply in my writing.
- Meeting new people.
- Being able to learn Chinese with friends.
- Brush and ink calligraphy.
- Talking to my friends, learning Chinese characters and trying Moon Cake.

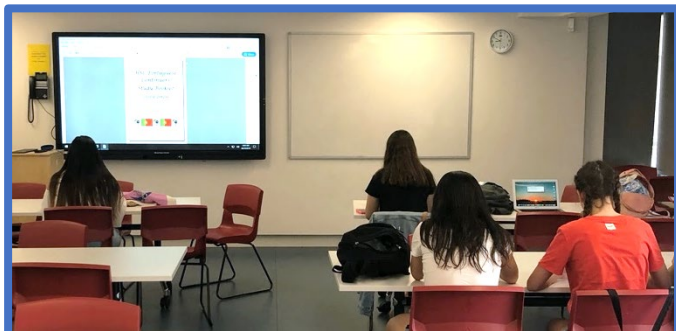
What are the achievements you feel most proud of at Saturday School this year?

- Learning new characters.
- Learning special words in English.
- Finding someone to socialise with in Chinese.
- My Chinese has become more developed which helps me to communicate better with my parents.
- I think I'm most happy about making my grandma happy. I sang happy birthday to her in Chinese and the look on her face was worth it.

We have had a great year and look forward to another successful year in 2020. Happy holidays from the team at Merewether High School Centre.



NSW School of Languages Petersham Centre

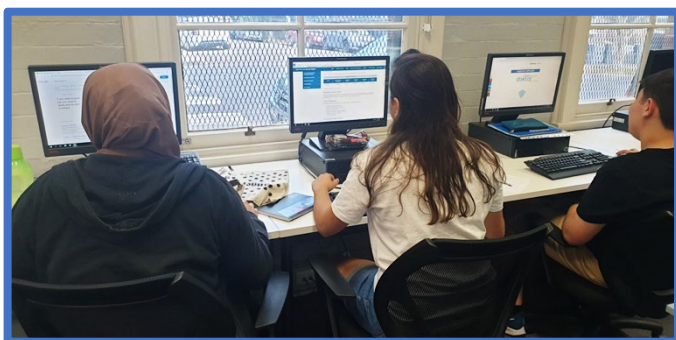


When every Saturday is a FUN HSC Study Day!

Portuguese

'My favourite activity this year was recording a video explaining the difference between toxic relationships and true friends. I enjoyed it because it enhanced my knowledge and I could relate the activity to my real life.'

'My favourite activity this year was making the garlic bread to explore food and culture. I enjoyed it because it was fun to interact with my friends in a comfortable environment.'



Turkish

Stage 5 Turkish completed a career test in Turkish. They noted that the questionnaires were different from the one they did in their weekday school in English. Students commented that the career test questions were longer in Turkish. They were all surprised at the results because they were so different to what they had in mind. The students explored new career choices and learnt new vocabulary in Turkish.

Year 12 Presentation Day

Our first Year 12 Presentation Day in our new setting was a great success, with our students congratulated for their efforts and commitment to language learning over the many years of their schooling at the Saturday School of Community Languages. We welcomed many parents and community members who attended the assembly and enjoyed the student presentations. It was inspiring to see the messages and words of advice the Year 12 students had for their peers. It was touching to hear their reflections on the positive experiences, friendships, connection to their language and culture and the support of their teachers that they have enjoyed at our Centre.

We wish them the very best in their HSC and their future endeavours.



Our online audience can [click here](#) for a video that encompasses our graduating students' time at the Saturday School of Community Languages and the advice they have for the Year 11 students. If you are reading our paper-based newsletter, the video can be found at the following

address: <https://tinyurl.com/SSCL-NSL-Yr12-2019-Reflections>



Year 12 SSCL students' advice for their younger peers

Smith's Hill High School Centre

Year 11 and 12 Principal's Awards



Congratulations to our Year 11 and 12 students Yousif Alsamirae, Safin Abouhamer, Ala'a Abdul-Latif, Mona Al Ahmad and Rouaa Altinawi, who were presented with their Principal's Awards at the Term 3 presentation day. The awards were presented by David Deitz, Principal of Smiths Hill High School.

The value of language

Katrina Trajcevska, Year 11

My earliest memory of learning my mother tongue is my Baba singing traditional nursery rhymes to me, discussing the meaning of poems she was able to remember from when she was young, as well as telling me stories about the life of my ancestors во старикрај (in the old homeland).

Many communities encourage their youth to pursue learning about their culture through community language schools, where cultural values are taught through traditional dances as well as poems and song. Personally, my sense of self and identity has been deepened through learning Macedonian at the Smiths Hill High School Centre.

Macedonian is a language that is said to have roots in ancient civilisations. Communication in written and oral form is vital if we are to maintain the traditional Macedonian way of life. We may not be able to replicate the lives of our ancestors, however, participating in kinetic learning experiences, such as crocheting, cooking and discussions, allows deeper insight into who we are and where we came from.

Creative Cooking Classes

During Term 3, Year 7 and 8 students studied a unit of work about food and were able to participate in some enjoyable practical cooking classes. Following are some of the student's responses to these classes.

'It was fun and interesting and I got free food.' - Craig

'The best part of this year was when we had the experience of cooking Macedonian pancakes in the kitchen. Children in this class have been able to use these skills in their everyday life.' - Isabella and Tiana

'The cooking activity was fun because there was a great amount of freedom in the classroom and that does not often occur.' - Catherine

'I liked the kitchen experience because I haven't cooked before and I liked working as a team.' - Yuanyuan

'Overall, the cooking in the kitchen was quite interesting. It was nice to have a break from learning new vocabulary. The conversations at the table were interesting, asking your 'family' to pass food in Mandarin. 10 out of 10.'



St George Girls High School Centre

As we bid farewell to our graduating Year 12 classes of 2019, some of our students reflect on their experiences at the Saturday School of Community Languages.

Learning Arabic at Saturday School has improved my skills and abilities to achieve my goals. It has helped me to gain deeper knowledge of the Arabic language and gain enough confidence to be able to communicate in Arabic with my peers and friends. I also made many new friends from many different backgrounds. It is really important that everyone studies their own language at a Saturday school to help them increase their knowledge about their own language - Zainab

Why choose St George Girls High School as a Saturday School? As a Year 12 student, I strongly encourage Year 10 students to continue their study of Languages. Learning a language has many benefits, not only for your HSC but also for later years in life. Among many other things such as teaching, tutoring, becoming an interpreter and also travelling. The advantages of learning a language are limitless. It can boost brain power, improve your memory and enhance decision making as well as develop your confidence and creativity. One of the languages I studied at Saturday School was Arabic. I find it a very interesting language because it's a bit different to other languages. In Arabic, you write from the right side of the page to left. I'm very glad that I studied Arabic – I have learnt so much and have certainly made new friends. So why not give it a try - Zaynab



I enjoyed studying Greek at Saturday School for many reasons. Firstly my teacher was amazing and very good at her job - she helped us with our language studies so that we always understood what we were learning. I liked how I could make new friends who are also Greek and mix with different groups of people. Furthermore, studying Greek at Saturday School gave me more time at school during the week to focus on other subjects and helped me greatly with time management. I always had a good time when I came to Saturday School and I wouldn't change it for anything - Natalia

I enjoyed studying Greek in Saturday School because of the opportunity it gave me to meet new friends from my cultural background. My teacher has been incredible and really supportive, always aiming for the best for her students. My experience in this school will stay with me for many years and it has definitely helped me to achieve high academic excellence - Maria

I have really enjoyed studying Greek at the Saturday School of Community Languages. It has provided me with the opportunity to feel more connected with my Greek heritage and language. I have made many new friendships in my class and have many memories I will carry with me forever. My teacher has been extremely dedicated and has helped me to achieve my very best in the course - Anastasia

I loved going to Greek classes every Saturday because I love learning the language. Having a Greek background, I believe that it is very important to learn about my culture. It is also important to improve my speaking, reading and writing skills in Greek so that I can communicate effectively with my family, in particular my grandparents who were born in Greece. Another reason I enjoyed learning Greek is because my teacher helped me a lot and cared for all of her students. By attending Greek classes at Saturday School, I have met fellow Greek students who share the same love for their language and culture as I do. I have made many friendships and am happy that I chose to study Greek - Ellen

I enjoyed coming to Saturday School for many reasons. Firstly, my teacher was one of the most passionate and hardworking individuals I have ever come across in my life. Every Saturday was a unique experience, as she always pushed us to achieve our personal best. Furthermore, Saturday School has given me the opportunity to meet new people and create lifelong friendships. Lastly, it allowed me to embrace my culture and continue learning my language, even in a different country. Saturday School has been a big part of my life for the past four years and has definitely made my high school experience memorable - Savina

I enjoyed studying Greek at Saturday School as I have been given the opportunity to meet new people and make friends based on the same culture and traditions. I have been blessed with an amazing teacher that has been very supportive and who goes above and beyond for her students. She guided me through the past 2 years and encouraged me to not give up and supported me to become a better student - Alex

Strathfield Girls High School Centre

In this newsletter we are putting the spotlight onto two of our students and staff at the Strathfield Girls High School Centre.

Tahlia Gibson

Year 9 Italian student

I have been studying Italian at the Strathfield Girls High School Centre since Year 7 and I am currently in Year 9. We do not speak much Italian at home, so I try and learn as much Italian as I can when I'm in class on Saturdays. It is really good being able to speak to some of the other students in the class who have excellent Italian language skills as it helps me improve my language.

Our teacher speaks to us in Italian most of the time and that's great. Being exposed to the Italian language has helped me to speak and understand it better. It has also helped me to speak to my grandmother – she is so happy when I speak to her in Italian.

Last year my family and I went on a trip to Italy to visit our extended family. Our relatives live in Messina and it was so great to travel around the country and be immersed in the language. I was able to hold conversations with friends and relatives and felt very comfortable using all the Italian I have learnt. We visited some beautiful sites and it was fantastic to actually see things that I read about or discuss in class.

Every Saturday, straight after class I attend dancing classes. My goal is to work in the performing Arts industry and I believe my knowledge of Italian will be of enormous benefit if I work in Europe in the future.



Jungsu Jung

Year 12 Korean in Context teacher and former Strathfield Girls High Centre student

I was a student at the Strathfield Girls High School Centre where I studied the Korean Background Speakers course and developed a strong passion to work as a languages teacher. My study at Saturday School helped me to identify as a Korean Background Speaker when I was a high school student. I volunteered as a Korean Community Languages School teacher while studying a Bachelor of Education at Macquarie University. I am currently working as a Korean bilingual teacher at a primary school and also teach Korean at the Strathfield Girls High School Centre. I started as a junior Korean teacher and now I teach the Korean in Context course. My goal is to see our future generations develop not just their language skills but grow as inspiring bilingual or multilingual speakers.

Gi Eun Lee

Gi Eun Lee, who teaches Korean at Campsie Primary School with Jungsu, also attended Strathfield Girls High School Centre and was taught by Haer-Yun Martin, one of our most experienced Korean teachers. Gi came second in the state in the Korean in Context course and was inspired to become a passionate language teacher through her experience at the Saturday School.

The Hills Sports High School Centre



Congratulations to the Class of 2019! We are always delighted to celebrate the fine achievements of the Year 12 cohort with our students, parents and the wider community. We recognise their exceptional commitment and investment in language learning and the way in which our wonderful students weave their background language into their future career pathways. This year was no exception as we hosted the graduation ceremony and congratulated the Class of 2019 for their outstanding achievements. There were many expressions of gratitude from students, exciting cultural performances and a celebration of the power of language to unite us all.



Reflections from Fotini Bekiaris

2019 Year 12 Modern Greek graduating student

The Saturday School of Community Languages is a place that I greatly appreciate after having spent the past four years in this great learning environment. Waking up on Saturday morning to go to school was not ideal, but the excitement of being surrounded by people from the same culture outweighed everything else.

It is a place that accepts every culture and every student, and I felt that it helped me to become more involved in my own culture and explore my identity more deeply. The lessons are not just students sitting in rows,

writing notes and completing exams, but more like a



community of discussion and language learning. This is thanks to the wonderful teachers, staff and fellow students.



Graduation was a bittersweet moment for me but I am so proud to say that it was so memorable! I wish all the other graduates good luck in their future and I do hope that they all continue to practice their language.

From the staff

As we approach the end of 2019, we wish the Year 7 to Year 11 students the very best of luck in their exams and we are thrilled to see you all continuing with your rich language learning experiences at The Hills Sports High School Centre in 2020.

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Visit in store or online to view our wide range of learning resources for a variety of languages, including Arabic, Greek, Mandarin and more!



OUR ACCENT IS ON LANGUAGES

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Saturday School of Community Languages

Connection Diversity Excellence

Saturday School of Community Languages (SSCL) is the largest provider of face-to-face languages education in NSW.

Classes are held every Saturday morning during the school term at each of our 15 high school centres.

Students from public and non-government secondary schools are eligible to enrol if the language requested is their background language and is not available for study at their weekday school. There are no fees charged for enrolment.

Students at SSCL follow the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabuses. All languages are Board Developed Courses that can contribute towards a Higher School Certificate.

Languages offered

- Arabic
- Armenian
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Chinese
- Croatian
- Filipino
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Khmer
- Korean
- Macedonian
- Maltese
- Modern Greek
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Serbian
- Spanish
- Tamil
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

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NOW
FOR 2020**

Visit our website to download a 2020 enrolment form:

www.saturdaycl-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

Complete a form and email it to us by Friday 29 February 2020 to start classes for your background language

