

## Indonesian Lessons During Class Time

Although languages are not mandated by the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards (BOSTES) for primary schools, I believe that it is very important for children to have the opportunity to learn about other cultures and their spoken language if possible. OLGC has been able to provide *Indonesian lessons* from Year 2 with the aim to develop the program through to Year 6. We have two highly qualified and experienced teachers, *Mrs Deb Reed* and *Mrs Michaela Joseph* on staff to lead the learning in this area. The Asian Education Foundation (AEF) has recently produced some work for parents on the benefits of learning an Asian language;

*All parents want schools to equip their child for a fulfilling and prosperous future. The growing influence of China, India and many other Asian nations, both globally and in Australia, is a major change in the world that impacts on the future of all young Australians.*

*China and India will be the top global economies by the time 5-year-olds who start school in Australia this year enter the workforce. Australia's engagement with Asia in trade, investment, immigration, tourism and education is growing at a much faster rate than our engagement with the rest of the world combined.*

*Young people who are familiar with Asia and speak Asian languages will be equipped with a competitive edge in today's world and contribute to building a prosperous and cohesive Australia.*

*Parents play a vital role in supporting students to learn an Asian language and to gain knowledge and understanding of Asia through History, Geography, The Arts and English from Foundation to Year 12.*

*AEF provides parents with:*

- *information about Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia – with a focus on future workforce needs*
- *illustrations of leading schools working to ensure their students are Asia capable*
- *information on the Australian Curriculum's cross-curriculum priority of Asia & Australia's engagement with Asia and general capability of intercultural understanding.*



## **Parents and the learning of Asian languages in schools**

*Parents and the learning of Asian languages in schools* explores 'what works' for schools to empower parents to support their children's Asian language learning. It comprises eight school illustrations, viewed through a parental engagement lens, and a review of research literature on the positive effects of parental engagement on student learning. The focus on language learning and parental engagement supports two priorities from the Australian Government's [Students First](#) policy.

Analysis has identified five key approaches that can strengthen parental support for the learning of Asian languages in schools:

- *build and formalise leadership commitment to parental engagement*
- *foster parents' awareness and positive views of Asian languages and cultures*
- *build and sustain parent demand for Asian language learning beyond compulsory years*
- *keep parents in the loop about the language programme and their child's progress*
- *provide parents with practical tools to support their child's language learning.*



## **Asia skills: Australian stories**

*Asia skills* enable Australians to live and work effectively in Asia and with people from the Asia region. Asia skills encompass three broad areas:

### **Background knowledge**

- *Knowledge about another culture is fundamental to operating successfully in that country such as the environment, history, culture and customs and practical living requirements.*

### **Intercultural competence**

- *To benefit from cross-cultural understanding, several key attributes are required such as sensitivity and willingness to learn, self-awareness and analytical and communication skills.*

### ***Skills in using the local language***

- *Relevant verbal and written communication skills open a new range of possibilities for interaction, and for learning, understanding and appreciation of different cultures.*

### ***AEF [contact us](#)***

*(Choose the Parent link and explore the site)*

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### ***Acknowledgements***

*Images: AEF; Asialink*