



Update on FPS Language Learning from 2021

July 30, 2020

Last night, the FPS School Council met to decide on the target language for our bilingual program. We would like to express our gratitude to the members of the Language Subcommittee for their extensive research and the time they each committed to this work.

The information collated by the subcommittee included;

- Community survey data (Incoming families & Current families)
- Staff survey data
- Feedback from other Designated Bilingual Program schools
- Information provided by Kylie Farmer, a Language Education Consultant with extensive practical and theoretical knowledge of bilingual education
- Considerations relating to other areas such as staffing, pedagogy (teaching approaches), potential pathways and partnerships.

We are pleased to share the news with you that from 2021, we will be delivering an Italian Bilingual program at Footscray Primary School for all incoming Foundation students. We will review the possible inclusion of current Foundation students in the coming weeks.

This decision was made after much discussion and deliberation of the research and data, with the focus being on what we thought would be best for our students into the future including:

- Significant community and staff support
- Alignment with IB teaching methods already embedded across the school
- Transition to secondary school language program at Footscray High School
- Support for Latin based language
- Considered to be a relatively easy language to learn
- Possible partnerships and support from Brunswick South Primary School which also provides an Italian bilingual program.

Whilst we join together to celebrate the adoption of Italian as the new Bilingual program from the start of the 2021 school year, we also wish to acknowledge the disappointment that this may bring to some members of our community, particularly those members of our community who are so passionate about learning Vietnamese. Please be assured that we will continue to embrace the Vietnamese language, its rich culture, history and traditions through the development and design of a highly innovative languages program. This program will be underpinned by parallel lines of language learning and deepening cultural understanding as we partner with organisations beyond the school.

If you would like to be involved in any future working parties to develop and strengthen the Italian and Vietnamese Language programs at FPS, please contact Jen Briggs on jenny.briggs@education.vic.gov.au.

We would like to thank our school community for the manner in which you have all engaged in this process, especially to those of you who sent through questions and suggestions, attended the community meeting, participated in the online survey and of course a special



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thanks again goes to the languages sub-committee, without all of their hard work, this decision would have been so much harder.

Raylene Varone
School Council President

Jen Briggs
Principal