Chinese

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to teach Mandarin language at St. Elizabeth's Parish School.

It is known to us that the Chinese language, as one of the world’s oldest and richest languages with over 5000-year history, is now a widely taught language across Australia. It is also a well-known fact that Australia is ever closer to Asia with its strong business and trading partnership with China that has been forged by the Australian Government. Statistics and research also show that there is a great demand for Chinese language skills in Australian industrial areas, Australia Post, and areas of science and technology in Australia. Dr. Jane Orton, an Honorary Fellow and Professor at the University of Melbourne stated in her latest essay: “Australia needs far more speakers with at least a basic proficiency in Chinese if it is to make the most of growing trade and cultural links with the Asian giant.”

In 2017, the students will be immersed in language and cultural study. A wide range of activities will be provided to actively engage the students in language study and increase their interest.

Students in Foundation, Year 1 and 2 will participate in an immersion program during the last week of each term.

In Year 3 and 4, the students will primarily use the AIM (accelerated integrated methodology) to learn a Play called: Xiaomao Zhao Jia (The Kitten Was Looking for a Home). They also learn about the Chinese culture and festivals such as Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival. Other topics include: Pinyin System, Chinese capital cities, numbers, greetings, months and dates, time, family members and pets, nationality and personal interests. The students practice using the Chinese language through participating in action-related talk. For example, using gestures and rhythms, singing songs and doing dances. They complete tasks while relying on teacher modelling, prompts and repetition.

In Year 5 and 6, the students will continue using the AIM (accelerated integrated methodology) to learn a Play called: Xiao Ji de Gushi (Chicken Little). Cultural aspects include Chinese tourism, Chinese fables, technology world and Chinese traditional festivals. Other topics include: people, school, house, shopping and clothing. They continue using Chinese through participating in action-related talk. They complete more creative tasks such as role-plays, performances, projects, translating and writing.

Looking forward to working with your child.

From
Iris Ai
Chinese teacher
iai@sedandenongnth.catholic.edu.au