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## News



### From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the January and February edition of the Global Learning and Engagement (GL&E) newsletter. I hope you have all had a relaxing break and have returned to Term 1 well rested and prepared for another exciting academic year. To all who celebrate, I would like to wish a very Happy Lunar New Year and hope the Year of the Dragon brings good health and prosperity to you all.

Earlier this month, I attended the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) 2024 National Symposium in my capacity as the chair of the Australian Government Schools International (AGSI) association. The symposium focused on the 'diversification' priority area of the Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030 and provided an opportunity to present my thoughts on the importance of diversity in the school sector. I am proud that Victorian schools value and work towards diversity and encourage you to continue exploring this concept to further cultivate social harmony and foster a sense of global interconnectedness across the system.

Over the past few months, our 2023-24 Women in School Leadership (WISL) program participants have continued to collaborate through online workshops and masterclasses. Australia India News recently published an [article](#) about the experience of the 12 Victorian school leaders who visited India as part of their professional and cultural learning in 2023. It's a great read.

I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous year ahead, and hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.



### Introducing young Victorians to global learning

The 2024 Prep Bags initiative is introducing Victorian young learners to cross-cultural similarities and supporting implementation of intercultural capabilities across the system. This year's theme, 'Explore. Learn. Enjoy.' aims to generate excitement about all the wonderful discoveries our youngest students will make as they start primary school..

The year's bags are filled with engaging learning items, including a global learning jigsaw puzzle featuring a globe and children in multicultural dresses. The jigsaw puzzle illustration facilitates meaningful conversations between parents and their young ones about our multicultural society.

To see items included in this year's prep bags, visit: [Prep bags 2024](#).

# Cultural Diversity Week 2024



## Cultural Diversity Week 2024

Cultural Diversity Week is an annual celebration to recognise the diverse and vibrant multicultural communities in our state. This year's Cultural Diversity Week is taking place in Victoria from 18 to 24 March under the theme 'Our Shared Stories - Celebrating Together'. This powerful theme goes beyond individual narratives, encouraging us to recognise and celebrate the beautiful intersections that enrich our culturally diverse state. The theme will be used to guide the events, activities and celebrations planned for Cultural Diversity Week.

To find out how your school can get involved in the celebrations, visit: [Cultural Diversity Week 2024](#), or see: [Teacher's Resource Kit](#) to start classroom conversations about multicultural Victoria.

## Call for expression of interest for new foreign arrangements

The expression of interest process is open for schools interested in forming new sister school partnerships or varying existing partnerships with international counterparts. This is in line with Australia's foreign policy objectives under [Australia's Foreign Relations \(State and Territory Arrangements\) Act 2020](#) (the Act).

Under the Act, schools submit a proposal to the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through IED, before negotiating and entering written arrangements with foreign entities.

If your school is considering a new sister school partnership or want to vary an existing arrangement, please complete the [School Foreign Arrangement Form](#) and [Sister School Memorandum of Understanding](#) and email both documents to [ied.stakeholder.engagement@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:ied.stakeholder.engagement@education.vic.gov.au) by **15 March 2024**.

To learn more about the process, see: [process maps](#), or read the [FAQs](#) on our website.

# Professional Development



## Culturally Sustaining Schools information session

Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) is running a free 'Culturally Sustaining Schools' information session for primary and secondary schools. The session aims to support school staff to develop a shared vision of teaching and learning that builds on student strengths, fosters positive identities, and sustains the diversity of cultures within the school.

Some key topics covered in the session include concepts of culture and identity; barriers to culturally sustaining schools; empowering student, family, and community voice; and engaging in cultural self-reflection.

To express interest in the workshop, visit: [CMY](#).

## School's In for Refugees short course

Foundation House is offering the School's In for Refugees free short course for educators at all levels to build their capacity to address the needs of children, young people, and families of refugee backgrounds. The program is supported by the department and is linked closely to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.

The course will be delivered online across 3 modules over 3-half days in March and July 2024.

To register your interest, visit: [Foundation House](#).

# For Students



# VICTORIAN YOUNG LEADERS TO CHINA PROGRAM

Live, learn, explore



## Final call to express interest in the Victorian Young Leaders to China Program 2024

Expression of interest is still open for schools wanting to participate in the Victorian Young Leaders (VYL) to China virtual program 2024. The two-week online intensive language and culture program is aimed at students in Years 9 and 10 and will be delivered by Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and Meg Languages in Term 3, 2024, on behalf of the department.

The program allows for student voice and agency and utilises technology to provide opportunities for students to enhance and apply their Chinese language skills with Chinese peers and teachers. The program also fosters connections through interactive cultural exchanges, encompassing both traditional and contemporary aspects of Chinese culture.

To register your school's interest, complete the [registration form](#) by **22 March 2024**, or email [vylc@meqlanguages.com](mailto:vylc@meqlanguages.com) for any questions.

Successful schools will be notified of the outcome at the end of Term 1, 2024.

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## Global Design Challenge 2024

An expanded Global Design Challenge program is open to secondary school students in 2024. The four challenges are aligned to the Victorian curriculum, and explore the essential knowledge and skills required within priority sectors such as clean energy technology, health, digital games, waste, and resource recovery.

The challenges foster collaboration and communication skills and facilitate meaningful connections between Victorian students and their international peers. Utilising a design thinking and inquiry-based approach, student participants will get an opportunity to assess social and environmental challenges within a global context.

For more information on key themes, delivery dates and how to apply for the four different challenges on offer, visit: [Global Design Challenge 2024](#).

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## Spirit of Anzac Prize 2024



Applications are currently open for the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize (SOAP) for Victorian students in Years 9 to 12. The competition is run by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to encourage students to research and explore Australia's significant war and peacekeeping history.

This year's competition asks students to reflect on the 90th anniversary of the Shrine of Remembrance and its position as a place of national, state, and cultural importance. The competition will provide an opportunity to 12 prize winners to go on a fully funded international study tour to Türkiye, retracing the steps of Australian service women and men at Gallipoli during World War I. This tour is planned to take place during the September 2024 school holidays but may be subject to change.

Students will need to respond to the topic by applying in their desired format by **29 April 2024**. Accepted formats include but are not limited to essay, artwork, video, audio, music, webpage, or poem.

To learn more, visit: [SOAP](#). Teachers who would like to volunteer to travel and supervise students on the study tour can contact: [soap@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:soap@dffh.vic.gov.au)

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## Resources



### Using Home Language as a Resource in the Classroom: a Guide for Teachers of English Learners by Kate Paterson (2021)

Using Home Language as a Resource in the Classroom is written for current and future teachers of EAL across various educational and geographical settings. This concise guide provides educators with specific instructional practices to promote greater inclusion and educational equity for their students. Key topics covered in this book include why home language is essential to student success; incorporating home language into instruction; planning plurilingual lessons and inclusive classrooms; home language and learning in the digital age; reimagining instructional materials; and using home language to advance social justice.

The [book](#) is available at the department's Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre to borrow.

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**GLOBAL LEARNING  
AND ENGAGEMENT**

**THE  
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