



NSW FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS
269A Livingstone Rd, Marrickville Sth, NSW 2204
Phone: 02 95586134 Fax: 02 95586176
E-mail: nswfcls@bigpond.com
www.nswfcls.org.au

18 April 2013

Dear Member Schools and Organisations

We hope that your community language schools have got off to a smooth start in the 1st term and your students and staff have settled into the new academic year well.

We would like to welcome to the Federation the new community language schools who joined the Federation this year, with new schools opening up in these languages: Macedonian, Chinese and Japanese.

GRANTS - Per Capita & Special Projects

As you are aware the DEC - Community Languages Schools Program grant applications closing date is 29 April 2013, the first Monday after the school holidays first.

Please ensure that you complete your applications as soon as possible. Ensure that the students' details are correct with regards to the Special Project Grants. Ensure that you apply for projects where the resources can be shared with your language group, or better still, with other community language schools.

If you require any assistance or advice with grants please contact the Education Officers - Alex Di Prinzie, Sabine Hauth or Heidi Lindgren.

Premier's Harmony Dinner 2013

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the 70 representatives from the 22 language groups who, on the 10th of April, took the time to attend the Premier's Harmony Dinner. Community Language Schools under the Federation was the largest delegation group present. This resulted in the Federation and community language schools getting

mentioned three times by both the Premier and the Chair of the Community Relations Commission.

It is very important that we as community language schools invest in ourselves by attending these events to promote community language schools to the wider public.

We hope that you will all consider attending next year's event to support your language and school.

2013 Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner will be held on the 15th June 2013 at the Cyprus Community Club starting at 7.00pm. in order to be able to start on time, please be seated at around 6.30.

On the same night we will be acknowledging members of the Federation with certificates organised by the NSW Government for schools / organisations that have been operating for 10 years or more.

We will send out the list of schools receiving these certificates so you can ensure you send representative/s to the Annual Dinner to receive the certificate for your school.

The Federation's annual dinner is proving to be very popular so please book your tickets early as there are limited number of places available.

Students Drawing Competition

We hope that your school is participating in this competition organised by the Federation. It is a good project or homework assignment for students to connect with their heritage and culture. It also enables the Federation to present to our special guests the artworks of students from the community languages schools.

So feel free to encourage the students as much as possible to send their drawings/paintings in. There are great prizes to be won!

2013 Community Language Schools State Conference

The Community Language Schools State Conference will be held on Saturday 5th October at the University of Sydney.

If you have any suggestions for topics or workshops you may feel that would be of benefit to teachers or management committees or know a presenter with great skills or knowledge that would help community language schools, please contact our office as soon as possible with the details.

Community Languages Schools Program

The Department of Education and Communities has undergone restructuring and this means that the Community Languages Schools Program has been relocated to a new address - Level 3, 1 Oxford Street Darlinghurst which is diagonally opposite Hyde Park where Liverpool Street begins. Currently there is no phone numbers for this office but the Program and Federation shall both send it to you when it becomes available.

Student Safety

Please ensure that your school is aware of student safety before and after your school lessons.

Supervision of students at your community language school is very important. Some parents may drop off students 5 or 10 minutes before the classes start. That is why your school must have someone who is responsible on duty to monitor and supervise the children. Also, when your school finishes, you should have an orderly dismissal of students where the parents can come and pick up their children. It is important that you have safe procedures in place when students leave e.g. who is picking the student? Do you have a safe place for students to wait? What happens if a parent or carer is late?

Then there are traffic and parking issues for parents etc.

Internet and Electronic Whiteboards or "Smart Boards"

I am pleased to know that some of our member community language schools have been granted access to both the internet and electronic whiteboards in the classrooms by the host school principals.

If your school can negotiate with your host mainstream school principal to gain access to these electronic whiteboards and internet, the Federation's Education Officer Mr Alex Di Prinzio will be available to organise training on how to use these "smart boards" then you can show the principal that you have trained your teachers on how to use these boards. The Federation will also notify the mainstream school principal about the teachers who have been trained.

Students use these resources as normal everyday teaching or learning tools and if your school wants to make the learning of languages more interesting and modern it is in your interest to ask the mainstream school principal.

I would like to remind those members who deposit payments directly to the Federation's account to give clear indication which school they are from. We still receive payments without any details, something that makes the Project Officer's job difficult. Thank you for your co-operation

Kind Regards



Albert Vella
President - NSWFCLS