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## News



### From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the first edition of the Global Learning and Engagement newsletter for 2023.

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 that the Year of the Rabbit (or Year of the Cat for our Vietnamese subscribers) brings good health and prosperity to you all.

There are many exciting opportunities to look forward to in 2023. This year, we are offering a range of global learning and engagement opportunities for primary and secondary school students to help them build the skills they need to live and thrive in this globalised world. I would encourage you to read information on our upcoming programs available in this edition and participate in the activities relevant to you.

In other good news, we have recently participated in the Prep bags program to introduce our youngest learners to global learning and engagement. The 2023 bags are filled with engaging learning items and information, including our jigsaw puzzle featuring a world map and children from across the globe. This resource will help prep students learn about the world around them and will facilitate meaningful conversations between parents and their young ones about our multicultural society. To watch a video featuring our great jigsaw puzzle and the prep bags, see: [2023 Prep bags](#).

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

### 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 the International Education Division, before negotiating and entering into 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 10 March 2023.

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



## Cultural Diversity Week 2023

This year's Cultural Diversity Week is taking place in Victoria from 11 - 21 March. Cultural Diversity Week is an annual celebration facilitated by the Victorian Multicultural Commission for over 20 years, to promote the diverse communities in our state. The theme for 2023 is Our Past, Our Future: Celebrating and reflecting on the contributions of Victoria's multicultural communities. This theme is inclusive of all Victorians, including established and emerging multicultural communities who represent Victoria's past and future.

To find out how your school can get involved in this year's celebrations, visit: [Cultural Diversity Week 2023](#), or see: [Teacher's Resource Kit](#) to start classroom conversations about multicultural Victoria.

## Applications for the Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award opening soon

Nominations for the 2023 Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award are opening in March. This award category is part of the Victorian Education Excellence Awards (VEEAs) that provide winners of each category with professional development grants of up to \$25,000. The Dr Lawrie Shears Outstanding Global Teaching and Learning Award recognises school teams that demonstrate excellence in global learning and engagement at their school and provide their students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

To familiarise yourself with the nominations process, visit: [VEEA](#).

# Professional Development



## Educator Empowerment Program: Free professional development for schools

Applications to participate in the Australian Government's Educator Empowerment Program are still open. This professional development program in diversity, equity and inclusion is fully funded by the Department of Social Services, for up to 50 schools across Australia. The program involves mentorship sessions, webinars and self-guided courses for teachers and school leaders and provides them with the tools they need to help their students become inclusive leaders at school and in their wider community.

To register your interest, visit: [Educator Empowerment Program](#).

## Centre for Multicultural Youth – learning opportunities

Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Victoria that provides specialist knowledge and support to young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. CMY is offering a number of professional learning opportunities in February and March to help schools build cultural responsiveness, social cohesion, and inclusion.

To see the list of upcoming events, and express interest in relevant training sessions, visit: [CMY learning opportunities](#).

# For Students



VICTORIAN YOUNG LEADERS  
TO CHINA PROGRAM

Live, learn, explore



## Final call to express interest in the Victorian Young Leaders to China Program 2023 (Year 9)

Expression of interest is still open for schools to participate in the Victorian Young Leaders (VYL) to China virtual program 2023. The program is modelled on the highly successful VYL China offshore immersion program to help Year 9 students develop their global citizenship, leadership and language skills and intercultural capability and understanding. The program will strengthen Chinese Language skills of the participants and will help them learn about China's traditional and contemporary culture through their Chinese peers. This year, we are partnering with Meg Languages to co-deliver the program with Beijing Language and Culture University. The program will be delivered to two cohorts in 2023.

To register your school's interest to participate in either of the cohorts in 2023, complete the registration form at: [VYL China – EOI](#), before 3 April.

For more information on the program, book an information session, or contact Meg Languages at: [vylic@meqlanguages.com](mailto:vylic@meqlanguages.com)

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## Global Youth Forums 2023 (Year 9)

The highly popular Victorian Young Leaders: Global Youth Forum (GYF) is back in March 2023, for another enthusiastic group of Year 9 students. The fifth forum, held in November, brought together 923 Victorian and international students from 55 Victorian schools and 39 international schools across 6 Asia-Pacific countries. The sixth cohort will begin on 28 March to help students enhance their intercultural capability skills and explore how to be young active leaders and global citizens. The seventh cohort will take place in Term 3.

To learn more, visit: [GYF 2023](#), and to express interest in future forums, contact: [aef-support@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aef-support@asialink.unimelb.edu.au)



## Launch of the Emerging Leaders Forum Pilot Program 2023 (Years 5 – 8)

The Victorian Young Leaders: Emerging Leaders Forum is an exciting new program for Year 5 to Year 8 students. The program aims to enhance student leadership, voice, agency, intercultural understanding, and engagement with the Asia-Pacific region. The 2023 pilot program will be delivered online from 8 – 12 May to provide an opportunity for 60 Victorian students from various schools to engage with students online and explore the concepts of identity, culture, belonging, globalisation, and global citizenship. The delivery of the program will be facilitated by Asia Education Foundation at the University of Melbourne on behalf of the department.

Places are limited and fully funded by the department. Interested schools can express their interest by 5pm Friday 10 March at: [Emerging Leaders 2023](#), or contact: [aefsupport@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:aefsupport@asialink.unimelb.edu.au) for any questions.

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## Globally Engaged Learners Program: The Global Citizenship Student Ambassador Program (Years 5 – 6)

The Globally Engaged Learners (GELs) program funds a range of global learning and engagement activities that enable international or local student peer-to-peer collaboration and build students' global citizenship skills and capabilities.

This year, one of the activities delivered under the GELs banner is the Global Ambassador Program for students in Years 5 – 6. This one-year program builds empowered global citizens who learn about global citizenship core concepts and then use these skills to take action on a real issue in their school or school community. Students work as inclusive student leaders to design solutions, through consultation with their peers and school community, leveraging community partnerships to amplify their project impact and success.

To express interest, schools are requested to contact: [Meg Languages](#).

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## Globally Engaged Learners Program: Project Global Citizen

### Project Global Citizen 4-week Challenge: 'The Earthshot Prize Pitch' (Years 10 – 12)

This 4-week series of 1-hour sessions will allow students in Years 10 to 12 to learn and apply cultural competence and collaborate in cross-cultural teams to develop an idea that will change the world. This live-facilitated and highly immersive virtual program will provide students with the foundations for developing cultural intelligence.

### Project Global Citizen Bootcamp: 'The United Nations Environmental Challenge' (Years 10 – 12)

In this 3-hour bootcamp, students in Years 10 – 12 will collaborate with students from across the world to solve a challenge relating to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

To participate in either of the Project Global Citizen activities, contact: [Project Global Citizen](#), or email Deb Moran, Coordinator, Project Global Citizen at: [coordinator@projectglobalcitizen.com](mailto:coordinator@projectglobalcitizen.com)

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## Model United Nations Conference Pilot Program 2023

Expression of interest to participate in the 2023 Model United Nations Conference pilot program is now open to all Victorian government schools with an existing sister school relationship. The program will provide an opportunity for Victorian students and offshore students from their sister school partnerships, to come together and expand their knowledge of key global issues and develop collaboration, public speaking, and leadership skills.

The program is ideally designed for students in Year 9 and above; however, students in Years 7 – 8 can also participate. Further information on the program is available at: [Model UN Conference 2023](#). To express interest in the 2023 pilot program, principals are requested to contact: Sally Northfield at: [sally@unaavictoria.org.au](mailto:sally@unaavictoria.org.au) by 30 March 2023.

## Resources



### Differentiated Instruction: a guide for world language teachers

Differentiation is one of 10 key High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) that teachers can apply to the wide variety of students' learning needs to increase their language learning outcomes and engagement. In the book *Differentiated Instruction: a guide for world language teachers*, Deborah Blaz, outlines a vast range of practical and rigorous differentiation strategies. This book is a useful resource for busy teachers as it provides lesson plans, templates, checklists, and classroom-tested activities, which can be easily adapted to any language and various classroom settings.

*Differentiated Instruction: a guide for world language teachers* is available at the department's Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre as a hard copy or an e-Book.

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GLOBAL LEARNING  
AND ENGAGEMENT

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