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News



From the Executive Director, Linda Vaughan

Welcome to the September and October edition of the Global Learning and Engagement (GL&E) newsletter.

My recent trip to China and Vietnam provided a valuable opportunity to meet with key stakeholders to discuss GL&E opportunities for Victorian government schools. A highlight of my trip was attending the Emerging Leaders Forum (ELF) in Shanghai, after opening the forum back in Victoria in August. Flying halfway across the world to witness students presenting in the same forum face-to-face after seeing them online was incredibly rewarding. With over 600 students from 31 Victorian government schools and schools across the Asia-Pacific region participating, it's clear that, despite geographical distances, we can connect, learn from each other, and collaborate towards shared goals.

In Ho Chi Minh City, the Department of Education and Training showed great interest in our GL&E programs and Inclusive Education. I also discussed sister school partnerships with the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission and spoke with the Jiangsu Provincial Education Department, which is eager for the upcoming Jiangsu Principals' Forum in Melbourne this November. If your school is interested in sharing ideas on curriculum and teacher development and connecting with principals from Jiangsu, please register for this event using the information provided later in the newsletter.

I'm also excited to announce that during the Premier's trip to India in last month, she visited Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB) Mehta Vidyalaya Senior Secondary in New Delhi, one of the schools involved in the 2023-24 Women in School Leadership (WISL) program. This school partnered with Aintree Primary School in Victoria to carry out in-school action research focused on empowering girls in education, as part of the WISL program. Such partnerships are vital for sharing knowledge and strategies that can enhance educational outcomes across borders. I highly encourage you to read their [action research case study](#) on our website.

Global Design Challenge: Key highlights from Terms 3 and 4

In Terms 3 and 4, Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC) and Gippsland Tech School, Banyule Nillumbik Tech School, and Wyndham Tech School, delivered the department's Global Design Challenge program, with support from community leaders, and international industry partners. The program facilitated collaboration between local and offshore students by applying practical STEM solutions to a real-world problem. This year, 255 students from schools in Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Indonesia, along with 385 Victorian students from the following schools, participated in the program:

- Keysborough Secondary College
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- Western Port Secondary College
- Dandenong High School
- Heathmont Secondary College
- Maffra Secondary College
- Bass Coast College
- Viewbank College
- Bemn Secondary College

Together, the participants worked in teams to address themes such as sustainability and waste management, forensic science, clean energy technology, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) and game development. The program not only helped students develop STEM capabilities using contemporary technologies and practices but also provided opportunities for international collaboration, empowering their voices and agency through inquiry-based projects.

To watch a video of the program delivered by KIOSC, which focused on forensic science and sustainability, click: [Global Design Challenge – KIOSC.](#)



2024 Global Learning Student Voice project: Students showcase their achievements

During the 2024 school year, Victorian international and local students engaged in global learning through their participation in the Student Voice Forum. With support from their teachers and mentors, they organised various student-led initiatives to celebrate diverse cultures and create a welcoming environment for international students. Some of the students' stand-out projects included:

- cultural music performances, such as taiko drumming and global pop song contests
- culinary events like global café day, cooking demonstrations, and cultural food sales
- buddy programs pairing new international students with local students
- language celebration days for Chinese and Japanese
- creation of glossaries to assist international students with English terminology.

Participating schools noted a greater sense of welcome for international students, leading to improved connections and friendships between local and international students, as well as enhanced cultural awareness across the school community.

We look forward to seeing what they achieve over Term 4 and beyond!

Women in School Leadership (WISL) program 2023-24: Celebrating Impact

An evaluation report commissioned by the department found that the 2023-24 WISL program successfully contributed to improved capacity building, partnership sustainability, authentic cross-cultural learning experiences and exchange and professional networks. The data revealed that the program equipped the 24 participating school leaders from Victoria and India with the knowledge and skills necessary to design and implement impactful action research projects focused on leading change in their schools related to learning and wellbeing. The program also provided authentic international immersive experiences, which redefined their intercultural competence and enhanced their understanding of contemporary Australia and India.

Moreover, it facilitated meaningful connections and exchanges of ideas, fostering long-term partnerships and promoting leadership and pedagogies that encourage intercultural understanding. The findings reinforce the

importance of professional learning and partnership programs that support Victorian schools in becoming globally engaged.

To learn more about the professional enrichment and intercultural experiences of participants, watch: [WISL highlights video](#).



Highlights from the Emerging Leaders Forum program

The Emerging Leaders Forum virtual learning program was held in Term 3, uniting 249 Victorian students in Years 5 to 8 with 381 peers from 8 countries across the Asia-Pacific region for a 3-day online forum. During this program, students collaborated on projects focused on the UNSDGs while engaging with participants from countries such as China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Japan.

The student projects showcased innovative solutions to contemporary issues within their schools, addressing challenges like littering, energy efficiency, bullying, and social change. Participants provided feedback to one another, gaining insights into how different schools approached these issues and incorporating those learnings into their own initiatives.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the 2024 Emerging Leaders Forum!

Professional Development



Join us: Registrations open for the Victoria – Jiangsu Principals' Forum

Registrations are currently open for Victorian government schools to attend the Victoria – Jiangsu Principals' Forum. This year's theme focuses on critical and creative thinking, STEM, digital education, and fostering networks to enhance student outcomes. The annual forum aims to share best practice in curriculum and teacher professional development and foster new sister school partnerships with visiting school principals from Jiangsu, China. Attending the forum will provide key benefits, such as discussing how various jurisdictions engage students in STEM and digital education, exploring different approaches to teaching critical and creative thinking, and establishing partnerships for global learning and language opportunities.

Event details

- Wednesday 20 November

- Forum: 9.00am – 5.00pm. Optional networking and 45-year sister state anniversary event: 5.15pm – 8.00pm
- RACV City Club, 501 Bourke St, Melbourne, Victoria

Registration

To attend, please register by Monday **4 November** using the [event registration form](#). Each school may bring up to 2 participants. For questions, email: international.marketing@education.vic.gov.au

Interpreter Scholarship Program

The Victorian Government has offered scholarships since 2003 to support students in translating and interpreting courses at RMIT University. Applications are currently open for the 2025 RMIT Interpreter Scholarship Program, which has already assisted over 1,500 individuals in obtaining NAATI certification. Scholarships cover program and student fees for:

- **Advanced Diploma:** Arabic, Greek, Italian, Persian, Spanish, Vietnamese
- **Diploma:** Burmese, Dari, Dinka, Punjabi, Portuguese, Samoan, S'gaw Karen, Somali, Russian, Urdu
- **Skill Set:** Albanian, Bangla, Bislama, Chichewa, Gujarati, Hakha Chin, Hakka Chinese, Hazaragi, Hmong, Kayah (Karenni), Khmer, Kirundi, Kurdish Kurmanji, Lingala, Macedonian, Malay, Maltese, Nepali, Nuer, Pashto, Rohingya, Ukrainian, Sinhalese, Swahili

The courses are primarily online, with some in-person sessions in Melbourne, and scholarships are awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis. Bilingual individuals aiming to become professional interpreters are encouraged to apply by **February 7, 2025**.

To learn more and apply: [Interpreter scholarships](#), or email: translating.interpreting@rmit.edu.au

For Students



Global Youth Forum 2024 cohort 2: Registrations open

Applications for the Global Youth Forum (GYF) program cohort 2 are open to connect Victorian Year 9 students with their international peers in the Asia-Pacific region.

This interactive three-day program is delivered virtually and is anchored to the UNSDGs to drive social change in local communities. The activity fosters critical discussions on concepts of global citizenship and identity, helping students build a deeper understanding of the impact of globalisation on their lives and education. It also improves their awareness of diverse perspectives and develops their global competency and leadership skills.

As part of the program, participants investigate global challenges facing the international community, exercise design thinking to generate ideas to these challenges, and undertake a collaborative group design challenge that seeks to prototype a solution. Students are provided the opportunity to present and seek feedback on their prototypes from their peers and teachers and are encouraged to pilot their prototypes back in their local school communities.

To express interest and get more information on the program structure, key dates and activities, visit the following link or contact: global.learning@education.vic.gov.au

- **cohort 2** - registrations close on 5 pm Friday **1 November**.

Resources



Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits

The 2024 Australia-ASEAN Youth Summit took place at Parliament House in Canberra earlier in August for Years 9 and 10 students. Facilitated by the Asia Education Foundation (AEF), the event brought together over 120 students from across Australia and 9 Southeast Asian countries to simulate dialogues and foster a network of future leaders. Participation in the summit was hybrid, with 24 students attending in person and 100 joining virtually. From Victoria, students from Bairnsdale Secondary College and Werribee Secondary College participated with their parents, while the rest of their school teams joined online.

The summit followed two virtual sessions where students discussed regional cooperation between Australia and Southeast Asia. They collaboratively created a Youth Declaration with recommendations on six UNSDGs. In the Declaration, students urged leaders to address education inequality, gender discrimination, renewable energy transition, social and economic inequalities, sustainable urban development, and climate change mitigation, reflecting their passion for bold, transformative action.

To read a copy of the declaration presented by the students, visit: [Youth Declaration - Australia-ASEAN Youth Summits](#).

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