

Coming Together, Staying Together for Greek

Friday, 19 October 2018

Quality Teaching in the Primary Languages Classroom Focusing on Student Engagement and the 4Cs: Critical Reflection, Creativity, Communication and Collaboration

Ms Evangelia Hariklia Hassapis, Teacher of Greek, Carlton Public School, NSW

As language teachers we are all aware of the difficulties we face in a languages classroom with students that are hesitant to engage and participate in lessons due to a lack of prior exposure to the language. This often results in low confidence on their part and a perception of language learning being “difficult.” It is our duty to make language learning accessible to all of our students. One of the ways to do so is to make it relevant and “fun” for them to want to engage and participate. The NSW model of pedagogy within the Quality Teaching Framework breaks language learning up into three dimensions: Intellectual Quality, Quality Learning Environment and Significance. This, combined with the 4Cs Transformative Learning that the 21st Century Classroom has to embrace, has meant that, as teachers, we also need to be conscious of the fact that we need to interweave Critical Reflection, Creativity, Communication and Collaboration within our lessons. Using music, popular songs, students’ interests and technology, we can make our lessons relevant while simultaneously ensuring that we provide rich language lessons which embody quality teaching and every element of the 4Cs Direction that education is moving forward with.

Ms Evangelia H. Hassapis has been teaching Greek since 2002. Between 2002 and 2005, she was teaching in the Greek afternoon schools program while still at university. Once she graduated from the University of Sydney in 2007, she worked as a K-6 classroom teacher at Carlton Public School. In 2012, a Greek languages position was given to the school for which she applied and having passed the Languages Proficiency Test, was offered the position. She has been teaching Greek at Carlton Public School since 2012 and has recently started working again as a language teacher for the Greek afternoon schools program run by the Kogarah Parish.