



Advancing Australian-French education in Melbourne

“... far from detracting from the development of literacy, learning a second language actually enhances and enriches children’s language experience and offers them unique insights and opportunities for the development of cognitive skills which are unavailable to the monolingual learner.....”

To foster growth of a bi-lingual school by Jan. 2012

www.ecolefroz.com.au

What we have in Melbourne

Ecole Secondaire Française de Melbourne

@ Glen Eira College. Secondary school students study French topics and maths by correspondence in addition to their Victorian curriculum

13 students
17 in 2010
ESFM

Ecole Française de Melbourne

French Section Elective @ Caulfield Junior College (state primary school) French and Victorian curriculum taught on a 50/50 principle

176 students
18 waiting list
217 in 2010
235 in 2011
EFM

Full capacity

Ecole Maternelle de Melbourne

Kindergarten @ 2 campuses

20 students in 2008
45 in 2010
15 waiting list
EMM

Full capacity

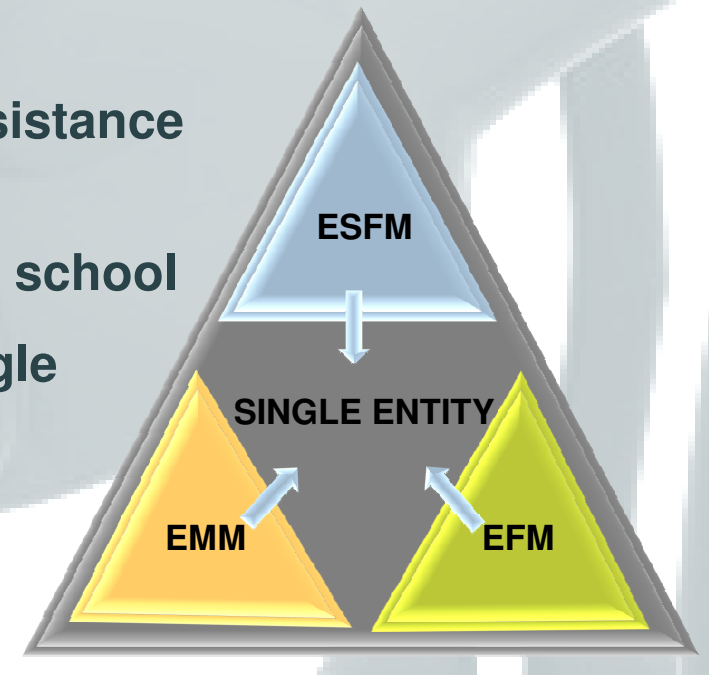


But they are 3 SEPARATE entities

The French curriculum rigorously follows the French National Education Program

What parents, teachers and students would like for Melbourne

- Capitalise on the success of the kindergartens and primary school which are now at capacity
- Further develop the secondary schooling using a model of excellence, Telopea Park school, Canberra
- Creating a truly bi-lingual school open to all students by Jan. 2012
- All year levels from K to year 12 accredited by Victorian-French governments
- A public school of low fees with funding assistance from Victorian and French governments
- Support in establishing and maintaining the school
- Amalgamate the existing schools into a single entity, ideally located at one campus under one management



The benefits of bi-lingual education

- Bi-lingual education has significant, long term, proven advantages
- Test results of bi-lingual students are above the national average
- High level Australian and French education is recognised by tertiary institutions worldwide
- Australian research shows that 2nd language acquisition heightens intellectual proficiency
- Potential to increase the international mobility of Australian students and thus foster a global footprint of Australians
- Australian focus is on values and personality development
 - ➔ Academic knowledge will come from enjoying learning
- French focus is on academics (from early grades)
 - ➔ Enjoying learning will come from knowledge

But why French as the 2nd language?

- 10,000 households speak French at home in Victoria (2006 census, 50,000 people nationally - FACCI)
- French remains the most commonly taught foreign language in Victorian schools
- France is the 7th largest foreign investor in Australia with its investments valued at EUR5.1 billion [AUD10.3 billion] (FACCI)
- Comparable ratio of “French nationals” in Victoria as in Ontario, Canada, a bi-lingual country
- The French government sponsors an extensive network of “French Lycee” around the world (430 schools from prep to secondary)
- French speaking “professional” expatriates seek to enrol in French Lycee around the world to provide a consistent curriculum for their children

French companies in Victoria

Large presence of French companies and employees in Australia. More than 250 French subsidiaries exist. Many are based in Melbourne: FAACI

- FACCI
- Veolia Water Solutions Technologies
- Nexans (Olex)
- Domaine Chandon
- Renault
- L'Oreal
- Thales
- GMA
- AXA
- ARC
- Air Liquide
- Bic Australia
- Chess Moving
- Felco
- Degremont (Desalination)
- Veritas
- Alcatel
- Orange Business Services
- Michelin
- Alliance Francaise
- Delegate of the Assembly for French Overseas Nationals
- Association of Expatriate Citizens
- UFE
- French Australian Lawyers Society
- ISFAR
- AMFA
- AFAS Vic
- Le Theatre Francais de Melbourne
- Academie Culinaire de France

The strengths and challenges ahead

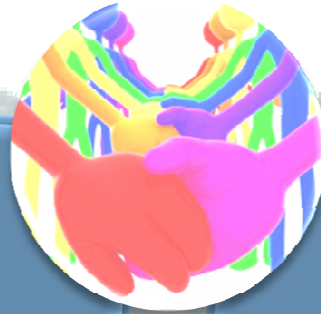
Strengths

- ✓ Fully bi-cultural & bi-lingual
- ✓ Compatible with and approved by Victorian and French education standards.
- ✓ Allows much greater mobility for students
- ✓ Low fees
- ✓ Integrated into a public school
- ✓ Fosters excellence (see NAPLAN result) but not elitism
- ✓ Has a very positive influence on the hosting school
- ✓ Helped CJC gain its International accreditation
- ✓ Fast growth
- ✓ More Australian “only” students than French “only” students start in bi-lingual prep in 2010

Challenges

- ✗ A precarious status: all schools are hosted by establishments which do not necessarily have the same priorities
- ✗ Lack of coordination between Australian and French teachers leading to potential overlaps or holes in students education
- ✗ How to manage growth/potential?
- ✗ Secondary school is slow to take off due to the strong competition from the private education system in Victoria
- ✗ Secondary school does not offer the same bilingual program rather a French program by correspondence with a tutor
- ✗ Loss of students to other schools because the secondary level is incomplete

Our objective



To guarantee the future of Melbourne's successful bi-lingual schooling.

To allow all children access to the richness of bi-lingual education.

To preserve what have been the driving principles from inception:

- ✓ Blending Australian *and* French culture
- ✓ Low fees
- ✓ High quality, recognised education

A successful and unique bi-lingual school

- To answer a demand expressed by Australian families wanting to enrol at the schools as demonstrated by the rapid growth of EFM and EMM
- To answer a demand expressed by French companies investing in Victoria
- To increase the international mobility of Australians working and studying around the world and foster a global footprint of Australian companies
- To attract highly qualified workers to Victoria who would otherwise turn to other destinations due to the incomplete Australian-French education in Melbourne.

“.....a life lived monolingually misses out on something that is essentially human”

Excerpt from:

www.acer.edu.au/documents/AER_54-SecondLanguagesAndAustralianSchooling.pdf

Australian Council for Educational Research

Are you able to support us?

- Working together with the Victorian Department of Education and French Education Ministry
- Developing a contractual framework with the Victorian Department of Education to guarantee the future
- Developing better co-ordination between the Victorian and French curriculums
- Building the best solution for the growth of EMM, EFM and ESFM
- Requesting funds from the Australian and French Governments and the Victorian Department of Education
- Reinforcing interest, support and sponsors from the whole community

You can view more details: www.ecolefroz.com.au

or email your interest to: info@ecolefroz.com.au

ADVANCING BI-LINGUAL EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN