

Huntingdale Primary School

Language Lighthouse

	Lighthouse Initiatives	Description
Language Journey Precinct	A Language Journey	Learning a language is the greatest gift we give our children at Huntingdale Primary School. Through our unique bilingual program all our children are immersed in Japanese language. Research has long recognised immersion as the most natural way for young children to learn language. "A Language Journey" is about extending this language journey beyond F-6 and beyond 9am-3:30pm. By strengthening community ties and sharing our spaces and resources with language playgroups and community groups, alignment with bilingual kinder/ELLA, and beyond to programs through VSL, and even organisations such as U3A, we can extend the benefits of language learning to the greater community.
	Japanese Ceremonial Garden	Our ties with diversity at Huntingdale go beyond language, as we encourage a community that is proud of it's heritage and celebrate the strength that diversity brings. This initiative aims at constructing a Japanese Ceremonial Garden (Nihon Teien) and Teahouse (Chashitsu) with support from community partnerships (perhaps as a design competition with a local university). This is a place where Japanese culture is brought alive and enables our students to experience a unique event in Japan in their own school yard!
	Pay it Forward	At Huntingdale Primary School we are committed to supporting the wider education system and community in language learning, sharing our experience of over 20 years in bilingual education. This includes sharing resources, providing professional development opportunities for teachers and other professionals and providing parent classes. We already host many local, national and international visitors to showcase and share our experiences, and to "Pay it Forward", and look at this initiative to evolve these programs. This initiative is also about modernising our professional development spaces, our shared resources, and our interactive technology as an enabler of professional development.
Our Sustainable Future	Everyday Sustainability	As leaders of this country continue to debate Energy and Environment Policy, it will be the future generation that will ultimately become the custodians of the environment. "Everyday Sustainability" is Huntingdale's commitment to teaching sustainability in the next generations daily life. This initiative builds on the many programs and activities that Huntingdale Primary is already involved in, and aims to consolidate these to a holistic whole school approach. Everyday Sustainability also looks at providing greater transparency of sustainability through smart technology integration with energy usage, generation and storage monitoring, water and waste monitoring and environment and fauna audits.
	Toward Carbon Zero	As a community, we believe that we should minimise our carbon footprint, and aim for carbon neutrality. It is envisaged that this initiative will be guided through a Sustainability Action Plan and whole-school involvement, and even the possibility of involvement with pilot energy programs (eg. Demand Response, P2P, Virtual Power Plant). The existing facilities are the greatest impediment to achieving this objective, so are looking at awareness of this target (and appropriate working group) as we move into the design of our new school.
	A Sustainable Mind	Sustained wellbeing enables students to learn and thrive. Wellbeing is a key focus for our students and staff, with initiatives and strategic focus addressing wellbeing. Our Wellbeing team, lead by the Principal is responsible for ever improving and monitoring student wellbeing. We also look to provide additional dedicated spaces for students to relax, explore mindfulness and work together harmoniously. This initiative addresses space, awareness and strategies for improving and monitoring wellbeing.
Communicating Diversity	Festival of Language	Huntingdale Primary School's community has recently established its parent and friends association, "Watashimo". Watashimo literally means "Count me in" in Japanese and was established to strengthen school community engagement and connectedness. The "Festival of Language" is an ambitious initiative building on this engagement to establish a 2-yearly community event that celebrates language and diversity. This initiative includes looking at possible community grants with the City of Monash.
	Language Film Festival	In alignment with our Language Lighthouse vision and commitment to celebrating language, this initiative looks at building ties with International language film festivals such as the Japanese Film Festival. It is our vision to be able to host events at our school, both to showcase our school and to advocate the power of language. We have a very diverse school community, and aim to encourage pride in our diversity.
	Taiko & Choir Centre of Excellence	Huntingdale has a renowned Taiko and bilingual choir group, having performed in the past for SSV Awards, Australia Japan Society of Victoria, Carols in the Park, Victorian State School Spectacular, Art in the Park, Pacific School Games, Royal Visit for the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, Victorian Government Vision for Languages Launch and the DEECD Education Excellence Awards to name a few. This Initiative is aimed to improve the facilities for practice, storage and performance, including boosting school pride with the provision of purpose built space to showcase these performances at home and for visitors. It will also address the maintenance requirements of the taiko drums and costumes through possible private sponsorship.
Innovation Incubator	Schools without Borders	The "Schools without Borders" initiative has the ambitious goal to remove the geographic boundaries between schools. It is an initiative that will begin by integrating Huntingdale Primary School with our Japanese Sister Schools through innovative technology solutions. Our 5/6 students have the opportunity to visit Japan and have home stays at Kuramochi Primary School. It is our vision that students at our schools grow up with each other through the years of the school and build friendships many years before they meet, that our teachers are able to class-share, that our students can talk to each other on a daily basis, can literally be in the same lesson, can play with each other during recess/lunch and can work on tasks and projects together as if they were sitting next to each other. This initiative looks at building programs to make this a reality, facilitated by technology and telecommunication infrastructure, and situated in purpose designed spaces.
	"Our Voice" Multimedia Hub	"Our Voice" Multimedia Hub aims to provide the facilities, technology and programs to allow our students to explore the power of language and communication. With the use of audio-visual equipment, video editing software, and a multimedia studio we look at enabling the students to take on challenges such as forming a HPS TV channel, HPS radio and involvement in global activities such as TED-ED clubs.
	Speaking to Robots	The Coding Club have gone from strength to strength at Huntingdale Primary School, with high demand now requiring multiple sessions. This initiative addresses this demand by providing resources and expertise to take coding to the next level. It is an initiative that provides further opportunities for teaching students to code and to extend beyond this to create mobile apps and to programming robotics.