



# Spanish

# Español



Learning an additional language broadens students' horizons providing opportunities in a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent. **(Languages Learning DET 2013)**

Language studies focus on developing language proficiency and promote intercultural understanding. Studying a language better equips students to engage with others and participate fully in an increasingly globalised world.

## Why is it important to study a language?

By studying another language, students:

- gain access to other peoples' ideas and ways of thinking
- become interested in and respectful of other cultures
- develop social and cognitive skills that will help them in other areas of the curriculum
- improve their first language as students are more aware of how languages work
- improve future employment and economic opportunities

**Ascot Vale West** has a long history of teaching Spanish for over 30 years. Spanish is timetabled for one 60 minute session per week for all the year levels.

The **Spanish program** at Ascot Vale West offers a range of spoken and written language activities as well as cultural experiences for our students. We study different Spanish speaking artists such as Picasso, Miró and Gaudí.



**Students celebrating Diversity Week by learning about the Spanish speaking countries in the world.**



## Celebrating Columbus Day on October 12th

### Why Spanish?

- 1. Spanish is a community language.** Spanish is the seventh most widely spoken language in Australia, this also being true in the City of Moonee Valley, according to 2006 census data. Spanish speakers in our community have diverse origins, many coming from Spain, Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Colombia and Uruguay amongst other countries. Each one of these groups bring their own rich culture to Australia.
- 2. Spanish is a world language spoken by almost 400 million people** as a first language, and studied by more people than any other language except English as a second language. ***There are 21 countries with Spanish as the official language***, though it is widely spoken in many other countries. In the United States there are more than 38 million Spanish speakers and it is the second country in the world with the highest number of Spanish speakers after Mexico.
- 3. Spanish is an important language for many international organisations**, such as the United Nations, whose 6 official languages are Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, English, French and Russian.
- 4. Spanish is an easy language to learn.** This is largely because the written form of Spanish is phonetic, so once you know how to pronounce the letters you could read anything out loud. Also English and Spanish share Latin origins so many words are very similar (they are called **cognates**). Learning Spanish therefore gives students a deeper knowledge of English as well as other languages they may speak.

A range of beyond the school experiences is offered including interaction with a sister school in Spain and participation in the **Spanish Writing Competition**. In 2014 two students from Year 6 won first and third place in the Spanish Writing Competition. This competition is open to all schools offering Spanish in Victoria. Our theme for 2014 was **Picasso**.



**Prep and 1/2 students' amazing Picasso work**

### **Spanish resources online**

Spanish has many resources online that are used extensively in the class. Here are just a few:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/spanish/spanish.htm>

<https://www.rockalingua.com/>

<http://rosieandandy.com/>

<http://www.cantajuego.com/>

<http://cvc.cervantes.es/ensenanza/mimundo/mimundo/default.html>

[http://www.videoele.com/menu\\_A1.html](http://www.videoele.com/menu_A1.html)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/spanish/>



**Getting our puppets ready to role play a story**



**Our special and much loved Spanish super hero SUPER Ñ!**



**SPANISH IS FUN!**