

LOTE DAY 2007

One of the most exciting activities on the Year 7 and 8 calendar is LOTE Day, a day of activities planned around the learning of both French and Indonesian. The activities provided allow for a range of both compulsory and optional activities, some done in class groups, others in interest groups. The quadrangle was transformed as many balloons and streamers decorated the balconies with both the French and the Indonesian flags flying proudly side by side. The students were required to dress to represent some aspect of French or Indonesian life.

The day began with an assembly where the French national anthem was sung by Helen Kitching, a Year 12 French and singing student, followed by the Indonesian national anthem. With Mr Rod Meaklim as compere, we moved quickly to the parade of students who had entered the competition for "Famous Frenchies". There were many artists and Marcel Marceau look-alikes, as well as petite Madeleines and a Marie Antoinette. The prizes for this activity were donated by Novotel-on-Collins and Bonjour de France. Then there was a parade of Indonesian headgear and masks for which there were appropriate prizes provided by the LOTE Department.

The compulsory activity for Indonesian studies was a traditional Indonesian puppet performance, whilst the French one was a play in French. Optional activities included Batik making organised by Jim Finlayson, Anklung Music workshops provided by Julie Harding, Eiffel Tower construction supervised by Liz Gridley and Mark Chappell, Snail Dissection provided by the Science faculty, Impressionist Painting provided by the Art Department, as well as culturally appropriate activities organised by the Resource Centre. Sporting activities included Pétanque, Badminton, International Football (soccer) and Martial Arts, whilst some students tested their IQ in the YFC. There were even two International Cooking sessions provided by Judy Drury and Margaret Neeson.

Of course food is one area where cultural diversity is very obvious. The Crêperie and the outdoor Café were once again very popular. The Café was staffed by the Years 11 and 12 French students under the watchful eye of Julie Gleeson and Ann Graham. These senior students encouraged the Years 7 and 8 students to order in French. The place mats which doubled as menus had been made by the Year 8 French students, the best ones being laminated for use on the day. Some of the food in the Café was produced by students of Judy Drury's Food Technology group whilst Mary Whitehead and a small group of interested volunteers from the Years 11 and 12 French classes made quiches galore.

The Warung Satay stall once again proved to be very popular as both students and staff discovered the appetising taste of authentic chicken satay cooked to perfection. Here too, the students were required to order in the language, Indonesian, to satisfy a criteria of the day.

At the end of the day, students were required to write a review of the day and it was very satisfying for the LOTE staff to receive such overwhelming support and enthusiasm from the students for the day. Many students realised how much time and energy had gone into organising such a day and were appreciative of this.

Anne-Maree Grimaldi, LOTE Co-ordinator



Student Comments on "LOTE Day"

I would run LOTE Day for two days so that we could do ALL the activities. It was really fun, especially the international cooking class. Gabby



I thought it was really good to see a play in French instead of English, even though it was a bit boring. I got to do things I had never done before like Martial Arts and French dancing. The food was really yummy. Laura



I thought the Indonesian performance was good because it taught us a lesson. Claire

The day was great and the Parade of Frenchies was really interesting. I loved making the Eiffel Tower because we had to work as a team. Felicity

I would have LOTE Day over a week so we could do ALL the activities. The decorations were fabulous and the food set the scene perfectly. It was AWESOME. Alex

I watched the Simpsons in French. It was great. Brad



LOTE Day is when people dress up in French (or Indonesian) colours, go to different activities and eat French food. I liked Batik because I like drawing. Alex



I enjoyed 'Paint like an Impressionist' because I love painting and we were able to relax and paint. I learnt some things that were Indonesian even though I'm not doing that language. Angela



I enjoyed the "Painting like an Impressionist" session because it was challenging and fun. The day was great but the performance was a little weird. Molly



The best activity was the snail dissection--- it was so disgusting. Anon