

## Long standing partnership brings about better appreciation of cultural diversity

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Child Side School and West Coast International College of English have for a number of years cooperated to provide their students with an opportunity to meet up and discuss information about themselves and their countries. Previous students from West Coast College that have visited Child Side have come from Brazil, Switzerland, Poland, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Italy, Sweden and China. This collaboration is equally beneficial to both groups and is another example of how the real world is integrated into education, which is a high priority at Child Side School.

Leonie O'Connell, Co-Principal of Child Side School is both excited and supportive of these joint opportunities, explaining 'how they can be integrated into and help build on other learning activities undertaken by students'. Leonie expanded on this by saying 'The presentations given by the international students help promote cross-cultural and multi-lingual awareness of the children, as well as giving them an opportunity to try their skills at Italian, which is taught at our school'.

Jenny Byatt, Director of Studies from West Coast College, said 'these partnerships provide our international students with an excellent opportunity to put into practise their oral English skills'. Jenny went on to explain how 'the advanced students are in most cases going on to study at TAFE or university after they finish with us so their English is pretty good; while the intermediate students can cope with everyday conversation but might find academic English a bit challenging'.

These two independent educational institutes will get together for the third time in four years on Thursday 27th October to broaden the students appreciation of cultural diversity. During the next visit there may also be international students from Bulgaria, Peru, Indonesia and Syria.

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