Italian Language

‘… achieving proficiency in other languages is one of the great learning experiences in the human condition … the compelling reasons for learning languages reside in the intellectual enrichment of the individual learner – a better understanding of the world, Australia’s place in it, and the many communities within Australia.’ (Australian Language and Literacy Council, 1996, Language Teachers: The Pivot of Policy, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, p 3)

Moving between countries, cultures and languages has become more commonplace because of globalization, increased ease of travel and advanced information and communication technologies. High quality education in languages enables students to respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of their rapidly changing world.

The study of Italian provides opportunities for students to become more accepting of diversity, more respectful of others and more aware of their place in the international community.

The rich linguistic and cultural diversity of ACT, to which Italian-speaking communities contribute significantly, provides an educational environment where the study of other languages and cultures is valued as a unique and integral part of the K–10 curriculum. The satisfaction of engaging with the study of Italian and of developing communication skills in the language will contribute to a student’s intellectual enrichment.

Italian is the official language of Italy, San Marino and the Vatican City and one of the official languages of Switzerland. It is also spoken in many other countries in Europe, North and South America, Africa and Australasia. Italian, English and other European languages share a common linguistic link with Latin.

The study of the Italian language and culture offers insights into the development of Western civilizations. It enables learners to gain access to Italy’s rich cultural, historical, artistic and literary contributions to the global community.
At St Anthony’s Parish Primary School the study of Italian is in line with the So Australian Curriculum Standards ACARA, the Learning Area of Languages is organised around three strands, which reflect the nature of learning languages and cultures; they are as follows:

- Communication (Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing)
- Understanding Language
- Understanding Culture.

Lessons in Italian are based on various themes that are covered throughout the year. Students look at a specific theme for a given number of weeks, learning the Italian language while also garnering an understanding and appreciation for the Italian culture.

This year we’ve covered a range of themes across the year levels, including:

- ISaluti (The Greetings)
- IColori (The Colours)
- INumeri (The Numbers)
- IICarnevale (The Carnival)
- LaPasqua (The Easter)
- liAnimali (The Animals)
- L’Italia (The Italy)
- IICibo (The Food)
- II_Mondo (The World)
- Santa Maria Della Croce (Saint Mary of The Cross)
- LaFamiglia (The Family)
- GliItalianiFamosi (The Famous Italians)
- II_Natale (The Christmas)

Students learn the Italian language and about the country’s culture by engaging in an assortment of activities individually, in pairs, in groups and as a class. This year some of these activities have included: Games, songs, dramatic role-plays, Sport activities, reading comprehensions, listening comprehensions, ICT activities, praying and research assignments.

Grazie per l’attenzione.
Thank you for your attention.
Antonio Saballa