# Why Serbian Language & Culture Classes?

By offering a fun and positive experience, we aim to arouse children's curiosity and interest in their heritage.

While working on Serbian language skills, our students gain awareness of contemporary Serbia and about its path through history.

Our classes make connections between the Australian and Serbian cultures, helping children consolidate their Australian identity with their Serbian heritage.

Our broader goal, beyond the classroom, is to encourage a lifelong learning of languages and culture.



Classes are held on Saturdays in Griffith, A.C.T. 5 minutes walk from Manuka shops

### **Enrolments/Enquiries:**

Maria Milbridge, Head Teacher Phone: 0416 133 659 E-mail: maria.milbridge@bigpond.com

Our school is named after DIMITRIJE "DOSITEJ" OBRADOVIĆ a Serbian writer, philosopher, dramatist, linguist and the first Minister of Education of Serbia.





# DOSITEJ Serbian Language School



Classes in Serbian Language & Culture for the A.C.T.



Classes are held on Saturdays in Griffith, A.C.T.
5 minutes walk from Manuka shops



The Family's Role...

### ... away from class

We only have your child for 2 hours a week, so we want to support *you* as your child's most important teacher of language.

Only *you* can provide the opportunity for your child to speak Serbian every day.

Only you can make it a positive experience.

### ... around class

We will provide regular lesson summaries and suggestions for follow up activities at home.

We encourage you to browse through your child's folder between classes and talk with your child about their learning.

To help you build up a library of Serbian books at home, we will suggest titles and where you to purchase them.

You are always welcome to have a chat with us, after class.

## Our Program

Our classes are highly interactive, up-beat and fun. We only spend some class time at our desks.

Students are grouped by ability, not age. The number of classes depends on enrolments and this is reviewed each term.

Children build up a **portfolio of work** which they take home and return to class each week.

A language session may generally consist of:

- Thematic learning of **vocabulary**
- **Games** and activities that reinforce language and/or cultural concepts
- Learning Serbian children's songs and rhymes
- Exposure to Serbian literature
- Learning both Cyrillic and Latin alphabets
- Learning and using grammatical concepts in their speaking and writing
- Awareness of current affairs, people and related vocabulary (e.g. Olympic sports stars, etc)

A **culture session** may include practical activities (building models, cooking, drama skits) as well as reading, writing and discussion, to help students learn about:

- Daily life in Serbia, today and in times past, including important dates and customs
- Geography and tourist attractions
- Serbian history in a regional and world context
- Art and music from Serbia
- High achievers throughout Serbian history

### About the Teachers

**Maria Milbridge** is a fluent native speaker of Serbian who grew up in Australia from the age of six.

Having studied Education, Maria has always had an interest in bilingualism and in the challenges of growing up bicultural

Maria is Multicultural Learning Coordinator at Libraries ACT and has worked in HR, adult training and in the community sector in the past. She nurtures a love of music and the arts.





**Ivan Miletić Milbridge** grew up in Belgrade, Serbia, arriving in Australia in his twenties.

Currently a Project Manager at the Department of Defence, Ivan is an avid reader with an impressive knowledge of Serbian history. He brings extensive experience of working with children, from hiss time spent as a senior leader of the Palilula Scouts in Belgrade.

From 2009-2011, Ivan and Maria lived in Serbia with their two children and enjoyed it immensely. They bring up-to-date knowledge and educational resources from contemporary Serbia.