Now children counselled for missing out on school plays

EACHERS are sending home notes with students to help them cope with the disappointment of missing out on a role in a musical or as school captain or prefect.

The development comes as principals have urged parents to allow their children to fail and learn valuable lessons from mistakes and disappointments.

At Meriden, an Anglican school for girls in Strathfield, one teacher collated ideas from primary-aged students on how to deal with the disappointment of not getting a part in the junior school musical. The suggestions included "be proud you gave it a go" and "remember the huge number of people who tried out for only eight roles".

At the bottom of the note she gave to students, the teacher wrote: "Being able to bounce back is the most valuable lesson you can learn ... Here's to growing from life's setbacks!"

Parents of junior school students at Meriden were also sent letters to help prepare children who missed out on being elected as school prefects.

The headmistress of Meriden, Julie Greenhalgh, said there was more pressure on today's children to be successful.

"Most parents are anxious for their children to do

well," she said. "Smaller families are contributing to more pressure on children to be successful."

At Loreto Normanhurst, students are given counselling every three weeks to discuss their "successes and failures".

The headmaster of Barker College, Rod Kefford, believes larger families equipped children better for life's disappointments, with older brothers and sisters often correcting younger siblings.

'We are not equipping children to deal with disappointment," Dr Kefford said.

"It seems to me that modern parents need too much to be liked by their children. Many parents want to be their children's friends ... They are reliving their adolescent experience of not wanting to be unpopular."

Kim Robb, from Eastwood, mother of William, 12, Harry, 9, and Abigail, 7, said her eldest son missed out on a place in the soccer team and on the school captaincy. But this had encouraged him to keep trying. "He doesn't give up and always gives things a go," Mrs Robb said. "My children have never been pushed to be the best, but to be the best they can."

When 11-year-old Liveri Comino was elected school captain at Bald Face Public School in Blakehurst, her twin sister, Yana, also nominated, took it



Twin pique... Yana Comino, left, took her twin sister Liveri's election to school captain in her stride, despite also being nominated for the position. Photo: Peter Rae

on the chin. But there were tears from some of the other children who missed out.

"Yana coped very well but there were other students who found it very emotional," her father, Theo, said.

Mr Comino, a primary teacher at another school, said children of past generations had to live with disappointments, but schools were now actively helping youngsters to cope with emotional setbacks through programs such as Bounce Back, designed to build resilience.

Article from The Sydney Morning Herald

Η ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ ΣΑΣ ΘΑ ΒΟΗΘΗΣΕΙ ΝΑ ΣΥΜΠΕΡΙΛΗΦΘΕΙ Η ΝΕΟΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΓΛΩΣΣΑ ΣΤΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑΣ!!! Ensure the Modern Greek language is included in the National Schools Curriculum by signing the petition and sending it to the address below

Υπογράψτε την αί	ίτηση και στεί	λτε τη στην
αναπληρώτρια πρωθ)υπουργό Τζοί	ύ <mark>λια Γκίλλαρν</mark> τ

The Hon Julia Gillard MP Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Education

PO Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

F: (02) 6273 4115 E: Julia.Gillard.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

RE: AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGES CURRICULUM

In March 2008, you announced that the National Curriculum will include a languages curriculum from 2011. A later announcement committed \$62.4 million to Asian language education by then.

As an Australian of Hellenic descent, I share the Federal Government's concern that only thirteen per cent of Year 12 students in this country study a language. I believe part of the solution is for study of languages (including Modern Greek as an option) to be compulsory for all students (K-12).

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Group of Eight Universities have all called for greater emphasis on the teaching of languages. The Australian Federal Police, the Australian Defence Force and non-government aid agencies continue to cry out for multilingual personnel, as did The Flood Report on intelligence.

According to as John Byron, Director, Australian Academy of the Humanities, "There is plenty of anecdotal and research evidence that we are failing to pursue all the alternatives we can in trade to do business with those willing to speak their language".

The Australian Curriculum should include compulsory language education (including Modern Greek) alongside English, Science and History. Integral to the study of a particular language is the study, and understanding, of the cultural context that developed that language.

Numerous studies have illustrated how the systematic study of grammar improves students' written expression. This is also borne out by multilingual students, who transfer their learning of their second language (such as Modern Greek) into their learning of English.

Parents, principals and other stakeholders in Australian education need to be reminded that the Federal Government thinks that the study of the rest of the world is important. The introduction of language education (including Modern Greek) as a formal part of the Australian Curriculum cements learning and Australia in its regional and global context.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

PETITION AITHMA

Προς τον Αξιότιμο Πρόεδρο και τα Μέλη της Βουλής Το παρόν αίτημα Ορισμένων Αυστραλών πολιτών συμπεριλαμβανομένων

αντιπροσώπων της κοινότητας, εκπαιδευτικών, πολιτικών οργανισμών και ιδρυμάτων σε ολόκληρη τη χώρα,

φέρει στην προσοχή του σώματος

Το σημαντικό θέμα της περίληψης της Νεοελληνικής γλώσ σας στο Εθνικό Πρόγραμμα Διδασκαλίας, ως γλώσσας πο λιτισμικής, κοινοτικής, ιστορικής και οικονομικής σημασίας για την Αυστραλία και τον αυστραλιανό λαό

Ως εκ τούτου ζητάμε από τη Βουλή

Να μεριμνήσει, ώστε να περιληφθεί η Νεοελληνική γλώσσα στο Εθνικό Πρόγραμμα Διδασκαλίας, που διαμορφώνει η Επιτροπή Διαμόρφωσης του Εθνικού Προγράμματος. Translation by Kostas Nikolopoulos (Professional Translator, No 10811)

$\underline{\tt m}$ To the Honourable Speaker and the Members

of the House of Representatives This petition of

Certain citizens of Australia including representatives of community, educational, political organisations, institutions and establishments across the country

draws to the attention of the house

The matter of the importance of including the Modern Greek language in the National Schools Curriculum as a language of cultural, community, historical and economic importance to Australia and the Australian people

We therefore ask the House to

Ensure that the Modern Greek language is included in the National Schools Curriculum currently being developed by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority

NAME ONOMA

SIGNATURE	ΥΠΟΓΡΑΦΗ
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	Παραικαλού	
Please post this petition to the following address:	паракалос	ύμε να αποστείλετε το συμπληρωμένο

Neos Kosmos Petition,

P.O.Box 42, Carlton North, Victoria, 3054

απόκομμα στην ακόλουθη διεύθυνση: **Neos Kosmos Petition**, P.O.Box 42, Carlton North, Victoria, 3054