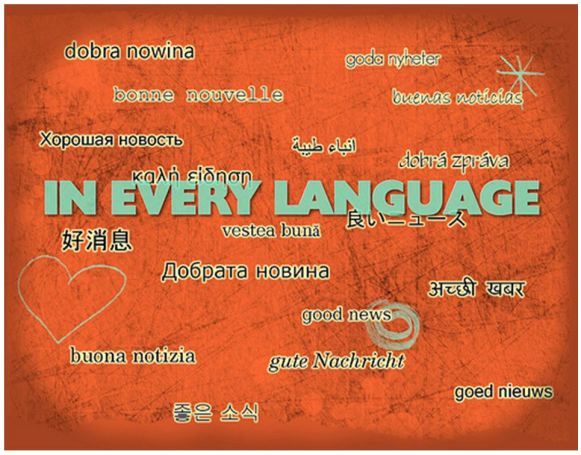
24th November 2011

First PTA-SCHOOL themed Coffee Morning on Friday 2 Dec, 9-10am

The Importance of Mother Tongue for Second Language learning



Dear BISI families,
The PTA is delighted to invite you to our first themed coffee morning at school, in the meeting room of the administration building.

A theme close to most families' heart at BISI:

Dorothy Gwillim, ESL teacher and language development expert with long years of experience, has kindly offered to inform parents about the latest research regarding mother tongue, family languages and multi-lingualism at home.

*" I will outline the reasons why it is important to **maintain** and **develop** your child's mother tongue/home language while they are learning a second language (in this case English). I will refer to recent research in the field.*
We will then discuss how we can support our children's mother tongue. This ranges from sending them to Saturday school, to some 'sneaky' tricks you can try at home. ☺ "

A few reasons why we should support our child's mother tongue/home language:

- Children who continue to learn through their mother tongue are more likely to reach a **higher** level of proficiency in the second language.
- The mother tongue gives the child a feeling of positive identity. They learn to value their language and their culture. This is the strong foundation they need on which to build their second language.
- The mother tongue acts a scaffold not a barrier to the second language. This is because many skills learned in the mother tongue transfer to the second language.
- Learning to read in the home language makes the child a better reader in the second language.

Gabriella Davutoglu, head of Modern Languages in Secondary, will join the meeting to add some information about the Language Support Centers in Istanbul (Institut Francais, Instituto Cervantes, Goetheinstitut, etc.).

We hope to see you there!
Kind regards,

Ulrike Denhof
PTA Chairperson