



Community Languages Schools

Ambassador Program Alumni Profile



Albert Kong

My name is Albert Kong, and I am an Australian-born Chinese who studied both Cantonese and Mandarin at the Sydney Chinese School. I attended the school from pre-kindergarten through to Year 10, and those years played a significant role in shaping my cultural identity.

Since graduating, I have continued to give back to the school community as a volunteer – supporting presentation days, helping at school carnivals and emceeing end-of-year gala dinners. Staying connected to the school has been an incredibly rewarding way to honour my roots.



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One of the most meaningful outcomes of learning Cantonese and Mandarin has been the ability to communicate with my grandparents and extended family in Hong Kong, many of whom speak only these languages. Being able to converse, read, and write in their language has allowed me to build stronger bonds across generations – connections that I truly cherish.

For me, the greatest gift of language learning has been this ability to bridge cultures and strengthen relationships. While Australian-born learners may not always reach native fluency, the opportunity to engage deeply with family and gradually understand their culture is an experience I deeply value. My only regret is not immersing myself even further at a younger age, such as through Cantonese television or Mandarin music, which could have enriched my learning.

Beyond my studies, I have been an active member of the Chinese Youth League's lion dance team for the past 18 years. This long-standing involvement has strengthened my cultural identity and given me a profound appreciation for the discipline, values and traditions that define lion dancing. It has also deepened my respect for the rituals that preserve and celebrate our heritage, ensuring they continue to thrive for future generations.