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Multilingualism an emerging trend

More Singaporeans view multilingualism as an asset in a global economy

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The Schofield International Language School has recently opened its doors to local students, due to overwhelming demand from anxious parents eager for their children to get a head start in an increasingly globalised economy and workforce.

The language school was started in 2000, to cater to international students in Singapore wanting to get re-connected with their mother tongue. However, it has recently attracted a steady stream of local parents, eager to enrol their children in one or more of the 20 language courses offered by the school.

One such parent we spoke to was Mrs Valerie Leong, whose daughter, 12-year-old Samantha, attends Russian language classes at the school. As Mrs Leong explains, "We are preparing her for a career which may take her anywhere from Moscow to Vietnam. Besides Russian, my daughter has also completed a course in basic conversational Thai."

Such sentiments are shared by many parents it seems, as the school's head of administration, Mr Melvin Siew reveals, "Our school saw a 50% jump in enrolment in the last 2 years, and we expect to see an even bigger increase this year."
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