

# School's new upgrade will enhance learning

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STUDENTS studying in one of Canberra's oldest suburbs will enjoy learning in a revamped building this year.

A \$2 million upgrade of the Italian-English bilingual Yarralumla Primary School was officially completed last Friday, February 21.

Changes include a new administrative wing, a state-of-the-art video conferencing facility and the transformation of four original classrooms into six new rooms linked by a shared space in the middle.

Other features include new toilets and internal painting and carpeting.

The facelift is part of a \$35 million rollout of public school upgrades across the territory completed for the 2014 school year.

Minister for Education Joy Burch said it was important the territory's oldest schools did not miss out on the modern facilities being incorporated into the capital's newest schools.

She said the upgrade would enhance Yarralumla Primary's bi-lingual education.

This sees half the curriculum taught to children from kindergarten to year 6 in English and the other half in Italian.

"I am confident that these upgrades will enhance learning and teaching for years to come for students and educators at Yarralumla Primary School," she said.

"The refurbished school will enhance learning in all areas including Italian language studies, where students can participate in conference hook-ups with students from all over the world."

Ms Burch said the facelift's design had involved extensive consultation with the school community.

Principal Lea Chapuis said the upgrade was an important step in becoming "a beacon for school bilingual education in Australia" and meeting growing enrolments.



Yarralumla Primary School students with Principal Lea Chapuis and Minister Joy Burch at the unveiling of the school's \$2 million upgrade. Picture: Elesa Kurtz