

**Possible Interview Questions for Alan Cockerill,
translator of Vasily Sukhomlinsky's *Our School in Pavlysh***

Our School in Pavlysh is an inspiring account of the holistic system of education developed by Vasily Sukhomlinsky and his dedicated staff at a combined primary and secondary school in the Ukrainian village of Pavlysh during the 1960s. In the vibrant learning community at his school, teachers, parents, students and members of the community all played a role in educating each other.

1. Tell us about this new book, and why you have translated it.
2. The subtitle of *Our School in Pavlysh* is "A holistic approach to education". What does that mean?
3. In this book Sukhomlinsky suggests that student health should always be at the forefront of teachers' minds. Why did he place so much importance on health, and how did he try to ensure that students enjoyed good health.
4. How important were extracurricular activities at the school in Pavlysh?
5. I believe Sukhomlinsky had a rather unorthodox approach to recruiting new teachers. Tell us about that.
6. What sort of man was Sukhomlinsky? And how should we say his name?
7. Sukhomlinsky was a communist working 50 years ago, in very different social conditions to those in western democracies. Why do you think his work is still relevant to teachers in Australia, America or the UK?
8. What do you think is the most important thing readers will learn from *Our school in Pavlysh*?
9. Where can people buy the book?

If the interview is a lengthy one, and the interviewer wants to learn more about the translator, the following questions might be relevant.

1. You are a retired schoolteacher. This is the second book by Vasily Sukhomlinsky that you have translated. What has motivated you to translate the works of an educator who lived in Ukraine over 50 years ago?
2. Tell us about your experiences in Soviet Russia. I believe you worked for a short time with the CBS presenter Charles Kuralt.

(An interview that Charles Kuralt conducted, with Alan Cockerill translating, can be viewed on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGwZ0pakhHE> (over 2,000,000 views))

3. How did you get interested in the Russian language?
4. I believe you also have a Japanese connection. Tell us about that.

For more information on Sukhomlinsky and *Our School in Pavlysh*, visit the following web pages:

<http://www.ejr.com.au/publications>

<http://theholisticeducator.com/sukhomlinsky/>

<https://booklaunch.io/vasilysukhomlinsky/our-school-in-pavlysh>