

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

August 2013

1. FORUM ON MANDARIN EDUCATION IN THE ACT

Australian National University (ANU), Saturday 10 August 2013, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Are your children learning Mandarin, or are you interested in them learning Mandarin in the future? If so, you are invited to the afternoon session of this forum, which will explore options to:

- expand and improve on opportunities for children to learn Chinese in the Canberra area
- increase interest in learning Mandarin in ACT schools
- develop links between education providers from preschool to university level
- encourage language maintenance among Canberrans of Chinese heritage.

The morning session is for invited educators, community leaders and decision makers who will discuss issues such as sequencing of learning, bilingual options, accessing and developing resources, the use of ICT, and teacher training. The afternoon session is open to all, and will include highlights of the morning outcomes and an opportunity for questions and general discussion.

The forum is free, but registration is essential. Contact canberraalma@gmail.com or see <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/activities--events.html> for more details.

Parents of children currently learning Mandarin are also invited to contribute to the morning discussions by filling out a short survey. The survey is anonymous, should take no more than 5 minutes, and can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.com/s/MandarinForumACT

2. READ AROUND THE UNIVERSE (The theme of Children's Book Week in 2013)

Tuggeranong Library will be incorporating some words in other languages in the delivery of the following programs offered by staff who have LOTE skills/background:

- Tuesday 20 August 10.30 – 11.30 am (Story Time)
- Tuesday 20 August 6.30 – 7.30 pm (Night time story time - same content as morning session)
- Wednesday 21 August 10.30 – 11.30 am (Giggle & Wiggle)

What are Story Time and Giggle & Wiggle? See <http://www.library.act.gov.au/learning>

The library has invited members of the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance to come along before, during and after the programs to chat informally to parents attending the sessions about who we are and what we do. If you are interested in being involved, please email canberraalma@gmail.com

3. HOMESTAY HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

The ACT Education and Training Directorate is looking for host families for international students attending ACT public schools. Most students are aged between 15 and 18. Homestay families gain a unique understanding of cultural diversity through the relationship that develops with the student they host.

While it is important to assist students in their language development by speaking English in the home, as a multicultural society, people from all cultural backgrounds are welcomed as homestay hosts. Suitable families can be paid up to \$260 a week.

Interested? Want more information? Contact Nicole King, Manager of the International Education Unit on 6205 6998 (BH) or at nicole.king@act.gov.au (email)

4. PARTICIPATION (MULTICULTURAL) GRANTS PROGRAM

Apply now for a 2013-14 Participation (Multicultural) Grant for innovative projects which contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony in the ACT community.

A total of \$280,000 is available for these grants, and you can apply for activities that fall within the following categories:

- National Multicultural Festival;
- Community Radio Stations and Multicultural Community Broadcasters; and
- Multicultural Community Participation and Social Harmony.

For guidelines and application forms (which have to be completed online) see http://www.grants.act.gov.au/health_comm_grants Closing date: 5pm Friday 6 September 2013.

For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs on (02) 6207 0555 or email omatsia@act.gov.au

FEEDBACK ON THESE ACTBEA UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES ARE WELCOME

Copies of previous Updates can be downloaded from the ACTBEA website at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com>