

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

January 2013

1. LANGUAGES AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 February 2013

Civic will again be filled with the voices, food and performances of multilingual Canberra during this annual event. Here are two activities that ACTBEA is involved in:

Saturday 9 February, 10am-3pm.

We are helping at **the Children's Sanctuary** outside the Canberra Museum and Gallery in London Circuit, near Civic Square. There will be a multitude of free activities for children, involving many languages – spoken and written: drumming and dance workshops, art and craft activities, games, cultural performances, and story-telling from many lands. The star guest is Jay Laga'aia, who many of you will have seen on television. The sanctuary is also the place to sign up (by 2pm) to take part in the Children's Parade, which begins at 4pm.

For more details see www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/the_sanctuary/childrens_sanctuary.

Sunday 10 February, 11am until 5pm.

Come and chat to ACTBEA members at our languages stall, which will have lots of information about language learning and bilingualism. Ask questions and share your stories and experiences with others involved in teaching languages or raising children in more than one language.

The exact location of the ACTBEA stall will be on our website when known.

For more information about the Multicultural Festival and details of performances and other events over the weekend, including Friday evening 8 February, visit <http://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/home>

2. FUN EVENTS AT GUNGAHLIN LIBRARY (Hibberson St, Gungahlin)

Multicultural Story Time Thursday, 7 February from 10.30-11.30am

A special story time filled with songs, rhymes and actions in various languages. Suitable for all ages, perfect for ages 3-5.

Celebrate Chinese New Year with stories from China!

Thursday, 14 February 10.30-11.30am

Stories and songs in English and Mandarin. Come and learn some simple Mandarin Chinese words, make a Chinese red paper lantern and try other crafts to celebrate the new Year of the Snake! This event is suitable for all ages.

Both events are free and no bookings are required

3. LANTERN FESTIVAL Saturday 23 February, 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy the colour and spectacle of this event organised by the ACT Australia China Friendship Society in Commonwealth Park near Gallipoli Reach (west of the Rond Terraces, below ANZAC Parade). Entry is FREE. Bring your own rug and have a picnic in the park.

Entertainment includes a Chinese Classical music ensemble, children's dance groups, and a kung fu demonstration. The evening concludes with a lantern parade - bring your own lanterns or buy one there. Prizes for best hand-made lanterns (see below for details of a lantern-making workshop).

For further information, ring Carol on 6247 8231 or email acfsevent@gmail.com

Lantern-making workshop, Sunday 17 February 2-4pm

For adults and children (young children will need to be accompanied by parents). Cost \$3 per person. Come and make a lantern at Cook Community Hall, 41 Templeton Street, Cook. Be creative and then take your lantern to the Lantern Festival. Bring a cutting board, scissors, ruler and pencil

For bookings (essential) or more information email acfsevent@gmail.com or ring Jean on 6254 7732

4. SEMINAR FOR FAMILIES RAISING CHILDREN IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

Saturday 23rd March, 2pm-5pm University of Canberra

Expert and practical advice and support for parents, grandparents and carers as well as teachers and early childhood professionals who are involved in developing children's skills in more than one language. Children are welcome but must be under the supervision of a parent/carer.

More details nearer the time, meanwhile please mark the date in your diaries.

5. FREE BOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN IN MANY LANGUAGES

Online books. The International Children's Digital Library Foundation has a digital library of children's books from around the world which can be accessed free of charge at <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/index.shtml>

NOTE: This information comes from the January 2013 issue of 'Snippets for Bilingual Families', an occasional newsletter put out by Dr Susanne Döpke, consultant in bilingualism and speech pathologist based in Melbourne. The January issue also has an interesting article on Language Development in Bilingual Children. Subscription to Snippets is free – see <http://www.bilingualoptions.com.au/consBILSNIP.htm> for more details.

ACT Library collections. For information about books and other resources in many languages in ACT libraries see www.library.act.gov.au/library_services/multicultural_services

6. GERMAN PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN 2013

German playgroups (for children and their parent/carer)

Spiel und Sproessling for 0-2 year olds. Tuesdays, Ainslie Scout Hall, 9.45-11.45am

Spiel und Spass for 0-5 year olds. Wednesdays, Turner Scout Hall, 10am- 2noon.

German Australian Playschool (GAP)

Playschool is like preschool with caring, qualified native-German speaking staff guiding a class of 3-5 year old children through a fun play-based educational program. GAP operates from 9.30am - 3.30pm at the Turner Scout Hall. Children may attend 2 to 4 days per week.

Immersion (Monday/Tuesday) class: Playschool in German only. A basic understanding of German required.

Bilingual (Thursday/Friday) class: Playschool in German and English. No previous German required. Open to fluent German speakers and beginners, as well as German children wanting to learn English.

After school programs:

Musik / Lied und Wort: A delightful music program taught by GAP head teacher, Dr Cristina Robins-Figl. Tuesdays, 3:30 to 5pm, Turner Scout Hall. Geared at 3-5 year olds, but 6-10 year olds have also enjoyed this program in the past, and are welcome.

German Language School: a possible new offering if families are interested in more formal German language lessons. Class would be held after school at the Turner Scout Hall, 3:30 to 5pm, probably on Mondays, and will cater for 3-10 year olds. This program will run if there is sufficient interest.

Pfadfinder scout group nights:

Joeys, Spurfinder and siblings: For boys and girls aged 5.5 to 8 years, Mondays, Turner Scout Hall, 6-7pm. Older siblings may also attend if they can't make Tuesdays.

Cubs, Scouts and Venturers: For boys and girls aged 8 years and up, Tuesdays, Turner Scout Hall, 6-7:30pm.

Pfadfinder must be able to speak/understand German. The group is very family-oriented, and has a LOT of fun with an incredibly exciting program run by its native German-speaking volunteer leaders.

For more information about any of the above programs, see www.spielwelt.org.au

7. DRAFT CURRICULUM FOR ITALIAN AND MANDARIN LANGUAGES IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

The draft national curriculum for Mandarin and Italian languages from Reception (i.e. Kindergarten) level to Year 10 is now available online. ACARA (the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) is seeking feedback and comments by Friday 12 April 2013.

ACARA also welcomes feedback on the overarching aspects of the Languages Learning Area that apply to all languages, and encourages all stakeholders with an interest in languages to contact them during this consultation period.

See <http://consultation.australiancurriculum.edu.au/> for information on how to access the curriculum and how to provide comments and feedback.

Draft curricula in other languages should be available after April 2013, and comments on these will be sought by July 2013.

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>