

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance Update

June 2012

1. ITALIAN-ENGLISH BILINGUAL SCHOOL OPEN DAY 11:00am-1:00pm, Sat 30 June

All invited to visit and learn more about the bilingual program at Yarralumla Primary School, the only public English-Italian bilingual school in Australia.

The school's new Principal, Lea Chapuis, is a strong advocate of languages education and the power of second language acquisition to build children's cultural sensitivity and cognitive flexibility.

The bilingual program has grown from 35 children in its inaugural year in 2004 to 180 students in Kindy to Year 6 today. Fifty per cent of the new Australian curriculum is taught in Italian by native Italian speaking Australian teachers and 50 per cent in English.

Address: Yarralumla Primary School, Loftus Street, Yarralumla. **Cost:** Nil

More information: phone: 6205 5766, email: lea.chapuis@ed.act.edu.au or visit www.yarralumlaps.act.edu.au

2. FRENCH STORY TIMES for 3-5 year olds in ACT Libraries

Civic Library	10.30am – 11 am	4 July and 8 October
Belconnen Library	10.30am – 11 am	30 July
Kingston Library	10.30am – 11 am	3 September
Woden Library	10.30am – 11 am	2 October and 6 November

FREE National Year of Reading events organised by Elodie of lfc French Language Clubs
For more details contact elodie.bouvier@lfcclubs.com.au

3. FRENCH HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN: JULY AND OCTOBER

a) Alliance Francaise: Pâtisserie Workshop, Arts and Conversation!

A fun way to learn French! Children will enjoy their holidays in a French speaking environment and come back home with delicious recipes!

Monday 9 July & Wednesday 11 July	9.30am – 12.30pm	for 5 to 7 years old
Tuesday 10 July & Thursday 12 July	9.30am – 12.30pm	for 8 to 11 years old
Friday 13 July,	9.30am – 12.30pm	for 12-15 years old

For more details phone 6247 5027, email enquiries@afcanberra.com.au or visit www.afcanberra.com.au

b) July French Holiday Program, lfc French Clubs, “ Les artistes en herbe”

Children practice French while learning to paint funny pictures like René Magritte (a Belgian painter)

17 and 18 of July, Kingston, ACT. Fee \$100. For children 6 to 10 years old.

Booking required before the 6th of July. Contact Elodie on 0466 544 705 (m) or elodie.bouvier@lfcclubs.com.au

c) French Camp: 3-5 October 2012 in Berry, NSW.

For children 9 to 12 yrs old who want to have fun while improving and practicing their French through a 3 days immersion program, including outdoor/indoor activities, cooking, bushwalking and swimming.

Fee: \$400, Booking required by 31 August. Contact Elodie on 0466 544 705 (m) or elodie.bouvier@lfcclubs.com.au

NOTE: Both the Alliance Francaise and lfc French Clubs also run weekly French classes for children. See www.afcanberra.com.au and www.lfcclubs.com.au for details.

4. PROMOTE LANGUAGES THROUGH THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Did you know that 2012 is the National Year of Reading (NYR)? ACTBEA is a partner in the NYR and on the local steering committee and is keen to promote the idea that reading, or being read to, in any language, not just English, plays a valuable role in the development of children's cognitive, language and literacy skills.

If you are organizing a storytelling or reading event, please follow the example of the French and German story telling sessions included in this Update and list it on the NYR website at www.love2read.org.au. How about holding a reading event in your language/s? Contact ACTBEA on canberrabilinqual@gmail.com if you have any ideas we can help with.

Other Canberra events for the NYR:

- Help knit a book mark to stretch between Dickson and Civic Libraries! After the project is complete, bookmarks will be sewn together to make blankets for local charities. For more details see: http://www.library.act.gov.au/learning/national_year_of_reading_2012
- Join in local events for the **national reading hour** on Saturday 25 August. Nominally from 6-7pm, events will be happening all day. More details to follow!

5. SPEAKING ANOTHER LANGUAGE AT HOME MAY BENEFIT READING!

An article by Dr Killian Mullan and Dr Galina Daraganova linked to the National Year of Reading website indicates that children in Australia with a mother who speaks a language other than English at home are more likely to enjoy reading and to have read on the day for which they were asked to keep a diary than children in households with a mother who only speaks English at home!

The article is based on data from *Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children* (LSAC), a major study following the development of 10,000 children and families from all parts of Australia. See www.aifs.gov.au/growingup for more information.

6. GERMAN EXPERIENCE WEEK FOR 2-4 YR OLDS (October school holidays).

Children 2-4 years old can experience a taste of the German Australian Playschool, with the flavour of the German playgroups.

Each day has a different theme. We sing, we bake, we play, we eat morning tea alfresco, we hear stories... all in German.... and the kids love it!

The dates will be **Tues 2 October to Fri 5 October, 2012**; from 9:30am to 12 noon. The cost is likely to be around \$95 per child.

For more details see: www.spielwelt.org.au/page/?pid=73&nid=63

7. STORY NIGHT IN GERMAN (Monday 22 October 6–7.15PM)

A Children's Week and National Year of Reading Event

Families and Friends of Spielwelt are invited to Story Night in German at the German Australian Playschool / Pfadfinder Scout Hall in Haig Park, on Masson Street in Turner.

Geared for 1-10 year olds: Three stories told in German, Three story-tellers, One enchanting evening for children!

For more details see www.spielwelt.org.au/page/?pid=140&nid=63

8. FAREWELL AND THANKS TO TRISH WILKS

Director Learning and Teaching, ACT Education and Training Directorate (ETD)

Since 2008, Trish has been chairing a meeting four times a year with ACTBEA and other community organizations involved in the promotion and teaching of languages. This has greatly facilitated communication between the mainstream school sector and those involved in early childhood language education and community language schools.

At the community consultation meeting in May, for example, we shared news about:

- ACT Community Language Schools Association professional development (PD) sessions for teachers, and recent Ministerial-level discussions about funding and administration

- PD in mainstream schools, including a well-attended session on CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), a teaching approach which the presenter noted led to increased retention of language students in his school in Melbourne
- The upskilling of teachers of Japanese, Indonesian and Korean, the numbers of Language Assistants in Indonesian and Japanese in mainstream schools, and new language teachers in the pipeline through UC programs and Teach Australia
- A visit by Kevin Rudd organised by the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia (ALMA) to its bilingual early childhood centre in Mawson and the adjacent Mawson Primary School
- ALMA's plans to make contact with all teachers of Chinese in the ACT

We wish all the best to Trish Wilks on her retirement and thank her, together with Kristina Collins, Executive Officer Languages & Asia Literacy, Curriculum Support and Professional Learning at ETD for facilitating our community consultation meetings. We look forward to continuing these fruitful dialogues with the new Director.

9. PROGRESS ON THE MULTILINGUAL INTERACTIVE ARTWORK FOR CIVIC SQUARE

The design selected for further development is 'Lingua Franca', which was the Expression of Interest submitted by a team comprising Lea Collins, sound artist and designer; Susan Conroy, cultural planner and project officer; Mary Hutchison, writer and public historian; and Heike Qualitz, visual artist. The selection panel considered that their EOI was the most detailed, best met the aims of the project, and that the artistic team had the necessary skills and experience to successfully undertake and complete the project.

The artists' EOI included a sculptural form inspired by the shape of an old-style gramophone funnel which would be incorporated into the raised grassed area at the south-east corner of the square between the Assembly (representing politics) and the Canberra Theatre (representing culture). The audio content would involve edited conversations interlaced with environmental sounds and strands of music.

With a small grant from the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF), the artistic team is now preparing more detailed designs, costings and timelines which can be used to seek the necessary planning and approvals and to raise funds for construction and installation of the artwork.