

## ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

February 2018

### 1. LANGUAGES AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL Friday 16 – Sunday 18 February

The festival offers a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to discover more about the many languages spoken in Canberra and enjoy the songs, dances and cuisine of our multicultural city. Of particular interest might be the following

#### Children's Sanctuary, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 February

- Civic Library (Saturday 11am-3.30pm) and
- Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG) (Saturday 10am – 4pm and Sunday 11am - 4pm)

A place for children and their families to play, create and take part in a range of cultural activities. Across the two days there will be art making, craft, music, drumming and dance workshops. Activities involving languages include

- What's in a name: find out how to write your name in other languages
- Story times in different languages.

Join TV presenter, cookbook and children's author and artist Poh Lin Yeow at the Civic Library at 3.15pm on Saturday to hear her story Sweet Petite.

For full Children's Sanctuary program:

[https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/1160966/2018-National-Multicultural-Festival-Childrens-Sanctuary-progra.pdf](https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1160966/2018-National-Multicultural-Festival-Childrens-Sanctuary-progra.pdf)

#### Languages Information stall

- Sunday 18 February 2018, 10.30am-4.30pm
- City Walk between the merry-go-round and David Jones (Stall E6)

Meet other members of ACTBEA and have a look at some information about raising children in more than one language and how and where to learn, develop and practice other languages in the ACT area

If you would like to drop off some written information about a language program you are involved in and/or stop by the stall for an hour or so to share your language experiences or knowledge, please email us at [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com)

Note: ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges support from ACT Government's 2017-18 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program for its activities at the festival and the Canberra Academy of Languages for organising the information stall.

#### Mother tongue multilingual poetry

- Friday 16 February, 5.00 – 5.45pm, Stage 4, Akuna Street
- Saturday 17 February, 8.50 – 9.35pm, Stage 7, Petrie Plaza
- Sunday 18 February, 12.15 – 12.35pm, Stage 4, Akuna Street

For more details of the above, plus a free event at Smith's Alternative on Monday evening 12 February which includes open mic poetry and panel discussion about writing in different languages, see Mother Tongue on Facebook at <https://web.facebook.com/mothertonguemmic/> or email [mothertonguemmic@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemmic@gmail.com)

For details about other events at the Multicultural Festival:

<https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/entertainment>

### 2. MOTHER LANGUAGE WALK Sunday 25 February 2018

Come and celebrate your family languages and the many other languages spoken in the ACT area by joining the 2018 Mother Languages Walk across Commonwealth Bridge in Canberra. This walk commemorates International Mother Language Day on 21 February, the

date declared by UNESCO in 1999 to be observed annually worldwide to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

**When?** 10am Sunday 25 February 2018  
**Who?** Anyone and everyone! Free event.  
**Where?** Meet under the flags, near the National Library in Canberra.

- Sing in your family language during the walk
- Wear something traditional or colourful
- Bring banners, posters or anything else that celebrates your language identity
- Bring a picnic and meet other multilingual Canberrans at the end of the walk in Commonwealth Park

For more information: <https://web.facebook.com/events/1839474613017645/> or email [imlm.21feb@gmail.com](mailto:imlm.21feb@gmail.com)

### **3. ACFS LANTERN FESTIVAL - FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

In Chinese culture the Lantern Festival is held 2 weeks after Chinese New Year and marks the formal end of those celebrations. The ACT Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS) will hold the Lantern Festival on

- Saturday 3 March 2018, 6pm – 8.15pm
- Beijing Garden - part of Lennox Gardens, Flynn Place, Yarralumla (behind the Canberra Hyatt Hotel)  
(In case of rain, Festival will move to Lancaster Hall, 20 – 22 National Circuit, Forrest)
- Free event. No booking or registration required

Activities include folk dancing, a Lion Dance and martial arts, culminating in a Lantern Parade along the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

- Bring your own lantern (there is judging of the best hand-made lantern\*), or buy one at the Festival.
- Bring a picnic and enjoy an evening by the Lake. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

More info: email: [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) or phone Carol on 6247 8231

\* ACFS is holding a Lantern-making Workshop on Sunday, 25 February at the Cook Community Hall. Adults and children welcome. All materials are provided at a cost of \$3 per person. Bookings are essential on [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com).

### **4. RAISING CHILDREN IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE Sunday 4 March**

A seminar for families raising children in more than one language and others interested in bilingualism and bilingual education

- Sunday 4 March 2018 1.30pm-4pm
- Law Theatre, ANU College of Law, 5 Fellows Road (near corner with East Road), Acton
- Free entry and light refreshments

Discussion will be led by a multilingual panel of parents, older children who have grown up bilingually and an educator and/or academic involved in bilingual education. Questions and input from audience members are encouraged, and there will be opportunities for networking.

Children welcome but must be under parental supervision

RSVP via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/seminar-raising-children-in-more-than-one-language-tickets-42865057541> or contact [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com) or Mandy on 0408 089 235

ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges funding through the ACT Government 2017/18 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program and our auspicing organization, Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc. for support for this event

## 5. LANGUAGES IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN THE ACT

Since February 2017, the ACT government has been seeking input from Canberrans about what they want for the future of schools and education in the ACT. ACTBEA has recently made a detailed submission highlighting the importance of languages and languages education. The submission addressed three of the themes that have emerged from the public conversation to date: 'Learning for the Future', 'Inclusion', and 'Individualised Learning'. The key ideas underpinning ACTBEA's submission are that:

- Learning languages has great educational value for all students and should be given higher priority in ACT schools
- The skills of bilingual students should be fully acknowledged and better utilised in the classroom
- Community Language Schools are a great potential asset that need to be further supported and developed
- The skills, learning styles, and educational needs of CALD students need to be explicitly addressed in relation to the 'Inclusion' and 'Individualised Learning' themes.

A copy of the submission can be downloaded from the ACTBEA website at

[http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea\\_submission\\_2018\\_1\\_.pdf](http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/actbea_submission_2018_1_.pdf)

It is not too late for you to add to the discussion and share your views. To find out how see:

<https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/futureofeducation>

To see what other groups with an interest in languages education have said see

- the submission by the [Canberra Academy of Languages](http://www.cal.act.edu.au/docs/CAL_Submission_to_ACT_Government_on_the_Future_of_Education_2017_web.pdf) at [http://www.cal.act.edu.au/docs/CAL\\_Submission to ACT Government on the Future of Education 2017 web.pdf](http://www.cal.act.edu.au/docs/CAL_Submission_to_ACT_Government_on_the_Future_of_Education_2017_web.pdf) and
- a post on the Languages Forum blog: <https://canberrallanguages.blogspot.com.au/>

## 6. CHIEF MINISTER'S READING CHALLENGE 2018

All schools in the ACT can register for the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. In 2017, a community language school was one of 26 schools who achieved 100% student completion across their entire school, winning book vouchers for new books to add to their libraries for students to enjoy.

What is the challenge? For students from preschool to year 8 to read 15 books between February and September. Books can be in any language. There is no prescribed Book List. Teachers and parents can help students choose the books, or students can decide what they want to read. The books can be in paper or electronic form, and include picture books, novels, comic books, graphic novels, poetry, or non-fiction books. Students in Preschool, Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 can read books themselves or with someone else.

Is your child's school registered? The challenge commences on 26 February 2018 and School registrations are due by 9 March 2018. For general information (based on 2017 info): [https://www.education.act.gov.au/teaching\\_and\\_learning/chief\\_ministers\\_reading\\_challenge/how-to-meet-the-challenge](https://www.education.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/chief_ministers_reading_challenge/how-to-meet-the-challenge)

## 7. ACT BILINGUAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE - FACEBOOK PAGE

Don't forget to visit and like the [ACT Bilingual Education Alliance](#) Facebook page.

A way to share information and ideas to help support and promote language maintenance and learning in the Canberra region. We look forward to your comments and posts!

**FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ACTBEA UPDATES WELCOME**

**Copies of previous Updates can be downloaded from <http://actbilingual.weebly.com>**