

# ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

## February 2016

### 1. FAMILY FUN AT THE NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

#### Children's Sanctuary

- Saturday 13 February 2016, 10.30 am - 4 pm
- Between London Circuit and Petrie Plaza in Civic (near Canberra Labor Club)

FREE fun activities include:

- Face-painting and Balloon modelling
- Art and Craft activities
- Names written in different languages
- Aboriginal Show-case/Activities
- International Dance workshops

Organised by the ACT Community Language Schools Association and ACTBEA and supported by the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs. For more information: Santosh: 0468 901 860 or Mandy: 0408 089 235

Please note: Children must be in the care of a responsible adult at all times

#### Children's Parade

Then join the Children's Parade: 4 pm to 4.30 pm Saturday 13 February 2016

Come dressed in traditional costumes and/or bring a banner or sign to indicate your heritage and language

**For more details about the Multicultural Festival, Friday 12 - Sunday 14 February:**  
<http://multiculturalfestival.com.au/about-us/>

### 2. LANGUAGES INFORMATION STALL AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

ACTBEA will have a languages information stall at the National Multicultural Festival in Civic on Sunday 14 February 2016, 10.30am-4.30pm. Come and visit us at Stall number E61 on the corner of City Walk and Akuna Street opposite Myers Department Store.

This is a great opportunity to publicise the benefits of knowing more than one language and any language program or language-promotional activity you are involved in; the festival is visited by thousands of people each year.

If you would like to help to staff the stall and share your enthusiasm and knowledge about language learning and teaching and/or if you have brochures or pamphlets about a language program you would like to display, please let us know at [canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:canberrabilingual@gmail.com)

Note: ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government's 2015-16 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program) for funding its activities at the festival.

### 3. MOTHER TONGUE | MULTILINGUAL MIC

Do you speak a language other than English? Do you enjoy writing poetry, story-telling and sharing your culture and experiences?

You are invited to share your words at the inaugural Mother Tongue open mic as part of the Canberra Multicultural Fringe, at 2pm - 4pm on Saturday 13 February 2016.

This open mic celebrates the rich cultures of poetry from around the globe. It is a friendly, non-competitive space where all respectful voices are welcomed. No experience is required, only the willingness to perform your own work in a language other than English, or in a mixture of English and non-English.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, refugees and those whose first language is not English particularly welcome.

For more information and/or to register your interest in performing, email [Mothersonguemic@gmail.com](mailto:Mothersonguemic@gmail.com) or call Jacqui (0433 845 900) or Lauren (0432 942 683).

#### 4. CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

- 10.30am – 1.30pm Sunday 21 February 2016

Meet at 10am near the International Flags Display behind Questacon car park to join the 2 km language walk over Commonwealth Bridge.

Feel free to bring along posters and banners publicising your language/s and to wear national dress. Free T-shirts for all participants\*

THEN enjoy FREE fun activities at Stage 88 after the walk:

- Multilingual and multicultural performances
- Jumping castle and Face painting
- Sausage sizzle or bring a picnic.

Organised by the Canberra-based International Mother Language Movement (IMLM).

For more details, email [IMLM.21feb@gmail.com](mailto:IMLM.21feb@gmail.com) or follow IMLD Canberra on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IMLM21feb).

For more information on International Mother Language Day see [http://imlm21.org.au/?page\\_id=1109](http://imlm21.org.au/?page_id=1109)

\* While stocks last

#### 5. BOOKS AND READERS IN OTHER LANGUAGES

As part of a major early literacy initiative for children everywhere, the Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-Cultural Communication (RUMACCC) at the University of Melbourne has launched free early readers designed to help children enjoy reading in many languages.

*Chicken Little* - the first in the series - is available in over 30 languages. In addition, readers by Oma Online (Brigitte Lambert) show parents and educators how easy it is to prepare enjoyable reading materials – starting with pencil and paper or photographs, and then with a little help from the computer. These readers are available in English, German and without text, so that you can translate them into your language or write your own story.

For more information: <http://rumaccc.unimelb.edu.au/other-language-readers>

#### 6. LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING

A free online 4 week course to introduce some of the latest ideas in research and practice in language learning and teaching.

- Join Now – starts 4 April

What is language? How do we learn meaning in a new language? What is easy and hard about learning another language? And what is the best way to teach other languages?

This free online course suggests some answers to these questions. It has been developed by the University of Southampton and the British Council, and draws on their joint online course.

##### REQUIREMENTS

This course is aimed at graduates with an interest in the development of languages and language teaching. It will give you a taste of postgraduate study in the field of English language teaching. However, no prior knowledge is required to take part in the course and we welcome anyone who is curious to know more about language learning and teaching.

For more details: [https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-language?utm\\_campaign=Share+Links&utm\\_medium=futurelearn-run\\_details&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/understanding-language?utm_campaign=Share+Links&utm_medium=futurelearn-run_details&utm_source=facebook)

- For more free online courses on languages and cultures see: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/categories/languages-and-cultures>

## 7. GERMAN LEARNING RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

The newly created website [www.GermanWithKids.com](http://www.GermanWithKids.com) offers researched links to resources for families to independently learn German.

## 8. FILIPINO BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Interested in Filipino books for your children? Check out the Filoz Bookstore in Sydney. See their catalogue at [www.filozchildrensbookstore.com.au](http://www.filozchildrensbookstore.com.au).

The owner, Jed Gerona recently opened an online specialty store of Tagalog children's books. They have bilingual storybooks for all children ages 0-10+. All books promote Filipino values. For more information email [jedgerona@gmail.com](mailto:jedgerona@gmail.com) or phone 0401 414 050.

## 9. CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR

Celebrate Chinese New Year at the National Library of Australia with decorations, lanterns and a range of fun activities and performances, including by artists from the Shanxi Performance Group.

- Sunday 7 February at 2 PM - 5 PM
- This is a FREE event.

For more information see: <http://www.nla.gov.au/event/chinese-new-year-family-day-0>

Note: The Year of the Monkey begins on Monday, February 8 2016

## 10. LANTERN FESTIVAL AND LANTERN –MAKING WORKSHOP

Learn how to make a Chinese lantern in preparation for the Lantern Festival. Adults and children welcome.

- When: Sunday 21 February 2016, 1.30 – 3.30pm
- Where: Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton St Cook

Cost for adults and children: \$3 pp Bookings **essential** to [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) or phone Jean 6254 7732

**The Lantern Festival** is the final event of Chinese New Year. Colourful Chinese Lanterns and lights and performances of Chinese traditional music, children's dances, martial arts, lion dance, a hand-made lantern competition and a lantern parade.

- When: Saturday 27 February 2016, 6 – 9 pm
- Where: Beijing Garden, Lennox Gardens, Flynn Pl, Yarralumla

Entry: Free. Bring your own lanterns or buy one there. Prizes for best hand-made lanterns.

These two events are organised by the Australia China Friendship Society, ACT Branch. For further information: [acfsevent@gmail.com](mailto:acfsevent@gmail.com) or phone Carol 62478231

## 11. NEW MANDARIN PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN THE ACT

Would you like your child to learn Mandarin at their preschool, playgroup, childcare centre or primary school?

Three local community groups are coordinating their resources and long experience in teaching Mandarin to young children to offer new programs in 2016.

- These programs can be run after school or in school hours
- Programs will be tailored to suit children's language backgrounds
- Chinese and non-Chinese background families welcome.
- The organisers are all not for profit groups, so costs will be kept to a minimum.

Interested? Talk to other parents or staff at your school or preschool about the idea. If a group of you are interested in hosting a class, let us know by contacting Xiaoli Lin on [linxiaoli@hotmail.com](mailto:linxiaoli@hotmail.com) or 0413 288 021

For information about current Chinese programs see the FCCCI school website at <http://www.fcccichineseschool.act.edu.au/>, Mandarin for Fun <http://mandarinforfun.weebly.com/> and <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/programs-for-children-in-act-area.html>

## 12. ARTICLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

- What does research show about the benefits of language learning? For details of studies that link language learning to academic achievement, cognitive benefits and attitudes and beliefs about other cultures see <http://www.actfl.org/advocacy/what-the-research-shows>
- Twenty-five Reasons to Study Foreign Languages <http://cla.auburn.edu/forlang/resources/twenty-five-reasons/>
- Five Fundamental Strategies for Bilingual Learners (for teachers in bilingual and dual language classrooms) [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kevin-wong2/five-fundamental-strategi\\_b\\_8870038.html?ir=Australia](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kevin-wong2/five-fundamental-strategi_b_8870038.html?ir=Australia)

## 13. DISCOVERING THE LANGUAGE LEARNING SPACE

The Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA), in partnership with Education Services Australia (ESA), have made available FREE resources on the Language Learning Space through Webinar Series.

Two webinars have already been held, one for primary language teachers and one for pre-service language teachers. Links to recordings of all webinars are available at:

[https://www.mltav.asn.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=350&Itemid=100134](https://www.mltav.asn.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=350&Itemid=100134)

The final webinar is targeted at secondary language teachers and will take place on 23 February 2016. The webinar is free and will be held from 4-5pm EST and conducted using Adobe Connect. To log-in, go to <http://connect.vic.edu.au/afmltalls/>

The webinars focus on the student resources available at <http://www.ils.edu.au/> for Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese including game-based challenges, in-country based tutors, alignment with the Australian Curriculum, teaching resources, free language apps and a comprehensive professional learning program for ALL teachers of languages.

## 14. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS

All teachers of Languages (F-10) are invited to participate in the AFMLTA Ready? Set? Plan! Australian Curriculum: Languages (AC:L) Professional Learning Program in Canberra on 30 April 2016 (see <http://afmlta.asn.au/> for dates in other states).

Costs:

- MLTA Members: \$165 (includes catering & materials)
- Non-members: \$195, Pre-Service Teachers: \$95 inc GST

Online registration: <http://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/afmlta-8892647824>

Enquiries: [PL@afmlta.asn.au](mailto:PL@afmlta.asn.au)

This program builds on the 2015 Ready? Set? Go! Program, but attendance at the 2015 program is not a pre-requisite for involvement in the 2016 program.

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

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