

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

January 2014

1. Languages at the Children's Sanctuary, Multicultural Festival

- Saturday 8 February, 10am-4pm
- Civic Square (in front of the Canberra Theatre).

Free activities and performances especially for children. For the full program for the day, see: http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/childrens_festival_program.doc

As part of the program, ACTBEA is organising some multilingual art and craft activities, and you can have your name written in different languages such as Chinese and Hindi. There will also be story book reading in French, German, Italian and/or Swedish from 11am until 12.30pm.

The sanctuary also offers a shady spot to rest and recharge before returning to the rest of the Multicultural Festival. For the full three day (Friday 7–Sunday 9 February) festival program, see: <http://multiculturalfestival.com.au/festival-program/>

2. Languages Information Stall at the Multicultural Festival

- Sunday 9 February, 11am-4.30pm
- London Circuit, opposite the North Building and CMAG (Stall E9)

Come and meet other ACTBEA members, share ideas, and pick up some printed information about raising children bilingually and where children can learn languages in the ACT area.

If you would like to display information about a language program you are involved in, please bring copies to the stall or contact canberrabilingual@gmail.com

NOTE: ACTBEA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Government's 2013-14 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program) for funding our activities at the festival.

3. Lantern Festival

- Saturday 15 February 2014, 6pm – 9 pm
- Commonwealth Park, near Gallipoli Reach (west of the Rond Terraces, below ANZAC Parade)

The final event of Chinese New Year (the Year of the Horse begins on 31 January 2014). Enjoy colourful Chinese lanterns and lights, Chinese traditional music, children's dances, martial arts, and a lion dance. Join in a hand-made lantern competition and a lantern parade. FREE entry.

Bring your own lanterns or buy one there. Prizes for best hand-made lanterns. For further information, including alternative venue in case of rain, email acfsevent@gmail.com or phone 6247 8231.

4. Learn how to make a Chinese lantern in preparation for the Lantern Festival

- Saturday 8 February, 1.30-3.30pm
- Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton St, Cook.

Entry: Gold coin donation for Project Hope. Adults and children welcome, but bookings essential to acfsevent@gmail.com or phone Jean at 6254 7732.

Both activities organised by the ACT Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society

5. Language Walk

The International Mother Language Movement invites you to its Language Walk. Join organisers at Reconciliation Place at 5.30pm to walk 1.5km along Lake Burley Griffin to celebrate International Mother Language Day.

- Friday 21 February 2014, from 5.30pm
- Reconciliation Place (behind Questacon), Lake Burley Griffin

6. German programs for children in 2014

a) Playgroups (for children and their parent/carer)

- Spiel und Spagat, a new south-side group, for 0-3 year olds on Tuesday afternoons
- Spiel und Sproessling for 0-3 year olds on Monday mornings
- Spiel und Spass for 0-5 year olds on Wednesday mornings at the Turner Scout Hall, from 9:30am to 11:30pm.
- Spiel und Spurfinder for 5.5 year olds on Monday evenings at the Turner Scout Hall from 6-7pm.

b) German Australian Playschool (GAP)

Playschool is like preschool and is for 3-5 year old children from 9:30am to 3:30pm at the Turner Scout Hall:

- Immersion (Monday/Tuesday) class, basic understanding of German required
- Bilingual (Thursday/Friday) class, no previous German required

Children may attend 2 to 4 days per week

c) After school programs

- Musik program for 3-5 year olds with a good understanding of German. Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5pm at the Turner Scout Hall (6-10 year olds also welcome).
- German Language School: more formal German lessons on Mondays. For information see <http://www.actgermanschool.org.au/childrens-division>

d) Pfadfinder scout groups (must be able to speak/understand German)

- Joeys, Spurfinder and siblings: for boys and girls 5.5-8 year olds, Mondays, 6pm to 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 6pm to 7:30pm – both at the Turner Scout Hall .

For more information on the above, see www.spielwelt.org.au

7. Talks to parent groups about languages

ACTBEA families are well aware of the multiple benefits to children's personal, social and cognitive development of knowing another language. However not all parents understand these advantages, which can make it difficult to promote language learning in schools and to support home languages.

It has been suggested that ACTBEA offer to speak to parent groups about the importance of learning another language and/or developing home languages. A major aim would be to help increase knowledge of, and support for, current opportunities for language learning and to explore possibilities for their expansion and development.

If you have any ideas about this suggestion or would like to be involved, please email us at canberrabilingual@gmail.com

8. Snippets for Bilingual families: a free electronic publication for anyone interested

An occasional newsletter with information about issues of interest and importance for bilingual families and professionals working with such families. The editor, Dr Susanne Dopke, is a Victorian-based consultant for families wishing to raise their children bilingually. She is a speech pathologist, the mother of two bilingual children, and has published books and many articles on bilingual development and bilingual education in the family.

While much of the community information relates to Victoria, (see the latest edition at http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/bilingual_snippets_14-1.doc - and be amazed at the number of activities!), Susanne is happy to publicise events elsewhere. 'Snippets' also often includes practical advice for parents based on Susanne's professional experience and reading so it is well worth subscribing if you have not already done so.

For more information see <http://www.bilingualoptions.com.au/consBILSNIP.htm>

**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>**