

## ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

July 2017

### 1. ACT BILINGUAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE - NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

ACTBEA now has a facebook page! Visit [ACT Bilingual Education Alliance](#) to 'like' the page, share ideas and information, and contribute to the discussion about how we can promote and support language maintenance and learning in the Canberra region.

We look forward to reading your posts!

### 2. SNIPPETS FOR BILINGUAL FAMILIES

An occasional electronic publication produced by Dr Susanne Döpke, a Melbourne based speech pathologist and consultant who assists professionals working with bilingual clients as well as families who wish to raise their children bilingually. Snippets is free to all who are interested. To subscribe, email [info@bilingualoptions.com.au](mailto:info@bilingualoptions.com.au)

The third issue for 2017 includes:

- [German-with-kids](#) internet resources,
- link to USA website [Bilingual Avenue](#), and
- discussion of "Should I pretend not to understand" when a child speaks to me in the 'wrong' language?

For details: [http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/snippets\\_17-3.pdf](http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/snippets_17-3.pdf)

### 3. MAWSON PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE NEWS

Mawson Primary is Canberra's fastest-growing public school. The Principal credits the school's focus on Mandarin as a large driver of the amazing increase in enrolments in recent years.

Families can opt into a Mandarin immersion program where classes have a certain number of lessons delivered each week in the Chinese language.

For full story see: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/mawson-primary-canberras-fastestgrowing-public-school-20170613-gwq1k8.html>

### 4. DOSITEJ SERBIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL LAUNCHES ITS OWN YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Earlier this year, Canberra's Dositej Serbian Language School launched its own YouTube channel, to support its students and their families at home. The channel features various Playlists of educational, entertaining and literary videos that support Serbian language learning, for students and parents to watch at home. The school is also building a playlist of videos of the students themselves, doing various activities at the language school – reciting poems, learning songs and dances, interviewing each other, etc.

The school recognizes that "screen time" is a significant aspect of its students' daily lives, so rather than shunning it, the staff decided to leverage YouTube as a teaching resource.

The school's youTube channel can be found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIPcwB86\\_6PvHMzY242z1iQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIPcwB86_6PvHMzY242z1iQ)

### 5. FRENCH PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE CANBERRA

- Catering for 3 to 18 year-olds
- Before and after school sessions
- Term 3: Mon 18 July to Sat 24 September

For details call 6257 6696 / 6257 2140, email [enquiries@afcanberra.com.au](mailto:enquiries@afcanberra.com.au) or visit <http://www.afcanberra.com.au/young-learners-courses/enrol-now/>

## 6. WATCH THE OCTONAUTS IN MANDARIN

Many children under five love The Octonauts cartoons, which have been airing on the ABC for over five years now.

Did you know that you can now watch The Octonauts in Mandarin, using the ABC iView app? There are some 49 episodes of approx. 11 minutes each. What a great way to help your youngster to learn about amazing marine creatures and practice their Mandarin!

Check it out on [www.iview.abc.net.au/programs](http://www.iview.abc.net.au/programs) - type "Octonauts (Mandarin)" in Search bar.

## 7. SBS NATIONAL LANGUAGES COMPETITION

- An initiative to encourage and celebrate a love of learning languages in Australia.
- A nationwide competition to engage school children and reflect on the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of Australia's multicultural society.

School students aged 4 to 18 years who are learning a language other than English in any institution in Australia are invited to take part. To enter, students need to upload a video (maximum 30 seconds long) describing - in any language other than English - 'What learning a language means to you?'

There are four categories, each with a grand prize:

- Category A: Junior Primary (Aged 4 – 7),
- Category B: Primary (Aged 8 – 12),
- Category C: Junior High School (Aged 13 – 15),
- Category D: Senior High School (Aged 16 – 18)

Competition entries are open from 9am on Monday 24 July 2017 until Midnight on Friday 1 September 2017

For more information and resources to help spread the message: <http://www.sbs.com.au/nlc17>

## 8. ANU LANGUAGE TEACHING FORUM

- Monday 24 July 2017, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
- Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU
- Gabrielle Quadraccia, Variations on cultural themes: creating multi-level resources for the adult learner

The forum aims to foster the exchange of research and new approaches in language education. Language teachers and researchers across ANU colleges and language educators from outside the university such as secondary school teachers and teachers from community schools are all welcome. For more information and/or to join the mailing list, contact:

- Ms France Meyer (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, CASS)  
france.meyer@anu.edu.au
- Dr Duck-Young Lee (School of Culture, History & Language, CAP)  
duck.lee@anu.edu.au
- Dr Manuel Delicado (School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, CASS)  
manuel.delicado@anu.edu.au

## 9. DYSLEXIA, LANGUAGE AND LEARNING TO READ

- Tuesday 25 July, 6-7 pm
- Finkel Theatre, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Garran Road, ANU.
- Professor Maggie Snowling. President of St John's College Oxford, Professor of Psychology at University of Oxford, Fellow of both the British Academy and the Academy of Medical Sciences and professionally qualified as a clinical psychologist.
- A free ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture.

Professor Snowling is interested in the nature and causes of children's reading difficulties and how best to ameliorate them. Without the ability to read fluently with comprehension

there is a downward spiral of poor educational achievement and career prospects. Dyslexia is therefore a major problem for society and a key question is whether it is possible to intervene early to ameliorate its impact.

All welcome, and entry is free, but booking requested at

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dyslexia-language-and-learning-to-read-tickets-35500403663>

Enquiries to Colin Steele: phone 6125 8983 or email [colin.steele@anu.edu.au](mailto:colin.steele@anu.edu.au)

#### **10. ARTICLES AND LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:**

- Bilingual babies. How does a child learn two languages at the same time? Listen to University of Western Sydney's Dr Karen Mattock's fascinating description of the way babies in bilingual households learn to speak  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/drive/bilingual-babies/8391152>
- One of the longest-lasting myths concerning bilingualism is that children with developmental disabilities should not become bilingual, or if they already are using a minority language in the home, should stop using it. Thanks to new research in the field, this view is slowly being replaced by one that states that these children can indeed become, or remain, bilingual.  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/life-bilingual/201701/supporting-bilingual-children-special-education-needs>
- Bilingual parents share strategies for home language maintenance  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bh4BqDbPI-c&feature=youtu.be#t=53.445409>
- Prof. Theo Marinis, director of the Centre for Literacy and Multilingualism at the University of Reading, and Prof. Ludovica Serratrice, director of Bilingualism Matters@Reading, talk about research evidence on myths and facts about bilingualism on International Mother Language Day, 21st February 2017, at the University of Reading. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMjTvTw894w>
- 5 Apps for Your Kids to Learn a New Language <https://tech.co/apps-kids-learn-new-language-2017-04>
- Language heard, but never spoken, by young babies bestows a hidden benefit  
<https://www.sciencenews.org/blog/growth-curve/language-heard-never-spoken-young-babies-bestows-hidden-benefit>

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

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