

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

March 2015

1. CELEBRATE THE LANTERN FESTIVAL - FINAL EVENT OF CHINESE NEW YEAR

Come and enjoy colourful Chinese lanterns and lights, performances of Chinese traditional music, children's dances, martial arts, lion dance, a hand-made lantern competition and a lantern parade.

- Saturday 7 March 2015, 6 – 9 pm
- Beijing Garden, Lennox Gardens, Flynn Pl, Yarralumla

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

Organised by the ACT Australia China Friendship Society. For further information email acfsevent@gmail.com or ph 6247 8231

2. TRADITIONAL GERMAN KARNEVAL FOR KIDS

- Saturday 14 March 2015 11am to 2pm
- Haig Park, next to Turner Scout Hall

Join the families of the German playgroups, playschool and Pfadfinder scouts (both past and present), for an exciting children's parade, a BBQ, entertainment, singing and dancing. Who will be the Prince and Princess of the Karneval? Will the parents be able to get the "keys to the city" back from the revelling party-going children?

- Karneval is a time for being silly and celebrating.
- Dress up, bring your camera, and don't forget your big grin!
- Bring a plate to share (salad, crudite, dips, Bretzeln, desserts); and your picnic blanket.
- Spielwelt will supply sausages, bread, onions, sauces, juice, water, and traditional Karnival Krapfen. Some plates, cutlery, cups and napkins also available.

Karneval is part of the Harmony Day events across Australia – Expect a special treat for everyone, which may involve international entertainment and a lot of jumping!

3. RAISING CHILDREN IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

- Sunday 22 March 2015, 1.30pm-4.30pm,
- JG Crawford Building, 132 Lennox Crossing, Acton ACT

A free seminar and discussion session for parents and carers as well as early childhood educators, teachers and others interested in bilingual education.

The program will be led by a panel comprising a teacher at a bilingual school, two parents who are raising bilingual children and two young adults who have grown up bilingually.

After a break for refreshments, networking and time to peruse written information about bilingualism and language learning ideas and options, participants can explore specific topics and hear more discussion of useful resources, including websites.

Children welcome but must under parental supervision at all times.

For more details or to book a place email: Canberrabilingual@gmail.com

Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance with the support of the the Australian National University and the ACT Government's 2014-15 Multicultural Grants Program

4. ACT PLAYGROUPS WORLD'S BIGGEST PLAYGROUP

- Wednesday 25 March 10am—1pm
- Cook Community Hub 41 Templeton Street, Cook

Bring a picnic and join in the fun. If you are a member of a playgroup, bring the whole playgroup for a playgroup excursion.

For more information, phone ACT Playgroups on 1800 171 882, visit their website at www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/act or see the poster at file:///C:/Users/mandy/Favorites/Downloads/WBP%20flyer%202015.pdf

5. CANBERRA BILINGUAL MUMS'N'BUBS

A new group in Canberra to share tips and experiences for bringing bubs up bilingually, and for networking with other mums and bubs that share your languages.

The group will organise regular meetings to help support those wanting to bring their bubs up bilingually, as it can be a hard task for native and non-native parents alike!

Find out more from their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374193169405460/>

6. SBS PROGRAM IN ITALIAN FOR BILINGUAL FAMILIES

Speak or understand Italian? You can now listen to podcasts from a weekly SBS radio program featuring interviews with families and others sharing their thoughts and ideas about bilingualism and maintaining and developing bilingual skills.

For details see: <http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/social-tags/bilingui-erba>

7. FUN FOR CHILDREN OVER 5 YEARS OLD AT LANGUAGE-BASED SCOUT GROUPS

There are now four bilingual scout groups for children to have fun and adventure in other languages: German, French, Mandarin and Spanish. For more details see

- Les Explorateurs Scout Group (French) <http://www.explorateurs.org.au/>
- Australian Pfadfinder scouts (German) <http://www.spielwelt.org.au/home/page.php?pid=55>
- Chinese Phoenix Scout Group <http://phoenixscout.org/>
- Spanish <http://www.ositoscool.com.au/new-page/pioneros-scouts.html>

Read an article about these groups at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-life/act-scout-clubs-foster-childrens-native-languages-20141108-11iztb.html#ixzz3IZ3YSB3S>

Interested in starting up a scout group in another language? ACT Scouts will offer support. Contact Lisa on spielwelt@homemail.com.au for tips on who to speak to.

8. INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 400 people celebrated International Mother Language Day on Saturday 21 February. The walk across Commonwealth Bridge was followed by live music, cultural performances, kids' activities and multicultural food stalls in Commonwealth Park. Everyone received a free T-shirt specifically designed for the event, which helped symbolise the spirit of 'unity in diversity' among the participants, who represented over 20 different cultural and ethnic groups and spoke more than 40 languages.

Missed the event this year? Come and join the celebration on 21 February 2016, which will be a Sunday!

For ABC news coverage of the 2015 event, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVcbPQNmyw&feature=youtu.be>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Copies of previous Updates can be downloaded from the ACTBEA website at

<http://actbilingual.weebly.com>