

# ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

March 2016

## 1. THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PLAYGROUP, Wednesday 23 March 10am-12 noon

- Free children's activities
- Sausage sizzle and coffee cart
- Information and activities from community and sporting groups

A free family event in a relaxed atmosphere. Entertainment and a variety of play experiences including nature play, baby play, physical play, music play, craft, and sports. Families with children aged up to 5 are invited to bring your playgroup, friends and family along for a fun day out.

- Wednesday 23 March 2016 10am-12noon
- Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton St, Cook

Organised by ACT Playgroups to celebrate National Playgroup Week

For more information, contact ACT Playgroups on [play@playgroupact.gov.au](mailto:play@playgroupact.gov.au) (email), 1800 171 882 (phone), visit [www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/act](http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/act) or see them on Facebook.

## 2. SEMINAR: RAISING CHILDREN IN MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE

- Sunday 10 April 2016, 2pm - 4pm
- Molongolo Theatre, JG Crawford Building, 132 Lennox Crossing, Acton ACT ANU  
(Search for 'Crawford' at <http://www.anu.edu.au/maps#>)

A seminar for families raising children in more than one language, early childhood educators, teachers and others interested in bilingual education.

Guest speaker: Dr Susanne Döpke: Melbourne-based speech pathologist and consultant on bilingualism with an academic background in language acquisition, bilingualism, and cross-cultural communication (see more information below).

- Ample time for Q & A and general discussion after the talk
- Free entry and nearby parking
- Light refreshments provided

Children are welcome, but must be under parental supervision at all times.

To book (to assist with catering), please email: [Canberrabilingual@gmail.com](mailto:Canberrabilingual@gmail.com)

For POSTER publicising the seminar see:

[http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/seminar\\_poster\\_april\\_2016.pdf](http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/seminar_poster_april_2016.pdf)

Organised by the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance with the support of the the Australian National University and the ACT Government's 2015-16 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program

**Dr Susanne Döpke** has a PhD in linguistics and a professional MA in Speech Pathology. During her academic career (University of Melbourne, Monash University), she specialized in language acquisition, bilingualism, and cross-cultural communication, and published two books and numerous articles on bilingual development and bilingual education in the family. Since 1990, Susanne has been giving talks to families who wish to raise their children bilingually as well as to professionals who are working with such families. Susanne currently works as a speech pathologist in private practice with special focus on supporting families from non-English-speaking backgrounds. She also offers consultancy on bilingualism for individual families. In the last few years, Susanne has worked in Aboriginal settings in Australia, in Kenya, in Peru, in Bangladesh and in East Timor. She is the mother of two bilingual adults. For more information: <http://www.bilingualoptions.com.au>

### **3. LIBRARIES ACT APPOINT MULTICULTURAL LEARNING COORDINATOR**

This newly created role within Libraries ACT will support delivery of library services to our multilingual community through:

- bilingual story times and other creative and innovative literacy and learning programs
- facilitating access to library resources and services
- ensuring services are responsive to future trends and to community needs, particularly those of families, new migrants and refugees

The Multicultural Learning Coordinator also contributes to the ongoing development of our foreign language collections.

Please contact Maria Milbridge, Multicultural Learning Coordinator, Libraries ACT, on [maria.milbridge@act.gov.au](mailto:maria.milbridge@act.gov.au) or ph. 02 6207 5745, Mondays to Wednesdays, to discuss your thoughts and suggestions.

### **4. INTERESTED IN BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE MODERN LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ACT?**

The MLTA promotes language learning in the ACT by providing a voice for language teachers and to facilitate professional dialogue among ACT colleagues and with colleagues in other jurisdictions. All financial members and any potential members (who will become financial members by the date of the AGM) are invited to attend the Association's AGM.

- Thursday, 24 March 2016
- 4pm (refreshments). 4.15 – 5.30pm (AGM)
- Telopea Park School, New South Wales Crescent, Barton, Canberra ACT 2600

Members interested in joining the Committee and/or joining an Organising Committee for a planned ACT Languages Day/Week to be held in 2016 particularly welcome.

The MLTA ACT Inc. would also like to have a wider representation of teachers of ALL languages taught in the ACT.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP (for catering purposes) no later than Tuesday, 22/3/2016 to Yvonne Webber (Secretary) at [yvonne.webber@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:yvonne.webber@ed.act.edu.au)

For more information about MLTA ACT Inc. see [www.mltaact.asn.au](http://www.mltaact.asn.au)

### **5. RESOURCES FOR GERMAN-SPEAKING FAMILIES LIVING ABROAD**

The website [www.Germanwithkids.com](http://www.Germanwithkids.com) is now officially launched and offers a well researched German learning resources list. It is the first website of its kind providing a comprehensive German learning resources list for German-speaking families with primary school children living abroad.

Sydney based mother Mrs Schaer Selby, an education project professional and teacher with children, created this unique website to share the knowledge with the global German speaking community. It will help families looking for suitable resources to keep up the German language.

The site provides information about

- the relevant German, Swiss and Austrian education abroad authorities,
- where to look for general information about German language levels or certification, and
- the main German Schools as well as Saturday Schools and German language schools for children in Australia.

Visitors can find links to German kids' radio programmes, learning tools, easy reader programmes, online exercises and learning programmes, educational television programmes or free audio books. Through their feedback visitors can share their knowledge to help improve the resources list and make recommendations about visited links.

## **6. ARTICLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:**

- The Superior Social Skills of Bilinguals

Another article detailing the advantages of being bilingual and learning more than one language and giving research evidence to support their claims.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/the-superior-social-skills-of-bilinguals.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/the-superior-social-skills-of-bilinguals.html?_r=0)

- What is translanguaging?

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/life-bilingual/201603/what-is-translanguaging>

- Bilingual toddlers demonstrate greater cognitive flexibility

<http://www.sciencealert.com/bilingual-toddlers-demonstrate-greater-cognitive-flexibility-study-finds>

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

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