

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

May 2014

1. LANGUAGES POTLUCK

When? Sunday 18 May. 11am to 1pm

Where? Function Room, Theo Notaras Centre, North Building, Civic Square, Canberra

A fun get-together for families raising children in more than one language and people interested in bilingual education.

- FREE children's activities: games, songs and story time in various languages, including Chinese, Japanese and French.
- Bring along your favourite foods to share with others as well as your cooking skills and recipes. Hot drinks, cups, plates and cutlery provided.

For more details and/or to book, email canberrabilingual@gmail.com or call Mandy on 0408 089 235

This event has been made possible by the support of the ACT government's 2013-14 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program.

2. TALKS TO PARENT GROUPS ABOUT LANGUAGES

At its last meeting ACTBEA decided to go ahead with the idea of offering to give short talks to parent groups - at both community language schools and mainstream schools - to help promote language learning and support home languages. The overall aim is reinforce understanding of the many benefits to children's personal, social and cognitive development of knowing another language and to suggest practical ways for parents to assist their children's learning and keep them interested in the language.

Members of the ACTBEA organising group are currently planning how to best contact parent groups and working on the form and content of the presentations. If you would like to help with this process or know of a school or a parent group that ACTBEA could contact about hosting a presentation, please contact us at canberrabilingual@gmail.com.

3. FILIPINO LANGUAGE SCHOOL FUN DAY

When? Sunday 18 May 2014 2pm - 4pm

Where? Erindale Neighbourhood Centre, corner of Comrie St and Sternberg Crescent, Wanniasa.

All are invited to pop in and enjoy fun Filipino games and other activities. Sample Filipino snacks and delicacies, visit the information stall and maybe win some prizes!

For catering purposes, **RSVP by 11 May** to Sheila 0411 243 487 or Alma 0439 594 826

A flyer for the event can be downloaded from:

http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/school_day_fun_day_1.jpg

The school would also like to announce that its **Southside Children's classes** will move back to Sunday 2pm-3pm during the school term. Contact Alma for more info

4. MANDARIN FOR FUN - Vacancies in Tuesday after-school Mandarin class

From its beginnings in 2009 as a playgroup specifically designed to help parents and kids from Chinese or non-Chinese backgrounds to learn Mandarin in a fun way, the Mandarin for Fun group now offers several types of programs including an immersion program and after school classes (see <http://mandarinformfun.weebly.com/programs.html> for details).

Term Two starts 6 May.

There are two places available in the Tuesday after-school Mandarin class. This class aims to help school age kids (5 years old recommended) with little or no Chinese background to learn Chinese in a relaxed and fun environment. To build a solid foundation, the carefully designed course will help kids develop Chinese communication skills in listening and speaking, recognising and writing characters at a steady and gradual pace.

For more details contact Lucia Lu on 0410 981 788 or email mandarinformfun@gmail.com

5. NATIONAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

When? 6pm-8:30pm Monday 5th May 2014

Where? Function Room, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 2nd Floor North Building, 180 London Circuit, CIVIC ACT 2601

The ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum (CMCF) Inc invite you to discuss your experiences of the 2014 Festival and share your ideas about future Festivals

A light dinner will be served.

RSVP by 2nd May: John Gunn 0419 461 535 or cmcfsvp@gmail.com

You can also fill in an online survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9C72W8Y>

6. NEWS FROM BILINGUAL PROGRAMS IN THE ACT

- Mawson Primary School

The school now offers Mandarin Immersion classes from Kindergarten to Year 6, with more than 60% of the student population participating in the bilingual program. In 2014, there is a Year 3 bilingual class, a Year 4 class and Year 5/6.

Three of the Mandarin teachers at Mawson were involved in the trialling of the draft Australian Curriculum Languages Chinese in 2013 (A copy of the draft document can be seen at http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/8/4/11842315/f-10_australian_curriculum_languages_-_revised_chinese_-_nov_2013.pdf)

One teacher flew to Sydney to be part of the national group of teachers which provided feedback on the draft. The school is using the document to align its MIP curriculum with the skills, knowledge and understandings outlined in the curriculum but at a higher grade level for each of their groups. The school will wait for the release of the new document to see how the content has been finalised.

- Yarralumla Primary School

Part of a recent upgrade to the school included a state-of-the-art video conferencing facility which will enhance the Italian-English bilingual program at the school. For more information about the upgrade see the article in the Canberra Chronicle at http://actbilingual.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/yarralumla_italian_program_gets_a_boost.pdf

- St Nicholas Greek-Australia preschool and childcare centre

This centre recently had an open day at its new premises in Yarralumla, the building of which was supported by the Hellenic Club (see details in the article in the Canberra Chronicle at http://www.weebly.com/uploads/4/4/9/1/4491774/club_helps_school_to_grow.pdf). Photos from the open day can be seen on the ACTBEA website (<http://actbilingual.weebly.com/>) under the 'events' tab.

For more details about the centre and to enquire about enrolments, see <http://www.stnicholaspreschool.com.au/>

7. USE COMMUNITY RADIO TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE BILINGUALISM

Have you thought of using community radio to reinforce your children's language learning and encourage them to use the language?

Mandarin for Fun and the Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia have been running a Mandarin language program on Fridays from 6.30pm-7pm on Radio 2XX since the beginning of 2014. Feedback from parents – especially those who do not speak Mandarin – has been positive. Kids love to hear Chinese stories and songs and have the chance to hear themselves singing or speaking in Mandarin on air as well! For more details see <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/weekly-radio-show.html>

The two main local community stations in the ACT broadcasting in other languages are CMS <http://cmsradio.org.au/> and 2XX <http://www.2xxfm.org.au/>. Most of the people involved in broadcasting on these stations are volunteers. If one of the stations has a program in the language your children are learning, why not contact the presenters to see if they would be interested in having a language practice segment for children. Or you could start your own program – there are some slots available at 2XX at the moment. Don't know how to present a program? No problem. Training for volunteer presenters is available. Contact Declan at manager@2xxfm.org.au for details about opportunities at 2XX.

8. PARTICIPATION (MULTICULTURAL) GRANTS PROGRAM 2014-15

Applications are now open for these grants, which aim to enhance the ACT community through innovative projects that contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony. Locally-based community organisations and groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

There are three categories:

- 2015 National Multicultural Festival
- Community Radio Stations and Multicultural Community Broadcasters
- Multicultural Community Participation and Social Harmony

See: http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/services/grants/participation_multicultural_grants_program for guidelines and more information

All applications are to be **completed online** and submitted by 5.00pm, 11 July 2014. For more details or for help in completing the application, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs on 02 6205 3047 or email oma@act.gov.au

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>