

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA) Update

May 2016

1. LANGUAGES POTLUCK LUNCH

Join us during National Families Week to celebrate the many languages spoken in the Canberra region. Bring along your favourite foods and share your cooking skills and recipes.

Meet other families raising children in more than one language and Canberrans interested in bilingual education and teaching and learning languages at this free event.

Date: Sunday 15 May 2016

Time: 11am- 1pm

Where: Function Room, 2nd Floor, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Civic Square

- Free games and fun activities for children
- For more details and/or to book, email canberrabilingual@gmail.com or phone Mandy on 0408 089 235. Please RSVP by 12 May.

This event is organised by ACTBEA with the support of Canberra Multicultural Community Forum Inc. and the ACT government's 2015-16 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program

2. WANTED: PERFORMERS FOR A "YOUNG MULTICULTURAL MUSICIANS' CONCERT AND MUSIC MARKET"

- 2 July 2016, 10am till 12 noon.
- Venue: to be confirmed

The organisers are looking for young musicians (4yrs.-8yrs) who can sing a children's song or two in another language with some live musical accompaniment. Maximum time for each group (including set-up on stage) 15 minutes. The children's performances will end with all groups singing an English children's song.

The organisers already have a Sri Lankan group. Interested in having your language represented? Contact Chandani at chandani.ramasundara@gmail.com for more details.

Note: The event will also include a music market with professional musicians and bands.

3. REVIEW OF THE ACT LANGUAGES POLICY

Many Voices: The ACT languages policy 2012-2016 is due for review this year. The policy includes a number of commitments to promote, enhance and safeguard the language skills in the ACT community. These relate to:

- Australian languages in the ACT region
- English language programs
- interpreting and translation services and using plain English
- the learning and valuing of languages in addition to English
- maximising the economic benefits of the many languages spoken in the ACT

A copy of the policy can be seen at

<http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/multicultural/publications/amended-act-languages-policy>

As part of the review, the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) is planning to host one or two public forums in June. At these forums, OMA will:

- report on the implementation/outcomes of the policy and
- seek community feedback and ideas about what the policy has achieved and how it needs to be updated and augmented.

Interested in being involved in the review? Contact languagesact@gmail.com with your comments and ideas and/or to be kept informed about the proposed public forums.

4. TWO RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS ABOUT LANGUAGE LEARNING IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

Senior Secondary Languages Education Research Project

This report by the Asia Education Foundation is part of the Australian Government's efforts to revive the teaching of languages to ensure that at least 40 per cent of Year 12 students study a language in addition to English within a decade. Its purpose is to inform all Australian governments on practical, implementable ways to enable this. For a copy of the report see: <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/senior-secondary-languages-education-research-project-final-report>

Building Chinese Language Capacity in Australia

Written by Dr Jane Orton and commissioned by the Australia-China Relations Institute, this report surveys the current position of Chinese programs in Australian schools, identifies shortcoming and gaps in programs and teacher preparation, and recommends how to overcome these, with detailed costings. To download a full copy of the report see: <http://www.australiachinarelations.org/content/building-chinese-language-capacity-australia>

6. ANU LANGUAGE TEACHING FORUM

- Open to language teachers outside the ANU and in the wider community
- Meets 4.15pm to 5.15 pm in Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU.

The first meeting of 2016 will be on Monday 23 May, when Peter Friedlander will be sharing his experience of using comics in Hindi language teaching.

Draft program for 2016

Date	Presenter	Topic/Title of Paper
Monday 23 May	Peter Friedlander	Using comics in Hindi language teaching.
Monday 25 July	Shun Ikeda	Authentic Japanese newspaper materials for beginners (tentative)
Monday 22 August	Nguyen Bui	Quality control in online course design and delivery
Monday 24 October	Julie Docker	Teaching Italian with Readers
Monday 28 November	Mariolina Pais Marden	Online teaching (details TBA)

The forum is jointly coordinated by the ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences (the School of Literature, Languages & Linguistics and the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies) and the ANU College of Asia & the Pacific (the School of Culture, History & Language).

For more information and/or to join the mailing list contact: Ms France Meyer (CAIS, CASS): france.meyer@anu.edu.au, Dr Duck-Young Lee (CHL, CAP): duck.lee@anu.edu.au or Dr Piera Carroli (SLLL, CASS): piera.carroli@anu.edu.au

5. SPECIFIC LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

A) FRENCH COURSES

A wide range of possibilities for adults and children from pre-kindy to teens with the Alliance Française Canberra. Term two has just started! Free tutoring available to enrolled students.

The Alliance also offers a rich cultural and social program. For details see <http://www.afcanberra.com.au/>

B) CHINESE

Chinese reading group for children aged 3yrs – 6yrs

This new group usually meets on the last Saturday every month from 2pm to 4pm at the Civic Library Mezzanine. For more details email Wenting Cheng on u5467927@anu.edu.au

FCCCI Chinese School is calling for enrolments

The school run by the Federation of Chinese Community of Canberra Inc. (FCCCI) is one of the largest and longest running non-profit community language schools in the ACT. It offers programs to children from 4 to 18 years of age from both Chinese and non-Chinese speaking backgrounds.

- Weekend classes are held at Lake Ginninderra College in Belconnen on Saturdays and at Canberra College in Woden on Sundays. Cultural programs at Belconnen include drawing classes. Chinese calligraphy, Chinese brush painting, Chinese dancing and violin.

For more details email admin@fcccichineseschool.act.edu.au

- Out of School Hours (OOSH) Programs (3pm-5.30pm) at
 - St Vincent's Primary School (including Aranda Primary School), Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
 - Turner Primary School, Tuesdays and Thursdays
 - Garran Primary School, Mondays and Fridays

New OOSH campuses will be open soon. If you are interested, contact the OOSH Coordinator, Anita, at 0421 541 978 or email admin@fcccichineseschool.act.edu.au

7. ARTICLES AND LINKS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

In the latest issue of 'Snippets for Bilingual Families', Dr Susanne Döpke answers a question sent by a parent who attended the seminar on raising children in more than one language organised by ACTBEA at ANU in April. A copy can be downloaded from:

<http://actbilingual.weebly.com/news.html>

Being able to speak languages other than English will enrich your life, says Dom Knight. But Australians are missing out when we float through the world in our English-speaking bubbles.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/topics/life/culture/article/2016/03/17/speaking-another-language-more-mind-expanding-yoga-workshop>

An article discussing the benefits and challenges of immersion education/school bilingual programs:

<http://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/what-research-tells-us-about-immersion>

This five part SBS series about bilingualism and language education in Australia looks at language learning in schools and in the community, including schools in Aboriginal communities, and the need for urgent action if Australia is not to waste children's potential.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/storystream/language-learning-schools-are-we-wasting-our-childrens-potential>

As part of the above series, SBS asked parents to submit their tips for raising children with more than one language. For some of the highlights:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/04/07/reader-responses-top-tips-raising-bilingual-children>

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE ACTBEA UPDATES WELCOME

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