

ACT Bilingual Education Alliance Update

October 2012

1. FUN AND GAMES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Saturday 27 October 2-6pm, St John's Church Hall in Reid

Come along and join us for an afternoon featuring free games, performances, craft activities and displays. You can also purchase tasty snacks and food from around the world.

ACTBEA is joining with the ACT Community Languages Schools Association on their open day for this ACT Children's Week event.

For more details email canberrabilingual@gmail.com or phone Mandy on 0408 089 235

2. BILINGUAL STORIES AND ACTIVITIES

a) Japanese (for children aged 3-5)

Dickson Library, Wednesday, 24 October 2012 from 10.30-11.30am

Learning Adventures staff will present half an hour of traditional Japanese 'Kamishibai' (paper theatre) storytelling followed by traditional Japanese paper-folding (origami) craft. All materials will be provided.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. This is a free event but bookings are essential at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4204291148/eorg>

To find out more about preschoolers learning Japanese visit Learning Adventures at www.learningadventures.com.au

b) Story night in German

Monday 22 October 6-7.15pm

Families and Friends of Spielwelt are invited to Story Night in German at the German Australian Playschool / Pfadfinder Scout Hall in Haig Park, on Masson Street in Turner.

Geared for 1-10 year olds: Three stories in German, Three story-tellers, One enchanting evening for children!

For more details see www.spielwelt.org.au/page/?pid=140&nid=63

A Children's Week and National Year of Reading Event

c) French story time cancelled

Unfortunately the French bilingual story time advertised for Woden library for 6 November has been cancelled due to the unavailability of the presenter.

d) Stories and songs in Filipino

The Learning Filipino Together Group were delighted at the interest in their participation at a story time event at the Gungahlin Library at the end of September. There were over 90 children and their families there!

The group is now planning a longer session involving bilingual storytelling and songs. For more information, contact: sarah.holdsworth@anu.edu.au

3. ACT LIBRARIES AS LANGUAGE HUBS

Your local ACT Library is a great place to find picture books, DVDs and other printed or online resources in a range of languages for yourself and your children. Ask the friendly librarian for help or check online at www.library.act.gov.au

- The link to 'Multicultural Services' under the LIBRARY SERVICES tab tells you which libraries specialise in which languages.
- The KIDS tab has details of school holiday activities, story times and literacy activities for under 5s.
- Keep an eye on http://www.library.act.gov.au/library_services/whats_on for up-to-date details of bilingual story times.

ACT Library Services are interested in developing a program of regular bilingual story times or other bilingual events at its libraries in 2013. If you would like to help with this, please contact sarah.steed@act.gov.au

Worried about previous fines for overdue books? Don't be! Outstanding fines in all ACT Public Libraries at 1 July 2012 have all been deleted.

4. MULTICULTURAL GRANT FOR LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

ACTBEA is delighted to announce that we have been awarded \$1000 under this ACT government grant to help organise the following:

- Languages stall at the National Multicultural Festival, Sunday 10 February 2013.
Information about the benefits of language learning as well as how and where skills in various languages, including English, can be learned and developed in the ACT.
- Seminar for families raising children in more than one language, February or March 2013.
Expert and practical advice and support for parents, grandparents and carers as well as teachers and early childhood professionals who are involved in developing children's skills in more than one language.
- Multilingual games and fun activities as part of the Children's Sanctuary at the National Multicultural Festival, Saturday 9 February 2013

More details about the above in the next Update. Meanwhile, if you would like to help with any of them, please let us know on canberrabilingual@gmail.com

5. NEW CHINESE SCOUT GROUP

Introductory meeting: Thursday 18 October 2012 - 7:30pm, Scout Hall, Tooms Place, Lyons.

The Chinese Rainbow Scout Group will offer outdoor adventure and scouting activities which equip young people with new skills and knowledge, leaving an impact that will carry back to the classroom. Some of the Scouts can't speak Chinese, but most speak Chinese as a first language, so activities will be conducted using both Chinese and English.

Young people aged 14-26 can join now; 6-13 year-olds may be able to join in 2014. Venturers (14-17 years) meet Saturdays 2-4pm, Rovers (18-26 years) meet Thursdays 2-4pm

The group is also looking for adults who would like to help out or to become Scout Leaders.

For more details: email jo.guth@hotmail.com, telephone Joanne on 0452 224 228 or come long to the introductory meeting.

For general information about Scouts in the ACT, see www.act.scouts.asn.au

6. FRENCH AND GERMAN SCOUT GROUPS

Don't forget the French and German scout groups already operating and thriving in Turner.

For contact details see: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html>

7. FUNDING FOR LANGUAGE-BASED PLAY GROUPS AND PRESCHOOLS

To ensure groups previously eligible to apply for funding under ACT Government's Community Languages Grants Program are not disadvantaged by its discontinuation, eligibility for the Community Language Schools Grants Program has been widened.

Language-based play groups and preschools are now able to apply for financial support through the ACT Community Language Schools Association (ACTCLSA). To be eligible to apply, you need to become a member of the Association, be a non-profit group, and either be incorporated or auspiced by an incorporated organisation.

Applications have closed for the 2012-13 funding round; details of the 2013-14 funding round should be available in April or May 2013.

Membership of ACTCLSA also has other benefits, for example opportunities for professional development, wider publicity and lobbying for government support, and access to group public liability insurance cover.

For more information about ACTCLSA, see www.actcls.org.au or contact Jacqui Dillon on admin@actcls.org.au or 6230 5191 after 15 October (the office is closed over the school holidays). During school terms, office hours are Monday – Friday, 9.30am - 2.30pm.

8. ACT LANGUAGE POLICY 2012-2016, MANY VOICES.

This long awaited and anticipated government policy appeared without much fanfare on the website of the ACT Office of Multicultural Affairs just before the ACT government went into caretaker mode in the lead up to the October ACT.

The policy makes a number of commitments to promote, enhance and safeguard the language skills in the ACT community. These include to:

- work with the ACT languages sector to promote the benefits of languages education and influence positive attitudes towards languages education in our community
- encourage schools to be aware of and value language learning outside the school – in the home, the community and in after-hours programs
- encourage all Canberrans to learn languages in addition to English
- make every effort to retain, preserve and use Australian languages in the ACT region
- provide interpreting and translation services and use plain English to ensure access and equity to government programs and services
- make English language programs readily available to Canberrans who need to improve their English proficiency (oral and/or literate).

A copy of the policy can be found at www.dhcs.act.gov.au/multicultural/publications or on the ACTBEA website.

While short on detail about funding or how implementation of the policy will be assessed, ACTBEA welcomes the policy as a clear statement of the ACT government's commitment to developing the language skills of all Canberrans and valuing the vital role of all languages in personal, family, community and economic life.

We hope that whatever government comes to power after 20 October accepts the main thrust of the policy and acts upon it.

Meanwhile, if you think the actions of the ACT government and its agencies do not measure up to the rhetoric in the policy, why not make your views known to the agencies concerned and Office of Multicultural Affairs (email: nic.manikis@act.gov.au).

You can also share ideas about the policy through the forum on the ACTBEA website at http://actbilingual.weebly.com/share-news-and-views.html#. ACTBEA is also happy to raise t issues with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and relevant ACT politicians and ministers.

Individuals and groups might also consider using the policy as a basis for applying for government funding and support!

9. SAVER PLUS

The Smith family has asked us to publicise this scheme, which helps develop participants' long-term savings habits, gain confidence with their finances, and match saving for school and educational expenses dollar for dollar up to \$500. Saver Plus is open to families and individuals with a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card.

For more details email Michele.mendoza@thesmithfamily.com.au or call her on 6283 7606 or 0448 730 305.

10. FREE SYMPOSIUM: APPROACHES TO RESEARCHING LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY

Friday 9 November, 2012, Sydney University

This symposium is organised by The Language and Identity Research Network which brings together researchers interested in aspects of linguistics and identity.

Featured Speakers: Anna De Fina (Georgetown University): Narrative and identity: discourse perspectives, and Janet Holmes (Victoria University of Wellington): Researching social identity construction in workplace discourse.

To register and for more information:

http://sydney.edu.au/arts/research/language_and_identity/language_and_identity.shtml

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>