



The Ainslie School Newsletter

Monday, 4 May 2020

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
8.30am — 3.30pm

2020 Dates to Remember

Tuesday, 12 May

Board Meeting (via voice conference)

From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

With COVID-19 changing the way we work, socialise and educate, it was a pleasure to share experiences of life at this time with Hannah, Oly, Mimi and Anushka at our Captain's meeting last week. We acknowledged many positives, some negatives and a range of interesting possibilities that learning remotely has brought to education and Ainslie School.

As I shared some distant history with Mr Rob Harrison, Ainslie's P&C President on Tuesday, I couldn't help thinking about our school's founders and how they looked forward to the promise of 'a progressive education that would be in stark contrast to the formal approaches of the time'. If only they could see where research and technology has taken us today. We are enjoying connecting with each of you in modes that are making way for even stronger connections between home and school as we move through this temporary period.

Amidst the disruption to usual rhythms and routines, each day Ainslie's education team has enjoyed hearing how our families are supporting one another and our staff. I extend my immense gratitude for your collective kindness and understanding.

REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE

News of gradual changes to COVID-19 restrictions has brought interest in plans for the transition of students back to the ACT's system of public schools. At this stage, we don't know when this transition will happen, but we want to make sure that when it does, we are ready to make it as safe and smooth as possible for students and families. Like the ACT Education Directorate more broadly, we will be engaging with you throughout the planning process and I look forward to working with our School Board and families over the coming weeks.

You'll find updates and information about ways to contribute thoughts on Ainslie School's website (www.ainslies.act.edu.au) and Facebook page and in the Altiora. Again, we thank you for helping us stay connected.

We have welcomed feedback about your experience of remote learning and are using it to refine and improve our practices. We know that every child is unique and we are committed to helping you to make the most of this unusual time with them. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or our School Office team with reflections and ideas.

Term 2 overviews are now available at www.ainslies.act.edu.au, under the *Learning Programs* tab. While the remote learning experiences we are providing support concepts, skills and capabilities within the Australian Curriculum, we know that children will be accessing programs to different extents and in different ways. Wellbeing continues to be the key priority. Rest assured that when we return to the physical spaces of Ainslie School our team will continue to teach every learner at their particular point of need. As check-ins and conversations occur in the remote learning context, our teachers continue to capture information about each child's skills, knowledge and growth. This will continue to inform the design of learning programs, irrespective of their mode of delivery.

From our Principal continued ...

ENROLMENTS FOR 2021

Enrolments for 2021 opened last Tuesday morning for all students from Preschool to Year 12. Enrolments submitted by 5 June will receive an offer from 27 July. Those submitted after 5 June will receive their offers later in the year. The Education Directorate website www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school is the best reference point for families in the first instance and our office team is happy to support families through this process. Please encourage friends and neighbours who are interested in enrolling at Ainslie School to connect with us. We'd love to share our school with them.

Wendy Cave
Principal

RECORDING STUDENT ATTENDANCE DURING THE PERIOD OF REMOTE LEARNING

At Ainslie, we know that regular contact between school and home supports student wellbeing and learning.

Throughout the period of remote learning for our students, daily attendance is defined **as contact established between school and the student or parent/carer**. Attendance does not require the student to be physically at our school site or actively engaging in the full learning program.

HOW WE ARE STAYING IN CONTACT?

Teachers have established routines involving a combination of the following modes. Please contact Ainslie's office team, or your child's teacher if you would like to know more about our attendance tracking processes.

	Student check in through a conferencing platform (i.e. Google Hangouts or Classroom), participating in a chat, accessing learning or submitting a task.
	Staff member has verbal response from a parent/carer or independent student. This can include a phone call, voicemail or video conference.
	An email has been received from parent/carer or independent student.
	Parent/carer has sent an SMS message to designated school phone/service (can include a response to school SMS alert).

SAVE THE DATE

School Photo Day

Monday, 14 September Whole school

Tuesday, 15 September Baker Gardens

Thursday, 17 September Reid Preschool



AINSLIE STAFF FUN FACT

Which staff member was a teacher then owned and ran a childcare centre in Braddon?

Stav Lourandos

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...



... to the following students who will celebrate a birthday this week: Keita, Samir, Kimmy, Eliza, Kail and Ainsley.

PLEASE WELCOME ...

The universal disruption we are experiencing has brought some new and returning families to Ainslie School, from distant places that work commitments have taken them. This week we welcome Noah (5/6H), Pippa (1/2P) and Judd (Preschool). Last week we welcomed Telia (KM) to Ainslie School.



**VIOLIN/VIOLA LESSONS
WITH CANBERRA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA'S
KINGSLAND RESIDENT
ARTIST**

Lucy Macourt (pictured left) is a passionate and qualified violin and viola teacher who will be offering lessons for Ainslie students online. Lucy has recently moved from Sydney to Canberra to join Canberra Symphony Orchestra's Kingsland Artistic Residency Program. Lucy currently also teaches Canberra Grammar School students and is an ensemble tutor at the ANU School of Music's Open School. In Sydney, Lucy conducted and tutored string ensembles in a wide range of primary and secondary schools, whilst maintaining a successful private teaching practice where she also ran group theory sessions, tutored chamber music groups and guided preparation for successful AMEB exams. For expressions of interest please email lucy.macourt@csso.org.au or call/text 0435 266 442.

Community Notices

CANBERRA WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

**FREE telephone counselling
sessions Monday to Friday
9am-5pm**

Sessions via Zoom or Skype
Limited availability for FREE face-to-
face counselling sessions

Sadly our groups and training are temporarily suspended

**Contact us for a FREE
confidential chat**

6287 3833

parentline@parentlineact.org.au



DEATH CAP MUSHROOM ALERT

Do not touch or eat wild mushrooms

As their name suggests, death cap mushrooms can be lethal. They grow in many parts of the ACT and are often found near established oak trees.

The Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerryn Coleman is urging Canberrans not to pick or eat any wild mushrooms and to purchase all mushrooms from a reputable supplier.

Even experienced collectors can find it hard to tell the difference between poisonous and safe wild mushrooms. Cooking does not make death caps safe.

If you think you have seen a death cap mushroom in a public place, please contact Access Canberra on 13 22 81. Keep children and animals away from it, as it is dangerous to even touch the mushroom with bare hands.

If you find wild mushrooms at home, it is best to use disposable gloves to put the whole mushroom into a plastic bag, then into a rubbish bin, then wash your hands.

For more information about Death Cap mushrooms, including important health advice, visit: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/fact-sheets>

COVID-19



**headspace Canberra – still open for business
support for students and families during isolation**

It can feel stressful and overwhelming during an event like the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and we can all be affected differently. It's important to find the right level or type of support for you.

headspace Canberra has your back. Although we have ceased in-person appointments, we have transitioned to phone services during regular business hours for young people aged 12 - 25.

If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and needs to chat, you can contact us on 02 51099700 or email; hs.canberra@marathonhealth.com.au.



headspace is available 7 days a week from 7am – 1am (AEST) for online supports – headspace.org.au

Group chats are available daily and allow young people to connect with other young people. Led by a headspace professional, group chats explore a range of helpful topics. They also have chats and webinars specifically for family and friends of young people. You can register anonymously at headspace.org.au

Spaces also via headspace.org.au, is a place where you can create an account and collect

and manage resources to build your own personalised mental health toolkit.

Be sure to also connect with headspace Canberra on both Facebook & Instagram @headspaceCanberra, or visit our website, <http://www.headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/Canberra> to stay up to date with the latest news and helpful tips to get you through these uncertain times.



Please also consider ensuring you, or your young person, has a safe and private place to talk. If there are younger siblings at home, keep them busy with other activities so you won't be distracted and can speak openly and freely with the health professional.



Emergency Assistance

If you are in an emergency situation or need immediate assistance, contact 000 or the Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 (available 24 hours).

If you need to speak to someone urgently, call Lifeline 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
beyondblue.org.au 1300 224 636



AINSLIE SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

Introducing the 2020 P&C Association Committee:

President: Rob Harrison

robert.a.e.harrison@gmail.com or 0411 111 566

Vice President: Judith Blake

judejohnathome@gmail.com or 0424 711 406

Treasurer: Alessandra Whiting

ainsliepandctreasurer@gmail.com or 0418 577 638

Interim Secretary*: Mel McDonald

mel@meltin.net or 0416 191 812

Administration Committee:

Canteen Convenor: Kerryn Wagg

Afters Convenor: Ingrid Butterfield

Uniform shop co-ordinator: Christina Pilkington

Other members:

Laural Cyr

Rose Santos

Rebecca Stewart

Danny Jowers

Jaci Lane

Jess Haas

The new
committee is looking
forward to planning some
fun events when life
returns to 'normal'

*** The P&C needs a new Secretary - is it you?**