

# ALTIORA



The Ainslie School Newsletter



Thursday 19 February 2018  
Ainslie School  
Donaldson St  
Braddon  
ACT 2612  
Tel 6142 3060  
Fax 6142 3062

Board Chair  
P&C President

Mel McDonald  
Nova Inkpen

0416 191 812  
0407 959 077

[ainslieschool@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:ainslieschool@ed.act.edu.au) Ainslie School website: [www.ainslies.act.edu.au](http://www.ainslies.act.edu.au)

Twitter: @AinslieSchool &  Ainslie School

## 2018 Dates to Remember

22 Feb	5-7pm	Parent –Teacher information evening
23 Feb	12 noon	Junior Assembly hosted by year 2

Dear Families and Friends,

### Learning about our Classrooms

While we know that learning doesn't only happen between 9am and 3pm, a significant number of your child's waking hours are spent at Ainslie. Because of this, each year begins with a scene setting presentation. At these sessions, teachers outline class routines and share a little about the practices that promote positive engagement and successful participation for their students. You will find a reminder of session times later in the newsletter, and we hope you can join us this Thursday evening.

Our information sessions also touch on the approaches that teachers take to guiding students through the Australian Curriculum. This significant framework ensures consistency of expectations of students across the country, and describes essential content and general capabilities that enable students to grow as

- successful learners,
- confident and creative individuals, and
- active and informed citizens.

You can find the curriculum by following the link [www.acara](http://www.acara)

### Our Specialist Teachers

At Ainslie, students and classroom teachers benefit from the specialist skills of Jess Copeman (Music), Rohan Hyslop (Physical Education), Mel Cummins and Mel Rawlings (Japanese), and Dawn Maree Dunn (English as an Additional Language or Dialect). **Annie** Medhurst specialises in engaging students with literature and the Information Literacy process through our Library program.

Our specialists provide weekly programs for students, and lend valuable perspectives to the design of programs that are delivered by class teachers. They will be available on Thursday evening to meet parents, and will be sharing curriculum highlights papers in newsletters throughout the term. We thank Jess Copeman for beginning this series with the description of Music at Ainslie that you'll find attached. We hope you enjoy reading about how these programs connect students with specific learning areas on their journey from kindergarten through to Year 6.

### Parent/Teacher Interviews

Teachers are looking forward to learning a little more about their students during interviews with families this term. At this time of year, our teachers tend to do more listening during this

communication, so they can hear about each learner's interests, home learning, and your aspirations for them.

Please watch our newsletter for information on how to arrange this important conversation.

### **Instrumental Music Program Update**

The ACT Education Directorate's Instrumental Music Program is an important element of Ainslie's Performing Arts program. The IMP provides music tuition, along with instruments for members of the Year 5 and Year 6 Bands.

The year 5 IMP testing process involves screening for pitch, rhythm and musical aptitude to ensure the members of our band are positioned for success. Testing will take place this **Wednesday**. For further information, please don't hesitate to contact Jess Copeman or Catherine Dillon through the school office team.

### **Caring for our Environment**

The interest our community takes in environmental sustainability is very clear. I have enjoyed observing the work in our gardens and the recycling practices that are ever present in classrooms, in the canteen, and on the playground.

Ainslie's administration team is mindful of the importance of reducing the amount of paper we consume in our school operations, and electronic communication is supporting us in this area. The distribution of the Altiora through email is well embedded and we thank families for accessing school correspondence electronically, if possible, before seeking a paper version from school.

Looking forward to catching up on Thursday evening.

Wendy Cave



### **This week we have seen examples of special effort from:**

Ainslie's Captains, Paige, Chelsea, Jasper and Jackson for: -

hosting a special Week 2 Assembly

Faris for:-

caring for minibeasts on the playground and encouraging his friends to do the same.

The Senior Voices Choir for:-

stepping in to lead the song 'I am Australian' at assembly

Michael C and Ben N for:-

accompanying us on the piano at assembly

### **Congratulations**

to the students and staff who contributed to production and performances in the Education Directorate's 2017 Step Into The Limelight experience. Limelight was acknowledged at the Canberra Area Theatre awards this weekend as Best Variety Show.

### **Reminder**

- **Interpreter Services** -With families from around the world, Ainslie School is proudly multicultural. We happily assist families, for whom English is an additional language, with access to interpreter services to enhance communication between home and school. Families who would like to know more about these services are encouraged to contact the Ainslie School Office team.

- **Classroom Carers** are a highly valued link between classroom teachers and the community. Parents who are interested in learning more about this role are encouraged to contact Melynda McDonald (School Board Chair, and P&C Vice President) on [mel@meltin.net](mailto:mel@meltin.net) or 0416 191 812

### **This Week's Notes**

- **Swimming Carnival Note – including the medical form and remember to use the google form to download entries and permission <http://bit.ly/AinslieSwim18> .** Any family that has difficulty with this please see the front office.
- **Year 6 T-shirt Order form – again please use the google form to download your order**
- **Year 6 Camp Permission forms**
- **Kindy Health Check Forms** (please put them in the envelope provided)
- **Club permission Forms and money as required – please note for some clubs you have to enrol and pay online**
- **Stationary packs** - only if you haven't already paid

### **The School Board**

The Ainslie School Board would like to welcome Wendy Cave as our new Principal. There are exciting opportunities ahead for Ainslie School, and the Board is looking forward to discussing Wendy's ideas for making our school even better.

The School Board is here to establish the strategic direction and priorities for the school, develop, maintain and review curriculum, monitor and review school performance, approve the school budget and encourage parent participation in their child's learning. If you're interested in what we do, you can find out more in the School Board Manual - available here: [https://www.education.act.gov.au/school\\_education/school\\_boards](https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/school_boards)).

As the three parent representatives on the Board, we are looking forward to working with Wendy on behalf of the Ainslie School community. To help us do this, please send us any feedback, thoughts or comments that will help us work with Wendy and her leadership team to ensure our School continues to thrive.

Our next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th February – we would love to hear from you before then. Our contact details are below:

Mel McDonald ([mel@meltin.net](mailto:mel@meltin.net) or 0416 191 812)

Sarah Safransky ([ssafransky@hotmail.com](mailto:ssafransky@hotmail.com) or 0413 831 546)

Chris Price ([christophermprice79@gmail.com](mailto:christophermprice79@gmail.com) or 0418 954 093)

## Housekeeping

### Managing Student Attendance

Please remember to communicate with us when your child is absent. We ask parents to make contact with the school's office team by phone or email on the day of the absence.

The Education directorate has introduced a new system of managing student attendance and you will soon start receiving SMS messages if your student has unexplained absences from school. Students who arrive late are asked to come to the front office to check in. The admin staff will change their attendance status on the system and give the student a card to take to their teacher.

### Club Information

The Potter's society is having some technical difficulties with the link for the Pottery clubs. If you are experiencing any difficulties please contact the front office by email or phone.



### Music at Ainslie

Like all aspects of education at Ainslie, music is about developing the child holistically. This means that music is not a standalone subject. Music education is embedded in the mainstream classroom, music specialist classroom, choirs, dance groups, performances troupes, ensembles and wider community. It is not uncommon to walk through the playground and hear a child singing or using a piece of play equipment as an instrument. This is because music at Ainslie supports and celebrates a child's academic, social-emotional, linguistic, cultural and cognitive growth (Model, 2009).

There always has been a specialist music/singing teacher program. This program originated 25 years ago when Ainslie School become ANU's Music Education Program's (MEP) demonstration school. This MEP program was guided by Dr Susan West. Specialist music is seen as an extension of mainstream classroom learning and therefore integrates the primary focus of that term into the specialist program. For example, in year 4 students learn about convict settlement in Australia. During their specialist music class students will explore what music convicts sung and the instruments they used. Students then compare this music to that of the Australia's First Nations people.

In addition to classroom music (which includes an element of singing tuition) students have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities in one or more of the following groups:

- Prep Choir (Year 1 & 2)
  - o Research has demonstrated that children who are 6 are developing their sense of pitch and that if pitch has significant implications for language and other learning areas (Trehub & Trainor, 1993)
- Voices (Senior Choir, year 3 – 6)

- Voices focus on the voice as an instrument to create parts and harmonies
- Year 5 Band
- Year 6 Band
- Big Band
- Concert Band
  - Concert Band uses material from Music Australia's *Music:Count Us In* project
- Extension music class/performances (Year 3 to 6)
- Performance soloist music
  - For example, accompanying the school song or the National Anthem at school assemblies
- String ensemble (a minimum of grade 1 string playing ability) **\*NEW program for 2018\***
- Step Into The Limelight performance troupe (Year 3 to 6)
- Inner North Spectacular performance troupe (Year 5 & 6)
- Recorder (Year 3)
- Ukulele (Year 4 to 6)
- 

The learning that takes place in these groups, along with classroom music, allows students the ability to showcase their learning at events such as;

- ANZAC DAY, Remembrance Day Commemorations, Speech Day, Year 6 Graduation and the school Concert
- Music Australia's: Count Us In
- Assemblies

Our students have embraced opportunities to perform over any years at:-

- Floriade
- Inner North Spectacular cluster band rehearsals
- Step Into The Limelight
- Inner North Spectacular
- Band Stravaganza
- Local community performances
  - Such as, a retirees concert at the Salvation Army hall or singing at the War Memorial's official 'remembering Sandakan' anniversary
- Parliament House Christmas Carols
- Canberra Centre Christmas Carols

For further information about the music program at Ainslie, please contact [Jessie.copeman@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Jessie.copeman@ed.act.edu.au)

STALLS  
FROM  
\$25



**AINSLIE SCHOOL**

Donaldson St, Braddon

**CAR BOOT SALE**  
**9AM - 12:30PM**  
**SUNDAY 25 MARCH**

**STALL HOLDERS WELCOME**  
**BBQ - DRINKS - CAKES**

**A GREAT DAY OUT AND A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME  
EXTRA CASH FROM THOSE UNWANTED ITEMS...**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MICHAEL SNAPE ON  
0418729662 OR MICHAELSNAPE73@GMAIL.COM**