



The Ainslie School Newsletter

Monday, 29 June 2020

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
8.30am — 3.30pm

2020 Dates to Remember

Friday, 3 July
Monday, 20 July

LAST DAY OF TERM 2
FIRST DAY OF TERM 3
Assembly @ the flagpoles @ **9.15am**

From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

As the semester draws to a close we are taking time to reflect on the curious one it has been. Bushfires, harmful air quality, hailstorms and the COVID-19 pandemic have helped us focus on what matters most. The people of Ainslie have brought kindness, responsibility, respect and compassion to these challenging times. We have been privileged to play a part in guiding our community's children, cultivating dispositions that help learning and growth. Thoughtfulness, collaboration, research and communication are assets we strengthen in students through each interaction every day. Our focus on problem solving through inquiry supports them to know what to do when they don't know what to do.

The smooth return our families made from the remote learning period and sense of delight in being back at school has been an indicator of the security and confidence our young learners bring. A colleague suggested to me recently that we should all have a mentor under 30 years old. I know some of my best are in primary schools.

The mid year data we captured through surveys of students, families and staff reflects the positive energy we've experienced. Preliminary analysis points to happy and safe students and productive connections between families and staff. I thank you for adding your perspectives through surveys and conversations as we checked the pulse of school culture.

COVID-19 RESPONSE: ROADMAP

The connection between home and school has been incredibly important throughout the year. I thank you for your support as we have focused on hygiene and navigated restrictions around physical distancing.

Last week the Education Directorate released a 'roadmap' for public schools that outlines the ACT Government's COVID-19 recovery plan. In line with the easing of restrictions more broadly across the ACT, there is a planned further easing of restrictions on a range of school activities.

With appropriate physical distancing and hygiene measures in place we look forward to the return of small assemblies, school celebrations and fundraising events in Term 3.

Further advice and the roadmap can be found at: <https://www.education.act.gov.au>

[The ACT Education Directorate COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap \(239kb\)](#)

A VISIT FROM MS KIM GILLARD

It was such a pleasure to meet Ms Kim Gillard last week. Kim is the granddaughter of Tom and Agnes Gillard, the namesakes of Ainslie's Gillard House.



With preparations underway for the celebration of her father's 80th birthday, Kim contacted us in search of information about her family. William attended Ainslie School, just as his father Tom did.

Kim enjoyed exploring photo albums and a collection of enrolment registers dating back to the 1920s. She viewed a presentation courtesy of senior students who had done a little research ahead of her visit and a tour guided by the 2020 Gillard House Captains (pictured above) rounded off her time with us.

We wish William a very happy birthday and look forward to rekindling this connection with a family who shaped our school and our city.

From our Principal continued ...

MASTERPLAN UPDATE

Last week's Masterplan Community Conversation provided time for sharing how Ainslie School's records are currently stored. The basement holds a trove of information including a collection of memorabilia, which inspired an inquiry into preserving history that students undertook in 2018. We remain enormously grateful to parents Kerryn Wagg and Mel McDonald, who shared their expertise in conservation to support this rich learning experience.

As we reimagine the functions of spaces in our 1938 building, we anticipate using this collection to orient visitors to Ainslie School's significant place in the education landscape of Canberra and Australia. Of course we will be holding the space for students to assist with management and curation of the galleries we have in mind.

CELEBRATING CULTURAL INTEGRITY

While NAIDOC Week is usually held in the first week of July, the National NAIDOC Committee has decided this year's events will be postponed in the interest of community safety. Instead we will join communities across Australia in acknowledgement of NAIDOC Week 2020 from 8—15 November.

This year's NAIDOC theme *Always Was, Always Will Be* recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years, managing the land to sustainably provide for their future. The perspectives of our first nations people enrich experiences across the curriculum at Ainslie.

With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on their way and the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, families and friends will be welcome at our small assembly by the flagpoles on Monday, 20 July.

SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Lock down and evacuation drills are an important part of the safety program at Ainslie. This week students and staff will be rehearsing the practices we would follow should a risk in our immediate surroundings require us to stay indoors.

Staff sensitively guide these experiences and students contribute to fine tuning processes as they debrief with their teachers. Typically, Ainslie's children enjoy these routine interruptions and we encourage them to share their perspectives with you. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, or our front office team if you would like further information.

HAIG PARK CONNECTIONS

Learning beyond the boundaries of the school is highly valued at Ainslie and Haig Park is one of our favourite places. Throughout the last two years, we have contributed to a community engagement strategy that has identified perceptions about the park, along with aspirations and ideas for improving it in the future. The *Haig Park Place Plan* was created from this community engagement process. You can find information about this work at <https://www.haigparkcbr.com.au/about>

Last year students and staff collaborated with the *Haig Park Experiments Team* in the design and engagement of activities and experiences that activated the park. We enjoyed playing card games with senior citizens, meeting artists and creating in the park, and spending time there for research, recreation and relaxation.

Representatives of Ainslie School have been invited to join the Haig Park Custodians group to progress the work of the plan. Over the coming months this group will explore recommendations from the 2019 Haig Park Experiments to inform decisions about ways to improve the amenity and greater use of this community backyard.

Please contact me, by email or through the school office team if you would like to know a little more about this work. I know that the voice of Ainslie parents would be welcome amongst the Custodians.

Wishing you all the best for the week ahead and a happy term break.

Wendy Cave
Principal

This week we have noticed special effort from:

Angelina	Class 1/2SB	Preparing the soil and planting in the West Wing Garden
Georgia	1/2SB	Writing in Japanese
Evan	1/2AM	Writing in Japanese
Violet & Emily	1/2L	Writing a creative story
Julian	1/2MM	Earth's helpers cleaning up our playgrounds
	3/4S	Demonstrating thought and skill during Chess



AINSLIE STAFF FUN FACT

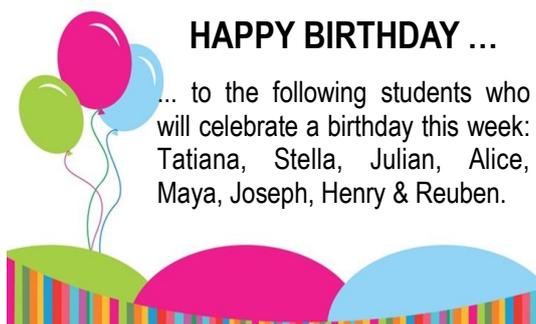
Which staff member used to have a small game bantam chicken farm and showed them at local shows?

Anney Medhurst



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...

... to the following students who will celebrate a birthday this week: Tatiana, Stella, Julian, Alice, Maya, Joseph, Henry & Reuben.



AINSLIE SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION



WHAT'S
AT COOKING
OISHII?

REMINDERS

SUPPORTING SCHOOL SAFETY

Visitors and volunteers are reminded to report to the Front Office on arrival. Signing in assists with safety.

MID YEAR PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Teachers are enjoying time with families reflecting on Semester 1 Reports. Please check your child's class Seesaw pages for information if you are yet to arrange a time. We highly value working with you to establish goals for next semester and learning pathways that meet the needs and aspirations of each child.

2019 ANNUAL SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

The Ainslie Annual School Board Report provides information about the school's achievements and strategic directions. The 2019 ASBR will be available at www.ainslie.act.edu.au this week.

CHICKEN POX

A confirmed case of chicken pox has been identified within our school community. This is a highly contagious viral illness and ACT Government health regulations require students with chicken pox to be excluded from school (see attached factsheet).

Should a member of your family present with symptoms, please contact your family doctor.

We acknowledge that our beloved canteen is operated on land, traditionally nurtured by the Ngunnawal people. Also connected to this land are the Gundungurra, Ngarigo, Yuin and the Wiradjuri peoples. We acknowledge their mothers, teachers and children. Their elders past, present and emerging. We bow to their superior knowledge of sustaining the land that sustains our life and recognise that sovereignty of this land was never ceded.

Plastic Free July

July is just around the corner and we would like to encourage you to join the *Plastic Free July* movement, a global initiative reducing the use of plastic. We love seeing the passion, commitment, enthusiasm and positivity of our community this time of year to challenge themselves to reduce single use plastic waste and production during *Plastic Free July* and beyond. To participate you could bring a keep cup for your next coffee or pack the kid's school lunch using a plastic free lunch box. Your small change will collectively make a massive difference to our community. For more information go to: <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

Last week we received a bag of bright yellow lemons from Sammy, Liam, Rachel and Tommy. The next day Katherine and Jasmine also gifted us with lemons, what a lucky canteen and what generous families — thank you.



We used the lemons in our butter chicken and made onion pickles on Thursday, as well as beautiful lemon coconut muffins. Sammy, Liam and Rachel told us that they loved the muffins. When Grace came to purchase one, she did not know what the flavour was and challenged herself to give it a go. She could immediately taste the lemon and loved it.

Citrus fruit such as lemons, oranges and mandarins are in season right now. They are affordable and taste great. Moreover they are packed with vitamins, plant compounds and fibres. Vitamin C in citrus fruit helps to boost the immune system and reduces iron deficiency. Make sure you include them in your shopping this week.