



The Ainslie School Newsletter
Monday, 25 May 2020

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
8.30am — 3.30pm

2020 Dates to Remember

Monday, 25 — Sunday, 31 May	International Arts Education Week
Tuesday, 26 May	National Sorry Day
Wed, 27 May — Wed, 3 June	Reconciliation Week
Wednesday, 27 May	National Simultaneous Storytime (11am)
	Masterplan Conversation (5—6pm)
Monday, 1 June	Reconciliation Day—Public Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday, 2 June	Return of Year 5/6 students
Friday, 5 June	Campbell High School & Preschool enrolments: applications due for first round offers

From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

It has been a joyful time at Ainslie School with children arriving in the staggered return to face-to-face learning. I congratulate our Early Years, Junior Primary and Middle Years classes for adapting to hygiene measures to ensure the health and safety of all. We can't wait to see the return of Year 5/6 classes next Tuesday.

As we re-adjust to on-campus learning, I would like to acknowledge and thank:

- our administration and support staff who have put in an enormous effort to prepare for the return of students and to keep our environment clean; and
- our teachers and students who have made thoughtful changes to many of their routines and are juggling new regimes in classrooms and facilities across the school with playfulness and positivity.

Most of all I thank our families for sharing kindness and expressions of gratitude for our efforts during this unusual time. Your attention to physical distancing between adults, encouraging hand washing, supporting active transport, accessing the 'Kiss and Drop Zone' and keeping sick children at home is highly valued.

We continue to be guided by the ACT's Chief and Deputy Chief Health Officers, who have recorded a series of short videos stepping through their health advice for the safe operation of schools. You will find them running on the ACTED's social channels, or at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGIJO8NmYX2Kbnt2d2aRb2hNzr4XHJzS1>

REPORTING ON STUDENT LEARNING

We understand the concern that some parents have shared about children falling behind through this period of remote learning. Be reassured that teaching students at their point of need is a cornerstone of our personalised practice. Teachers have enjoyed noticing new things about our students as learners and connecting with families is helping us know our students more holistically.

Each year at this time, teachers at Ainslie turn their attention to Semester 1 reporting. As always, we aim to provide an accurate and objective assessment of each student's progress and achievement. The Achievement Standards within the Australian Curriculum continue to guide our work.

Public schools across the ACT will be working with a modified reporting arrangement for Semester 1 to accommodate the changes to teaching and learning this semester. While the reporting template will be familiar, the Education Directorate has removed the requirement to produce an A—E grade against subject areas. Observations and assessments will be reflected in consolidated general comments.

THANK YOU TO OUR P&C VOLUNTEERS

Last week the Canberra community acknowledged Volunteer Week. While physical distancing protocols are limiting the engagement of Ainslie's volunteers on site, it has been a pleasure to meet the 2020 P&C Administration Committee and continue conversations with Ainslie's School Board this month. The commitment and dedication of the Board and P&C has been a consistent feature of Ainslie's 95 year history, and I thank this year's teams for their ongoing support. Their passion and aspirations are inspiring.

From our Principal continued ...

PROMOTING A POSITIVE LEARNING CULTURE

Enabling students to thrive physically, socially, emotionally and academically is core business at Ainslie and we recognise the Arts as fundamental to this goal. Visual and performing arts continue to hold a place of prominence, and the input of our Creative-In-Residence, Dr Naomi Zouwer and Music Specialist, Jess Copeman support our continuous improvement. The impact of rich arts experiences are supporting literacy, activating creativity and cultivating empathy across the school. As staff continue to contribute to the research and practice in this field our commitment continues to grow.

This week is *International Arts Education Week*. As communities around the world consider research about the benefits of schools engaging young people and children in arts-based experiences following a crisis, we look forward to providing joyful ways for our students to process their experiences of recent months.

The recently published research article [Creativity beyond the formal curriculum: Arts-based interventions in post-disaster trauma settings](#) may be of interest to Ainslie families. Through it, researchers Carol Mutch, The University of Auckland and Leua Latai, The National University of Samoa, share their experiences of working with schools to engage children in arts-based activities to support the processing of the traumatic events they endured.

While we have experienced 2 extremely happy cohorts of students returning to school, I encourage families to continue to connect with teachers at Ainslie if you notice unusual responses in your children to changes in the world in recent times. Ainslie's Student Support Team is available to provide guidance and advice and can be contacted through the school office team.

2020 Student Support Team:

- Executive teachers: Sarah-Jane Brown and Anne Westerman
- Deputy Principal: Sophie Bissell
- Principal: Wendy Cave
- Disability Education Coordinator: Steph Martin
- School Psychologist: Annette Gloeckler

ACKNOWLEDGING AUSTRALIA'S STORY

This week also presents an opportunity to reflect on people and events that have shaped Australia. On 26 May 1997, the *Bringing Them Home Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families* was tabled in Federal Parliament. The anniversary of this significant event is observed each year as National Sorry Day. It is a day to reflect on the grief, injustice and trauma inflicted on many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, parents and families.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK: 27 MAY — 3 JUNE 2020

National Reconciliation Week commences on Wednesday, 27 May celebrating the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. It ends on 3 June, which is Mabo Day, commemorating the High Court decision in 1992 debunking the concept of terra nullius and recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connections and rights to the land.

The theme for this year is 'In this together' which has turned out to be a fitting theme for 2020. I know you will enjoy the many ways our classes are observing Reconciliation Week at this unusual time.

For further information about National Reconciliation Week, visit [NRW 2020](#).

MASTERPLAN UPDATE

With an eye on the future of education at Ainslie, we look forward to resuming our Community Masterplan Conversations this week. Families and neighbours are most welcome to join us online this Wednesday evening (27 May) from 5—6pm for a conversation about:

- the context of this work;
- the approach we've taken;
- the Heritage Management and Conservation Plan;
- staged planning for the main building; and
- the Desktop Review process.

Please contact our school office team if you are interested in joining this conversation, so we can help you to connect with us online.

All the best for the week ahead.

Wendy Cave
Principal

AINSLIE STAFF FUN FACT

Which staff member can solve a rubik's cube in under 1 minute?

Harry Muir



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...

... to Stella who will celebrate a birthday this week.

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

Wednesday 27 May 2020
www.alia.org.au/nss
#NSS2020 #1MillionKidsReading



On Wednesday, 27 May Ainslie School will be joining Their Excellencies General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Linda Hurley to participate remotely in the National Simultaneous Storytime.

Schools across Australia will join together at 11am to read Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas by Lucinda Gifford.

We would like to invite you to join us by logging in to <https://facebook.com/events/s/national-simultaneous-storytim/578428786111083/?ti=as>

WHAT'S AT COOKING OISHII?

Dear Ainslie Families,

We are happy to inform you that the Oishii Canteen has resumed service to students returning to school. We assure you that we have put careful thought into safely resuming our service. Here is what you need to know.

Recess and lunch is available by pre-order and through cashless transactions only

We strongly encourage families to create an account with Flexischools to order from the canteen. Alternatively, we welcome adults to order over the counter with card payments only. This means that all items will be pre-ordered and we will not make any over the counter sales during recess or lunch.

This will allow us to prepare and package orders and have them handed out to students in a controlled and hygienic manner.

Flexischools offer a fantastic service. Create an account at <https://www.flexischools.com.au/>

We will be serving from a limited menu

You can find our temporary menu on the website, at the canteen and in the newsletter. We have tried to continue offering our most popular items with consideration for a variety of dietary needs.

Limiting kitchen access

To keep the number of people accessing the canteen kitchen to a minimum, we will be operating with staff only for the time being. Our deepest gratitude to all our volunteers, big and small. We look forward to reconnecting with you in other ways.

As always we welcome your questions and feedback at oishiicanteen@gmail.com

