



## The Ainslie School Newsletter

Tuesday, 4 February 2020

### Library

Open for families  
Each weekday  
8.40am — 9am

### Office Hours

Monday — Friday  
8.30am — 3.30pm

### 2020 Dates to Remember

Friday, 7 February  
Thursday, 13 February  
Wednesday, 19 February

Monday—Wednesday,  
2—4 March

Weeks 3—5

Ainslie Sustainability Group Meeting (3:30- 4:30pm)  
Welcome Picnic and Open Classrooms (5:00-7:00pm)  
Masterplan Community Conversation: Yerra Courtyard Plans  
(5:30-6:30pm)

Year 5/6 Camp

Parent / Teacher Meetings: Aspirations and Goals

## From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

How wonderful it was to greet the Ainslie School community this morning, as we commenced the 2020 school year. The opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours signalled a welcome return to a little normality in what has been an extraordinary summer.

Last week, during professional development and planning experiences, our staff spent time reflecting on our precious planet and its resources with local artists and Ainslie's collaborators at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. The *High Vis Exhibition* and its creator Alexander Boyne, inspired us all to make commitments to lightening the load we place on the Earth's precious and finite resources.

The extreme weather conditions we are enduring and visible impact of the fires have certainly fuelled our desire to make things better. We are ever mindful of the opportunity and responsibility we share, along with families, to influence, equip and encourage young people to bring critical, ethical and creative thinking to the environmental challenges that lie ahead. At Ainslie I am privileged to work alongside teachers intent on helping young people identify problems worth solving, cultivate attitudes of optimism, and develop skills that will enable them to act. We look forward to engaging with you throughout the year as we guide and nurture students as confident and creative individuals, successful lifelong learners, and active and informed community members.

### MANAGING AIR QUALITY

Many families have expressed their concern about the poor air quality we are experiencing in the ACT due to bushfire smoke. The safety and wellbeing of students, staff and our community is our highest priority at Ainslie. As part of the ACT's system of public schools, we have been advised by experts and interest groups who have supported our preparations for managing air quality issues at school.

Ainslie's education and support teams will be making decisions based on prevailing weather conditions and level of relative vulnerabilities of individual students and staff, depending on their susceptibility to smoke related illness.

We are mindful that all primary school aged children are recognised as a 'sensitive' group, and we will be monitoring advice from the Education Directorate carefully. Air quality monitoring will also be undertaken through direct observations across the school site. You can find our Directorate's air quality guidelines on the website [here](#).

When guidelines deem conditions 'unhealthy', we will *reduce* prolonged or heavy physical activity as much as possible. When conditions are deemed 'very unhealthy' or 'hazardous' we will *avoid* prolonged or heavy physical activity. This will include postponing or cancelling outdoor activities and excursions. Information is available for families and carers through our school office team and on the ACT Education website via the front page: [www.education.act.gov.au](http://www.education.act.gov.au)

Health information and advice is also available on the [ACT Health website](#) that is updated as the situation evolves. I encourage you all to take a few moments to review this information.

We are acutely aware these events make for difficult times and people will be experiencing a range of emotional responses to what is happening to them, their families and their community. Please don't hesitate to connect with your child's teacher or a member of the school's Executive team if you require any support in navigating these unusual circumstances with your child.

## From our Principal continued ...

### STAFFING UPDATE

2020 brings some new faces to the education team. We welcome Wayde Margetts, who brings experience in Early Childhood Education from school and university settings across the ACT. Stavroula Lourandos joins our team as Ainslie's Business Manager during a period of leave for Jo Maybury. We look forward to hearing updates about Jo's travels and family time throughout the semester. Monday brought us news of the arrival of Archibald (Archie) Alexander Baylis Mackenzie, a brand new addition to Clair Shute's family. We congratulate the very delighted parents and wish Clair all the best.

In a sad turn of events, Ms Beck Palethorpe sustained an injury to her knee, and awaits surgery that will mean a little time away from her classroom duties. We look forward to Beck's anticipated return in Term 2.

We have enjoyed meeting many new families in the lead up to term, and continuing enrolments in the early weeks of term may bring some adjustments to class formation. We will keep you informed as the picture unfolds. Meanwhile, I am delighted to share Ainslie's staff and class profile as of Week 1.

### Early Years Team

*Team Leader:* Anne Westerman (Executive Teacher)

#### Preschool

Simone Hobday (Baker Gardens)  
Stacey Nichols (Reid)

Anita Hitchen  
Cathy Piani

#### Kindergarten

Wayde Margetts  
Sue Corrigan

### Junior Primary Team

*Team Leader:* Sarah-Jane Brown (Executive Teacher)

#### Year 1/2

Joanne Lawson  
Michael McDougall  
Anney Medhurst  
Angela Pettersson  
Chantelle Stewart  
Sergine Zeferino

### Senior Primary Team

*Team Leader:* Sophie Bissell (Deputy Principal)

#### Year 3/4

Louise Coombes  
Janelle Jack  
Isobel Short  
Chris Wells

#### Year 5/6

Faith Bentley  
Alison Heald  
Steph Martin  
Emily Regan

### Specialist Team

Jess Copeman Music  
Mel Cummins Japanese  
Anne Westerman English, Literacy and Numeracy Support

### School Administration Team

Stavroula Lourandos Business Manager  
Sharon Davis Library Administration and School Secretary  
Leesa Frame Administration  
Sarah Sparks Administration  
Paul Wilcott Building Services Officer

## From our Principal continued ...

### Education Support Team

Naomh Barrie	Learning Support Assistant
Cathie Davis	Learning Support Assistant
Harry Muir	Learning Support Assistant
Sam Pighin	Learning Support Assistant
Karen Power	Learning Support Assistant

The education team is very grateful to Ainslie parents, carers and friends for supporting the smooth transition to new teachers, classrooms and routines for our young learners as the term commences. A range of opportunities have been planned to support family introductions and your connections with classrooms in the coming weeks. You will find dates for saving at the top of this newsletter and details of activities are on their way.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the front office team for any assistance in the meantime.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

**Wendy Cave**  
**Principal**



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.

### Delicious

'Oishii' is a Japanese word which loosely translates to 'delicious' in English. It captures two elements of life at Ainslie School; learning the Japanese language and culture and promoting healthy lifestyles through fresh and delicious food. At Oishii, we strive to create a positive and welcoming space for everyone. We offer delicious and nutritious food which adheres to the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Our food is made on the premises by our canteen staff and volunteers, and we believe that fresh and healthy also equals tasty.

### Conscious

As well as focusing on providing healthy lunches, we are also passionate about sustainability. At this school we have two gardens and a small flock of chickens. The produce from the garden is used in the canteen to make fresh food. Our food scraps are then composted to nourish the garden. In our food service, we use reusable cutlery and cups and recycle our soft plastics through the REDcycle program.

This year we aim to increase our efforts towards sustainable practices. This is a learning journey for all of us. Come and speak to us in the canteen if you would like to be involved.

### Join us!

We open Monday—Friday from 8.30am—2.30pm, families may choose to order recess and lunch through our online ordering system: <https://www.flexischools.com.au/> or over the counter. We look forward to welcoming students and carers in our space.