



The Ainslie School Newsletter

Monday, 24 May 2021

Office Hours
Monday — Friday
8.30am — 3.30pm

2021 Dates to Remember

Friday, 28 May	Assembly @ 10.15am <i>Host: Year 3/4</i> (including presentation of ribbons from the Cross Country Carnival)
Monday, 31 May	Year 5 Combined Band Practice @ 12.30pm
Thursday, 3 June	Reconciliation Day Public Holiday (school closed)
Monday, 7 June	Reid Preschool Photo Day
Monday, 7 June	ACT Futsal Titles (Fadden)
Thursday, 10 June	Board Meeting @ 7.30am

From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

It was such a pleasure to spend time with our senior students at Camp Cooba last week and what magnificent ambassadors they were. I congratulate each of the 94 students who met physical and social challenges during the 3 day experience and thank Ainslie's education team and the staff of Cooba for creating such a valuable program for our young learners.

We also congratulate our Year 1/2 students for their enthusiastic engagement at the National Arboretum last week.

STAFFING NEWS

We continue to enjoy the input of students of initial teacher education in our classrooms immensely. Thomas Hopkins is completing his final placement with Ms Hannah Lutz and her 3/4 class and Florence Wellfair is working with our Kindergarten classes. We have also welcomed back James Urwin, who has been volunteering with us now that his education studies are complete.

We greatly appreciate the perspectives these educators bring and their interest in promoting quality education at Ainslie. The future of the profession is in very great hands!

THRIVING AS GIFTED: CELEBRATING GIFTEDNESS AWARENESS WEEK (22—29 MAY)

At Ainslie School, we know that no two learners are exactly the same and that each brings unique strengths, needs and learning preferences. Personalised learning pathways support our students to thrive and multiple sources of data provide insight into how appropriately their learning needs are supported by the education team. Perception and performance data sets are integral in the early identification of specific gifts and talents.

Ainslie's School Psychologist, our Student Support team, specialist teachers and community experts play an important role in the identification of 'giftedness' at Ainslie. The role families play, working in partnership with teachers to identify talents in students, cannot be underestimated.

Currently in Australia the definition most used by education departments is Francois Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (2.0) (DMGT). The DMGT acknowledges "that giftedness is a broad concept that encompasses a range of abilities: it also recognises that giftedness is only potential and must go through a transformative process in order to become a talent" (ACARA, 2013).

GIFTEDNESS designates the possession and use of outstanding natural ability in at least one domain (intellectual, creative, socio affective, sensorimotor), to a degree that places an individual in the top 10% of age peers.

From our Principal continued ...

TALENT designates the outstanding performance or competency in at least one field of human activity (academics, arts, business, leisure, social action, sport, technology) to a degree that places an individual in the top 10% of age peers in that field (Gagné, 2009).

Ainslie's approach to curriculum delivery brings the ACT Education Directorate's Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2021 to life. Purposeful play, intentional, personalised education, monitoring growth and deliberate connection of student agency to real outcomes are the principles that drive our work with young people and their families.

Developmentally appropriate programs for gifted and talented students include a combination of provisions to allow students access to meaningful learning opportunities through a differentiated curriculum, and include approaches such as:

- enrichment experiences;
- counselling interventions;
- acceleration options; and
- grouping.

The education experience of young people at Ainslie is enriched by the presence of specialists in diverse fields. Our Japanese, Music and Visual Arts specialists are ever alert to the knowledge, skills and dispositions our children bring. For many years, we have enjoyed the input of Dr Kirsten Verburg who provides expert advice, mentoring and modelling in mathematics, and our chess master, Endre Ambrus supports identification of student strengths and talents as thinkers and problem solvers. In addition, we are fortunate to access writers, musicians, dancers, sports people and scientists through partnerships with academic, professional and community organisations within our neighbourhood.

Further information about The Gifted and Talented Students Policy is available on the Directorate's Policies page https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/policies, through your child's teacher, and from Ms Carolyn Macleod, Ainslie's Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer (GaTLO).

ROSTRUM PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

We are delighted to offer an experience of public speaking to students from Years 3—6, through the 2021 Rostrum Competition. Rostrum is the longest running public speaking organisation in the world and we are looking forward to identifying Ainslie's representatives for the ACT School's competition.

Our middle and senior primary students have already shared the topics and many are hard at work preparing a 3 minute speech. Class finalists will be competing for the Ainslie School title during Week 7 and parents and neighbours are most welcome to attend. Watch class Seesaw pages for details.

OUR SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL

Last week, Ainslie's staff accepted an invitation to participate in a review of the health and safety risks and assurance mechanisms associated with the delivery of the Australian Curriculum. 15 members of the team described how we embed safety analysis and risk minimisation in teaching and learning programs. By engaging in authentic learning contexts, within classrooms, on the playground and beyond our school boundaries, our students become increasingly aware, as thinkers, researchers and communicators, of inherent risks and associated responsibilities in health and physical activities, science, the arts, and technology.

We also welcomed Bron Motion, of the ACTED Positive Behaviours for Learning team, to test tools for reviewing PBL approaches. In preliminary discussions with our middle primary students and staff, Ms Motion noted how frequently the concept, expectation and experience of kindness was identified. We look forward to engaging families in this process throughout the term ahead.

THE ROLE OF HOME LANGUAGES

It has been so nice to collaborate with the Canberra Academy of Languages at Ainslie School this year. We currently host 5 evening classes each week.

As our language network expands, we look forward to hosting the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACT BEA) for an information session from 4:30—5:30pm on Thursday, 3 June. The session, presented by Dr Mandy Scott will explore how schools can acknowledge and build on the skills in home languages that children bring with them to the classroom. Parents are most welcome and information is available at <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ACTBEA/>

From our Principal continued ...

Reconciliation Day public holiday — 31 May 2021

Reconciliation Day is part of National Reconciliation Week and is a time for all Canberrans to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The theme for this year's Reconciliation Week is More than a word.

Reconciliation takes action.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and knowledge hold a significant place in the Australian Curriculum, and Ainslie's teachers strive to incorporate culturally responsive teaching strategies to maximise student learning and promote positive self-identity. We enjoy using local content and the expertise of our community to expand the cultural knowledge of all students.

The National Arboretum will host a Reconciliation Day event next Monday and I know many of our students and staff will be excited to participate at a venue with which we are growing very familiar. You will find more information attached to this newsletter.

All the best for the week ahead.

Wendy Cave
Principal

ASSEMBLY — ADDITIONAL CHANGES

Due to conflicting events, assembly hosted by Year 3/4 on Friday, 28 May will now commence at **10.15am**. It will also include the presentation of ribbons for the recent Cross Country Carnival.



PAYMENT OPTIONS AT AINSLIE

There are a number of options when paying for events/ excursions/voluntary contributions.

1. Our preferred method of payment is **Quickweb**. Quickweb can be accessed online via the Ainslie School website: <http://www.ainslies.act.edu.au/payments/WESTPAC> Use your debit/credit card to make a secure payment.
2. **EFT** — transfer funds to our account
BSB: 032 777 Acct No: 00 0962 Acct Name: Ainslie School
3. **EFTPOS** facilities are available at the Front Office from 8.30am—3.30pm.

Thank you for keeping us COVID safe.

NOTES HOME

EVENT DETAILS	YR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
National Firm & Sound Archive Australia	Year 5/6	Perm note ASAP
ACT School Futsal Titles 2021 Curriculum Resources	Interested students All families	Perm & payment ASAP Voluntary contribution

CONGRATULATIONS ...

... to Thomas Hopkins who received an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Scholarship Award.

2022 ENROLMENTS

A reminder to families that enrolments are now open for the 2022 school year. If your child is currently in Year 6, an enrolment form needs to be filled in to attend Year 7. Go to www.education.act.gov.au to enrol.



Kindergarten students on their excursion to CMAG (pictured above and right).



COMMUNITY NOTICES



I am a gifted student

Teach me,

Engage me,

Challenge me,

Believe in me.

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More information regarding Gifted and Talented Education and Gifted Awareness Week can be found at <https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/g-and-talented-education> and [Gifted Awareness Week – 2021 – Thriving as Gifted \(aaegt.net.au\)](http://Gifted Awareness Week – 2021 – Thriving as Gifted (aaegt.net.au))



AUSTRALIAN GIRLS CHOIR

Look no further than the Australian Girls Choir because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to sing, dance and perform.

JOIN US AT OPEN DAY
SUNDAY JUNE 20



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

aspagroup.com.au