

ALTIORA



The Ainslie School Newsletter



Monday 18 June 2018
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2018 Dates to Remember

Mon 18 June	8:15am 10:11:15	Track training at the top oval Baker Gardens Daffodils to Action Bus Wash
Tues 19 June		Year 5 Gold Rush Fun day
Wed 20 June	8:15 am 10-11:15	Track training on the top oval Baker Gardens Sunflowers to Action Bus Wash
Thurs 21 June	9:00- 11:15	Old Parliament House Museum of Australian Democracy International "Make music day "
Fri 22 June		Whole school music assembly Robots in Space
Sat 23 June	9-12	Reid Preschool Working bee
Thurs 28 June		Robots in Space inter-school competition @ Yarralumla Reports go home
Fri 29 June	12:30-1pm	Canberra College Piping & Drumming performance

Dear Families and Friends

With such spectacular winter weather during the weekend, it seems the call to postpone the Baker Gardens Preschool working bee was a sensible move. We look forward to trying again on Sunday 1 July. Families are welcome to join us this Saturday at Reid preschool where another working bee will be underway.

Connected Classrooms and Communities

It was a pleasure to be part of the conversations prompted by staff presentations at last week's P&C meeting. The evening began with Greg Taylor's presentation about national A-E Grading practices and their implementation at Ainslie. Laurence Mandapat and Chris Wells followed, with a presentation about their work with Google Classrooms and Google Communities.

The evening brought into focus the importance of the partnership between families and teachers at Ainslie. While our education team brings expertise in curriculum content and design, learning theory and child development, there are funds of knowledge about individual children that only a parent can bring. We know that learning doesn't only happen between 9 and 3, and that it flourishes when home, school and community environments are truly connected. Linking children's family and life experiences to our work at school is so important.

Increasingly, teachers and support staff at Ainslie are making use of Information Communication Technology to strengthen the important connection between families and school. Teachers routinely use email correspondence and share learning highlights through the Google Communities that their classes are part of. The School's Facebook page is another increasingly important element of our online communication, and we thank Morgan Galbraith-Hamilton from our Office team for keeping the community informed with her just-in-time posts.

These methods of communication supplement face to face interactions and phone calls. While many of our families have access to technology in their homes, we are able to support those who don't with access to computers at school. Please don't hesitate to contact our office team if you would like more information. We value your contributions enormously, as the most influential experts in your child!

Parenting, like education, in the digital age is relatively new territory and we look forward to navigating its ever shifting course with Ainslie families. You may find the work of Dr Kristy Goodwin, leading technology and development researcher, and author of *Raising your Child in a Digital World* of interest. With messages about the importance of parents 'captaining the technology ship', her work is well worth exploring. Her notion of supporting our children to be *masters of media, not slaves to a screen* is poignant. You can find out more about Dr Goodwin and her work at www.drkristygoodwin.com.

Research Engagement

We are delighted to have been invited to contribute to a research project through Dr Tessa Daffern of the University of Canberra. The project, *Inquiries in spelling: Building teacher and student capacity*, is concerned with the teaching and learning of spelling in Years 3 to 6. While our work in this area is partly determined by the Australian Curriculum, it is also shaped by teachers' understanding of how language works. Dr Daffern's study aims to identify how teachers' attitudes and understandings can shape the way spelling is taught and how children learn to spell. It also seeks to identify effective spelling instruction.

Today, students from Ainslie's Year 3-6 classes will receive an information sheet and consent form about the project. We look forward to the assistance this research will provide to develop the necessary teaching strategies and content knowledge that are required to effectively teach spelling.

Please don't hesitate to contact our Senior Primary Team Leader, Sarah-Jane Brown, or Ainslie's Literacy and EAL/D Specialist, Dawn-Maree Dunn if you would like further information about this project.

Community Partnerships

The community partnerships that Ainslie School is known for continue to flourish. It was a very great pleasure to catch a glimpse of over 200 self-selected Ainslie students participating in a choral masterclass in the hall last week. We thank Jess Copeman for joining *Music for Canberra's* Jenny Brain and Tobias Cole to provide an exploration of vocal capabilities, and information about choir opportunities within the MFC program. We look forward to connecting again soon!

We are enjoying an ever strengthening collaboration with the Learning team at the Museum of Australian Democracy. Earlier in the term, our Year 6 classes tested a virtual tour of Old Parliament House that is under development. The MOAD team enjoyed our students so much they have returned for assistance with testing another resource.

This time, they have enlisted a group of Year 5 students to undertake some preliminary testing of concepts for the development of a new exhibition space. We look forward to hearing about this work – and eventually benefiting from the final product.

Activity on our Streets

Traffic congestion and road safety awareness are areas of interest in schools across Australia, and Ainslie is no exception. With increasing development and urban infill in our surrounding suburbs, these are topical conversation points amongst the school community.

Our Year 4 students are becoming curious about the reality of activity on our local streets. This week, they will be heading to Limestone Avenue to collect some data. Watch out for a sea of high visibility attire and familiar faces!

Robots in Space Presentation

Robots have been part of popular culture for decades—cleaning house in *The Jetsons* and helping the rebel forces defeat the empire in the *Star Wars* films. Over the past few months Year 5 students have been exploring this concept by creating a robot that can navigate the surface of Mars. This is a project based learning program where students have researched, designed and built their project components (robot body, obstacle course, Research Display and video) based on their discoveries and imagination. As a celebration of learning, and in preparation for the interschool competition, students will be showcasing their projects in the hall from 9:30am to 10:30am. Ainslie families and friends are invited to come and share this celebration.

Staffing News

Earlier today we sent our bon-voyage wishes to Greg Taylor who on his way to Paris. Greg's period of leave brings some changes to our School Leadership team for the remainder of the term.

- Janelle Jack will be Executive Teacher/Team Leader for the Preschool and Kindergarten Team
- Anne Westerman will return to her role as Executive Teacher/Team Leader for the Year 1/2 Team.
- Sophie Bissell, our Deputy Principal, will step in for Greg Taylor as Team Leader of the Year 3/4 Team
- Sarah-Jane Brown's leadership of the Year 5/6 team will continue. We welcome Sandra Lewinski who will be teaching Greg's Year 5 classes during the next three weeks.

We wish Greg a happy time in that beautiful part of the world!
All the best for the week ahead,

Wendy Cave



This week we have seen examples of special effort from:

Asha	KC	Wonderful writing
Evan M	KC	Wonderful writing
Linh	2LR	Reporting on her investigations
Bella	2LR	Creating a detailed description about her spinner
Sophie W	KSC	Writing words about measurement
Arabella	KSC	Writing words about measurement
Oscar	5SB	Producing creative narrative writing using an image for inspiration
Rashmi	5SB	Producing creative narrative writing using an image for inspiration

End of Day Routines

Inclement weather can sometimes create the need for adjustments to after school arrangements. While it is timely to remind children to follow routines when making their way home from school, it is also important to discuss alternative plans just in case a bus is missed or a driver is delayed.

We encourage families to take a look at the Active Streets resources which encourage safety and wellbeing through walking and riding to school. These are available at

<https://goodhabitsforlife.act.gov.au/ride-or-walk-to-school>

Congratulations to

Tara S 5JF for her outstanding representation of Ainslie School at the Rostrum Quarter Final at Weetangera Primary School last week.

Our District Representatives at the ACT Cross Country Carnival last week. The carnival set the scene for many personal achievements. Well done to: Under 8 girls - 2nd place Mia P, Under 10 girls 8th place Milly L, Mia C 21st, Hannah R 22nd, Under 11 girls 2nd Zoe H, Chloe 21st. Under 10 boys Miles 2nd place, Lachlan H 32nd, Under 11 boys 11th place Alex B and Josh P 12th

Congratulations also go to Noah D and Jack A, we are so proud of all our representatives.

This Week's Notes

- **5JF Excursion to Museum of Australian Democracy** **due Thurs 21 June**
- **Inquiries in Spelling: Building teacher and student capacity** **due Fri 22 June**

Make Music Day

On 21 June, musicians in over 120 countries turn public spaces into music stages to celebrate the importance of music within our culture. To mark this day, Ainslie will be hosting a Music Assembly in the hall at 12:30pm on Friday 22 June. Every student will be involved in this special assembly which will include performances from the Year 6 Band, Voices and Prep Choir ensembles.

In addition to this, the Canberra College of Piping and Drumming will be performing at Ainslie on Friday 29 June at 12:30pm. This Piping and Drumming performance will introduce students to Celtic instruments such as, the Bagpipes, Snare drum, Tenor and Bass Drums. All parents and careers are invited to come and share in this celebration of music at Ainslie.

Keeping our community safe

You may be aware that there have been a number of incidents across Canberra recently where male strangers have approached school children enticing them to their car or away from school grounds. In each case the children have acted wisely by refusing and moving away.

These unfortunate incidents are a good reminder to us all to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

It is very important that parents report to ACT Policing if you have witnessed any incidents or have any information that could assist Police to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, or via www.act.crimestoppers.com.au. Information can be provided anonymously. If incident has just occurred or is occurring, contact Police directly on 131 444 or in an emergency 000.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the [ParentLink website](#) for tips.

The School and the Education Support Office continue to work with ACT Policing on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions.

Dear Families of Current Year 6 Students

It was wonderful to meet many of you at our recent Open Night and to see your excited children eager to start their high school journey! I wish to just remind you to please ensure you have completed the online enrolment process as soon as possible and by 9am on 11 June at latest. We appreciate those who have already completed their online enrolment – it definitely makes it easier for us to start to plan for next year.

If you have a child who is gifted and talented and planning to attend our school in 2019, you may be interested in attending a brief information session at the school in August. Our librarian, teacher and leader of our approach to gifted and talented education, Nick Carey-Ide is offering an information session at 6.30 on the 13th of August (before P&C) in the library for parents who wish to know more about our Enlighten Program. If are interested in knowing about what we do and why we do it then please come along and feel free to stay afterwards for our P&C meeting.

Kind regards
Kerrie Heath
Principal
Campbell High
School



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Being a parent is the hardest job we'll ever have. All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential and free telephone and face-to-face counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager's behaviour.
- Make an appointment for a counselling session.

Parentline ACT.

Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm.

Phone: 6287 383

Mental Health Issues and Young People: FREE Parenting Forum

Carers ACT is hosting a unique opportunity for parents, carers and friends to learn how to recognise the warning signs and better understand depression, suicide, eating disorders, deliberate self-harm and other mental health problems in young people. Mental illness in our youth – often known as the 'invisible disease' - is growing at an alarming rate with many parents at a loss on how to deal with it. The speaker will be Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia's leading experts in parenting and child and adolescent mental health and founder of CanTeen for teenagers with cancer.



Bookings are essential.

When: Tues 19 June 2018, 7-9pm, Hellenic Club, Woden

More info: Ph 6296 9900 or email mhcarers@carersact.org.au

Register : through Eventbrite <http://bit.ly/2HIqSiy>

Cost: Free



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