



The Ainslie School Newsletter

Tuesday, 2 February 2021

Office Hours

Monday — Friday
8.30am — 3.30pm

2021 Dates to Remember

Week 2	Online Welcome Forums (P—Year 6)
Weeks 3—5	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 commence the 2021 school year. The opportunity to connect with friends and neighbours signalled a welcome return to a little normality in what has been an extraordinary past 12 months.

Last week, during professional development and planning experiences, our staff spent time reflecting on our purpose for being - enabling growth of children and communities. The National Arboretum was a fitting place to play with a comparison between the work we do, and that of the many experts who tend to the 44 000 trees and enable 94 forests to thrive. We thank Heather Tregonning and Owen Bolitho for providing insight and expert perspectives to our planning and Scott Saddler AM for sharing the remarkable story of this place of beauty, conservation, research, education, tourism and recreation.

As we emerge from the experience of 2020, we were reminded of the important role the Arboretum has played for Canberra. It is a symbol of the process of healing and recovery, born from the period of upheaval many Canberra's experienced through the 2003 bushfires.

The stage is set for rich engagement with this spectacular place and those who nurture this living collection of global significance throughout 2021. Ainslie's teachers are ever 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.

STAFFING UPDATE

2021 brings the return of some familiar faces to the education team. We are delighted to welcome Deputy Principal, Sophie Bissell back from her adventures around Australia. This week we introduce Carolyn McLeod to our Executive Team and her role as team leader of our Junior Primary classes. Clair Shute is also returning from her period of parenting leave and I know the senior classes will enjoy hearing more about baby Archie.

Jess Copeman and Chantelle Stewart will officially return to us later this year.

We have enjoyed meeting many new families in the lead up to term. Continuing enrolments in the early weeks of term may bring some adjustments to class formations. 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.

Welcome back

From our Principal continued ...

Early Years Team (Preschool and Kindergarten)

Simone Hobday
Cathy Piani
Sue Corrigan
Janelle Jack
Claire Rummery

Middle Primary Team (Years 3 and 4)

Sarah-Jane Brown
Alison Heald
Hannah Lutz
Steph Martin
Chris Wells

Executive Team

Wendy Cave (Principal)
Sophie Bissell (Deputy Principal)
Sarah-Jane Brown (Executive Teacher)
Carolyn McLeod (Executive Teacher)
Anne Westerman (Executive Teacher)

Specialist Team

Steph Martin (Inclusion and Student Support)
Jess Copeman / Lucy McCourt (Music)
Mel Cummins (Japanese)
Dr Naomi Zouwer (Creative in Residence)
Ari Sulanjari (Wellbeing and Enterprise)

Junior Primary Team (Years 1 and 2)

Carolyn McLeod
Louise Coombes
Judy Farrell
Amanda Hynes
Jo Lawson
Michael McDougall
Sergine Zeferino

Senior Primary Team (Years 5 and 6)

Anne Westerman
Clair Shute
Faith Bentley
Wayde Margetts
Rebecca Palethorpe

School Support Team

Stavroula Lourandos (Business Manager)
Leesa Frame (School Administration)
Sarah Sparks (School Administration)
Paul Wilcott (Building Services Officer)
Naomh Barrie (Learning Support Assistant)
Seb Halme (Learning Support Assistant)
Harry Muir (Learning Support Assistant)
Karen Power (Learning Support Assistant)
Eve Smith (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. 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

COVID-19 UPDATE

With the pandemic continuing, the ACT government still has certain restrictions in place across the community. In our schools these arrangements are largely the same as in Term 4 last year.

In 2021 we want to keep everyone in our school communities safe and healthy, by operating in a COVID-safe way.

Updated information will be available on ConnectED and the directorate website, including a document which steps out the COVID-19 restrictions that apply in school, outside school and interstate.

The main restrictions in place **for school sites** in Term 1 are about gathering size, density and physical distancing.

- Gatherings on school sites must not exceed 500 visitors. Students and staff of the school do not count in the 500 person limit.
- Visitors must not exceed one person per two-square-metres in indoor or outdoor spaces.
- And all visitors should keep 1.5 metres apart from one another where possible, unless they are from the same family group.

This means, for all activities associated with the normal operation of schools, such as assemblies, the one person per two square metres rule applies up to 500 people using normal school check-in procedures.

For additional school events such as concerts and fetes, visitors must not exceed one person per two square metres in any outdoor spaces. For indoor spaces, the one person per four square metre rule should be applied, however if schools use the *Check in CBR* app, the density can increase to one person per two square metres.



GIRL GUIDES
AUSTRALIA
NSW ACT NT

ALL GIRLS are invited to visit their local guide unit and find out what guides get up to.

Guides have **FUN** indoors and outdoors, learn new skills and make new friends. Guides is for girls aged 5 –18 yrs. Local guide units meet once a week at the Guide halls in Lister Cres, Ainslie and Clianthus St, O'Connor.

To find out more, go to: <https://girlguides-nswactnt.org.au/>

Community Notices

AUTUMN SC-ORE 2021 — ITS ALL ABOUT ORIENTEERING IN TERM 1

Commencing on Thursday, 4 March for 4 weeks, SC-ORE heads to Charles Weston Primary School for the first event of another exciting series to work those bodies and brains. All Students in Years 3—6 from Canberra and surrounds are welcome to participate.

Get an outdoor, screen free, body and brain workout **before** hitting the classroom. What better way to start the day!

SC-ORE is for teams of 2 girls and 2 boys. Teams can register incrementally - that is, register your child, then encourage friends to sign up. Not all team members need to sign up at the same time. If your team is short of a member, we will try to find a "spare" to complete your team.

VENUES (Primary schools as well as a public park)

- 4 March Charles Weston Primary,
- 11 March St Jude's & Canberra Montessori Schools
- 18 March Weston Park
- 25 March Weston Park



Parents are responsible for completing their own entries online. There is no expectation on schools or teachers to organise any aspect of students' attendance. Children are required to be taken to the 4 separate venues by parents or responsible guardians by 7:45am for an 8am start. Events will finish in time for children to get to school (more or less, might be a few minutes late depending on traffic etc).

Parents/carers/responsible guardians have duty of care throughout the events. Term 1 has just begun, so why not start getting your teams ready? You can register online right away. If you can't find enough teammates to make a full school team, don't worry, we will try our best to put together inter-school-teams as well. Everyone gets to participate.

Visit [Orienteering ACT](#) for more information. Or go straight to [Register Now](#) to enter online. Entries close 26 February 2020.

CHESS - A FEW STEPS ON A BOARD OR A WINDOW TO THE WORLD?

As a Mystery, chess has been mesmerizing humanity since ancient times, while pleasing their various interests in the form of a chimerian unity - as game, science, art and sport. In times of an accelerated lifestyle implied by smartphones, video-games etc, concentration and memory are seriously endangered and disregarded, chess can offer efficient problem solving measures. Children stay focused during the entire game, are relying on their own thinking and decision making in accordance with their prior knowledge and they are also bearing the consequences of those in a fair-play way.



At the after school Wednesday chess classes, beside learning and practicing opening theory, tactics, strategic thinking and endgame techniques, students are also developing their memory, analytical, logical abstract and efficient thinking, as well as divergent thinking about multiple solutions, recognition of relations, creativity etc.

The lessons start at 3:30pm, run until 5:25pm and the cost for a term is \$120. My instructions, based on the decades of practical and theoretical experience, might help dedicated students in finding and pursuing the narrow path to master class. If interested, come along and with enhanced, exact logical thinking discover and refine your most valuable personal qualities!

Contact: endre.ambrus@gmail.com **Phone:** 0401 584 605