



## The Ainslie School Newsletter

Monday, 8 February 2021

**Office Hours**  
Monday — Friday  
8.30am — 3.30pm

### 2021 Dates to Remember

Thursday, 11 February	Preschool Online Forum (7pm) Kindergarten Online Forum (8pm)
Friday, 12 February	Assembly hosted by the Captains (12.15pm) E Safety Day
Monday, 15 February	Bringing the Term Letter to Life: 3/4 Family Forum (7.30pm)
Tuesday, 16 February	Bringing the Term Letter to Life: 5/6 Family Forum (7.30pm)
Thursday, 18 February	Bringing the Term Letter to Life: 1/2 Family Forum (7.30pm)
Weeks 3—5	Parent / Teacher Meetings: Aspirations & Goals

## From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

Welcome to the first of our Monday newsletters for 2021. We hope that the routine of sending school messages home each Monday assists you in planning for the week ahead. Newsletters are an important part of home/school communication at Ainslie, with regular updates around programs and community events. They can also provide an authentic text for shared reading and spark interesting conversations with your child.

We use our newsletter to celebrate the special achievements of our students. Since learning doesn't only happen between 9 and 3, we encourage you to share news that happens beyond the school day. A quick note or email to the front office ([leesa.frame@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:leesa.frame@ed.act.edu.au)) or your child's teacher can help us to offer this important recognition.

### COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Technology has a very important place in the communication landscape for us and we use a range of modes for providing information.

- The website [www.ainslies@act.edu.au](http://www.ainslies@act.edu.au) is a helpful starting point for general information, and places information you will find at [www.education.act.gov](http://www.education.act.gov) in context.
- Ainslie's *Facebook page* promotes school activities, along with just-in-time updates about programs and events. Most weeks, you'll find a Monday morning message setting the scene for the week ahead.
- Through *Friends\_of\_ainslie* (Instagram) friends and neighbours are introduced.
- Teachers appreciate and use email and phone contact, and every class has a Seesaw page. This platform complements the suite of channels we offer to provide families with insight into classrooms.

While the digital landscape is an important one, 2020 brought a stark reminder of the importance of physical connection for the people of Ainslie. While COVID safety remains a priority, we are so pleased to be able to gather with up to 500 visitors on site.

Each week we have school gatherings. Assemblies on the playground every Monday morning are a time for students and families to connect with cohorts and hear about activities planned for the week. More formal whole school assemblies take place fortnightly at 12:15pm on Friday afternoons. These are typically hosted by a team of classes and offer a snapshot of recent learning. Class awards are presented at assemblies to celebrate special effort, demonstrations of our school values and examples of learning dispositions in action. This week's assembly will be hosted by our school captains.

## From our Principal continued ...

### START OF YEAR TRANSITIONS

At Ainslie we know that the transition to a new learning environment is a significant event in a young child's life. The challenges and opportunities for social and emotional growth as a school year commences cannot be underestimated, and trusting relationships between parents and educators are key.

Transitions are a time where children and families adapt to new circumstances, expectations, people, environments and routines. The transition to a new learning setting usually brings changes to a child's relationships, and their physical and social environments.

Transitions are also an important time to consider continuity between environments, and revisiting Ainslie's school values assists our children to navigate new territory. Thinking about how we show and encourage *respect, responsibility and kindness* has been an important part of programs in the first week of school.

While transitions through school bring exciting opportunities, children can experience a range of emotions as they adapt to new circumstances. The experience is different for everyone and our staff welcome the opportunity to connect with you to support your child with start of year connections. No problem is too large or small and our team is always here to help.

Classroom routines and curriculum highlights will be shared through Term Overviews that teachers will be sending home this week and we hope you are able to join the online forums with teaching teams during the next fortnight. Teachers are looking forward to guiding these informal opportunities that will bring your Term Overview to life.

### BASE

This week, our Kindergarten teachers are preparing the online systems that will support BASE testing in Weeks 3 and 4. This is a computer based assessment program that assists Kindergarten teachers to determine what their students know about literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness (sounds in language) when they enter school. The program is used by schools in all Australian states and territories, and provides one source of baseline data to help teachers as they design personalised learning experiences. We know that the one-to-one assessment session will also provide a positive experience of connection between our kindergarten students and their teachers.

A brochure for Kindergarten families will be sent home this week and our Early Years team, Sue Corrigan, Janelle Jack, Claire Rummery, Simone Hobday and Sophie Bissell will be only too happy to provide you with further information.

### KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

The new year may bring new after school arrangements for families and in these early weeks it is timely to revisit routines for travelling to and from school with your child.

We thank families for commencing the year with mindfulness as we access the school car parks. Classes will visit these spaces during the week and explore the signage that is sometimes overlooked. I thank drivers for acknowledging the designated 'no stopping' and 'set down and pick up' areas in particular.

Our boundary curbs can be busy places at drop off and pick up time. As children progress through the school years, you may like to discuss alternative pick up points with them. Walking part way supports wellbeing - of people and the planet - and active streets build connected communities. The map of surrounding streets, available at <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/about-us/schools/active-travel-for-schools> (scroll down and zoom in) may support this conversation.

Wishing you all the best for the week ahead!

**Wendy Cave**  
Principal

Some safety messages when travelling on the Light Rail (pictured right).



## Stay safe on the Light Rail

Stay behind the yellow line

Hold on when on-board

Look both ways before crossing the tracks

Find out more: [cmet.com.au/safety](https://cmet.com.au/safety)

ACT GOVERNMENT | TCC Transport Canberra | CMET CANBERRA METRO OPERATIONS

WHAT'S  
AT COOKING  
OISHII?



AINSLIE SCHOOL  
P&C ASSOCIATION

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.

### OFF TO A DELICIOUS START!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to returning families and TO those who are new to Ainslie school. Oishii canteen is a health hub where students, staff and families can come to connect and contribute to the Ainslie school community while sharing ideas about health, sustainability and having fun.

Oishii is a Japanese word which loosely translates to 'delicious' in English. This name captures our value of Japanese language and culture, and learning about a healthy lifestyle through fresh and delicious food. We follow the National Healthy School Canteen guidelines and the ACT Public School Food and Drink Policy 2015. We work closely with ACT Health to promote a healthy eating environment, as well as working with the ACT Nutrition Support Services who assess our menu annually and provides support and training to the canteen staff.

Oishii Canteen is non for-profit organisation, managed by volunteers under the P&C subcommittee and has three committee members. Kerryn Wagg is our Canteen Convener, Anna Chu is Secretary and Willow Condi is Treasurer. Our canteen is run by Clair Boyer, Anna Takahashi and Ari Sulanjari. The canteen is in the hall area and opens from 8.30am, Monday to Friday for recess and lunch services. We've had a great first week back. It's so lovely to see old friends and new faces. The garden has given us a warm welcome with fresh produce ready and waiting to go into our cooking.



### A FEW IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

Our menu has changed! Please familiarise yourselves with our updated prices. We prefer not to take cash. We can take card payments in person or over the phone. The best way to make sure that your favorite food is available is to order through Flexischools. We keep the online menu live with available produce.

Finally, please remind your child when they are having a lunch order!

### VOLUNTEER WITH US!

We are ever grateful to our volunteers. As well as showing up to ensure that our service runs smoothly, by volunteering you bring the vibrancy of Ainslie's community right into the kitchen with us! We have fun, we learn from each other and we look after each other. This is also a great place to come for commercial kitchen experience and we are always glad to offer our volunteers an employment reference. Because of our kitchen's limited capacity, we can only take one volunteer at a time so get your name on our roster!

Where do I sign up? Drop in for a chat or email us at [oishiicanteen@gmail.com](mailto:oishiicanteen@gmail.com)

Vivienne (pictured right) is excited to begin Kindergarten at Ainslie School!

