



## The Ainslie School Newsletter

Monday, 9 August 2021

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

**Library**  
Open for families  
Each weekday  
8.30am — 9am  
3—3.30pm

### 2021 Dates to Remember

Tuesday, 10 August	National Census Night
Wednesday, 11 August	Masterplan Conversation @ 5pm
Friday, 13 August	Winter Walk or Ride to School Day — see details Page 3
	School Satisfaction Survey opens — see details Page 4
	Year 5 Combined Band Practice 9.45—11am (performance from 10.45am)

## From our Principal

Dear Families and Friends,

### Remember Tuesday Night is National Census Night

Last Friday was a very special day for Principals across Australia, as communities acknowledged the role of school leaders. I certainly felt very special, and I thank Ainslie's students, families and staff for expressing their gratitude in many ways. A colourful certificate for excellence, presented by the 1/2 classes has taken pride of place on my family's fridge!

During the week, I engaged with colleagues from the ACT's Public Schools and many across the country at a number of online forums. I know the thoughts of all at Ainslie are with friends, families and educators who are pivoting between remote and face to face learning, as the COVID situation continues to influence our lives. It is quite a context for school leadership.

We thank families for supporting COVID safety at Ainslie, with mindfulness of physical distancing, regular hand washing, staying home if family members are feeling unwell and being tested if you experience cold or flu-like symptoms. You will find Check In Canberra codes at access points around the school.

### SHARING OUR CLASSROOMS

Next Thursday afternoon, educators from Canberra schools will be visiting our classrooms to learn about some of the exemplary literacy practices our students benefit from every day. Ainslie's *Classroom Chat* workshop is recognition by the Australian Literacy Educators Association (ALEA), of which we are very proud.

We thank Faith Bentley, Janelle Jack and Claire Rummery for offering this showcase of how authentic texts, a focus on the Arts and a commitment to inquiry enable the students at Ainslie School to communicate with agency and impact.

### UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

This week we welcome the newest members of our student teacher team. We are looking forward to working with 30 University of Canberra Initial Teacher Education students who will join us each Thursday for tutorials and field work as they develop understandings about teaching the Arts. Our Year 1/2 students will work with these preservice teachers for intensive small group experiences, and staff will play an important role in supporting them to make connections between theory and practice during tutorials at our school. As we work alongside academics with diverse interests in the field of education, Ainslie's students and the education team benefit from resources and research engagement. Our affiliation with the University of Canberra grows richer each year.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Interactions with community organisations last week presented a reminder of the unique opportunities that are part of the education experience for students of Ainslie.

It was a pleasure to reconnect with Lindy Reksten of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, following the disruptions of 2020. Ainslie School's partnership with the CSO is embedded in a *Memorandum of Understanding*, and we enjoy learning with and through the expertise and resources of this organisation. How grateful we are for their interest in generating impact beyond the concert hall.

## From our Principal continued ...

Visits by our senior students to the Legislative Assembly recommenced last week, and we thank education officer Jo Cullen and her colleagues within the assembly for supporting student-led inquiry and enabling our young citizens to experience the action within the chamber.

How fortunate we are to live and learn in the heart of Canberra, where quality people, places and partnerships ensure we deliver a playful and sophisticated education for our children.

### SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SATISFACTION SURVEY

Students at Ainslie School learn and grow in a place that nurtures belonging, and supports the social, emotional and academic success of every learner every day. They benefit from the commitment staff bring to empowering them to solve problems and navigate uncertainty. Engagement with experts, learning throughout the neighbourhood and rich experiences in the arts contribute to their positive experience at Ainslie, and high quality outcomes across the curriculum. Values of kindness, respect, responsibility, excellence and community are embedded in traditions, artefacts and actions. They are explored and celebrated in the culture we enjoy each day.

This week marks the opening of the *2021 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey*. The survey offers parents, school staff and students in Years 4—12 an opportunity to share perspectives and inform the continuous improvement of the ACT's system of public schools.

The 2021 survey will be available online from 13 August until 31 August, and while your participation is voluntary we hope you will consider taking part. The perspectives you share are so important and the more responses we receive, the more useful the data will be.

A survey invitation, including a unique survey link will be emailed to families this week. If you have trouble accessing the survey, please contact our school office team, or email [EDUSurveys@act.gov.au](mailto:EDUSurveys@act.gov.au). A shortened paper version of the parent survey is available in Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Hindi, Karen, Korean, Mon, Urdu and Vietnamese. To request one, families are encouraged to email [EDUSurveys@act.gov.au](mailto:EDUSurveys@act.gov.au), however copies are also available at the Front Office.

The perceptions of our senior students will be captured through this survey over the coming weeks. We are also gathering information from year groups across the whole school in ways that meet the developmental needs of our young people. Watch Seesaw pages for more information.

### 3/4 CAMP UPDATE

Families of Ainslie's Year 3/4 students will be receiving information about the camp we have planned at Warrambui, just outside of Canberra for Term 4.

With continuing community transmission of COVID-19 in NSW, school camps and excursions outside of the ACT have been cancelled for the rest of Term 3. We will be watching ACT Government advice carefully as the term progresses and communicating any necessary adjustments to Term 4 plans as soon as possible.

### STRENGTHENING SENIOR STUDENTS

As the *YouMove* program continues to inspire our senior girls, we are looking forward to introducing the Menslink network to Ainslie School this week. A growing collaboration will see our senior boys engaging in the Silence is Deadly program, through which they will explore relationships, emotions and managing change.

These programs complement daily experiences that support positive behaviours for learning across the school and we thank families who have been providing feedback and input into the design of these initiatives. For further information, feel free to contact Faith Bentley, Beck Palethorpe, Anney Medhurst, Jess Copeman, Anne Westerman or Wayde Margetts.

### PROMOTING ACTIVE TRAVEL

This week is *Winter Walk or Ride to School Week* and we encourage you to incorporate physical activity into your daily routines - even when the weather is a little unkind. To make walking or riding a little more comfortable at this time, remember to:

- check the forecast the night before;
- layer up and accessorise with gloves, scarves and beanies;
- pack a warm drink in a thermos ready for when you arrive - or better still - pop in and see Ari and the Oishii team for a warm refreshment; and
- stay motivated by teaming up with friends and neighbours. This helps with safety too.

We hope you are able to join Ainslie's WRTS Week processions from one of our gathering points on Friday morning. Groups will once again be leaving Corroboree Park, Gorman Arts Centre and Haig Park at 8:40am.

We encourage you to visit Transport Canberra at <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/> where you'll find an Active Travel map for Ainslie School and resources to support your family to build active travel routines.

## From our Principal continued ...

### MASTERPLAN UPDATE

We thank Andrew Parkinson, Chris Jacobi (ACTED Infrastructure and Capital Works), Heritage Architect specialist Meetu Sharma and Ainslie staff and parents who are gently guiding the continuous development of the Ainslie School precinct. Meeting professional obligations for education, safety and wellbeing whilst honouring the site's heritage and social value continue to guide directions.

While we await finalisation of the *Heritage Conservation Management Plan for Ainslie*, the report is already informing change. The relocation of some professional spaces and improvements to support inclusion of children and families are current points of focus.

Families, friends and neighbours are invited to join us at school on Wednesday evening from 5—5:45pm as we connect around this important work. This week's conversation will include updates about:

- inclusion and infrastructure towards 2022; and
- collaboration with Ainslie & Gorman/Arts Capital.

All the best for the week ahead.

**Wendy Cave**  
*Principal*

## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

In the interests of keeping all students safe, medication that your child requires during the school day must be stored in the office. Ainslie's school office team manages first aid, emergency medical plans and medications for students. Please contact the Front Office team if you would like further information about our practices for supporting students with medical treatment plans.

### NOTES HOME

EVENT DETAILS	YR GROUP	DATE DUE BACK
Combined Band Practice	Yr 5 members	Information
Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire	Yr 5/6 girls	Perm note ASAP
Fuel for Thought	Kindergarten	Perm note & payment by 13/08
Camp Warrambui	Yr 3/4	Perm notes & payment by 05/10

## CONGRATULATIONS ...

... to the following students and staff who have received merit certificates.

Staff — Jess Copeman & Carolyn Macleod  
KJJ — Excellence: Vivienne, Eloise & Audrey; Community: Nicholas & Vivvan  
KSC — Kindness: Martha; Community: Harriet



## WINTER WALK & RIDE

Winter Walk & Ride to school week aims to encourage students to choose active travel by walking or riding to school even during the colder months.



Groups will leave from **Haig Park, Corroboree Park and Gorman Arts Centre at 8:40am** on Friday, 13 August. Each student will receive one raffle ticket and go in the draw for a chance to win 1 of 3 Oishii lunch vouchers. We hope you can join us.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Christian Education is available as a curriculum option at Ainslie School because parents have requested it. This is based on provisions in the Education Act 2004. The Christian Education In Schools (CEIS) project provides a coordinated service to fulfil such requests. This service includes four modern and interactive sessions each year (one per term and varied each year), prepared professionally and delivered by trained and endorsed volunteers. The one-hour sessions are designed for groups of students to discuss and explore the topics outlined in the image.

Parent permission is essential for children to participate in CEIS. If you would like to request this for your child/ren, please email [info@ainslies.act.edu.au](mailto:info@ainslies.act.edu.au) with your child/ren's name and class details. Requests remain in effect while your child is at Ainslie School, but can be changed by contacting the Front Office. (If you have already given permission for your child/ren to participate, there is no need to reapply.) The next CEIS session will be held at 9.15am on Friday, 10 September. For further information please contact the Ainslie School Front Office or visit [www.ceis.org.au](http://www.ceis.org.au).



**Cricket Gala Day**  
Ainslie School is looking to take teams to the ACT Cricket Gala Day.

**Year 3/4 and 5/6 boys — 26 October**

**Year 3/4 and 5/6 girls — 28 October**

If interested please contact **Claire Rummery** at:  
[Claire.Rummery@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Claire.Rummery@ed.act.edu.au)



## ACT BILINGUAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE LANGUAGES COMPETITION

The ACT Bilingual Education Alliance, a local non-profit community group, is running a free competition to encourage students to talk about the language/s other than English they speak at home, in the community, or are learning at school. To enter, students are invited to make a short video (maximum 2 minutes) of a conversation with a classmate, friend, or member of their family using the language as much as possible.

First prize of \$100 for each of the three categories: Preschool—Year 2, Years 3—6 and Years 7—12, plus runner-up prizes. The competition closing date is Monday, 6 September 2021.

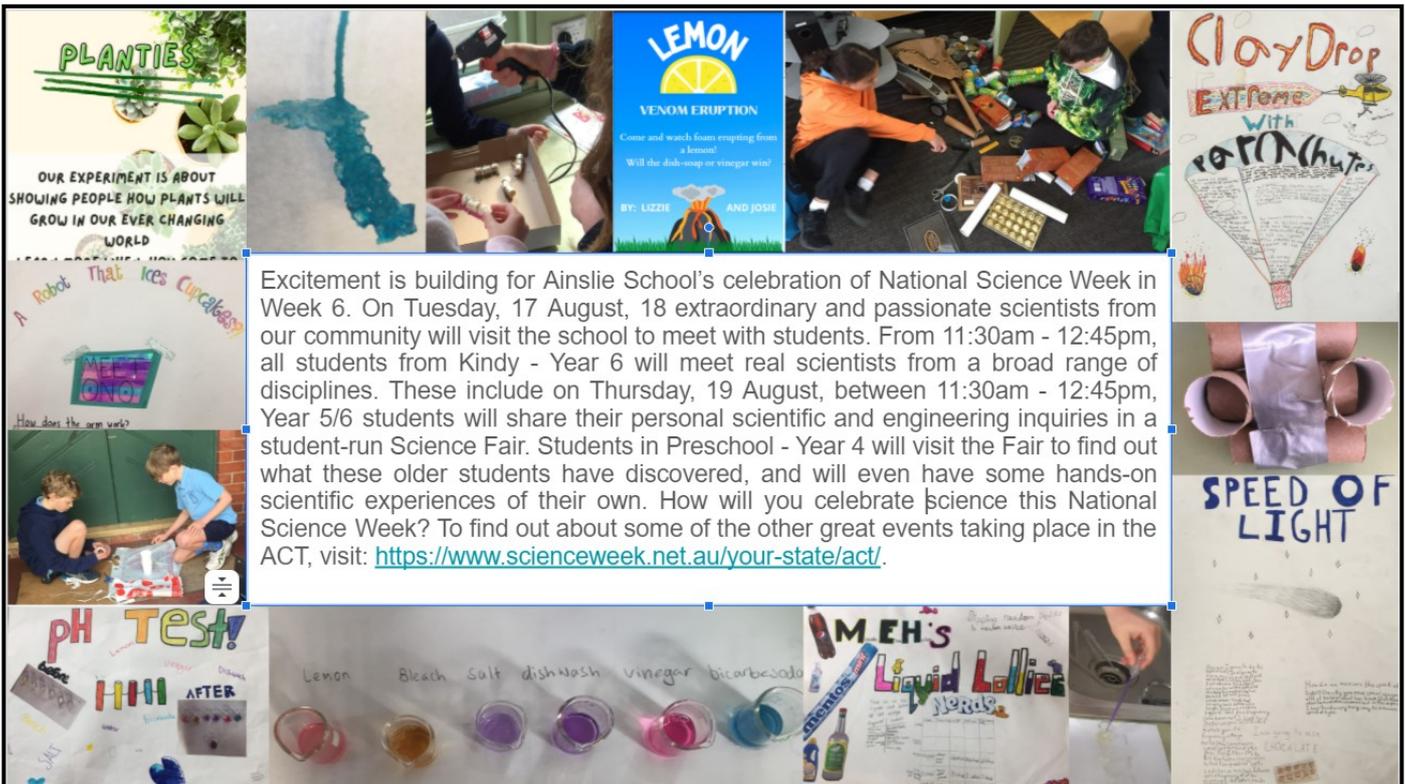
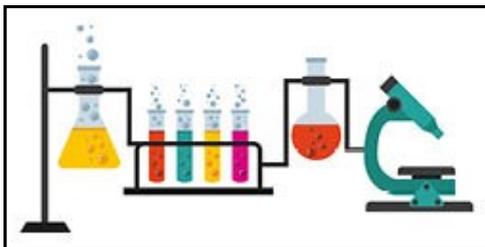
See the poster attached for more information or visit [ACT Bilingual Education Alliance](#).

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EDUCATION ADVISORY GROUP

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group (ATSIEAG) is advertising for new members. ATSIEAG supports the ACT Education Directorate by providing advice on policy formulation and program facilitation and implementation in ACT public schools and in early childhood education settings. The Group may comprise up to:

- ten Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander parent/carer representatives; and
- five representatives from higher education institutions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and service providers.

See the attached flyer for more information [ATSIEAG New Members Flyer](#)



Excitement is building for Ainslie School's celebration of National Science Week in Week 6. On Tuesday, 17 August, 18 extraordinary and passionate scientists from our community will visit the school to meet with students. From 11:30am - 12:45pm, all students from Kindy - Year 6 will meet real scientists from a broad range of disciplines. These include on Thursday, 19 August, between 11:30am - 12:45pm, Year 5/6 students will share their personal scientific and engineering inquiries in a student-run Science Fair. Students in Preschool - Year 4 will visit the Fair to find out what these older students have discovered, and will even have some hands-on scientific experiences of their own. How will you celebrate science this National Science Week? To find out about some of the other great events taking place in the ACT, visit: <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/your-state/act/>.