



ALMA News

April 2012

Qīngmíngjié(清明节) – Tombsweeping day, also known as Clear Bright Festival or Ancestors day – has been and gone, followed quickly by Easter and Anzac Day.

Qīngmíngjié is a traditional Chinese holiday in which people visit family graves or burial grounds and honour their ancestors. It falls on the 104th day after the winter solstice (either the 4th or 5th of April). It also marks the beginning of spring (in the northern hemisphere).



UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

TRAVELLING THE SILK ROAD

The ‘Travelling the Silk Road’ exhibition will be on show from the 31 March to 29 July 2012 at the National Museum of Australia.

‘Step 1000 years back in time to experience the sights, sounds and stories of the greatest trading route in history in this new exhibition from the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Prepare to embark on a thrilling journey along the greatest trading route in history – the legendary Silk Road. Explore the ancient cities of Asia and the Middle East over six centuries, where spectacular sights, exquisite silks and rousing stories await.



Remarkable dioramas, fascinating interactives and impressive artefacts will amaze children and adults alike on this adventure along the Silk Road, the world’s oldest international highway.’

TOURS TO CHINA

The Australia-China Friendship Association (NSW) is conducting an 18-day tour to southwest China departing 19 May. The itinerary includes Guangzhou, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Shangri-la, Chengdu, Jiuzhaigou and Kaiping. Contact Dr Lesley Heath for details: lesleyheath46@hotmail.com

The ACFS tour secretary, Teck Lee, is also planning a tour to China (Fujian province) and Taiwan for October 2012 – actual dates will be decided closer to the time. Contact Teck for more details: tekclee@hotmail.com.



REPORT ON ALMA ACTIVITIES

Submission to ‘Asian Century’ White Paper

ALMA has made a submission to the White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century, emphasizing the value of language learning (and specifically Mandarin) in the early childhood setting, in order for us to improve our engagement with Asia.

A copy of our submission is available at: <http://asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/public-submissions/alma.pdf>

Other submissions can be accessed at <http://asiancentury.dpmc.gov.au/published-submissions>

The conclusions of the ALMA submission are that Federal, State and Territory governments should provide:

- explicit funding support for bilingual child care and preschool programs in priority Asian languages;
- increased funding and investment in teachers and teaching resources for bilingual education programs in priority Asian languages at primary school level and beyond; and
- support for initiatives which seek to capitalise on the cultural and language knowledge already within Australia – in our multicultural population and the large numbers of international students from Asia studying in our schools and tertiary institutions.



MANDARIN COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT

义务辅导计划

This project is again in full swing, with 50 volunteer tutors and 36 Mandarin learners registered so far in 2012. Of these, 12 tutors and 12 students have taken part in the project in previous years.

Twenty-nine tutors met at ANU for a one day orientation and training workshop on Sunday 18 March – one of the biggest groups since the project began in 2001.

As in previous years, we thank Mimi Zhang and Zhang Yanyin, two experienced language teachers, for leading the workshop, and the ANU for providing the venue.

Thanks also to Lyn and Steve, who joined the project last year and came along to share their experiences of learning Mandarin and working with their tutors. We were interested to hear that Lyn is teaching her tutor German in exchange for help in Mandarin!

At the end of the afternoon, learners looking for tutors were invited to join the workshop. Tutors and learners then made their own arrangements to meet each other, usually one-on-one.

For more information, or if you are interested in registering as a volunteer tutor or a student, please see the ALMA website or email Mandy at canberraalma@gmail.com



CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

澳华幼儿中心新闻

We are delighted that the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, former Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, has accepted an invitation to visit the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre. Details are still to be confirmed, but the visit will likely take place in the second half of May.

A few places are still available at the CAECC on Fridays in the 'preschool' room (3-5 year olds). For more information contact the Director, Judy Kuzma, at panda3@netspeed.com.au or phone 6290 1566.



NEW ALMA MEMBERS 欢迎新会员

We welcome the following, who have become members in recent months:

- Andrew Primrose and family
- Anne Kenning
- Anneke Blackburn and family
- Binbin Fan
- Bing Zhen
- Cheng Tao
- Christopher Deeble
- Chun Chen and family
- Hudan Nuch
- I-Ling Angela Liu
- Janet Ho
- Jiang WEN
- Kai Chen
- Kelly McGorm and family
- Keong Chung Chian and family

Lydia Zhang
Lyn Willson
Rachel Thompson and family
Robert Sheldrake
Salmah Lawrence
Shanshan Cai
Sheng Wang
Stephen Ginpil
Sze Wing Venus Milliken and family
Tawhia Tamehana and family
Wang Xiao Nan and family
Xiaoling Zhao
Ying Zhao and family
Yun Chen and family
Zhiying Zhang



OTHER NEWS AND VIEWS

MAWSON PRIMARY – MANDARIN IMMERSION PROGRAM

Mawson Primary School has extended its Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP) to include kindergarten students this year. Currently, 21 kindergarten students have commenced the one-day language program (MIP).

The MIP is unique in Canberra, with Mawson the only primary school to offer students the opportunity to learn Mandarin in a more intensive setting.

Through Mandarin language, the MIP kindergarten students learn parts of the regular kindergarten curriculum. In Years 3-6, students have the opportunity to extend their Mandarin language learning to two days each week.

MANDARIN PLAYGROUP

'Mandarin for fun' is continuing this year, with two sessions: Tuesday afternoons (3.30–4.30pm, West Belconnen Child and Family Centre, Kippax) and every second Saturday (10.00–11.30am, ACT Playgroups Association, Cook). The group is aimed at 2-5 year olds. It is also planning to start a Mandarin tuition program.

For more information, please email mandarinforfun@gmail.com

MANDARIN EVENING CLASSES FOR ADULTS

The following community education courses begin in early May. Classes run for 8 weeks and cost between \$140 and \$155.

Mandarin for Beginners and Travellers, Thursday evenings at The Brain Gym in Woden. For details, phone 6205 6786 or see www.westonbraingym.com.au

Mandarin Beginning (Tuesday evenings), Continuing (Thursday) and Advanced (Wednesday) at Lake Nite Learning, Belconnen. For details, phone 6205 6665 or see www.lakenitelearning.com.au

Mandarin classes, Tuesday evening at Erindale College. For details, phone 6205 8107 or see www.erindalececp.com.au

SCHOOLS TEACHING MANDARIN IN THE ACT

See Page 4 for a list of schools in the ACT that we understand teach Chinese (Mandarin). Please let us know if you are aware of any others.

OTHER NEWS

The New York Times carried a good article recently about the benefits of bilingualism:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html>



Contributions to ALMA news and updates welcome

Please email canberraalma@gmail.com by 30 June 2012.

NOTE: Decisions on publication remain at the discretion of the editor

For more information about ALMA and to see past ALMA newsletters visit **OUR NEW WEBSITE** at

<http://learningmandarin.weebly.com>

ACT schools teaching Mandarin

PRIMARY

Mawson Primary School
Ainsworth Street, Mawson
Ph: 6205 8033

Torrens Primary School
Ritchie Street, Torrens
Ph: 6205 7411

HIGH SCHOOL

Canberra High School
Bindubi Street, Macquarie
Ph: 6205 6711

Melba Copland Secondary School
Conley Drive, Melba
Ph: 6205 7000

Melrose High School
Marr Street, Pearce
Ph: 6205 7588

SECONDARY COLLEGE

Canberra College
Launceston Street, Phillip
Ph: 6205 6787

Dickson College
Phillip Avenue, Dickson
Ph: 6205 6455

Gungahlin College
Gozzard Street, Gungahlin
Ph: 6142 1000

Hawker College
Murrnaji Street, Hawker
Ph: 6205 7744

Lake Ginninderra College
Emu Bank, Belconnen
Ph: 6205 7099

Lake Tuggeranong College
Cowlshaw Street, Tuggeranong
Ph: 6205 6222

Narrabundah College
Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah
Ph: 6205 6999

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COMBINED

Brindabella Christian College
Brigalow Street, Lyneham
Ph: 7247 4644

Canberra Boys Grammar
Monaro Crescent, Red Hill
Ph: 6260 9700

Kingsford Smith School
Starke Street, Holt
Ph: 6207 4455

Radford College
College Street, Bruce
Ph: 6162 6200

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE SCHOOLS offer Mandarin classes at weekends
For details see <http://learningmandarin.weebly.com/community-language-schools.html>