

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all and welcome to our new ALMA members!

It has been a busy and successful few months at the childcare centre with new equipment and brilliant assessment and rating results. It is very rewarding to see the wonderful work Annette, Zilla and all our educators do with our children be officially acknowledged. I'm very proud to be associated with such a quality bilingual childcare centre. Well done and thank you to the entire team at CAECC.

Elizabeth Courtois, the principal at Mawson Primary School, included this in their most recent newsletter:

'I regularly meet with my cluster principal colleagues and one issue that has been on the agenda for the past three years is an advanced Mandarin class at Melrose High School. I met with Simon Vaughan, the Principal of Melrose High School, last week and he emailed me yesterday to confirm that 2022 will be the year that Melrose will offer a continuing Mandarin program. The Executive Teacher for Languages will work with our Mandarin teachers to develop the curriculum. This is great news.'

ALMA is thrilled that there will be an option in Canberra for Mawson students who have done the Mandarin Immersion Program to continue their Mandarin studies at an advanced level!

Wishing our families a safe and healthy winter!

Kate Friend  
ALMA President

## DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

The Dragon Boat Festival or *Duanwu Jie* 端午节 falls on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, which this year is Monday, 14 June.



Traditional customs include racing dragon boats and eating glutinous rice wrapped in reed or bamboo leaves - *zongzi* 粽子. Fillings can be savoury (pork, sausage or duck eggs) or sweet (bean paste, jujube or nuts).

Why not bring family and friends to the 2021 Dragon Boat Festival on Sunday 13 June 2021, 10.30am to 3.30pm at Beijing Garden Flynn Drive, Yarralumla ACT 2600.

**ALMA  
NEWS  
JUNE  
2021**

Association for Learning  
MANDARIN  
汉语  
in Australia Inc

澳大利亚学汉语协会

Free activities include cultural games, a kungfu show, tea ceremony, calligraphy, origami, traditional dancing, singing, poetry reading, a talk show and a dragon and lion dance. There will also be a dragon boat racing demonstration 11am-12noon on Lake Burley Griffin featuring several teams from Dragon Boat ACT. Food stalls will operate from 10.30am to 3.30pm selling traditional street food, festival food and traditional Asian food. Free morning tea and *zongzi* will also be provided.



This event has been organised by Dragon Boat ACT, Oriental City News and the Chinese Voice program of FM91.1 Canberra Multicultural Service (1CMS).

Please contact [joannazhang.ostar@gmail.com](mailto:joannazhang.ostar@gmail.com) for more details.

## CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE (CAECC)

### 澳华幼儿教育中心新闻

It's already June and we have had an exciting and busy year.



On 28 April we received the results of our Assessment and Rating and once again the CAECC was rated

an Exceeding Education and Care Service. We are so grateful for our educators who continue to work so professionally to maintain high quality education and care for young children.

Our enrolments continue to grow with a high number of babies in our infant/toddler room this year.

Our new preschool playground with large shade sails, new soft fall, a bike track and a fort with two slides is finished.



We celebrated this with a grand opening combined with our Mother's Day afternoon tea. A few former ALMA committee members were invited to take part in the event.

The children have had several incursions over the past few months with Kenny Koala visiting twice. He talked with the children about keeping safe on the road and Staying OK in the community.

The tooth fairy visited and taught the children all about their teeth and how to keep them healthy.

The hatching chicks' program taught the children about the life cycle of chickens and ducks.

Duncan Smith OAM visited with his family, Lorraine and Jakida from Wiradjuri Echoes. They taught us about indigenous culture, and demonstrated the didgeridoo, weapons and other interesting objects. The children were thrilled to do the rainbow serpent dance.

We are very proud to offer a distinctive bilingual educational program that supports and nurtures the holistic development of our children.

Annette Chemin  
Director, CAECC

## ALMA ACTIVITIES

### Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

We continue to receive registrations from both learners of Mandarin wanting to meet fluent speakers to practice what they are learning – or to keep up skills in Chinese acquired in the past – and volunteers who are keen to share their knowledge of Chinese language and culture.

Fluent Mandarin speakers join the project for a variety of reasons - the opportunity to meet new people, practice their English, gain tutoring experience and, in the case of one or two advanced learners, the chance to help others while further consolidating their own Chinese skills.

For more details about the project, or if you would like to register - as either a learner or volunteer tutor - visit the [Mandarin Community Tutoring page](#) on the ALMA website.



### Mandarin radio program

We have been trying to change the timing of our Mandarin language program as Friday evening is a particularly busy time for presenters. However, due to a shortage of alternative time slots, we continue to broadcast on Fridays from 7pm to 7.30pm on radio 2XX 98.3 FM. Listeners, of course, can hear the program at any time as each program is recorded and available for about five weeks through the 2XX website at <http://www.2xxfm.org.au/>. Just click ON DEMAND and find the Mandarin program in the program guide. We understand the 2XX website is being upgraded so access to previous programs may soon become even more straightforward.

Association for Learning Mandarin in Australia Inc (ALMA) 50 Ainsworth St, Mawson, ACT 2607  
A non-profit community organization "Helping Australian to learn Mandarin" ABN: 99 625 121 550  
Website: <https://www.learningmandarin Canberra.org/>

Some of the children's songs we play as part of every program have been sent to us by Richard Wan, a Singaporean songwriter and animation producer involved in Singapore's 'We Love Bilingualism' project. While some of the songs relate more to kids growing up in Singapore, others are a fun way to learn and practice Mandarin and are accompanied by beautiful videos. Richard has recently written to ALMA about his newly produced animation music videos for Environment Day 2021. Links to all these bilingual videos can be found on the '[Weekly radio show](#)' page on the ALMA website.

Finally, don't forget that we welcome recordings of your own children singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin for broadcast on the show. This has proved to be a good way to encourage interest in learning and speaking Mandarin. Just email the recording (MP3 format preferred) to [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com)

### Interested in learning and practicing Mandarin in the ACT region?

The ALMA website has information about the many programs and other opportunities in the ACT region to learn and develop Mandarin language skills - for both children and adults. Details are available at <https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/learning-mandarin-in-australia.html>

If you know of other programs or find that some of the information listed is out of date, please let us know at [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com).

## NEW ALMA MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new members of ALMA:

- Grace CRAIG
- Katie ROSS and family
- Tao CHEN and family
- Cindy LEE and family
- Youssef BIBAR and family

## ALMA NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Please email items for the next newsletter to [canberraalma@gmail.com](mailto:canberraalma@gmail.com) by 15 August 2021.

## OTHER NEWS

### Panda Competition 2021

This annual competition is open to students at pre-school, primary and high school levels in the ACT and Queanbeyan. The topic this year is traditional Chinese games.

Students are asked to creatively focus on an aspect of this topic. Their entry could be

- a drawing or painting
- a collage or 3-dimensional construction
- a poem or other creative effort appropriate to the student's age and school grade
- a colouring-in piece as an option for pre-school and Year 1 and 2 students

Entries must be received no later than **5pm Sunday 19 September**.

More details and an entry form can be downloaded from the Activities and Events page of the ALMA website or obtained from the competition organisers, the ACT Branch of the Australia China Friendship Society, by emailing [acfsact@gmail.com](mailto:acfsact@gmail.com)

### ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble

There is still time to catch the ANU Classical Chinese Music Ensemble performing for the City Renewal Authority's Lunchbox Acoustic Program in Civic. Pop along to City Walk, near the Carousel, and see and hear them perform on Monday 21 June from 12 noon to 1.20pm.



To sign up to receive news and updates about the ensemble, or for more information about their aims, activities and opportunities to join them, see their website at <http://anuccme.com/>

### China in the World (CIW) at the ANU

The Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW) at the ANU (中华全球研究中心) provides a wealth of interesting talks, discussions, news and commentary about all things Chinese. The majority of their events are free and open to the general public. Keep an eye on their website at <http://ciw.anu.edu.au/> for more information.