

Association for
Learning

MANDARIN

汉语

in Australia Inc

ALMA NEWS

JUNE 2023

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Winter! It seems we are in for a cold winter this year. May definitely gave us a taste of what we are in for.

I thought I would provide an update on events happening at Mawson Primary. For those who are new to ALMA, Mawson Primary provides a bilingual program as part of their curriculum. The model follows an immersion program between Chinese and English. The Mandarin Immersion Teaching team have planned some fantastic events for the students this term.

Students have had a visit from the Carrousel Theatre. Students from Kindergarten to Year 2 participated in an hour long English/Chinese bilingual puppet show of 'Aladdin 阿拉丁神灯'

Later on in the term, all students will take part in a Dragon Boat Festival Celebration Day. The Dragon Boat Festival (端午节 Duān wǔ jié) is celebrated on the 5th day of the 5th month of the Chinese lunar calendar (农历 nóng lì), which falls on Thursday 22 June this year. It is one of the traditional and important Chinese Festivals that has been celebrated by Chinese people for thousands of years. Students will have the opportunity to learn what is the Dragon Boat Festival, why it is celebrated and how people celebrate this festival through a variety of activities.

Stay warm and healthy.

Best Wishes

Charlotte Foster

ALMA President



CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

At CAECC, children learn Mandarin through planned play experiences mostly based on children's interest and needs. We are starting to use the Early Years Planning Cycle version 2.0. This is where we observe the children, assess their learning, and draw on the information gathered to then plan to extend their learning and thinking. The plan is added to the program and implemented, then evaluated and reflected on. This gives us possibilities for moving forward in extending the children's learning.

In the past few months, the children have been learning about Aboriginal culture by printing Aboriginal symbols in sand, and listening to Aboriginal stories. Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives is a shared responsibility of all approved providers, educators, and other professionals working in early childhood educational settings, regardless of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are present.

The preschoolers have also learnt about reptiles and volcanoes. We had an exciting visit from the Reptile zoo where the children had the opportunity to see reptiles in real life.

Through these experiences the children continue to increase their language skills in Mandarin and English (particularly important for children whose first language is not English). As each child learns language at a different pace, there will be different results at the end of their stay with us. Some children will be able to use small sentences in Mandarin, some only some words and some may be reluctant to use any at all, however much they can understand.

In the infants and toddlers room we have had a lot of young babies start at the end of March. When young children start in our care, we work on building strong trusting relationships with them. For when children feel safe, secure and supported they grow in confidence to explore and learn.

The children will be celebrating the Dragon Boat Festival doing a number of learning experiences. They will construct and decorate some dragon boats and have a race. They will also have the opportunity to make Zongzi and listen to stories about the custom of the Dragon Boat Festival.

I'll leave you with this quote from O. Fred Donaldson, M.D. "Children not only acquire knowledge and skills through play but also develop essential learning skills such as curiosity, persistence, and adaptability".

Thank you

Annette Chemin
Director, CAECC

ALMA ACTIVITIES

Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

Our tutoring project currently has 16 participants. In contrast to previous years, only a minority are studying at university level, with three of the learners enrolled in Mandarin programs at the ANU and two of the tutors being graduate students there. The project is open to all adults in the ACT area who are learning Chinese or have learned the language in the past, and to fluent speakers of Mandarin who would like to volunteer an hour or so each week to share their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. You can register at any time.

For more information about the project and how to get involved, as either a tutor or a learner, please see the Tutoring page on the ALMA website or email us at canberraalma@gmail.com.



Mandarin radio program on community radio 2XX

ALMA is pleased to still be co-presenting these weekly broadcasts. They aim to connect with the local Mandarin speaking community and to encourage the use and learning of Mandarin, especially among young families. We narrate a short story in Mandarin each week and talk about the meaning and vocabulary in both Chinese and English. We also play fun children's songs, share Chinese music and discuss local news. You can hear the program at 98.3 FM every Friday evening from 7pm to 7.30pm or listen online at www.2xxfm.org.au. Previous programs are also available via that web address.

We welcome feedback or input from listeners and are happy to broadcast recordings of children singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin. It is a great way to encourage youngsters to speak and practice the Mandarin they are learning at home, preschool or school.

For more information, email canberraalma@gmail.com.

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Amber Kergrohen and family
- Zhen Zhang and family
- Marah Muhlis and family

OTHER NEWS

Volunteers at Mawson Primary

Mawson Primary is still looking for native speakers of Chinese to help each week with children's reading at the school. The students are in the immersion program. Mawson Primary is the only school in the ACT where fifty per cent of the curriculum is taught in Mandarin.

For more information contact Constance at Constance.Chen@ed.act.edu.au.

Opportunities to practice Mandarin in Canberra

University of the 3rd age (U3A)

It's not only young folk who want to pick up Mandarin. U3A has had 2 classes running over the past 4 years - one online, and one face to face. Participants are over 50 and members of U3A. They meet weekly during school terms to learn a song, pick up a proverb, discuss their own lives in Mandarin - as well as follow a textbook course. There are no plans for a new beginner course, but if you have some prior knowledge you would be welcome to join a current class.

Weekly Chinese Conversation Class in Woden

Weekly meet up at Woden library or the Southern Cross Club – alternate Friday and Sunday mornings. For HSK4 standard and above. Native speakers welcome.

Contact Claire on 0412 305 538 if you are interested in either of the above

Panda Competition 2023

- Open to students from Pre-school to high school level in the ACT and Queanbeyan.
- Theme: The Dragon Boat Festival
- Closing date: 5pm Sunday 23 September 2023

Students can do a drawing or painting, create works such as a collage, poem or 3-dimensional construction appropriate to the student's age and school grade. Pre-school, Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 students can also enter a colouring-in piece.

Further information available here: <http://acfs.org.au/panda-competition/>.

Canberra Moon Festival 2023

- 8 – 10 September 2023
- City Walk and Garema Place

Keep an eye on <https://www.canberramoonfestival.com.au/> for more details

2023 Canberra Chinese Culture Camp

Open to children from 5 years old, young people and adults with a love of Chinese culture.

- Monday 3 July to Thursday 13 July (except Sunday 9 July)
- 9am - 12.15pm and/or 1.15pm – 4.30pm
- Burgmann Anglican School, Valley Avenue, Gungahlin
- Cost: up to \$250 for five full days plus small fee for materials
 - Morning only, afternoon only and single day rates also available
 - Early bird special if paid by 16 June

Subjects & Workshops include

Chinese Traditional Arts & Crafts 中国传统艺术, Kite Making 风筝制作, Paper Fans Decoration 团扇折扇, Dough Sculpture 面塑, Paper Cutting 剪纸, Calligraphy 书法, Chinese Painting 国画, Chinese Martial Arts 中国武术, Folk Songs 民族歌曲, Dance 民族舞蹈, Drum 大鼓 and Er Hu 二胡

For more details:

Email ascc@trilong.com.au or see <https://forms.gle/zGEkU4odKB7hxrEy8>

Hosted by the Australian School of Contemporary Chinese (ASCC). Organised by the Shandong Overseas Exchange Association and ACT Chinese Teachers Association

Sailing to our Dreams 让梦想启航

This Chinese/English music and poetry festival stars, and is being produced by, Xiao Jun 晓君, a Canberra-based teacher, writer, photographer, entrepreneur and singer who has had a long association with ALMA.

Xiao Jun and friends welcome you to this live concert and life talk show

- Saturday 23 September 6.30pm–9pm
- Sydney Town Hall, George Street, Sydney
- Ticket prices: \$80, \$70, \$60, \$50

For more information and/or to book:

City Photography League ACT Association 储晨 0423908819 or

张晓君 Xiao Jun Zhang at mzhang@iinet.com.au or 0402399637

MANDARIN PODCASTS

- Ximalaya (喜马拉雅) (App/Website): <https://www.ximalaya.com/> (A guide on how to use Ximalaya: <https://chalkacademy.com/how-to-use-ximalaya-cant-read-chinese/>)
- Parenting Story App (親子天下有聲書): <https://storyapp.parenting.com.tw/>
- ABC Storytime in Mandarin (Beginner): <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-abc-storytime-podcast/id1546174165>
- Playful Chinese (Beginner): <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-abc-storytime-podcast/id1546174165>
- Overseas Kids Chinese Channel (海外兒童中文頻道) (Intermediate): <https://podcasts.apple.com/tw/podcast/%E6%B5%B7%E5%A4%96%E5%85%92%E7%AB%A5%E4%B8%AD%E6%96%87%E9%A0%BB%E9%81%93-mandarin-podcast-for-kids/id1519177196>
- Uncle Wei Duo's Story Bus (維多叔叔的故事歡樂車) (Advance): <https://podcast.app/-p917661/>
- Open Little Ears (打開小耳朵) (Advance): <https://podcasts.apple.com/tw/podcast/%E6%89%93%E9%96%8B%E5%B0%8F%E8%80%B3%E6%9C%B5/id1582737271>
- World News for Kids (兒童世界報報) (Advance): <https://podcasts.apple.com/tw/podcast/%E5%85%92%E7%AB%A5%E4%B8%96%E7%95%8C%E5%A0%B1%E5%A0%B1-broadcast-4-kids/id1636822889>

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALMA NEWS?

Please email items for the next newsletter to canberraalma@gmail.com by 15 August 2023.