

Association for
Learning
MANDARIN

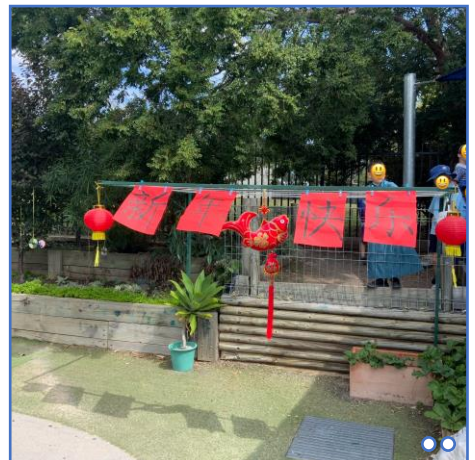
汉语

in Australia Inc

ALMA NEWS
MARCH 2024

CAECC LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

On 7 February 2024, the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre celebrated Lunar New Year with families and friends. We had lion dance (舞狮), calligraphy (书法) and a Chinese zither performance (古筝). Children also sang a Chinese New Year song (新年好). Wishing everyone a prosperous and fruitful year in the year of the Dragon.



UPCOMING CHINESE FESTIVALS

- Tomb Sweeping Day 清明节 – 4/4/2024 (Thursday)
- Dragon Boat Festival 端午节 – 10/6/2024 (Monday)

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/>

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

新年快乐，恭喜发财！ Happy Lunar New Year of the Dragon.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the festivities as well as being with families and friends to welcome the new year with fun and excitement.

Our newly formed Community and Engagement working group members kickstarted the celebration by organising excellent Lunar New Year activities at the Centre with both the children and parents having a wonderful time. My thanks also to those who were involved in the organisation and the logistics aspect of the activities.

While in Canberra, I was able to attend the Lantern festival held in Beijing Park with Teddy (Kai Kai) and it was so lovely to see one of our Centre educators perform a musical item, in addition to seeing many friends and children from the Centre turn out that evening to watch the lion dance with LED lights and the dragon dance.

As we begin the year of the Dragon, if you are like me, who is a bit rusty in listening to spoken Mandarin, it's never too late to make a Lunar New Year resolution to tune in more often to the 30-minute bilingual radio program on 2XX Friday evenings from 7pm to improve you and your child's listening skills. The programs are also able to be downloaded to be played at anytime, for example, on future road trips for school holidays. See the other ALMA activities and learning opportunities items in the newsletter for further tips.

Lastly, a warm welcome to our new members who have joined since our last newsletter. There are numerous ways you can get involved in ALMA's activities and we would welcome all input onto the committee to maintain our strong commitment to Mandarin education and quality early childhood education. Please get in touch via the ALMA website or email. I look forward to meeting with you at many of our events planned for the year.

Adelina Tan 陈莉娜

ALMA President

NEW ALMA MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Giridhar Kowtal
- Xiaonan Chen
- Katrin Praseli
- Bella Townsend
- Clarissa Lai
- Philip Leach
- Ludeng Huang
- Ivy Shum
- Yu Mao
- Josephine Searl
- Kali Yuan
- Joanne Van
- Kefu Li
- Malith Ramasundara
- Zhijie Zhou

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

We have had a very exciting start to the Year of the Dragon, with our Chinese/Lunar New Year Festivities on the 7th February. The celebrations started with our children beautifully dressed up in Chinese costumes, the mini Lion Dance 舞狮 by Yut Hung Kung Fu, followed by Chinese Calligraphy presentation 新春挥毫 by Samuel Wong, a Chinese instrument appreciation 古筝表演 by YaSong, ending with Lunar New Year refreshment & afternoon tea 下午茶. A BIG Thank you to Chiew Yi and Margareta from the ALMA Committee for organising this, It was wonderful afternoon.

This year we have Wiradjuri Echoes to our educational program; this program gives the children an opportunity to learn about the culture of Australia's First Nations People and embeds the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective at the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre.

We have so many new children starting in February, lots of babies under two.

Our educators have been building nurturing relationships with the children, these relationships build trust and enables the children to love learning for life.

At the Centre, the children learn by play, our educators using Mandarin as they engage with the children during learning experiences, story time, music time and in everyday conversation. Play improves cognitive, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Through play, children learn about the world and themselves. They also learn skills they need for study, work and relationships, such as confidence.

Our centre being bilingual has added benefits as research indicates that bilingualism influences children's ultimate acquisition of literacy through the beneficial effects of bilingualism.

Annette Chemin

CAECC Director



ALMA ACTIVITIES



Mandarin Community Tutoring Project

This free project coordinated by ALMA is open to all adults who are currently learning Chinese or have learned the language in the past and would like to keep up their skills.

We introduce learners to fluent speakers of Chinese who have volunteered to share their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. Tutor and learner then make their own arrangements to meet, usually one-on-one, once a week, at a time and place to suit both sides.

For more information about the project and how to get involved, as either a tutor or a learner, visit the Mandarin Community Tutoring page on the ALMA website.

Link: <https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/mandarin-community-tutoring.html>



Mandarin radio program on community radio 2XX

Have you listened to our weekly bilingual program on Community Radio 2XX? The major aim is to promote the use and learning of Mandarin in the ACT area, especially among young families. You can listen live on Friday evenings (7.00-7.30pm) on 98.3 FM or online at www.2xxfm.org.au, or later through the 'On Demand' link at the same web address.

We welcome recordings from listeners for inclusion in the program, especially of children - singing a song or reading a short story or poem in Mandarin. Hearing themselves on the radio is a great way to encourage children to speak and practice the Mandarin they are learning at home, preschool or school. Just send a recording, with transcript if possible, to canberraalma@gmail.com.

MANDARIN LEARNING AND TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Free weekly Chinese conversation group

- For intermediate and advanced-level speakers
- Canberra Southern Cross Woden
- 10.30am-11.30am: Friday one week and Sunday the next
- Free and all welcome, including native speakers.
- No obligation to come every week.

Below is a photo of the group on Friday 23 February. More details from Claire (pictured third right) on 0412 305 538.



Mandarin classes with U3A

Classes for adults aged 50 or over. Both beginning and continuing levels. More information from Claire at 0412 305 538

Mandarin Friendship Hub 中文之友会

A free global initiative run by a small group of experienced Mandarin teachers from Australia. The aim is to provide a safe and comfortable space for intermediate and advanced learners to come and practise spoken Mandarin with professional teachers and other learners who share a common passion for Mandarin learning.

More details at <https://sites.google.com/view/zhongwenzhiyouhui/home>

Links and information on the ALMA website

For more information about opportunities to learn and build on your Chinese language skills, particularly in the ACT region – for both adults and children see

<https://www.learningmandarincanberra.org/learning-mandarin-in-australia.html>

OTHER NEWS

China in the World (CIW) at the ANU 澳洲国立大学中华全球研究中心

CIW at the ANU has discussions and exhibitions about all things Chinese. Most events are free and open to the general public. Keep an eye on the CIW website for details (<https://ciw.anu.edu.au/>).

Current and upcoming events at the CIW (Building 188, Fellows Lane, ANU) include:

Exhibition: Assembly

- 12 February – 24 May, Monday – Friday, plus selected weekends
- 9am – 5pm
- CIW Gallery

This exhibition brings together eight Hong Kong-born artists from different generations of the diaspora. Assembly explores the act of ‘making sense’ of layers and fragments, of memories and stories, told or untold.

Artists include Chun Yin Rainbow Chan 陳雋然, Nikki Lam, Pamela Leung, and John Young AM 楊子榮.

Ancient Echoes: Jazz music meets classical Chinese poetry

- Saturday 16 March 2pm – 3pm
- CIW Auditorium
- Free but booking required

An afternoon of music by the Taipei-based jazz collective Zy the Way 中庸. They blend 3000-year-old ancient Chinese poetry from the Book of Songs (Shijing 詩經) with original jazz for a thought-provoking sonic experience. CIW Postdoctoral Fellow Annie Ren will provide translations and exegesis of the poems in between songs.

For more details and to book: <https://events.humanitix.com/ancient-echoes-jazz-music-meets-classical-chinese-poetry>

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALMA NEWS?

Please email items for the next newsletter to canberraalma@gmail.com by 15 May 2024.