



ALMA News

January 2012

Happy new year, and welcome to 2012.

Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, (春节 chūnjié) is just around the corner, with the new year commencing on 23 January. Chinese families traditionally get together on the eve of Spring Festival (ie, 22 January this year) for a celebratory dinner, and red envelopes of money are given to children.



The coming year will be the year of the dragon, which is believed to represent excitement, unpredictability, and intensity – although the water element this year may have some calming affect. People born under the sign of the dragon are generally believed to be blessed with good fortune.



UPCOMING EVENTS 活动预告

LANTERN MAKING AND LANTERN FESTIVAL

Lantern making workshop, Saturday 28 January, 2:00-4:00pm

Cook Community Hub, 41 Templeton St, Cook

Make a lantern and then join the lantern parade at the Lantern Festival on 4 February (see below). For adults and children (young children will need to be accompanied by parents). Bring a cutting board, scissors, ruler and pencil.

Bookings are essential. Please email acfsevent@gmail.com or call Jean on 6254 7732. Cost is \$3 per person.

Lantern Festival, Saturday 4 February, 6:15-9:00pm

Commonwealth Park (between the Pergola and the Rond Terraces, below Anzac Parade)

Enjoy the colour and spectacle of the Lantern Festival. Entertainment includes Chinese classical music, children's dance groups, the Prosperous Mountain Lion Dance Troupe and a kung fu demonstration. The evening concludes with a lantern parade (bring your own or buy a lantern on the night – proceeds going to support Project Hope students in China), followed by free sparklers for children.

There will be prizes for the best hand-made lanterns.

For further information ring Carol on 62478231 or email acfsevent@gmail.com

LANGUAGES STALL AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Sunday 12 February

Come and visit the ACT Bilingual Education Alliance (ACTBEA)'s information stall in Civic during the multicultural festival on Sunday 12 February. The stall will promote the benefits of learning languages and provide information about language services and programs in the ACT area.

Contact canberrabilingual@gmail.com or visit <http://actbilingual.weebly.com> for more details.

CHILDREN'S SANCTUARY AT THE MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, 11 February, 10:00am-5:00pm

Come and sample the activities at the Children's Sanctuary, designed for children under 12 and their parents (who must supervise their children at all times). ACTBEA has been invited to organize story telling in various languages.

Children can also enjoy face painting, art and craft activities and children's performances, while there will be free massages for parents.

If you would like to tell a story or two in English and/or another language OR have story books in various languages that families could look at, please contact Mandy or Marina at canberrabilingual@gmail.com

'CHINESE NEW YEAR IN THE CITY', MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, 12 February

A Chinese New Year special will be one of the signature events at this year's multicultural festival. One of the highlights will be performances by a Chinese middle school art troupe - the group will perform a combination of Chinese folk dances, kung fu, and Chinese musical instrument recitals.

Children from the Chinese Australian Early Childhood Centre (managed by ALMA) will also perform a few songs. Precise timing is not yet confirmed. For more information regarding the children's performance, please contact Alison_keys06@yahoo.com.au.



REPORT ON ALMA ACTIVITIES

ALMA AGM

The following ALMA members were elected to the committee at the ALMA AGM on Saturday 22 October 2011:

President: Ian Maclean

Vice President: Len Waugh

Secretary: Mandy Scott

Treasurer: Harry Hao

General Committee members: Alison Keys, Bridget O'Connor, Janaline Oh, Michelle Lander

At the first ALMA meeting on 1 December, Richard Singer was co-opted to the committee, making 5 general committee members.

The President presented the ALMA committee's report of activities in 2010/2011 at the AGM. Please see <http://alma.anu.edu.au/ALMACommitteeReport2011.pdf> for a copy.



Congratulations to all children and staff for the wonderful Christmas concert on 9 December 2011.

The upgrade to the toddler outdoor play area, which was commenced in October, has been completed, with the play area expanded to allow some natural surfaces and allow the children to have access to plants, shrubs and established trees to provide natural shade cover.

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





MANDARIN COMMUNITY TUTORING PROJECT

义务辅导计划

Would you like to meet a volunteer tutor to help you improve and practice your Mandarin skills? Or are you a Mandarin speaker who would like to share your knowledge of Chinese language and culture and make new friends in the community?

For more information about the project and to register your interest in being a tutor or student, please visit the ALMA website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>



NEW ALMA MEMBERS

欢迎新会员

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

Glynnis-Anne (Anna) Buckley and family

Hudan Nuch

Juan Juan Zhu and family

Keong Chung (Davin) and family

Laura Buitinda and family

Ling Zheng and family

Patricia Reynolds and family

Rhonda Dotson and family

Xin Lin Goh and family

Yun Chen and family



OTHER NEWS AND VIEWS

Mawson Primary School

We were delighted to learn that Mawson Primary School has decided to extend its Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP) to commence in Kindergarten this year, with one day each week being conducted in Mandarin. The MIP from Grades 3-6 remains unchanged at two days each week.



Mandarin Playgroup

'Mandarin for fun' will be running again in 2012, with two timing options available - 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). It is aimed at 2-5 year olds. For more information, email mandarinforfun@gmail.com.

Other language learning news

Regrettably, we have heard that there have been some reductions in funding for the language specific networks that support the professional development of language teachers at school level in the ACT. These networks are very important as they allow language teachers to meet teachers of the same language from other schools to help improve program planning and delivery.

We have also learnt that CIT will no longer offer Certificate III and IV language courses in Mandarin, Japanese, French and Spanish from 2012, and that all levels of the Certificate will cease to be offered from 2013. This removes one of the few ways Canberrans working full-time from 9 to 5 can study another language to a reasonable level of fluency in an accredited program.

Also discontinued is the part-time Graduate Diploma in Languages at the University of Canberra, which was available in Mandarin, Spanish, and Japanese.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALMA NEWS AND UPDATES WELCOME

Please email canberraalma@gmail.com by 31 March 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 website at <http://alma.anu.edu.au>