

OUR CBR

Gungahlin edition

February 2020

Free education for three-year-olds starts



A group of Gungahlin's three-year-old children will start receiving free early childhood education this month.

The children are part of a trial offering 15 hours a week of free education for three-year-olds.

The program will start at two locations in Gungahlin.

→ More at education.act.gov.au/early-childhood

In our back-to-school issue

- More psychologists in schools
- New school places across Gungahlin



A message from the Chief Minister

This summer's bushfires in our region, and associated smoke, have been a challenge for all Canberrans and I thank you all for your patience and hard work over recent weeks.

I would particularly like to thank our staff at the ACT Emergency Services Agency, Canberra Health Services and ACT Health, and the ACT Rural Fire Service volunteers, for keeping our community safe and healthy in difficult and testing circumstances.

I'm proud of the amazing community spirit Canberrans have shown over the summer and the ACT Government will continue to work hard to protect Canberrans throughout the remainder of the bushfire season.

Andrew Barr



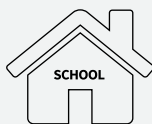
MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN

The Our CBR email newsletter is now published fortnightly.

→ Sign up at act.gov.au/ourcbrsubscribe



School cleaners now on staff



Canberra's school cleaners are now ACT Public Service staff.

More than 300 former contract cleaners have accepted secure jobs with the ACT Government.

→ More at act.gov.au/ourcanberra



From left to right: Sahlu Mebrahru, Ucubatisae, Van Phuc Le, Kiba Lhamo, Kinley Pem and Lydia Utting.

Devices for all high school students

Every ACT public high school student will have use of a Chromebook this year.

This enables all students to access a device regardless of family circumstances.



New Motor Accident Injuries Scheme in place



If you are injured in a motor vehicle accident from 1 February you will receive fairer, faster and more comprehensive support under the ACT's new Motor Accident Injuries Scheme.

The scheme will provide lower premiums, too.

→ More at act.gov.au/maic



Better safety around Gungahlin's schools



Remember to slow down to 40km/h in school zones once school goes back from Monday, 3 February.

You'll notice improvements around some Canberra schools, including new footpath connections, refuge islands, speed humps and children's crossings, some with school crossing supervisors.

Parents should familiarise their child with their school route so they can

confidently and safely walk, ride or catch the bus or light rail each day.

→ For more and to use the TC journey planner, visit transport.act.gov.au



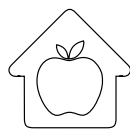
Free school vaccinations



Free vaccinations are offered to all Canberra students in Years 7 and 10 to keep them, their families and our community healthy by reducing the spread of preventable diseases.

→ More at act.gov.au/ourcanberra

New school places for Gungahlin



Gungahlin now has extra school places for our growing region.

Gold Creek School has new permanent learning spaces for 300 extra students in the junior school this year. Planning is underway for new buildings to accommodate an extra 200 students in the senior school for 2022.

Neville Bonner School will have new permanent learning spaces ready for 175 students in Term 2, and new teaching and learning spaces are also being added at Gungahlin College.

→ More act.gov.au/ourcanberra



Graham Mackay is one of the psychologists supporting ACT students.

More psychologists in Gungahlin schools



More psychologists are supporting our schools in Gungahlin.

Five new school psychologists joined the ACT public school system this year. The total number working across our schools is now 81.

School psychologists work with families, school staff and other allied health professionals to provide a strong support network for students.

→ More act.gov.au/ourcanberra



The power of extended library hours



Amaroo School Teacher Librarian Natalie Otten co-created a program to allow teachers and students to access the school's library after hours.

The program resulted in a 21% increase in student submission of work across the school.

Natalie was recognised as the 2019 Early Childhood and Primary Teacher of the Year at the ACT Public Education Awards.

→ More at act.gov.au/ourcanberra

Franklin's school expansion starts



Students starting in Year 4 at Franklin Early Childhood School this year are part of the school's transition to its new status as a preschool to Year 6 primary school.

The continuing expansion delivers 400 extra places for students to meet the needs of the growing Gungahlin community.

→ More act.gov.au/ourcanberra



Festival of culture returns



Get set for your annual summer fix of world street food and cultural diversity.

The National Multicultural Festival is back from 21 to 23 February. More than 200,000 people are expected to flock to the festival's food stalls and enjoy performances from many lands on six stages over the three days.

There will be information stalls, cultural displays, and on Saturday, the vibrant sea of colour and sound that is the festival parade.

→ More at multiculturalfestival.com.au



Celebrate **Enlighten**

Canberra and the skies above will be transformed during the annual **Enlighten Festival** from 28 February to 15 March.

Illuminations will light up national attractions and more after dark from 28 February to 9 March. The Night Noodle Markets will operate alongside the light displays. Also on the program are:

- **7 to 15 March:** Canberra Balloon Spectacular
- **6 March:** Lights! Canberra! Action!
- **8 March:** Symphony in the Park
- **9 March:** Canberra Day celebrations
- **14 March:** Hit 104.7 Skyfire

→ For more, visit enlightencanberra.com

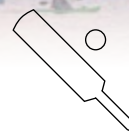
Balloon Spectacular
7-15 March



Rugby is back!

Catch the Brumbies v Reds when Super Rugby returns on 31 January.

→ For tickets, visit premier.ticketek.com.au



Howzat!

See some of the world's best cricketers in action when five matches of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup are played in Canberra from 26 to 28 February.

Catch the following games at picturesque Manuka Oval:

- **26 February:** England v Thailand and West Indies v Pakistan
- **27 February:** Australia v Bangladesh
- **28 February:** South Africa v Thailand and England v Pakistan

→ For tickets, visit tickets.t20worldcup.com



ACT
Government

For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/ourcanberra or follow us on social media.
Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

