

# Acacia in Action

Respect

Collaboration

Integrity

Understanding

Adaptability

24 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is great to be back for another term! Students all look happy to be at school again! In spite of quite a few changes (see below), it has been a good start to Term 3. I am very thankful to our terrific team of staff for working together so well and generously put up their hand to assist whenever they see a need. This has enabled everything to run smoothly and productively for our students right from the start.

## Staff Changes

We have had some staff changes over the holidays.

We congratulate Sheina Treuel, who has been our Assistant Principal since the beginning of 2019, on winning the position of Network Leader based in Alice Plaza. Sheina will be working with principals in remote schools in Central Australia. We are very thankful for all that Sheina has brought to Acacia Hill School, and helped us very much on our growth and improvement agenda. I know Sheina has an immense amount of experience and expertise to bring to her new role.

We also bid farewell to Pam Bidgood at the end of Term 2. Pam was an outstanding SESO of Acacia Hill School for 12 years and we will miss her and wish her all the very best in retirement. We are very happy to know that Pam will come back to visit us whenever she is passing through Alice Springs.

At this point, we have not recruited another assistant principal. Instead, five Senior Teachers will share the roles of leading teams and being to 'go-to-person' this semester:

- Kelly Adams (Early Childhood Team)
- Coby du Plessis (Satellite Team)
- Maree Woolford (Secondary Team)
- Heather Jefferies (Primary Team/ leading Curriculum and Assessment)
- Hannah Charlie (leading Structured Teaching pedagogy across the school).

Justine Ronburg is our new Administration Officer. Jodie, who was in that role last term, has moved to be the SESO at the Larapinta Primary Satellite Class. Fortunately, Teegan will remain with us for another term, and we greatly appreciate her outstanding ICT skills. We welcome Richard Cox, who is teaching the Upper Primary Satellite Class at Braitling on Thursdays and Fridays.

Website: <https://www.acaciahill.nt.edu.au/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Acacia-Hill-School-101999724805228/>

We also welcome Bec Strickland, who is our acting Executive Officer, assisting myself and others right across the school with administration and ICT tasks.



Been in Alice Springs for 9 years; moved here as most people do for a job and 4 jobs down I am still here.

I have a partner and a dog, Charlie, who is the closest thing I have to a child. Charlie is a rescue dog so is pampered and much loved in our house. I love music and dancing is something I am more than happy to do with people or on my own to a tune playing in my head.

I was born in Malta and came to Australia by boat and did my early schooling in Sydney.

We love to travel and have visited Vietnam, Bali, Thailand, Philippines, Paris, most of the East of Australia and are planning a trip in our camper to do the WA Coast. I love my netball and have been a player, a coach and now only find time to umpire. I umpire at National level travelling to umpire the Australian Men's and Mixed National Competition every year.

And welcome to Craig Morreski, who will be the Room 10 teacher while Kelly leads the Early Childhood Team.

Hi, my name is Craig Morreski and I will be teaching in room 10. I have previously taught in Darwin and around NSW. I enjoy basketball, cycling and walking.



### Some other changes:

- Leah Santos-Guoviea is now teaching the Larapinta Primary Satellite Class Thursdays and Fridays
- CJ is SESO in Sue's class at Acacia Hill
- Jodie is SESO in Hannah's Larapinta satellite class
- Kira is SESO in Room 4; Vish's class
- Tania is SESO for Diana's satellite class at Bradshaw
- Heather (2 days per week) and Marica (3 days per week) will be the teachers, and Leanne will be SESO in the new Room 7 class, which will commence in Week 3 (4/08/2020)
- Stacey Phoenix works with us every Wednesday releasing individual teachers to work on curriculum and assessment with Heather.

### COVID-19

With the NT borders now open, we need to be more vigilant than ever in terms of COVID-19. At Acacia Hill School, we continue to ensure we implement the three principles of the NT Roadmap to the New Normal: personal responsibility, physical distancing and hygiene. Of course in a school, it is often not possible to implement physical distancing with our students, and schools are exempt, but with the requirement to do the best we can where possible. If your child is sick, we ask that you keep them home.

## **Changing situations**

The situation continues to evolve and could change at any time. Like all NT schools, we have a pandemic plan and principals receive weekly briefings from the CE.

### **Adults coming into school:**

**Parents and Carers** who walk their child to class may continue to do so.

**NDIS Service Providers** may visit students provided the NDIS providers in NTG schools documentation has all been completed and approved.

**Tradies** as far as possible, tradies will be asked to visit out of school hours.

**If there is a change in the COVID-19 situation**, such as local transmissions in Central Australia, we will follow advice as per our pandemic plan and our Department.

**Visitors sign in** - Visitors are now asked if they have been interstate in the previous fortnight when they sign in. It is assumed that if they have come from a hot spot, they will be in mandatory quarantine and if they have come from somewhere else, they are here because there are no concerns in the state they have come from. However, in the event of the situation changing, this may be useful information.

### **Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards**

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards.

The Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards are an opportunity to nominate and recognize the outstanding contributions of school teachers, principals, leaders and support staff who are making a difference in their schools and students' lives.

Nominations can be submitted online by school and corporate staff, parents and guardians and the wider community. Student nominations must be emailed to [teacherawards@nt.gov.au](mailto:teacherawards@nt.gov.au) for it to be submitted on their behalf. You can submit nominations here: <https://education.nt.gov.au/education-events-and-awards/teaching-in-the-territory-excellence-awards>. Nominations close Friday 31 July 2020.

**The Hydrotherapy Pool** is now up and running again! Hooray!

### **Telka Williams**

We have started a discussion about naming one of the new buildings at Acacia Hill School, such as the hall, after Telka Williams, who was really the founder of special schools in Central Australia. If anyone has any thoughts about this, I would love to hear from you.

Kind regards, Julie

## **Dates Coming up**

- ◆ **Monday 3rd August - Picnic Day Public Holiday**
- ◆ **10:00am Friday 14th August - School Council Meeting**