

# Acacia in Action

Respect

Collaboration

Integrity

Understanding

Adaptability

17th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

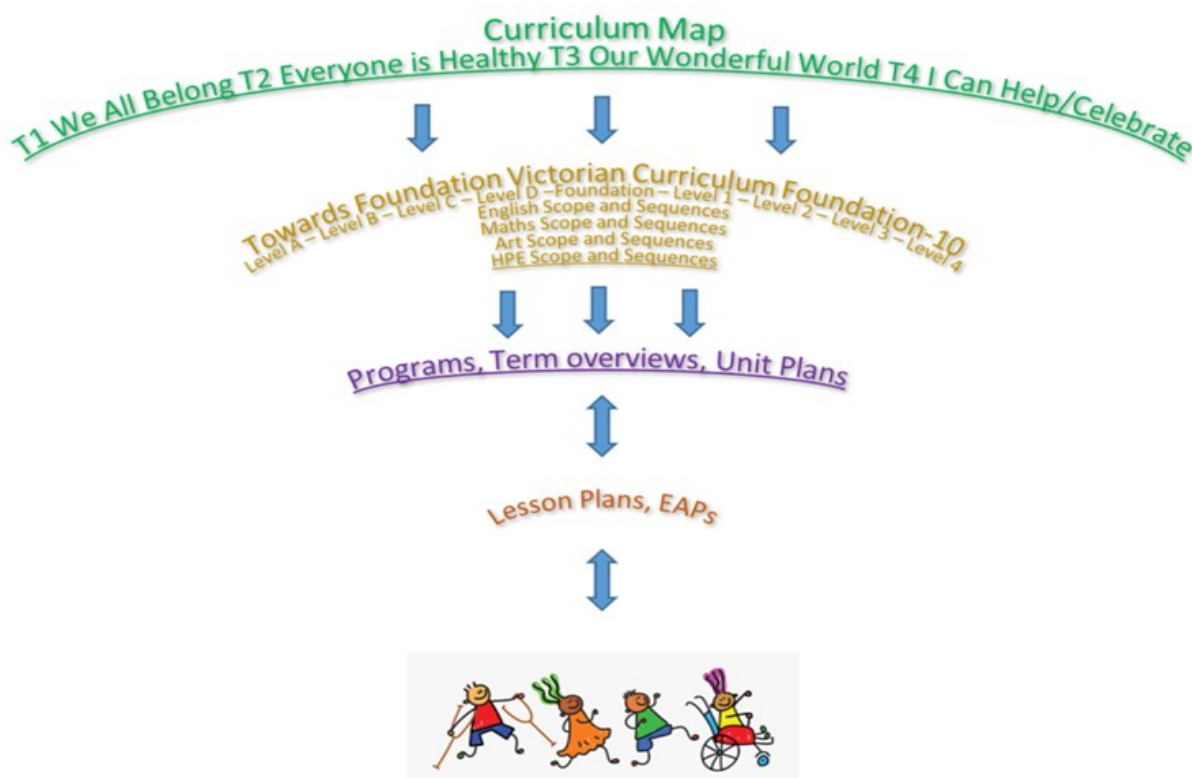
## Some facts and figures

We currently have 94 students enrolled. School attendance to date is 73.8% to date this year.

## Staff PD Day Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

This was a very successful day, with a lot of positive feedback from staff. We focused on our Whole School Curriculum Plan – placing students on the ABLES/Toward Foundation Victorian Curriculum F-10 continua in English, Maths, Visual Arts and HPE. Our current model of our Curriculum Plan is as follows:

### Acacia Hill School Curriculum Plan



## Annual School Survey

Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed a survey. This provides valuable information for our 2021 Annual School Improvement Plan. We received 19 completed surveys from parents and carers, 60 from students and 36 from staff.

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

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

## **Parent Satisfaction in Specialist Schools in Australia Survey**

While one contemporary view is to do away with specialist schools (see, for example, the Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education <https://allmeansall.org.au/>), there are many parents and carers who express great appreciation for specialist schools and actively seek to have their child enrolled in such a school. However, there is currently no research on the experience of parents with specialist schools in Australia.



The Australian Special Education Principals' Association (ASEPA) and the Australian Catholic University (ACU) are jointly conducting a survey investigating the different perspectives of families of students with disabilities and their children in Australian specialist schools.

This is a ten minute online survey. The survey has Human Research Ethics Committee approval and approval from the NT Department of Education Research Subcommittee. Participation is completely voluntary. Survey data is de-identified. Information about the survey is attached to this newsletter and a link to the survey. Additional information has been made available at the school.

## **Leadership**

Hannah Charlie has won the position of Senior Teacher Pedagogy for another term. Hannah has over sixteen years' experience working in special education and has been described as 'the best practitioner of Structured Teaching' of all the teachers in her former school. We are all aware of the great work Hannah is doing, not only in using Structured Teaching in her own class, but in supporting and mentoring other teachers and SESOs in the school.

Heather Jeffries has won the position of Senior Teacher Curriculum and Assessment for another term. Heather has qualifications in Education, Early Childhood Education (Masters) and Special Education, and many years of experience in a number of schools teaching a range of year levels. Heather has been at Acacia Hill for over five years. She has been a mentor, leader and support person of other teachers in curriculum both at Acacia and in previous schools. Heather has been a Senior Teacher for over six years and has also spent time as an acting assistant principal and as acting principal.

## **Newspaper article**

Keep an eye out for the Centralian Advocate lift out in the NT News on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Shinaide Dilles from our Sadadeen Satellite Class has submitted a newspaper article about the Science Fair during Science Week.

## **Alice Can Dance**

Alice Can Dance rehearsals have finished and filming occurs this week. Instead of a performance, there will be a video this year, due to uncertainties around COVID-19.

## **End of Year Concert**

Veronica Hagan is coordinating our end of year concert. We have been fortunate in being able to book the Marian Hall at OLSH Sadadeen for 5:30-7:00pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. As this is a very large hall, we will be able to socially distance.

## **Overnight Camp at Standley Chasm**

Shinaide Dilles' Sadadeen Satellite class and Aaron Quan's upper primary/middle years class had an overnight camp at Standley Chasm last week. I visited them in the evening and they were all having a good time! It is a beautiful location and they provide cultural sessions and tours, which our students really enjoyed.

### Executive Director South

Trevor Read commenced as our new Executive Director on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Richard Hunt has been acting in that position since David Cummins retired.

### Autism Advisor NT

Welcome to Sally Anderson as a new member of the Autism Advisor team for the NT. Sally has lived in the Territory for over 20 years and been involved in education as a teacher and a leader for over 30 years in SA and NT.

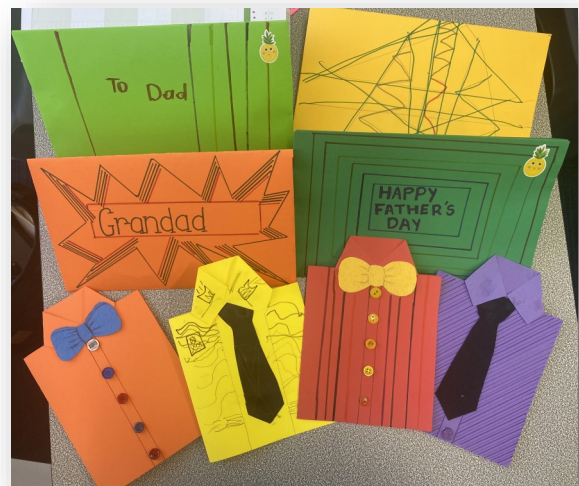
Kind Regards,

Julie Permezel



Physical activity is such a great way for our students to engage and keep active. Here we see the added benefit—smiles of fun. Kymani having a great time in his PE session with Rohan's Class

One of our Brairling Satellite classes created some fantastic cards for Father's Day. We hope all our Dads had a great day and we are sure they loved getting their personalized cards.



### Dates Coming up

- ♦ 10:30am Friday 18th September - School Council Meeting (previous meeting moved)
- ♦ Friday 18th September - Talk like a Pirate Day!
- ♦ Friday 25th September - Last day of Term 3
- ♦ Monday 12th October - First day of Term 4

**Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions**