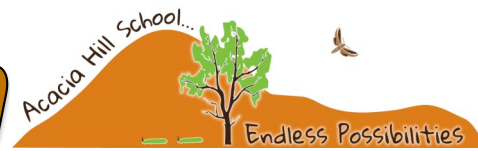


Acacia in Action



Confident

Community

Caring

Connected

DATE: 3rd February 2023

Newsletter Week 1 Term 1

From the Principal



Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you all had some fun and relaxation over the Christmas holiday period! It's great to be back for a new school year. Staff are looking refreshed and students have returned to school happy and ready to go!

This year we have approximately 100 students. We have a new satellite class at Larapinta Primary and one at Ross Park Primary. We have just one satellite class at Sadadeen Primary and one at Braitling Primary this year, and two at Bradshaw Primary.

Main focuses in 2023

Our main focuses this year are

- Student communication: 'One year's growth for one year's schooling: Every student has a pencil'.
- Improving engagement: 'Increase overall attendance from 73% to 78% and to reduce overall unauthorised absences from 9% to 3%'.

As part of our student communication goal, all students will continue to have a communication goal in their EAP (Educational Adjustment Plan). We are also employing a consultant Speech Pathologist, Ciara-Lucy Forrest. She will be spending Weeks 3-4 at Acacia, observing classes and advising teachers on input to each student's communication goal.

Mobile phones policy

Starting this week, students are not allowed to use mobile phones during school time in NT Government Schools. A copy of the policy is included with this newsletter. We don't expect this to impact much on Acacia, as students don't take mobile phones to class and parents already contact the school through the front office.

New staff

We are very happy to have Mrs Heather Jeffries back, running the preschool and a teaching team.

We welcome Mrs Eunice Maiyo and Adam Mitchell to our teaching team.

Welcome William Cole, who joins us as a SESO.

Welcome Darshana Modi and Denella Guiseppe, who have joined our Admin Team.



Heather



Eunice



Adam



William



Darshana



Denella

DATES COMING UP

- Weeks 3-4 Term 1 Ciara-Lucy Forrester at Acacia
- 10:00am Friday 17/02/2023 School Council AGM and Ordinary Meeting
- 10:00am Friday 17/03/2023 School Council Meeting
- 9:30am Friday 24/03/2023 Harmony Day Special Assembly
- Thursday 6/04/2023 End of Term 1
- Friday 7/04/2023 Good Friday
- Term 2 Monday 17/04/2023 – Friday 23/06/2023
- Term 3 Monday 17/07/2023 – Friday 22/09/2023

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

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

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



40th anniversary of a special school in Alice Springs

Acacia Hill School was opened as an annex to Sadadeen Primary in 1983, so 2023 is the 40th anniversary of a special school in Alice Springs. Telka Williams had a daughter with Downs Syndrome. She didn't want to send her daughter to an institution down south and said she wanted a special school in Alice Springs. We will celebrate this anniversary this year.

Cooking

Cooking is a great way to teach literacy, numeracy and many other skills at school. This year, classes will be doing cooking once most weeks. Families will be asked to contribute \$5 per week to cover costs, and also for teaching budgeting, costs and so on.



AGM

Annual General Meeting Julie Permezel

School Council

Our School Council AGM will be at 10:00am on Friday 17th February. All are welcome. It will be followed by our first Ordinary Meeting for the year. We have had a really active, vibrant School Council for the past few years and look forward to continuing this partnership.

From the School Council Chair

Hello to the students, teachers, parents and carers of Acacia Hill School. Welcome to the 2023 school year! Hoping everyone has settled into their classrooms and looking forward to the year ahead. Currently, I am the chair of the Acacia Hill school council. My daughter has attended Acacia for the past 3 1/2 years.

Our AGM is approaching on 17/2/23. It would be wonderful to meet you, the parents/carers of Acacia Hill School children. Being on the council allows you to have a voice for your child, and advocate for all the children of Acacia Hill, including the satellite students. If you have any questions about school council, or would like to know more about it.

Please don't hesitate to email me on Lizzy.satour@gmail.com

Many hands make light work, I look forward to meeting you!

Lizzy Satour

Speech Pathologist



Ciara-Lucy F. Senior Speech Pathologist, B. A. Clinical Speech & Language Studies, Certified Practicing member of Speech Pathology Australia (CPSP) and The Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists.

Ciara-Lucy has been working with children, teens, adults, and their families in Australia for over 10 years. She is passionate about ensuring families and schools have the right tools and supports in place to enable their loved one to grow and achieve their communication potential. Ciara-Lucy provides an environment for communication skills, speech and language to develop through fun, creative and engaging activities.

Ciara-Lucy has previously worked within the NT Department of Education for a number of years providing professional learning workshops to schools, families, and educational staff in supporting children with communication difficulties in the classroom and setting up supportive learning environments. Ciara-Lucy has also worked for many years with children and adults with complex communication needs and disability, prescribing and implementing Augmentative and Alternative Communication methods such as communication devices and signing systems. She also has extensive experience supporting individuals with behaviour needs providing positive behaviour support especially to those individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Ciara-Lucy is a clinical supervisor and provides supervision and mentoring across Australia to speech pathologists and undergraduate speech pathologists. She is currently working in private practice in Western Australia in a little town on by the ocean.

Uniforms

Our new uniforms have arrived! Shirts are \$30 each, Baseball Caps are \$15 each and Bucket Hats are \$13.

Purchasing via cash or EFT only:

Acacia Hill School Council; BSB: 065-900; Account: 00940973

Thank you to William, Quincy, Harry and Patricia our amazing models for their patience during the photo shoot.



NT Government Back to School Voucher

The \$150 Back to School voucher will expire at the end of Term 1: The \$150 can be used by parents and carers to pay for uniforms and school swimming and excursions.

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

Medication at school

Just a reminder that medication must be brought into the school under the following conditions:

- Accompanied by 2 forms (both of which are available from Reception)
 - ♦ Medication instructions from Prescribing Doctor
 - ♦ Medication Request by Parent/Carer for Student with Notified Medical Condition
- In the chemist packaging that has the administration instructions
- It cannot be placed in the student's bag/pocket, it must be brought in by the parent/caregiver.

Attendance at school

If your child is going to be absent from school, it is important that you inform the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. You can alert the school of their absence by phoning their teacher or calling the school on 8955 2222.

Parking

We ask that parents not park in the bus bay for pick up, drop off or parking. With the busyness of the morning and afternoon rush, please park in the designated parent parking area as the buses and in case of an emergency, they need to be able to access this area at all times.

Book Club due 20/02/2023

When ordering Issue 1 on LOOP you will have the opportunity to select up to 3 FREE BOOKS. To qualify all you have to do is spend over \$30 and you can select 1 FREE book, or spend over \$50 and you can select 2 FREE books or over \$70 and you can select 3 FREE titles from a special online list. The list will display after you create your order and head to the check-out. See www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP for more information.



Support for Families contact details

Autism Advisory Line: 24/7; Run by families of children with autism; 1300 22 777

Autism NT: 8948 4424

FACES: 8:00AM-8:00PM Monday to Friday; parenting support, budgeting support; Referral for services; 1800 999 900

Parentline: Access to counsellors Monday to Friday 8:00am-10:00pm; 1300 301 300

Relationships Australia sometimes sees children if they have the capacity to cater for the individual. There is a phone intake process in which they determine if they have the capacity.

Family must pay for the service. The fee varies according to family income and can be quite low if income is very low. Contact number is 8950 4100.



(Picture for display purposes only)

Come and join **MARTHA'S CRAFTS** afterschool sessions every **WEDNESDAY** starting 8th Feb from 3.30pm to 5pm.

\$15 per child – learn a new craft, experience a new idea, or just have fun making gifts and trinkets to enjoy or give away.

Bookings preferred – Martha 0419 838 690

Held at 'THAT ART & CRAFT PLACE', shop 4, 10 Smith St, Ciccone.

Check Facebook for more details.

#That Art & Craft Place

#Alice Paints

#Meema's



IDEAS IN NUTRITION

Enjoy fruit

Fruit makes a great snack for everyone, especially kids.

To help your child eat more fruit, try:

- ✓ freezing fruit like orange segments to use instead of ice blocks
- ✓ blending frozen fruit to make 'nice cream' like banana and berries or your favorite combination
- ✓ cutting up fruit into bite sized pieces
- ✓ combining different coloured fruit on a plate to make a rainbow.

For more fruity recipes try:
livelighter.com.au/recipe/



