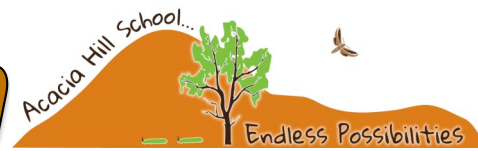


# Acacia in Action



**Confident**

**Community**

**Caring**

**Connected**

**DATE: 17th March 2023**

## Newsletter Week 7 Term 1

### From the Principal

#### Working Bee



A big thank you to Tony Satour (parent), Josh Burgoyne MLA, Marica, Mel, Lisa and Rohan (school staff) for helping with the Working Bee on Saturday 4th March. Everyone worked so hard that a second Working Bee on Sunday 12th March wasn't needed! Our next step is to have the top layer of soil taken off and covered with a weed mat and cracker dust. We have a quote for this and Moin is keeping an eye out for grants.

#### Enrolment and Attendance

We currently have 101 students on the roll, with 76% attendance up to the end of Week 4.

#### Visit from NT Police Trainees

On Thursday 30th March, 12 NT police who are undertaking training in interviewing children and vulnerable people will visit Acacia Hill School. This training is to help officers better be able to support children and vulnerable young people in communicating crimes.

Trainees will spend about 40 minutes with our students, communicating and learning how each child communicates. A letter with more detail is attached to this newsletter. We had a similar visit a few years ago and it was a very happy and successful event for students. At that time, we hoped it could be an annual event, but it stopped during COVID-19. Participants in this course visit Forrest Parade School (special school in the Top End) twice yearly.

If anyone would like further information about the visit, or if anyone doesn't want their child to participate, please contact me through the front office 8955 2222.

#### 2021-2025 Teachers and Educators Enterprise Agreement

The new Teachers and Educators Enterprise Agreement has five Staff Professional Development Days a year: one at the beginning of every term and one on the last day of the year – which is Friday 15th December this year. **This means that students will start on a Tuesday in Terms 2, 3 and 4 – see Dates Coming Up below.**

#### Mobile Phones in Schools Policy

The use of mobile phones by students at schools in the NT was banned from the start of this term. This policy applies to mobile phones, smart watches and other devices which allow electronically based distractions. All mobile phones, smart watches or similar devices are to be switched off and taken to the administration office before the school day begins and collected at the end of the day.

### DATES COMING UP

- 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 Tuesday 18/04/2023 – Friday 23/06/2023 (Teachers commence 17/17/2023)
- 18-21 April Ciara-Lucy Forrest (Speech Pathologist) at Acacia
- Term 3 Tuesday 18/07/2023 – Friday 22/09/2023 (teachers commence 17/07/2023)
- Term 4 Tuesday 10/10/2023 – Thursday 14/12/2023 (teachers commence 9/10/2023)
- Friday 15/12/2023 Staff PD Day for Teachers

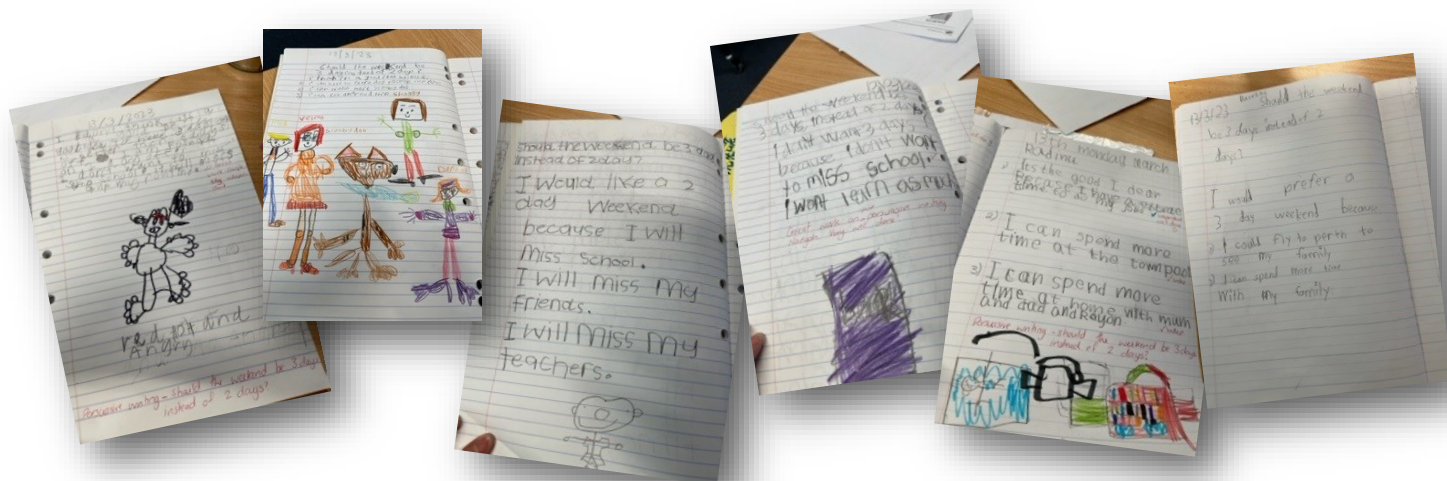
Website: <https://www.acaciahill.nt.edu.au/>

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

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

## Room 13

Have been practicing their persuasive writing skills. These are their responses to: "Should the weekend be 3 days instead of 2 days?"



## The Senior Sausage Sizzlers

The senior sausage sizzlers will be putting on a sausage sizzle every Friday lunchtime for staff and students to help raise funds for our community access and other excursions.

So come down and help support us in our transition to life outside Acacia Hill!

Sausages are \$2 each or two for \$3.50

PS: If we don't give you the correct change we blame our teacher.

\*\*onion and sauces included\*\*



Nice to see Been doing relief teaching with spiky smile on his face.



## 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)
  1. Medication instructions from Prescribing Doctor
  2. Medication Request by Parent/Carer for Student with Notified Medical Condition
- ◇ In the chemist packaging that has the administration instructions

## 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.

## Book Club due 20/03/2023

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 checkout. See [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) for more information.

Receive	When you spend over
1 Free Book	\$30
2 Free Books	\$50
3 Free Books	\$70

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



Peter Macaulay Centre  
McMillans Road, Knuckeyes Lagoon NT 0812

Postal address  
PO Box 39764  
Winnellie NT 0821

E [Jacqueline.Lynden@pfes.nt.gov.au](mailto:Jacqueline.Lynden@pfes.nt.gov.au)

T 08 8995 5467  
21 February 2023

Julie Permezel  
Principal  
Acacia Hill School  
80 Spearwood Road  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Dear ~~Mrs Permezel~~ Julie

I appreciate your time in assisting the Northern Territory Police with the continual education of our investigators to ensure we deliver the best service to the community. We appreciate the support the Northern Territory Police receives from the community and aim to keep our working relationship active.

Between 20 March and 31 March 2023, the Northern Territory Police Force will be facilitating a course in Alice Springs for Investigators which is focussed on interviewing children and vulnerable people. During the course, the investigators learn about memory retention and recall, the impact of trauma, legislation for procedures surrounding interviewing children and vulnerable people, questioning styles, cultural considerations, understanding neurodiverse people and how to communicate effectively, information from speech pathologists and protective behaviours. The participants also meet with primary school students from another school where they have to interview the children on a 'memory event' that has been created by our staff two weeks earlier. Some of these memory events in the past have been about days out to the show, a day at the beach, losing a toy or pet and finding it and going on holidays.

Another aspect of the course is introducing the participants to children from neurodiverse backgrounds that they may not have previously done so in the past. Our aim is to normalise that some people are not neurotypical and that is okay. All children are entitled to feel safe and report crimes and we want to break down any barriers from the past where officers have been too timid to engage with the children for fear of 1) tainting a child's evidence for a court hearing, and 2) that they cannot effectively communicate with neurodiverse people.

To assist us in breaking down any barriers, we are seeking assistance from your students to meet with our investigators for up to one hour on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 9:00am. During this time, the investigators will talk to the students and learn that each person communicates in different ways. They will be asked to communicate with the students about their favourite activities, classes, sports and toys, while doing an activity the student has chosen (playground). There is no 'memory event' and no pressure towards the children in any way. If they do not want to communicate on the day, that is okay. We all have days where we don't want to communicate!

I hope you can reach out to the parents of your students and seek their approval for this interactive morning with the class. We aim to keep this a fun experience for the students and have them take home a good experience with the police officers they have met.

If you have any queries, please contact me on my details above.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline LYNDEN  
Acting Sergeant 3086  
Child Abuse Taskforce





# Become a **DESERT EXPLORER**



**\$122**

PER CHILD  
PER DAY

Be part of the magic of caring for our animals and learning about desert plants with a special behind the scenes experience!  
Plus meet keepers and specialised staff!

**TUESDAY 11 APRIL • WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL**

**INCLUDES:** Full day guided activities 8.30am - 4pm,  
fun filled activities, special photo opportunity,  
morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Program open to 8-12 years.

Minimum and maximum numbers apply.

Bookings essential, call (08) 8951 8788

email [asdp@nt.gov.au](mailto:asdp@nt.gov.au)