

# Acacia in Action



**Confident**

**Community**

**Caring**

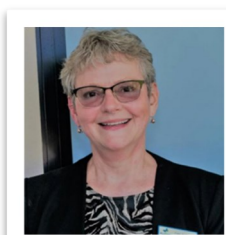
**Connected**

**DATE: 2nd June 2023**

Newsletter Week 7 Term 2 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

## Acting Principal Term 4



I'm happy to announce that Cae Ashton will be Principal of Acacia Hill School for Term 4 while I'm on long service leave. Here are a few words from Cae:

"I am very much looking forward to joining the Acacia Hill team. I am qualified as a teacher and speech pathologist and have worked in the field of education for nearly forty years, twenty of those in specialist settings. Prior to my current role as Principal of Yulara School, I was Principal of the multi-campus Autism Queensland School and The Glenleighden School before that. I have worked on various state and national committees to advocate for students with additional needs and their families and promote the collaborative efforts of stakeholders to improve outcomes for all learners. I love bushwalking and music and play viola in a Brisbane-based orchestra, attending rehearsals remotely each week via Teams".

## Naming of our hall Telka Williams Hall



This was a beautiful event and well attended. Our NT Minister for Education, the Honourable Eva Lawler MLA, officiated. Our Chief Executive, Karen Weston and my line manager, Senior Director Stuart Dwyer, all attended. Some members of Telka Williams' family attended, including her son, Graham. I have received a lot of positive feedback about the event and it is an honour to have such a tremendous role model as

the pioneer of special education in Central Australia.



This photo shows Graham (son of Telka), Joyce Bowden (long term friend of Telka) and Jose Petrick (local historian and long term friend of Telka Williams) with the special cake we had for the occasion.

## Playground Minor New Works Application

I'm very happy to announce that the MNW Application for a playground upgrade has been approved. Acacia has put in \$100,000 and the NT Government is contributing \$400,000 to a total of \$500,000. This is a great outcome for Acacia Hill School!



## DATES COMING UP

- Term 2 Tuesday 18/04/2023 – Friday 23/06/2023
- Monday 12/06/2023 King's Birthday public holiday
- Term 3 Tuesday 18/07/2023 – Friday 22/09/2023 (teachers commence 17/07/2023)

- 11:00am-2:00pm Friday 4/08/2023 Acacia 40th Birthday Open Day
- 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**

## Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards

Nominations for the 2023 Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards close on 2nd June.

The awards are an opportunity to recognise the outstanding contributions of teachers, early childhood educators, principals, leaders and support staff who are making a difference in the lives of NT students.

We have amazing educators here at Acacia Hill School. These awards give us a chance to celebrate and reflect on our frontline staff who do an exceptional job of engaging our students in high-quality learning every day!

There are nine categories in the awards:

- Northern Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Early Childhood Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Inclusion Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Leader in Education
- Northern Territory Primary Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Principal of the Year
- Northern Territory Secondary Educator of the Year
- Northern Territory Support Person of the Year
- Northern Territory Vocational Education Trainer of the Year

## Staff

I am very sad to announce that Moin will be leaving us very soon for family reasons, and moving interstate. Moin will continue working remotely for us for a short while until we have a new Business Manager settled in. I have greatly valued Moin's contribution to Acacia. He is very professional and has imparted his professional views and expectations right across our school. The Business Manager position is currently advertised on the NTG website. If you know someone with significant experience in finance and managing a team and facilities, see if they would be interested in submitting an application.

Darshana also left us this week for health reasons. She has been an excellent Admin Officer working on the front desk and managing SAMS.

I'm very happy to announce that long term SESO, Ellie Spikin, is back in Alice and returned to us at Acacia last week. Apart from being an outstanding SESO, Ellie is an AustSwim assessor and has in the past been a staff rep on our Work Health Safety committee.

## Children and screen time

Here are some articles about children and screen time for anyone interested in finding out more:

- The difference in wellbeing between high versus low users of screens <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211335518301827>
- Sometimes families have to use screens as a coping mechanism when there aren't other resources available <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666518221000103>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1755296617301205>
- Modifying screen time can reduce aggressive behaviour <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/131/3/431/30939/Modifying-Media-Content-for-Preschool-Children-A>

## Screen Time

'Screen time' is the time spent using a screen-based device, such as a smartphone, tablet, computer or television.

Kids use screens to watch movies and playing games. They may be sitting, reclining or lying down the whole time they are on their screens. This could interfere with and take time away from healthy activities in their day. It could even affect their health.

### 3 tips for managing screen time

#### 1. Stay within the recommended screen time limits



Age	Recommended hours of screen time
Under 2 years	None <sup>a</sup>
2-4 years	Less than 1 hour a day <sup>b</sup>
5-17 years	No more than 2 hours of recreational screen time a day <sup>a</sup>

#### 2. Put screens away during important times of the day

- Children should avoid all screens for at least 1 hour before sleep time.
- All family members should put phones away during meal times to have screen-free family meals

#### 3. Replace some screen time with other activities

- Physical activity and playing outside
- Family time, for example reading together or just talking
- Playing games as a family



### Reimagining the NDIS - seeking feedback

Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) and the Australian Government are working together to find out what young people with disability think about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This is an opportunity for young people living with a disability and involved with the NDIS to talk about their experiences with the scheme. Online group sessions will be held online at the times below, and all participants will be financially reimbursed for taking part.

- Wednesday 31 May, 7-9pm (AEST)
- Wednesday 7 June, 7-9pm (AEST)

Julie Permezel  
Principal

### Support for Families and 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.

Dolly's Dream Support Line is now available to families and students 24/7, providing them with access to qualified counsellors for free and without a referral. To access this service, call or text 0488 881 033 or use this webchat.

Resources are available to support families concerned about bullying and cyberbullying.

Schools should consider adding the Support Line to the key strategies in the wellbeing team. Supporting students to accessing the service is encouraged. You can distribute this information through usual communications such as newsletters, websites and social media.

## **What's happening around the school!**

### Room 7

For the rest of the year Room 7 students will have several trips to the Rediscovery Centre to recycle our cardboard. I think it is important students learn to recycle and repurpose wherever possible in this crazy disposable world we live in. In Term 3, we will be having a tour of the Alice Springs Rubbish dump so the students can see where our rubbish ends up.



### Room 19

As a part of our 'We Are Healthy' theme the students learned about the famous artist Henri Matisse (Painting with Scissors) and made their own Henri Matisse style food collage.

Veronica, Art Teacher





## Room 18

Here are some works done by Tadhg for his work experience. Also, Ben is having a great time on a Thursday afternoon.

Thanks, Meshack



## CMS Tour Visit

We were fortunate to take fifteen students to Centralian Middle School for a School Tour and Information Session yesterday. Some of these students are in Grade 6 and are thinking about high school choices for next year.

We walked around the school and saw some classes in action and had an opportunity to ask questions. BJ had a fabulous idea of creating a map and checklist for the next tour group coming so they don't miss anything!

We helped the CMS staff devise a whiteboard checklist of all the areas in the school a tour group might like to visit. What a thoughtful bunch of students we have! Staff were very proud of the way our students represented our school. I am sure we will be welcomed back!

Lisa Sherriff – Assistant Principal – Behaviour and Wellbeing



# Have your say!



The Department of Education is conducting a Preschool Review, and we want to hear your feedback on preschool in the NT.

A survey for families, educators and community members is now available online, scan the QR code or visit [haveyoursay.nt.gov.au](https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au) to have your voice heard!



## SAFETY • SAFETY



# HELP US KEEP FINKE SAFE

### A SAFETY MESSAGE TO ALL SPECTATORS

WE NEED ALL SPECTATORS ALONG THE TRACK TO ALWAYS FOLLOW ALL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN PLACE TO KEEP YOU AND OTHERS SAFE.

- Ⓢ ALWAYS STAND 30 METRES BACK FROM THE TRACK AT ALL TIMES
- Ⓢ OBEY SPECTATOR NO GO ZONES
- Ⓢ STAY BEHIND AND OBEY ALL BUNTING AND SIGNAGE
- Ⓢ NEVER STAND ON THE OUTSIDE OF A CORNER
- Ⓢ IN THE ABSENCE OF SIGNAGE - STAND 30 METRES BACK
- Ⓢ OBEY ALL DIRECTIONS OF TATTS FINKE DESERT RACE SPECTATOR MARSHALS AND EVENT ORGANISERS
- Ⓢ ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE
- Ⓢ NEVER TAKE RECREATIONAL VEHICLES DOWN THE TRACK
- Ⓢ PLEASE LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME
- Ⓢ IF SOMEONE'S NOT DOING THE RIGHT THING, LET THEM KNOW. IF THEY DON'T STAND BACK, LET US KNOW BY TELLING A SPECTATOR MARSHAL

**THE RACE MAY BE STOPPED INSTANTLY IF SPECTATORS DON'T COMPLY. IF YOU'RE ASKED TO MOVE - JUST DO IT!**

## SAFETY • SAFETY