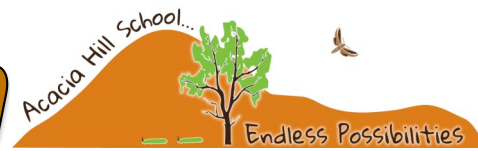


# Acacia in Action



**Confident**

**Community**

**Caring**

**Connected**

**DATE: 9th January 2024**

## Newsletter Week 2 Term 1 2024

Dear Carers and Parents,

Week two has already finished and school has been off to a great start. Students have settled back into old routines, reunited with old friends and met new ones. We welcome new families and ask that you please reach out for any assistance. Acacia Hill is a very friendly place, and we are all here to work together.

In spite of the national teacher shortage, Acacia Hill School has managed to operate unhindered through the dedication of two of our recently retired teachers, Heather Jeffries and Diana Hutchins who have willingly returned for a short term while we finalise recruitment. Our two assistant principals, Hannah Charlie and Lisa Sherriff have also stepped into the classroom, to provide a solid foundation for student learning from the start of the new school year. A specialist school, such as Acacia Hill, requires special staff with specific skills; generally, not easily found! We are so lucky to have a fabulous team of professionals here at Acacia Hill.

I am pleased to inform you that Robyn Ezard will begin a handover with Heather in the Early Years room from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Robyn has extensive experience in early intervention and is a previous teacher of Acacia Hill. Many of you may recognise her face. I hope to inform you of further appointments soon.

You will recall that Acacia Hill School received significant funding from the Australian Government for "On-Country Learning" projects. I'm very happy to report that our five key initiatives are already gaining traction:

### 1. Intensive literacy support

Samantha Maharaj has seamlessly fit into the Acacia Hill team as our Literacy Leader. Samantha has completed initial assessments with every student to identify a baseline to measure your child's progress in literacy during 2024. She will be working with staff, updating school resources and tracking student progress.

### 2. School engagement and attendance

We have an additional three new SESOs to allow for greater flexibility for students with high needs. We have welcomed two returning employees: Kate O'Loughlin and Jodie Scholz and the third, Jordon Humphreys, was a 2023 finalist in NT Young Australian of the Year. Jordon has been a strong advocate for the disability sector and an asset to our school team.

### 3. Expanded allied health services

Vish Kroutz has been appointed as dedicated Inclusion Support Officer for Acacia Hill. She is liaising with Congress allied health professionals for increased presence at our school. We are still defining what this looks like for our students, but both parties are keen to work together to best meet the needs of the children of Alice Springs.

### DATES COMING UP

- 9:30am Friday 1 March AGM Meeting
- Monday 13 May Inclusion Sports Day
- 8:30am Wednesday 6 March Deadly Heart Trek

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**

#### 4. Quality flexible learning for secondary students

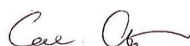
"The Flat" at our base school is hosting our senior secondary students after being tidied by tireless Chris; what a transformation! Diana and Chris are working with the boys to identify work experience opportunities and life skills to prepare them for life beyond school.

#### 5. Employment of local Aboriginal staff

An advertisement for an additional AEO (Aboriginal Educational Officer) is live and expires this Sunday 11/02/2024. If you know of anyone interested in working with our students, please let them know to apply this weekend at [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au).

I look forward to working with you and observing your child's progress this term. Please do not hesitate to speak with your child's teacher if you have any concerns, or contact me directly at [acaciahill.school@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:acaciahill.school@education.nt.gov.au)

Kind regards,



Cae Ashton  
Principal  
Acacia Hill School

#### Health and Wellbeing

Please remember to keep your child at home if they are unwell. The table below contains information about periods

Condition	Minimum period of exclusion from school
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased or doctor says its okay to resume school.
Scabies, Ringworm	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
Diarrhoea (no organism identified)	Exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Viral Gastroenteritis	Exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 24 hours.
Influenza like conditions	Exclude until well.
School Sores/Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.
COVID	Exclude if there are any symptoms, even if mild.

Wounds and sores on exposed parts of the body must be covered with a watertight dressing before coming to school to prevent infection.

## What's happening around the school!

#### Room 11



photo 1



Photo 2



photo 3

Photo 1 and photo 2 the class is working hard on literacy activities. And photo 3, we are going out on our morning walk for exercise.

Kylie

## PE Class

Tiarni bowling  
this week.

Jo



# DEADLY HEART TREK



## 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; NT Mental Health Line: 1800 682 288; E-headspace: 1800 650 890; Kidshelpline: 1800 55 1800

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

13 YARN counselling (First Nations): 13 92 76

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. 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.

IDEAS IN NUTRITION

## Find healthier snacks



NT HEALTH

Over 25% of Australian children aged 5-17 years are above a healthy weight.

Without diet change, children who are above a healthy weight can suffer from life-long health issues. A family approach to eating food from the 5 food groups can make a big difference.

Eating healthier snack food is a good place to start.

Why not try swapping foods like:

- ✗ sweet biscuits **swap for** ✓ sandwiches
- ✗ muesli bars **swap for** ✓ pieces of fruit
- ✗ lollies **swap for** ✓ yoghurt
- ✗ potato chips **swap for** ✓ vegetable sticks and dip.

For more healthy snack ideas:  
[tinyurl.com/ye4p4cp7](http://tinyurl.com/ye4p4cp7)



## NDIS Therapists

Please be reminded that NDIS therapists must be registered NDIS providers in order to apply to work in NT Government schools.

# KICK OFF YOUR FOOTBALL JOURNEY

4-11 YEARS

Every Friday for 6 weeks starting  
23rd Feb & finishing 29th March

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Football Northern Territory

Ross Park  
Winnecke Ave, East Side, Alice Springs

\$100 - includes participant pack

Visit [playfootball.com.au/miniroos-kickoff-finder](http://playfootball.com.au/miniroos-kickoff-finder)  
to register your child today!

## Autism Social Group

Thursday 08 Feb, 4pm-6 pm

Our Autism Social Group is a monthly get-together for Autistic young people and those who think they might be.

The group is a chance to meet others who might share some of your experiences. You can make new friends, share coping tips, or just hang out and be part of a supportive group.

We provide a range of games, drawing materials, and stim toys. So, if you don't feel like talking to anyone, that's ok.

We also put on some light refreshments.

You are welcome to bring your own games (including electronic).

Where  
headspace Alice Springs, 5/74 Todd Street (we're behind Loco Burrito)

Age range  
12 to 25 years old

RSVP or more information  
Call headspace on 8958 4544 or email [deborah.rock@caac.org.au](mailto:deborah.rock@caac.org.au)

Interested but not sure? You're welcome to come for just a quick look before deciding

The next group: 07 March 2024

headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health

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





## How are we going to get there?

### 1. Intensive literacy support

- Intensive literacy approaches are delivered by trained teachers and special educators
- Students have increased access to oral communication and language support
- Students progress data is tracked for real gains

### 2. School engagement and attendance

- There are more culturally responsive home visits to disengaged students in need
- There are more staff to allow flexibility for students with very high needs

### 3. Expand allied health services

- Allied health professionals identify and source quality assessment tools
- Professionals administer assessments to support early diagnosis, and
- Deliver targeted allied health services for inclusive learning

### 4. Quality flexible learning for secondary students

- Senior secondary staff lead flexible programs aligned with the Quality Standards Framework (QSF)
- Senior students develop daily living skills
- Flexible pathways provide work opportunities post school

### 5. Employment of local Aboriginal staff

- There is cultural learning, collaboration and partnerships between school and families
- There is a "Hub" for cultural activities and programs
- Families are welcomed to a culturally friendly meeting place