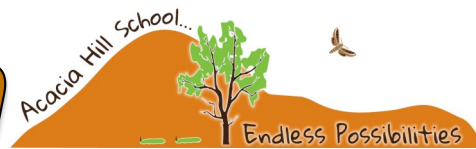


# Acacia in Action



**Confident**

**Community**

**Caring**

**Connected**

**DATE: 07 March 2025**

Newsletter Week 6 Term 1 2025

## From the Principal

Hello everyone, and here we are half way through Term 1 already! It is still a very busy time with lots of EAP meetings. Many staff have commented how good these meetings are, to sit with parents and carers and others involved in each young person's care, and together to discuss their needs and goals for 2025. The atmosphere at school continues to be calm, with students happy and engaged in learning. We had the privilege of the visit of ten police trainees on Thursday morning who are undertaking a course in communicating with people who have special needs. This was a group of fine young adults who interacted beautifully with our students.

We currently have 100 students enrolled and our average attendance so far this year has been 71%. This is a little better than the same time last year, but we are aiming for at least 78% for the year.

2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
Enr	Att	Enr	Att	Enr	Att	Enr	Att	Enr	Att	Enr	Att	Enr	Att
83	79.7%	91	79.2%	92	79.0%	91	73.9%	100	75.9%	97	68.2%	100	71.0%

## School Council

Our School Council Annual General Meeting was last Friday, and we have a great Council for the year. Julia Anderson will continue as Chair; parent/carer members include Tiarah Ferguson, Sheree Cocker, Rainer Balzer, Joyanne Mills, and there will be a DCF member; Samantha Maharaj and Kelly Adams will continue as teacher members; Danny Youngut and Indica Jones will continue as student reps; Swasti Aryal (Congress) will continue as an invited member; and I am a member because I am the Principal! We are also very thankful to Luiz Gubeissi from DCF, who has been a very valuable member of the School Council for a few years and was also the Treasurer last year. This year, our school Business Manager, Julia Rossana, will carry out the role of Treasurer, and Mel Insch will be Secretary. The School Council carried out a lot of great work last year, as you can read in this newsletter in the report from Julia Anderson. A big thank you to Cheryle and Stephanie, who organised a sausage sizzle after the School Council meeting.

## School data plan and GradeXpert

One of the recommendations of our School Review last year was for the school to develop a data plan for the selection, collection, collation and analysis of student performance information. While Acacia keeps a lot of data, such as attendance and student achievement levels, we need a more efficient and effective means of doing this. Our Associate Principal, John Matthews, is leading work on the data plan, and we have decided we will use a program called GradeXpert, which is used in a number of other schools in Alice Springs. We decided to use this program for now because it is hosted on the school server, rather than in the cloud. This system will give us a more effective means of tracking student progress and we hope to be using it for school reports in Term 2. There is information about GradeXpert with this newsletter – a Privacy Information Statement and an Implied Consent form. If you have any concerns about GradeXpert, can you please complete the Implied Consent form and return it to the school by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. If you have no concerns or queries about GradeXpert, you don't need to return the form.

## Special needs dentist

We will have a special needs dentist visiting Acacia on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. He will check teeth and put on fluoride. Parents are welcome to come along. Enquiries please call Michelle on 8951 6020.

Best regards,

Julie

## DATES COMING UP

- 9:30am Friday 21st March Harmony Day
- 10:30am Friday 28th March School Council meeting
- Friday 28th March Special Needs Dentist
- 9:30am Friday 5th April Dress-up assembly and last day of Term
- Term 2 Tuesday 14th April – Friday 20th June
- Term 3 Tuesday 15th July – Friday 19th September
- Term 4 Tuesday 7th October – Thursday 11th December

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**

# School Council

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After our Annual General Meeting last week we wanted to share some of the amazing long list of achievements the Council, Staff, Parents and Children have achieved together last year.

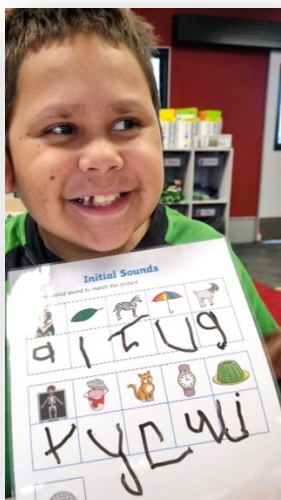
- **Riding for the Disabled** is back in 2025!
- **New Playground** construction is scheduled to start midyear.
- **Amazing new staff** who have joined the dedicated Acacia Team
- **New Learning and Play equipment for the Preschool**
- **Read, Write Inc resources** purchased and Maths resources coming soon so watch this space!
- **Technology** - to keep up with the times we are having Electronic Whiteboards installed in all classes and we have new iPads on the way to replace our well loved but outdated ones.
- **A New School Bus** is on its way - it will be modified to fit 2 wheelchairs when required.
- **Attendance** - Last year, we wrapped up with an incredible 70% attendance—a fantastic achievement! This year, we're aiming even higher, with a goal of 80%. Remember to let the school know if your child will be away and if you need support please reach out.

I also had the opportunity to spend some time at Acacia towards the end of last year, and I would like to say a big thank you to the amazing staff—admin, teachers, SESOs, and principals. Your dedication and hard work behind the scenes make a world of difference.

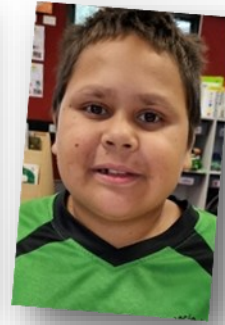
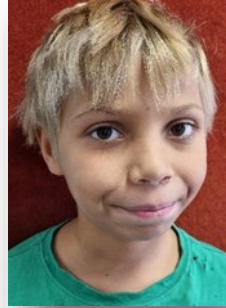
Looking forward to another awesome year in 2025.

Julia Anderson (Chair)

**Room 6** Our learners do their best during class work. We have been learning to identify beginning sounds, writing, saying and signing them. We have also been learning our numbers and continuing patterns. We learn about feelings and how to interact positively with each other.



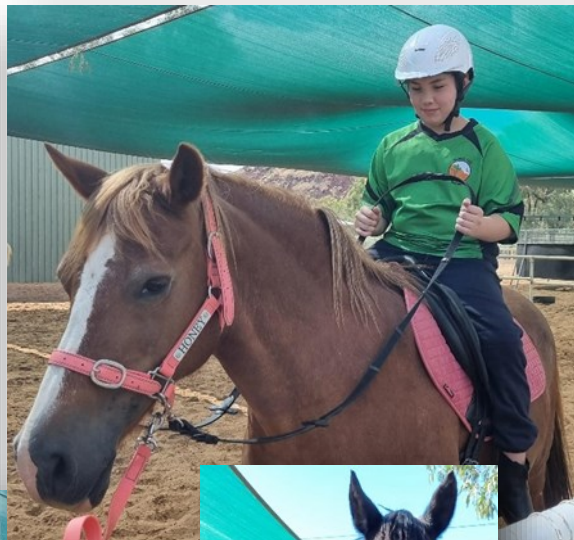
Some of our happy learners in Room 6



## Social and Emotional Wellbeing

# RDA

We have been enjoying horse riding lessons at RDA this term.



## 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.



## Want to know more about the Paralympics and pathways?

Para sport offers exciting opportunities for athletes with disabilities to compete and thrive. Through a unique classification system, athletes are grouped based on their functional abilities, ensuring fair competition and inspiring performances. This workshop is open to anyone interested in learning more about classification or para sport pathways. Whether you're an athlete, coach, or fan, there's a place for you to get involved and make a lasting impact.

Date & Time: 11th March, 6:00 PM - 7.00pm

Location: Level 1, Minerals House, 58 Hartley Street, Alice Springs, NT 0870

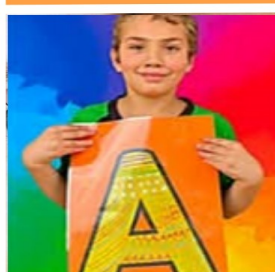
Email: [Jodie.zanini@nt.gov.au](mailto:Jodie.zanini@nt.gov.au) to register



NORTHERN TERRITORY  
SPORTS ACADEMY



newstaff



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

## Free workshop

# 1 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers

Alice Springs, NT



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to register



This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



Thursday  
8 May, 2025  
8:45am to 2:30pm



Mercure Alice Springs Resort  
34 Stott Terrace  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided



Interpreters available upon request

### During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

For more information or to register visit:  
[www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC)  
[jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au](mailto:jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au)

0473 004 024

Positive Partnerships is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education. The views expressed within this program do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.

Positive Partnerships facilitate a range of workshops about autism specifically for parents/carers and school staff.



## NT Term 1 and 2 Workshops 2025

Explore our lineup of scheduled workshops throughout NT for Term 1 and 2 in 2025. To learn more about our workshop options and to get in touch with us, simply scan the QR codes located at the bottom.

Term 1	Date	Program	Location
	13, 20, 27 Feb and 6 Mar	Parent Carer sessional	National Online
	19 and 20 Feb	2 Day Professional Learning workshop	Darwin
	4 and 11 Mar	Professional Learning sessional	National Online

Term 2	Date	Program	Location
	6 and 7 May	2 Day Professional Learning workshop	Alice Springs
	8 May	1 Day Parent Carer workshop	Alice Springs
	15, 22, 29 May and 5 Jun	Parent Carer sessional	National Online

Scan the QR codes for information and resources on a range of topics.



Diverse Communities



Parent and Carer



Professional Learning



First Nations People

To find out more, please contact Jen Cousins, NT Coordinator  
[jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au](mailto:jcousins@positivepartnerships.com.au)

call: 0473 004 024

Positive Partnerships is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education. The views expressed within this program do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.

ORAL HEALTH SERVICES CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



Get your check up for strong teeth and strong bodies!

Special Needs Dentist

Acacia Hill School

CHILD FLUORIDE AND SCREENING DENTAL VISIT

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Public Patients NT  
HCC & PCH holders and children  
free of charge.  
Ask the clinic about eligibility.

Stay well  
Mouths Matter

[www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au)



# Teddy Bears' Picnic

10am-1pm Council Lawns  
All funds go towards  
Family Daycare

Saturday  
26 April  
2025

Gold Coin  
Donation



11:00am Rex's Reptile Show  
12:00 Teddy Bear Parade  
Face Painting, Food Stalls,  
Bake Sale, Music,  
Crafts, Kid's Games and  
Entertainment.



Joshua Burgoyne MLA  
Member for Braiitling



Bill Yan MLA  
Member For Namatjira

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

# Privacy Information Statement – GradeXpert

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## What is a Privacy Information Statement?

When a digital service or application is utilised as part of the teaching and learning curriculum, we require your consent to allow collection, use and disclosure of your child's personal information including when data is transferred and held in cloud-based storage offshore, outside Australia. The following Privacy Information Statement provides information about the application to allow informed consent to be provided.

## What is GradeXpert?

GradeXpert is a student assessment, data and analytical management system used by schools. It allows schools to input various student testing and assessment results for example, NAPLAN, to obtain user-friendly analytical data and tables useful for teachers to address learning gaps and maximise their effectiveness when creating educational programs.

## What data is collected?

Personal data is collected by the school when the student is enrolled, which includes student name, gender, date of birth, indigenous status, address, email, and phone number. Some sensitive data like health records and immunisation records may also be transferred to the GradeXpert system.

## How is the data used?

GradeXpert have indicated that they do not collect or use personal information and data for any other purpose than to provide the services to the Northern Territory Department of Education. They will only disclose data at the direction of the Northern Territory Department or if compelled to do so by law.

Ownership of the data remains with the Northern Territory Department of Education. Individuals have the right to access and apply for correction of their personal information. If you wish to make an application, please contact your school to apply.

## Is the data secure?

GradeXpert is committed to protecting the privacy of students and take all reasonable steps to protect personal information from misuse, interference, and

loss as well as unauthorised access, modification, or disclosure.

Data is encrypted when collected or on the move and there is limited access to the physical data centre.

GradeXpert are bound by the *Australian Privacy Principles* contained in the *Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988* and is compliant with the *Privacy Amendment Act, Enhancing Privacy Protection, 2012*.

## When is the data deleted?

Data is deleted in accordance with applicable Northern Territory Government Records Management Retention and Disposal Schedules.

## Where is the data?

GradeXpert software is hosted on each schools' network, which is managed by the Northern Territory Department of Education.

## Further Information

<https://www.gradexpert.com.au/privacy/>

<https://www.gradexpert.com.au/databreach/>

Education privacy information:

[Department of Education Privacy Policy](#)

For further information on the *Northern Territory Information Act* and *Information Privacy Principles*:

[Home | The Office of the Information Commissioner Northern Territory](#)

Feedback regarding the Department of Education's management of this service can be made through your school or the [Make a complaint about a school | NT.GOV.AU](#)

# Implied consent form

## GradeXpert



## Consent explained

Digital applications are used to meet a range of needs for education, collaboration and connectivity for students and staff. At times staff and student personal information may be required to utilise a digital application. Under the *Information Act 2002* and Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) the school requires additional consent, known as implied consent, when a digital application collects personal information.

The table below includes information explaining the use of the digital application, information collected and links to the company's privacy policy and terms of use. We encourage the reading of the information provided to ensure your consent is informed.

Digital application name: GradeXpert	
<b>Purpose of use</b>	GradeXpert is a student assessment, data and analytical management tool. It allows the school to record, store and analyse student data to support their learning.
<b>Personal information collected</b>	Personal data is collected by the school to support the student's enrolment and learning program. This covers information types found in the student enrolment form, including ongoing medical and allied health information.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://gradexpert.com.au">gradexpert.com.au</a>
<b>Data hosting</b>	GradeXpert will be hosted on the Acacia Hill School Server.
<b>Privacy policy</b>	<a href="https://gradexpert.com.au/privacy/">gradexpert.com.au/privacy/</a>
<b>Data Breach Policy</b>	<a href="https://gradexpert.com.au/databreach/">gradexpert.com.au/databreach/</a>

## Consent and agreement

It is required to reasonably believe that there is implied consent for the collection of your child's personal information. When only implied consent is required, if you do not sign and return this consent form, consent is considered granted. If you do not want your child's personal information to be used in this digital application, you must return the form or notify the school in writing

## Duration of consent

The consent granted by this form is for the period of the student's current phase of learning - Preschool to Year 12. You may review and update your consent at any time by notifying the school in writing, by email or letter to [acaciahill.school@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:acaciahill.school@education.nt.gov.au).

Parent consent			
I have read the explanatory Privacy Information Statement, or it has been read to me. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.		Yes/No	
I understand that if I wish to withdraw consent at any time, it is my responsibility to provide this in writing to the school. Note: If your consent is not given this will not adversely affect any learning opportunities provided to your child.		Yes/No	
Do you give your consent for your child's personal information to be used in this digital application.		Yes/No	
<b>Student full name</b>			
<b>Student year level</b>			
<b>Consenter full name</b>			
<b>Relationship to child or student</b>			
<b>Signature or mark of consenter</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Signature or mark of student</b>		<b>Date</b>	

Note: Where a student who is under 18 years is able to consent, they may also provide consent in addition to the parent.

## Collection notice

The information collected in this form will only be used for the purpose for which it is being collected. All information will be treated confidentially, stored in a secure location, and destroyed in line with legislated retention and disposal schedules to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained. For more information, go to the Department of Education and Training's Policy and Advisory Library and read the Privacy Policy.