ACACIA IN ACTION

Confident

Community



WEEK 10 TERM 2 20 June 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

The middle of the year has arrived quickly! In spite of staff and students being tired, the atmosphere at school remains calm and kind. It has been great this week having some special activities in the yard. Thanks to Ms Lisa and the Behaviour Team for organising this. Please see photos next page.

Our draft Positive Touch and Physical Contact Policy and ARRCS Lunches Guidelines were ratified by School Council at the meeting last week. These documents can be found on our school website Acacia Hill School. The ARRCS Guidelines point out that if a student is away, their lunch will be kept in the fridge or frozen for up to a week. If the student is not back, lunches will be disposed of after one week. When a student is away for a week with no information on their whereabouts, the ARRCS lunches will be cancelled so that money is not still being taken from the parent's account. When the child returns to school, an ARRCS form can be filled out and lunch supply will resume straight away.

The NT has a new law which states that electric scooters should not be used to transport staff or students to school. E-scooters may only be ridden on private property. They may not be stored in school buildings because they pose a fire hazard.

We currently have 101 students on the roll, and our attendance was 66% for Weeks 5-8 this term - a little higher than Weeks 1-4.

Over the next few newsletters, I will add some quotes from Susan McLean's book about cyberbullying. This is a really important area for parents and carer to be aware of. The school is procuring some copies of this book for sale from our front office.

Today is the last day of Term 2. Students commence Term 3 on Tuesday 15th July. I hope you are able to have some relaxing time over the school holidays, and some family time together!

Kind regards, Julie



DATES COMING UP

- Term 3 Tuesday 15th July to Friday 19th September
- Term 4 Tuesday 7th October to Thursday 11th December



We have had a wonderful week full or fun Lunch Time Activities. Ball Skills and Games were on Monday, Tuesday was Parachute Play, Wednesday was Box Play with construction and sliding down the hill! Today we used music instruments and tomorrow is our 'Wear your Pjs and have a Disco' Day. So much fun to end a successful term of hard work!

Lisa Sherriff-AP



The Young people of Acacia Hill School take part take in a Hydrotherapy program and/or a Swim and Survive program once a week. Some students complete their program at base school, whilst others make the bus trip to the town pool.

Students sit in a horizontal line and follow a structured teaching schedule to complete their swimming work for the day. Afterwards students can have free play in the water and enjoy playing with the toys they have worked for.

The early years follow a schedule of songs, dance, drills and play that promote swimming skills and water safety. The satellite classes and senor school students learn survival strokes and other survival techniques as well as learning lifesaving and first aid skills that they can use to help keep themselves and the community safe around water.



Let's see what some of the Acacia Hill students have to say.



"Swimming is cool! I like under water and the ice cream toy." Says Hudson.



"I like learning survival strokes. I understand them now". Says Cruz.



"I like swimming because of the toys. I like playing the ants go marching one by one". Says Lana

Watch out Australia - new generation of hockeyroos and kookaburras take to the field...

Last Thursday June 12, Acacia Hill was visited by NT Hockey as part of their coaching clinic program. Their three representatives Elle, Mackenzie and taught our students the basics and we quickly saw action on the open area. Pre-schoolers right through to our seniors were all happy to raise a hockey stick, strike the ball, run and remember to ground their hockey stick if they weren't involved in play.

As the day progressed some of Acacia's well-known footy stars were saying "forget footy I love hockey!"

Teacher Jo



Our first lesson - let's start!



Ryder strikes out watched closely by Olivia.



Kade takes a turn.



Rosina is ready to score.



Shane helps out Niah but she knows what to do.



Isaiah is in on the action.

<u>Children's Online Privacy Code public consultation</u>

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner has opened a public consultation period for parents, students and educators on the development of the Children's Online Privacy Code.

The consultation period runs until Monday 30 June and invites anonymous input from parents, students and educators.

There are several ways to participate in this process:

- For students: age-appropriate worksheets (for Years 3 to 6 and 7 to 12) are available to help students express their views on online privacy
- For parents and carers: a separate worksheet is available for parents and carers to share their views
- For teachers: a lesson plan and accompanying slideshow are available to help facilitate classroom discussions and guide students in completing their worksheets

Worksheets can be submitted via the online form or by emailing a completed printable version to copc@oaic.gov.au.

Bullying in schools survey

The Federal Government is currently running a Rapid Review into bullying in Australian schools and NTCOGSO will be submitting a short response on behalf of Northern Territory Government school communities.

We'd love to hear from families and schools across the Northern Territory. Everyone's experiences are important, and it's especially valuable to include voices from remote and regional areas that are often missing in national conversations.

This review is a chance to make sure national decisions reflect the real experiences of families and schools in the Territory, including Aboriginal communities and remote areas.

What works here can be very different to other parts of Australia, and that needs to be understood.

If you have time, we'd really appreciate it if you could complete this quick survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2NMHMP6

We know there've been a few surveys, but your input helps us show what's really happening and push for a national bullying response that works for everyone.

Our survey will close on Wednesday 18 June, giving us a few days to read over your responses and weave them into our final submission (due 20 June).

If you'd prefer, you're also welcome to make your own submission directly here:

https://www.education.gov.au/antibullying-rapid-review/consultations/antibullying-rapid-review-submissions

Thanks again for your time and support,

NTCOGSO Team



The Australian Government recently announced an Anti-Bullying Rapid Review. The Review will look at current approaches to addressing bullying in schools, what is working and what needs strengthening, with the aim of providing options for the development of a consistent national standard for responding to bullying and its underlying causes in schools.

The Review is now accepting submissions. The Review co-chairs, Dr Charlotte Keating and Dr Jo Robinson AM, are seeking views from students, parents, teachers, and those involved in school

education across the country. Submissions can be made anonymously if preferred.

To provide feedback through the submission process, please visit www.education.gov.au/antibullying-rapid-review. This page contains instructions on how to participate, along with the Review's Terms of Reference.



While kids today are supremely tech-savvy, we shouldn't confuse this with actual knowledge, an understanding of dangers and risks, cognitive development and maturity. Your children will most probably leave you for dead when it comes to tech use, but what you can assist them with is real knowledge about what cyberspace is, what happens there, how to identify and deal with problems, how to stay safe and how to use so1ne basic common sense. Sadly, from what I see on a daily basis, common sense is just not that common.

The reality is that the concept of common sense is foreign to many people, including adults, and when we are dealing with young, vulnerable, impressionable and. hormonal adolescents whose brains are still very much a work in progress, it is often impossible for them to think the ability to pause and reflect on the consequences of their actions before doing something, and. because they are young, they do not have the life experience or maturity to understand the consequences even after they have been explained to them. This is why parents are so important in this online journey. From Susan McLean, Sexts, Texts and Selfies.



IDEAS IN NUTRITION

Find healthier snacks



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:

- x sweet biscuits swap for

 ✓ sandwiches
- x muesli bars swap for ✓ pieces of fruit
- x Iollies swap for ✓ yoghurt
- x potato chips swap for

 √ vegetable sticks and dip.

For more healthy snack ideas: tinyurl.com/ye4p4cp7





IDEAS IN NUTRITION

Go for 2&5



Get your child to eat 2 fruit and 5 vegetable serves a day.

Less than 5% of children aged 5--14 eat enough vegetables.

 $Nutrients\ from\ fruit\ and\ vegetables\ support\ children's\ growth\ and\ development\ and\ helps\ them:$

- ✓ grow well and stay a healthy weight
- \checkmark get sick less often and improve their quality of life.

To help your child eat more vegetables you could try:

- serve vegetables before the main meal when they are most hungry
- offer vegetables as a snack
- eat, shop for or cook vegetables with your child
- grow vegetables at home.

Find recipes with more fruit and vegetables: livelighter.com.au/recipe/





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

<u>Relationships Australia</u> 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.

