

Acacia in Action



Confident

Community

Caring

Connected

DATE: 24 April 2025

Newsletter Week 2 Term 2 2025

From the Principal,

Welcome to Term 2! Attendance was a little low in the first week, but steadily increasing. Let's see if we can achieve higher than 75% attendance for the first four weeks of this term!

Last term, we held about 75 Educational Adjustment Plan (EAP) meetings. School staff really appreciated the opportunity to spend time with parents or carers, older students, and allied health providers, focusing on each young person and planning their goals for the year. Copies of meeting notes are being emailed out to families.

The playground upgrade, which was approved over a year ago will commence soon. However, it has been descoped due to rising costs, so just Stage 1 - the Early Childhood section - will be completed at this stage. This will provide a beautiful play area in front of the Preschool and behind Blocks C and D.

The soft fall under the Liberty swing - every popular with so many students - needs repair, and is quite costly. Variety Queensland is very kindly donating \$10,000 dollars towards the cost of the soft fall repair. The Liberty swing was itself donated by Variety quite a few years ago.

Reforming secondary education

Resulting from the recent review of secondary education, NT DET is moving away from the Middle Years structure and back to comprehensive year 7-12 high schools. The proposal for Alice Springs is that CMS will become a year 7-12 high school and CSC will become an industry, trade and flexible education hub. There is time now to give feedback on this proposal, at [Reforming secondary education - Alice Springs](#) (see attached). I encourage parents and carers to complete this survey, as it could affect some of our Acacia young people, especially those in satellite classes.

Best regards,

Julie

DATES COMING UP

- 10:30am Friday 2nd May School Council
- 10:30am Friday 30th May School Council
- 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

Room 20 (Ross Park Satellite)

Room 20 students have been busy learning different skills during Semester one. Below are photos of some of the activities.

Circle time



This is a time where we check on each other by going through the Zones of Regulation Chart, discuss days of the week, months of the year, weather and seasons. We also talk about our daily routines. Students have been taking turns leading circle time.

Numeracy



We have been focusing on our unit topics: Number, patterns and Measurement.

Students also get to do **Prodigy** (Online Maths) where we compete with other schools across Australia.

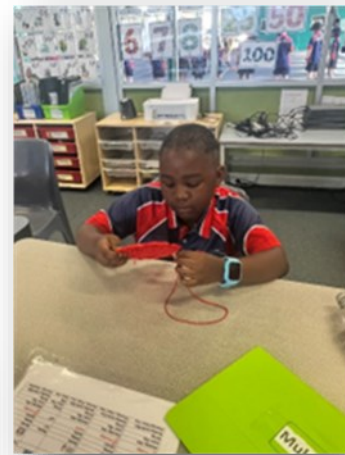
Our class has taken first place twice so far. Impressive work Room 20!



Table Activities



We have been focusing on fine motor skills like tying shoelaces, threading, scissor cutting and hand-writing.



Health



We have weekly Health lessons with Ms Brianna and so far, we have learnt about Healthy eating, body parts and First Aid. Students actively participate in the hands-on activities during these sessions.



Social Skills



We do play various games where we learn social skills like turn taking, it is ok to lose a game, teamwork, sharing, following rules and playing fairly.



Have you applied for your

\$100 SPORT VOUCHER?

GrantsNT.nt.gov.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

The advertisement features a QR code in the bottom left corner and various sports equipment including a badminton racket, a soccer ball, a tennis racket, a cricket bat, and a tennis ball.

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.

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Reforming secondary education – Alice Springs

The Northern Territory Government is committed to delivering on its vision to provide:

- An **excellent and equitable** secondary system that supports all students to achieve.
- A **guaranteed standard of local secondary school provision**, and a pathway to NTCET completion for all students, regardless of geographic location.
- A **model of delivery that is differentiated**, and informed by student and community need and industry pathways.
- An engaging learning design that **guarantees core literacy, numeracy and work readiness skills and drives improvements in student attendance and wellbeing**.
- A **shift away from middle schools** as a key NT government election commitment

Our reforms will build the aspirations and skills of young people so that their secondary schooling sets them up for future careers and meets the needs of the Territory.

What is the proposed future design for secondary education in Alice Springs?

The proposed future design of secondary education in Alice Springs is to **create one comprehensive secondary school (7-12) and one Regional Industry, Trade and Flexible Education Hub**.

It is proposed that the comprehensive secondary school will be at the current Centralian Middle School site; and the Industry, Trade and Flexible Education Hub will be at the current Centralian Senior College.

The creation of the comprehensive school and regional education hub would provide the following benefits:

1. reduce transition points for secondary students. Students will be able to complete year 12 where they start year 7, which will enable greater continuity of learning and relationships for students and teachers;
2. capacity to best serve the local school community and broader community of students outside Alice Springs as a regional hub;
3. enable greater specialisation and connections into industry and jobs through a fit for purpose Industry/Trade and Flexible Education Hub;
4. build on and learn from the flexible learning models already underway in Alice Springs;
5. provide career pathways and development opportunities for staff.

How are we planning for this change?

There is significant detail and planning needed to prepare for the future of secondary education in Alice Springs.

We are currently engaging with parents, students and staff to obtain feedback on the proposed future design. At the end of Term 1, we will collate this feedback to enable government to make a decision on the future design.

By June 2025, all students, parents and staff will know:

- the finalised future design for secondary education in Alice Springs;
- the plan to support students to transition into the new schools and settings;
- approach to managing staff changes and professional development opportunities for staff.

In Semester 2, 2025 further detailed planning will occur to ensure students, staff and school communities are ready to begin the transition to the future state of secondary education.

From Term 1, 2026, changes will begin in a sequenced and carefully managed way, ensuring students and staff are supported. These changes will be managed to minimise disruption for students. The full transition to the new design of secondary education in Alice Springs will be completed by 2028.

Throughout this exciting but significant change process, the Department of Education and Training will provide the appropriate supports for schools, students, teachers and communities to ensure a smooth transition process.

How are we engaging with the school community?

Engagement with school staff and school communities in Alice Springs will run over the next several weeks. This will enable parents, school staff and students to provide input to help shape the future design of secondary education in Alice Springs.

The Department has commenced engagement through:

- a staff meeting at Centralian Senior College on 17 March 2025 and school council meeting on 18 March 2025
- a staff meeting at Centralian Middle School on 18 March 2025 and school council meeting on 20 March 2025.

A short survey has been developed to capture as many perspectives as possible. This survey is available until 16 April 2025 at <https://forms.office.com/r/YMvADrz3K6?origin=lprLink> or through the QR code below:



For a copy of the *Review of Secondary Education in the NT* or more information on the plan for delivering secondary reform, visit www.education.nt.gov.au/secondary-education. Alternatively, if you would like to be in touch about the change email secondaryreform.doe@education.nt.gov.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are the benefits of moving away from middle schools?

Through consultation with teachers, parents and students, the *Review of Secondary Education in the NT* found that the middle school model in the NT isn't maximising outcomes for students. Moving to comprehensive schools will reduce the transition points for students and support greater continuity of relationships and learning. It will provide teachers with wider professional opportunities and provide more opportunities for schools to specialise.

Q. What pathways will be offered to students in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs?

All comprehensive schools in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs will provide the full Australian Curriculum (year 7-10) and a core range of NT Certificate of Education and Training subjects and pathways (year 10-12) that will set students up to pursue post-school education, training and jobs.

Schools within each region will work together to identify specialisations and approaches to working as a network of schools to ensure all students can access a wide range of pathways regardless of their home school. The focus of individual schools will be released alongside the final school design in mid 2025.

Q. How will priority enrolment areas change with the shift away from middle schools?

All students in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs will have access to high quality government secondary education and a wide range of pathways, regardless of where they live.

Providing flexibility and options for families will continue to be an important part of secondary education in the Territory. There is no proposal to change the current priority enrolment policy where families and students are able to pursue opportunities and pathways at schools outside the area that they live.

Q. Will additional funding be available to support this change?

In 2024, the Northern Territory Government signed the *Better and Fairer Schools Agreement* with the Commonwealth Government, providing a significant funding uplift to schools from 2025 to 2029. The funding uplift under this agreement will support the transition to the new secondary system.

Q. How will teachers be supported to prepare for teaching new subjects and year levels?

The shift away from middle schools provides our teachers with exciting opportunities to diversify the year -levels and subjects they teach and deepen the connections with students from 7-12. Professional development will be provided to current middle school teachers to prepare for teaching NTCET subjects, and to support current senior secondary school teachers to enhance their understanding of middle years' teaching and learning approaches.

Q. Will there be investment in infrastructure to support the change away from middle schools?

The Department of Education and Training is currently working with the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure to assess existing facilities at middle and senior secondary schools and to identify any minor or major works that would be required to deliver comprehensive school education. This may include upgrades to science facilities and new facilities for technical specialisations.



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- ✓ Friendly Coaches
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- ✓ All Abilities Welcome

Commencing 22 April 2025

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MyGolf Girls Month



JOIN THE FUN THIS APRIL

FREE MYGOLF GIRLS 4-WEEK PROGRAM

SESSION DETAILS:

A fun-filled session for kids aged 5-17

Dates:

Wed 9th, Wed 16th, Wed 23rd, Wed 30th.

Times:

4:00pm to 5:00pm

What to Bring:

Hat, Drink Bottle a bucket load of fun!

No experience needed – just come ready to play, learn, and have a great time.

All inquiries: E: proshop@asgc.com.au
P: 8952 1921

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CODE TO
REGISTER!



WIN a ride in a FIRE TRUCK!

Smoke Alarm
Action Day
1 June 2025

A working smoke alarm
saves lives, and we're
encouraging you to be
smart and take part
by checking your
life-saving devices!

To enter the competition, snap a photo
or video of your parents or guardians:

- Checking their smoke alarm;
- Replacing the battery of their smoke alarm;
- Cleaning their smoke alarm; or
- Placing old lithium batteries from their smoke alarm into disposal bins at Bunnings or Officeworks.

Comment your photos and videos under
this post on the **NTRFS Facebook page**
by Monday 19 May 2025.

The winner will be notified on Monday
26 May 2025.

For any questions email
programrequests@pfes.nt.gov.au



All rides must be within the NTRFS
Emergency Response Areas.
Photos and videos will be shared on NT Fire and
Emergency Services social media platforms to
promote Smoke Alarm Action Day.



NT FIRE
& RESCUE
SERVICE



Heritage Week Activity

Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
Morsecode in Action

See the old Telegraph Station come to life.

Come and meet members of the
Morsecodians Fraternity and
learn how the first text
messages were sent.

Interactive and
informative sessions
with the experts!

- When:** Saturday 19 to Tuesday 22 April &
Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 April
Time: 9 am to 3:30 pm
(except 27 April: 9 am to 12 pm)
Duration: 15 - 20 mins - anytime throughout
the session
Meet: Old Post Office in the ASTS
Heritage Precinct
Bring: Your curiosity!
Entry fees may apply



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