

ACACIA IN ACTION

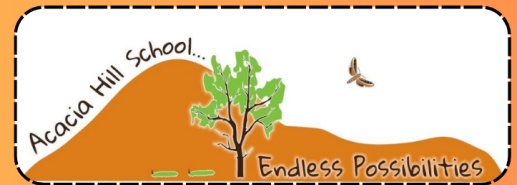
NEWSLETTER

Confident

Community

Caring

Connected



WEEK 10 TERM 1

02 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been an excellent, and busy, term, which feels as if it has gone very quickly, but the beginning of the term feels like a long time ago! Lots of little miracles happen at Acacia Hill School. During Term 1, we have seen students who were very unsettled at the start of the year become much calmer as they gain confidence in their class routines. We have seen students growing in their ability to communicate: some students are starting to use words and talk more, some students have started writing to communicate, some are using their communication devices more competently. We are still busy with Educational Adjustment Plan (EAP) meetings. For staff, this is a privileged time to spend with parents, students and allied health professionals to map goals for the year specific to each young person. Our aim is to have all our students fully achieve or at least, partly achieve, their EAP goals by the end of the year.

We now have 126 students, including five Early Intervention (3 year olds) on the roll. Last year, our average attendance was 69.5%. This year, we are aiming to increase our average attendance of 73%. Generally, the students mentioned above who have grown in calmness and confidence, or in their ability to communicate, since the start of the year are those who attend school every day.

Harmony Day on 20th March was a colourful and truly beautiful day! I feel really honoured to be part of a school community which has such a diversity of cultures. You can see photos of Harmony Day in this newsletter. There are more great photos of Harmony Day on the Acacia facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/people/Acacia-Hill-School/100064016204635/>) and on the Acacia website (<https://www.acaciahill.nt.edu.au/>). Make sure you have a look! 😊

During our Staff Meeting on Tuesday 17th March, the leadership team members visited classrooms, and teachers and SESOs shared their Structured Teaching journeys, including the physical layout of their rooms. We in the leadership team were so impressed with all the work that is happening, in every class-room. This is a big part of supporting our young people to build independence and to operate calmly so they can learn. The first day of Term 2, Monday 13th April, is a staff professional development day with Dr Anna Bortoli, revisiting and learning about Structured Teaching. The first day of Term 2 for students is Tuesday 14th April.

I hope you are all able to have some down time over the school holiday, and some precious family time. There is a School Holidays Activities Calendar included in this newsletter.

Next term, I will be on leave and Mr Joel Hohn will be principal in my place. Joel has been at Acacia since the middle of last year, and had five years' experience as a principal before that. We also have a strong School Council, led by Kathleen Ryder as chair. My feeling is that Acacia Hill School is in a really good place currently, and it will be in good hands next term.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

Kindest regards,

Julie Permezel

DATES COMING UP

- Thursday 2nd April - Last day of Term 1
- Monday 13th April - Teachers return for Term 2
- Tuesday 14th April - Students return for Term 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a Primary School Family Consultation Evening focused on what secondary education in Alice Springs will look like from 2027 onwards. With the region moving away from the middle school model and transitioning to the more traditional Australia-wide structure of primary and secondary schools, this was an important chance for families to have their say.

The evening covered a wide range of topics. Parents were invited to share their thoughts on school uniform design, as well as the subjects they believe are essential for future students. There was strong support for practical, real-world learning—particularly life skills, financial literacy, and music. Another key focus was how schools can ensure all members of the community feel included and represented.

I attended wearing two hats. As a parent of two children at Acacia, my perspective is somewhat unique—one of my children will transition into mainstream education, while the other will complete their entire educational journey within Acacia. This dual perspective made the discussions particularly meaningful.

Encouragingly, the evening fostered positive and thoughtful conversations. There was a strong emphasis on inclusion across cultures and nationalities, as well as important dialogue around safety and security in an increasingly digital world.

However, I also raised several logistical concerns that I know are shared by many Acacia families. These included the need for adequate disabled toilets and shower facilities, stair lifts and elevators, sensory rooms, and a fully fenced, secure environment to support children with heightened needs. These are not “nice-to-haves”—they are essential for ensuring all students can safely and comfortably access their education.

Unfortunately, the response indicated that these considerations are not currently part of the planning process and would only be addressed if and when a specific need arises. There appeared to be limited consideration for Acacia students who may transition into mainstream high school settings at some point in their education journey. I found this response deeply disappointing.

It can be easy for those outside the Acacia community to overlook needs they don't encounter every day. That's exactly why it is so important for parents and carers to continue advocating for our children—ensuring their voices, and their needs, are not only heard but planned for.

I have requested to remain involved and informed as planning progresses, and I encourage others to do the same. Our children deserve a future that is inclusive, thoughtful, and designed with all learners in mind.

Kathleen Ryder
School Council Chair

Room 13

Room 13 has had an amazing term 1! We have explored Alice Springs history, created patterns, measured all sorts of things, investigated matter, and strengthened our skills in Read Write inc., writing and reading. We also participated in Harmony Day activities, used Prodigy, enjoyed swimming at the town pool, participated in Bradshaw art lessons and worked together in team games and activities.

We hope you enjoy the photos we have chosen to share with you this week in the newsletter!

Happy reading,

Teacher Jordie, Alex and the students of Room 13.



Harmony Day

On Friday the 20th of March we spent most of the day at Acacia celebrating Harmony Day. There were dragon and Tongan dances, a beautiful parade celebrating everyone's country and lots of amazing Harmony Day themed activities.



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

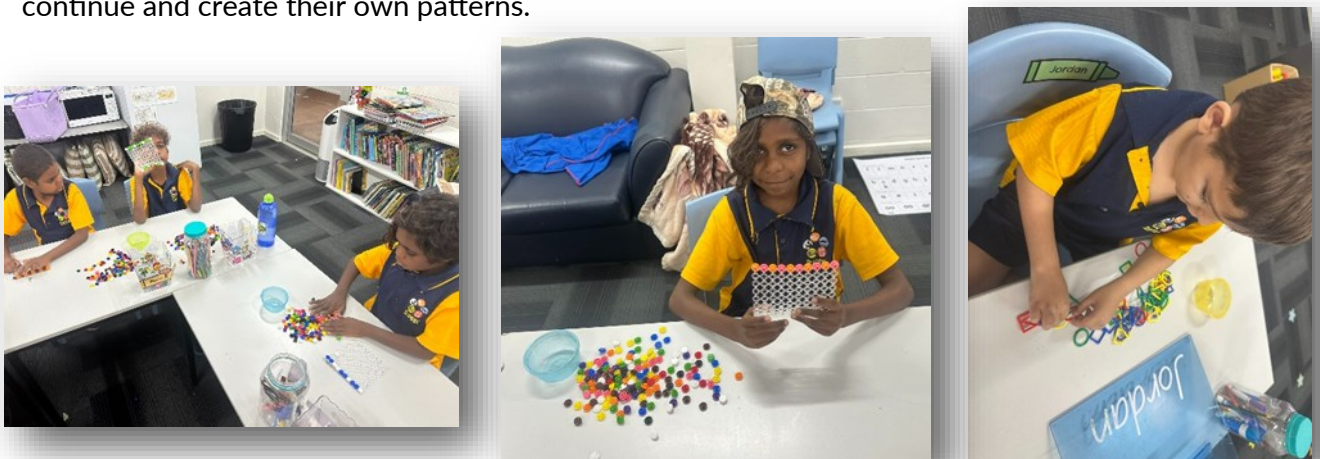
Working together/team games

This term we have making the most of every opportunity to work together. We did this by playing board games together, but also by sharing fun activities.



Maths - Patterns

We have been learning about patterns this term. Students used a wide range of resources to copy, continue and create their own patterns.



Maths - Measurement

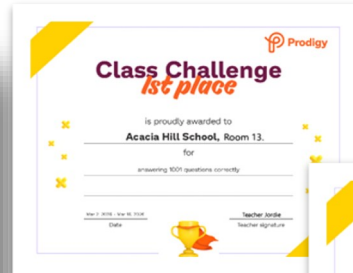
The class explored different types of measurement in maths this term. We looked at length, volume, weight and duration using a variety of beautiful hands on resources to support our learning.



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

Maths - Prodigy

Bradshaw satellite has been using an online maths resource called Prodigy. It's a fantastic tool that helps us practise and improve our maths skills while having lots of fun. Every two weeks, we compete against other classes across Australia to see who can answer the most questions correctly. For two weeks in a row, Room 13 has won first place!



Science - Matter

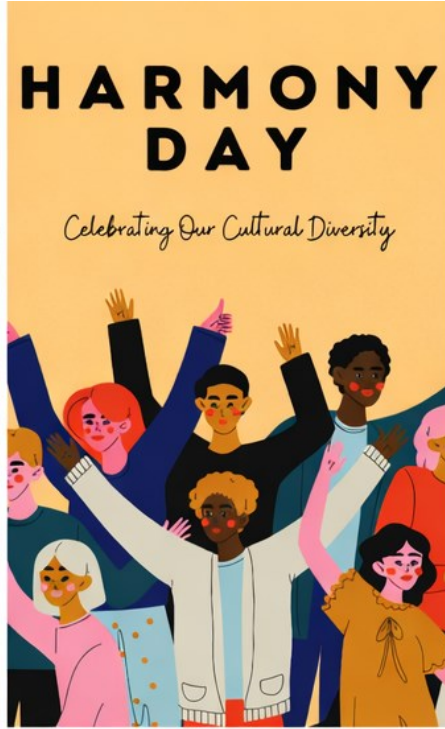
In science our class have been learning about solids, liquids and gases. When we explored liquids, we made Oobleck which can be both a solid and a liquid.



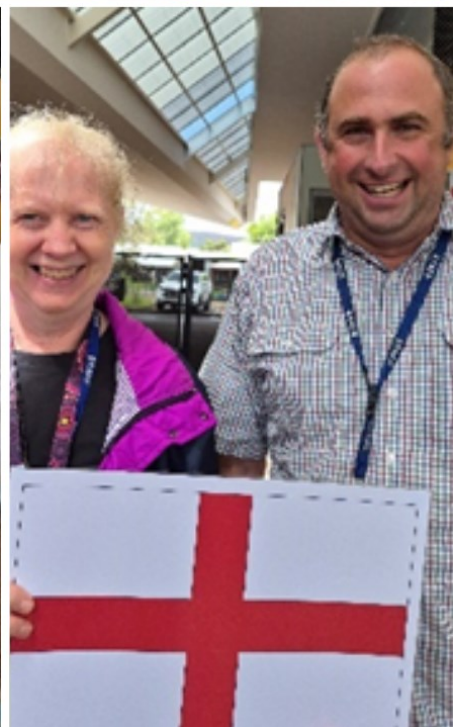
Bradshaw Art Lessons

This term we have been taking turns joining one of the Bradshaw art classes. We always have so much fun creating exciting things and enjoying great conversations with new friends.

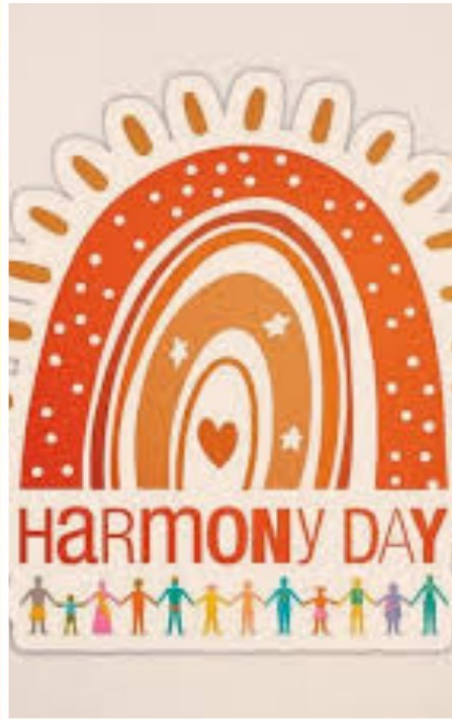




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EVERYONE BELONGS



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



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to stay safe and protected
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Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions

Alice Springs town council

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS!

5-10 APRIL

2026

5 SUNDAY

1:30PM-4:30PM

10 Pin Bowling
@ The Dust Bowl,
29 Gap Road

All ages

EASTER SUNDAY

DROP IN TO YOUR LIBRARY!

The Library will be closed

Friday 3 April - Monday 6 April

But we'll be back open 10am Tuesday 6 April! Come borrow books, CDs, magazines, DVDs and eBooks this holidays. **Happy reading!**

6 MONDAY

11AM-2PM

Free Mini-Golf
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

Coming soon...

2026 YOUTH arts PRIZE

Entries open
18 May - 10 July

Art prize for young people in Alice Springs Mparntwe ages 7-25



More info ^

7 TUESDAY

11AM-2PM

Free Mini-Golf
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

NEWLAND PARK IS OPEN!

Newland Park is open, and always free!

Ride, skate, climb, or just hang out - there's something for everyone.

Join in on one of the school holiday programs, or come and enjoy the space anytime

8 WEDNESDAY

11AM-2PM

Free Mini-Golf
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

11AM-2PM

Waterside Wednesday & Free BBQ
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

2PM-4PM

Intergen VR
@ the Library

All ages

3PM-6PM

Bikes Mwerre BMX
@ Newland Park

All ages

9 THURSDAY

10AM-12PM

Free Mini-Golf
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

11AM-2PM

Signing session with AFLW players & food
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

12PM-1PM



More info on our website

10 FRIDAY

10AM-12PM

Free Mini-Golf
@ ASALC, 10 Speed St

All ages

2PM-4PM

Intergen VR
@ the Library

All ages

4PM-7PM

Youth Week Celebration: Free BBQ, BMX Workshop & Music
@ Newland Park

Supported by 8CCC, The YNT, NTCOSS, and CRANK IT - BMX Mechanical Workshops

All ages



ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

DIPHTHERIA

(Dip-thee-ree-a)

Diphtheria is caused by bacteria which can affect the lungs, breathing or skin.

It can be a serious illness that needs antibiotics to treat the infection.



BEING VACCINATED IS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT THE DISEASE

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



Sore throat
or Neck swelling



Fever



Difficulty swallowing
or breathing



Infected or non-
healing sores

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

From an infected person coughing or sneezing or contact with infected sores.



HOW CAN I PREVENT DIPHTHERIA?



cleaning and covering skin sores



encouraging hand hygiene



covering mouth when coughing and sneezing
(cough etiquette)



ensure you and your family are vaccinated

Speak to your local clinic for more information.

If you have these symptoms or for more information, visit your local doctor

Centre for Disease Control
Public Health Division, NT Health
Phone: 8922 8044

Adapted content, originally produced with thanks by:

Torres and Cape
Hospital and Health Service



Queensland
Government

Issued: 25 March 2026
Issued to: Medical practitioners

Diphtheria outbreak in the Northern Territory

Situation

- The Centre for Disease Control is investigating an outbreak of diphtheria in the Northern Territory.
- There have been four cases of respiratory diphtheria (3 in Darwin, 1 in Alice Springs) notified in the last week and 33 cases of cutaneous diphtheria notified since 2025.
- Respiratory and cutaneous diphtheria are vaccine-preventable diseases caused by toxigenic strains of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*.
- Clinicians should be vigilant for patients presenting with clinically suspicious skin sores, infected wounds or upper respiratory illness in Darwin and Alice Springs, particularly in under or unvaccinated individuals, or those who have had contact with a known case.
- Respiratory diphtheria is an urgent notifiable disease. Do not wait for lab confirmation. If respiratory disease is suspected, call CDC to discuss notification, testing commencement of treatment and contact tracing.

Actions

1. Signs and symptoms

- **Respiratory diphtheria** can include a sore throat and fever, and an adherent grey pseudomembrane that can cover the tonsils and mucosa of the pharynx, larynx, and nose. Enlarged anterior cervical lymph nodes and oedema of the surrounding soft tissue can cause a characteristic 'bull-neck' appearance. Untreated, respiratory diphtheria can be life-threatening.
- **Cutaneous diphtheria** presents as chronic, nonhealing sores or shallow ulcers which may have a grey membrane.

2. Testing and treatment

- If respiratory diphtheria is suspected urgently discuss with an infectious diseases physician or paediatrician (RDH 08 8922 8888, ASH 08 8951 7777). Early antibiotics and antitoxin can prevent severe complications from toxin-mediated airway obstruction and spread to non-immune contacts.
- If respiratory diphtheria is suspected, collect bacterial culture swabs (typically blue top, with gel) from the throat (ideally below the pseudo-membrane, if present) and any ulcers or purulent skin lesions. Clearly label each specimen with the collection site (e.g. throat or site of skin lesion), and include relevant clinical details and any known contact with confirmed or suspected cases on the request form.
- Ensure standard and droplet precautions are used when taking swabs for testing including a surgical mask, glasses, gloves and gowns.
- Azithromycin 500mg (child 12 mg/kg up to 500mg) daily for 5 days is the preferred treatment due to increasing penicillin resistance.

3. Infection prevention and control

- Diphtheria bacteria can live in the mouth, nose, or throat, or on the skin of people with the infection. Diphtheria can spread through respiratory droplets, which may be generated through coughing or sneezing, or through close contact with skin lesions.
- If respiratory diphtheria is suspected, implement contact and droplet precautions until 1 negative culture is obtained.
- If cutaneous diphtheria is suspected or diagnosed, ensure a throat swab is also collected, cover wounds and implement contact precautions until wounds improve and the completion of appropriate antibiotics.
- Contact tracing is required for all confirmed respiratory and cutaneous cases. Please assist the NT CDC to identify contacts that may need further follow-up.
- High risk contacts, those with likely/definite exposure to respiratory droplets, or direct contact with respiratory secretions or wound exudate, should avoid contact with vulnerable populations (infants aged ≤ 6 months, sick, elderly, those requiring dependent care, and immunosuppressed individuals) until swabs returned negative result or 72 hours from commencement of appropriate antibiotics, whichever is shorter.

4. Vaccination

- Healthcare providers are advised to check their own vaccination status to ensure they have had a diphtheria containing vaccine in the last 10 years
- Diphtheria vaccination protects against the disease and is very effective. It gives protection against disease by production of antibodies to the diphtheria toxin. Ensure children, adolescents and adults are up to date with appropriate DTPa or dTpa vaccination. [Immunisation program | NT Health](#)

Contact & advice

Please contact the **Surveillance and Response Unit at NT CDC on 08 8922 8044** for additional guidance.

Issued by: Dr Bhavi Ravindran, Head of Surveillance and Response
Centre of Disease Control, Public Health Division, NT Health
Dr Paul Burgess, Chief Health Officer. NT Health

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NT Public
Health Alerts

