

ACACIA IN ACTION

NEWSLETTER

Confident

Community

Caring

Connected



WEEK 06 TERM 1

06 Mar 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

While I love rain, it is nice to see the sun again after a very wet few weeks! All the rain, and up-and-down Todd River levels, had some impact on attendance. Hopefully, we will get back to normal now, with students coming to school every day unless they are sick.

We had the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the **Acacia Hill School Council** last week. I am proud to announce a strong 2026 Acacia Hill School Council, and I will be very happy to work with Kathleen Ryder as our new chair!

Chair	Kathleen Ryder	Teacher member	Megan Gardner
Parent member	Tiarah Ferguson	Student member	Ryzac Stevens
Parent member	Claire Wright	Student member	Ryzac Stevens
Parent member	Rainer Balzer	Principal	Julie Permezel
Parent member	Dennis Balzer	Treasurer (non-member)	Julia Rossana
Teacher member	Kam Kaur	Secretary (non-member)	Oktavia Huang

We have a new staff member, Sylvia Balzer, who has joined us as a SESO, for six months at this stage. Sylvia comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience with things like PEG feeding.

Term 1 is a very busy time for Acacia Hill School, with **Educational Adjustment Plan (EAP) meetings**. These meetings with parents and carers, therapists and others, are a privilege and highlight of the year for Acacia staff. Thank you, parents and carers, for your involvement and support for the EAP meetings, where we together decide the best learning goals for each young person for the year.

Last year, one of the goals of our Action School Improvement Plan (ASIP) was to increase the proportion of students **achieving their EAP communication/reading goal** by the end of the year. I'm proud to say there was a marked decrease in the proportion of students still 'emerging' with their communication/reading goal compared with 2022 and 2023, and a marked increase in the proportion of students who achieved their goal in 2025, as shown in the table below. Well done, teachers and SESOs!

Acacia Hill School EAP communication/reading goal achievement 2022-2025

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Emerging	18%	26%	No data available	4%
Partially achieved	50%	57%	No data available	40%
Achieved	19%	9%	No data available	44%
Not assessed	14%	7%	No data available	12%

The Department of Education and Training now has a **Smoke Free Schools policy**. The policy states that smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is not permitted on school grounds, including 10 meters from an entry point to, or boundary of, a school. You can find this policy on the Acacia Hill School website.

Kind regards,

Julie Permezel

Principal

DATES COMING UP

- 11-13 March - 2026 NAPLAN at Larapinta Satellite Class
- 9:30 am Friday 20th March – Harmony Day
- Tuesday 24th March - Whole school photo day
- Thursday 2nd April - Last day of Term 1

Welcome to Room 9 – Where every step counts. Our classroom is a place of encouragement, inclusion, and achievement. Together we celebrate resilience in every learning environment.

Table Activities

In the first session, we start our day with Table Activities where we use visual supports, hands-on materials, and guided instruction to complete activities that develop fine motor skills. It is wonderful for building independence, following routines, and developing confidence within a supportive and inclusive environment.



Literacy Activities

We participate in individual and small-group reading activities tailored to our learning goals. Through shared reading, discussion, and supported comprehension tasks, we are developing early literacy skills at our own level.

Reading sessions provide opportunities to strengthen communication skills, listening, and engagement. It has been wonderful to respond to texts, share ideas in our own ways, and develop a growing enjoyment of books.



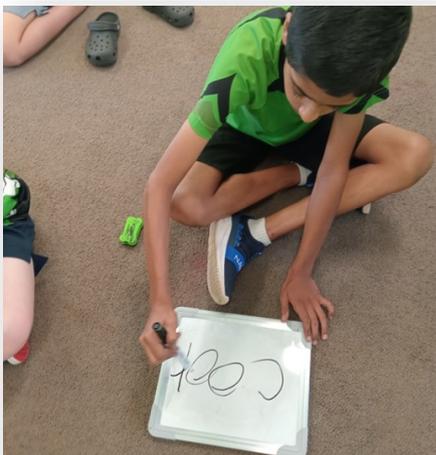
SWIMMING

Our swimming sessions have provided a valuable opportunity for us to develop water confidence, safety awareness, and physical coordination. With structured instruction and supportive guidance, we engage at our own individual comfort levels while building trust and resilience.



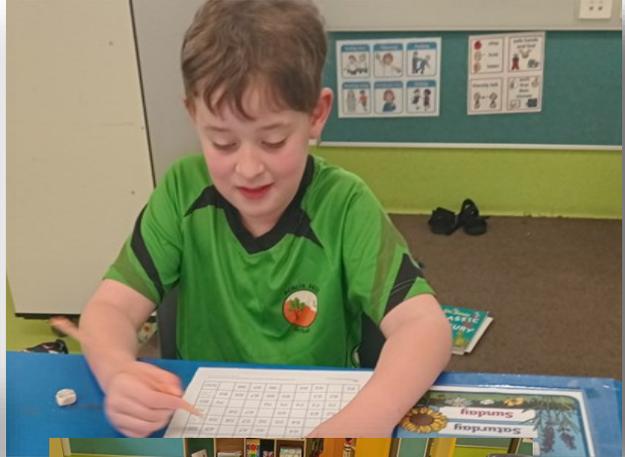
Phonics

With the support of visual cues, repetition, modelling, and assistive strategies where needed, we practise identifying letter sounds and blending them to form simple words.



Numeracy

We enjoy exploring number concepts up to 100 through multi-sensory learning experiences. Using number lines, movement-based counting, songs, and visual supports, we practise sequencing numbers and recognising patterns. Every achievement – big or small – is celebrated in our class.



ACACIA HILL SCHOOL

NEW STAFF

Sylvia Balzer
SESO

"I am originally from Germany and have lived in Alice Springs for the past fourteen years. I am a proud mother of two sons, a grandmother to six grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to three wonderful great-grandchildren. My husband and I are currently fostering three children. I have dedicated thirty-five years to working as a cook in the disability and aged care sector."

SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR

Kathleen Ryder

"Hi, I'm Kathleen. I'm very happy to have been elected as Chair of the School Council and feel privileged to support our wonderful school community in this role.

I have two young children at the school — one in Early Intervention and one in Primary — so I care deeply about the continued growth and improvement of our school. Like all parents, I want every child here to have the opportunity to achieve the best outcomes possible for them and their individual circumstances.

School Council works best when the whole community feels heard, so please feel welcome to reach out to me if there is ever something you would like raised or discussed. If you'd prefer not to bring something to the Council directly, I'm always happy to do that on your behalf.

I look forward to working together to support our students, families, and staff."

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 1800 951 955.



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**Hon. Joshua Burgoyne MLA & Hon. Bill Yan MLA
proudly presents**



Teddy Bears' Picnic

Saturday 23rd May 2026

10am-1pm

Town Council Lawns

**Food Stalls, Bake Sale, Kid's Games &
Entertainment, Crafts, Raffles & Prizes.**

Teddy Bear Parade starts at 12pm

Gold Coin Donation

All funds go towards
Alice Springs Youth and
Community Centre

**Bring your favourite
teddy bear!**



Smoke free schools - policy

Department of Education and Training



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1. Policy

The Northern Territory (NT) Department of Education and Training (department) prioritises the safety and wellbeing of all staff and students.

To promote the health and wellbeing of all staff and students, smoking or the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) is not permitted on school grounds, including within 10 metres from an entry point to, or boundary of, a school.

Any reference to smoking in this policy also applies to the use of e-cigarettes or vaping.

2. Purpose

This policy is consistent with the requirements under the *Education Act 2015* (the Act), the *Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*, the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Vic) (National Law) and the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* (NSW) (National Regulations), and aims to reduce harm to people's health by:

- discouraging people from smoking
- reducing children's exposure to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all NT Government schools and services including:

- all activities that take place on school grounds including preschool, early childhood education and care services, outside school hours care, cultural, sporting or recreational activities and
- anyone on school grounds during and outside of school hours including students, teachers, contractors, parents or carers or the wider community, such as sporting groups.

The policy also extends to school organised events held off school grounds, including excursions and camps, sports carnivals, graduation celebrations and other like activities.

4. Breaches

Breaches of the Smoke free schools policy will be managed in line with relevant legislation and department policy, and may result in disciplinary action or being issued a trespass notice by the school.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1. Principals

Are responsible for ensuring that:

- implementing and promoting the Smoke free schools policy
- displaying No Smoking signs at the entry points and boundary to school grounds
- taking appropriate action following a breach of the Smoke free schools policy
- ensuring that individuals or groups that use school premises comply with the Smoke free schools policy

It is recommended that Principals:

- encourage employees who require support to comply with the ban to:
 - contact Quitline by calling 13 78 48. Quitline is a friendly, confidential service with trained counsellors who provide practical advice tailored for each person
 - contact their general practitioner
 - access the employee assistance program (EAP)
- make tobacco and vaping education and information available to support students not to smoke or vape.

5.2. School Operations

Is responsible for:

- supporting schools with implementation of the Smoke free schools policy
- supporting schools with the management of breaches of the Smoke free schools policy.

6. Definitions

Term	Definition
Electronic cigarettes	Devices that deliver nicotine and other chemicals to the user via an aerosol vapour. The devices are designated to simulate the act of smoking tobacco cigarettes but do not involve the burning of tobacco. Non-nicotine products are also available. A range of names are used to describe the products, including, electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-shisha, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookas, hookah-pens, vape-pipes and e-cigs.
Entry and boundary area	The area within 10 metres of the gate or similar entry point to the place; and if there is a boundary to the place, or a boundary is indicated by signage (including no smoking signs), and area within 10 metres of the boundary.
School	A government school, including preschool, established under the Education Act 2015.
School grounds	Includes all of the school's buildings and grounds.
Smoking	Releasing smoke or fumes from an ignited tobacco product and includes holding or controlling an ignited tobacco product. Any reference to smoke or smoking in this policy includes vaping or use of electronic cigarettes.
Vaping	Using the e-cigarette to generate or release an aerosol or vapour by electronic means for inhalation by the user in a manner that replicates, or produces an experience similar to, smoking.

7. Related legislation and policy

7.1. Legislation

Education Act 2015 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/EDUCATION-ACT-2015>

Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/EDUCATION-AND-CARE-SERVICES-NATIONAL-UNIFORM-LEGISLATION-ACT-2011>

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (Vic) - <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/education-and-care-services-national-law-act-2010>

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (NSW) - <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653>

Tobacco Control Act 2022 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/TOBACCO-CONTROL-ACT-2002>

Tobacco Control Regulations 2022 - <https://legislation.nt.gov.au/Legislation/TOBACCO-CONTROL-REGULATIONS-2002>

7.2. Policy

Community use of school facilities policy and guidelines - <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/school-communities#>

Trespass on school grounds - <https://education.nt.gov.au/policies/school-operations#trespass-on-school-premises>

7.3. Resources

Employee Assistance Program - <https://ntgcentral.nt.gov.au/my-job/health-safety-and-wellbeing/counselling-employees>

Quitline - <https://www.quit.org.au/en>

Document title	Smoke free schools - policy
Contact details	School Operations, School Support
Approved by	Chief Executive
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TRM number	50-F26-315

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1	July 2019	Quality School Systems and Support	First version
2	October 2022	School Operations	Administrative amendments to align roles and responsibilities to the structural alignment in effect from 1 July 2022, including NTG template and minor formatting. Contemporise to reference the use of electronic cigarettes as per NT Health's <i>Smoke Free Policy</i> line.
3	January 2026	School Operations	Change of name, removal of designated smoking area on school grounds, new NTG template.