

ACACIA IN ACTION

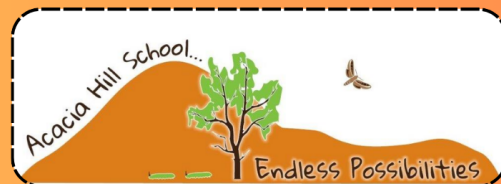
NEWSLETTER

Confident

Community

Caring

Connected



WEEK 08 TERM 1

20 Mar 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Now is 'EAP Time' at Acacia, with multiple meetings being held every day. For Acacia staff, these meetings are a privileged time to meet with you and other stakeholders, and our young people themselves, to design their individual goals for 2026. As planned in our 2026 Action Plan for School Improvement (ASIP), every student has a communication or reading goal and a maths goal. Students who had less than 50% attendance in 2025 also have an attendance goal.

Whole School Instructional Model

Our Assistant Principal Hannah Charlie is our school representative in an NT DET Explicit Instruction Learning Together Network. Hannah is our school expert in Structured Teaching, which parents and carers will have some familiarity with from visiting classrooms, such as visual timetables and Working For charts on walls, and tubs of different coloured folders for each student which are used for literacy and numeracy lessons. Hannah is working with this network to articulate how explicit instruction can be embedded in Structured Teaching. Structured Teaching emphasises predictable structures in classrooms and through the school days in order to foster student independence. It helps to foster a calm school environment.

Attendance

Our attendance target for 2026 is 73%, with our baseline for 2025 being 69.5%. We had a fairly good start to the year, with average attendance at 71% for the first four weeks of term. However, since then, there has been a drop in attendance to 68.6%, partly due to all the rain, and quite a bit of illness in the past few weeks. But, there have also been some students missing school for no clear reason. Recently, due to a decline in attendance rates across Central Australia, the NT DET Student Attendance and Engagement Team will be issuing compliance notes to parents of students with less than 60% attendance this year, unless there has been a good reason for the low attendance.

Hydrotherapy/swimming lessons

For many years, Acacia classes have had a weekly hydrotherapy or swimming lesson. An AUSTSWIM-trained staff member is required to run these sessions. In my time at Acacia, this has been a SESO who has that qualification. Over recent years, we have had less and less SESOs with an AUSTSWIM qualification. We have reached the point now where we have had to reduce swimming sessions to once a fortnight. We are very fortunate to have an enthusiastic, dedicated and very knowledgeable Hydrotherapy Assistant, Sarah Rendina, working for us this year. However, Sarah is only able to work three days per week due to outside study commitments.



Smoke Free Schools Policy

Commencing last week, smoking, vaping and e-cigarettes are not permitted on school grounds, including 10 metres from an entry point or boundary of the school. There are now No Smoking signs on all entry points to the school.

Recycling program ceasing for the time being

For many years, the Acacia senior students and their staff have run a recycling program with cans and bottles. We appreciate the many community members who left bags of recyclable cans and bottles at Acacia. Money raised contributed to the Year 12 graduation event. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain this program. This year, with the move of all our senior students to CSC, the program has become no longer tenable. Hence, for the time being, we are ceasing the recycling program.

At 5:30–7:30pm on Tuesday, 24th of March, there will be a consultation at Witchetty's Araluen Art Centre, about the changes coming in Secondary schooling in Alice Springs in 2027. If you are interested to attend, see the notice in the newsletter.

Thank you for continuing to work with us on your young person's journey through school.

Kindest wishes,

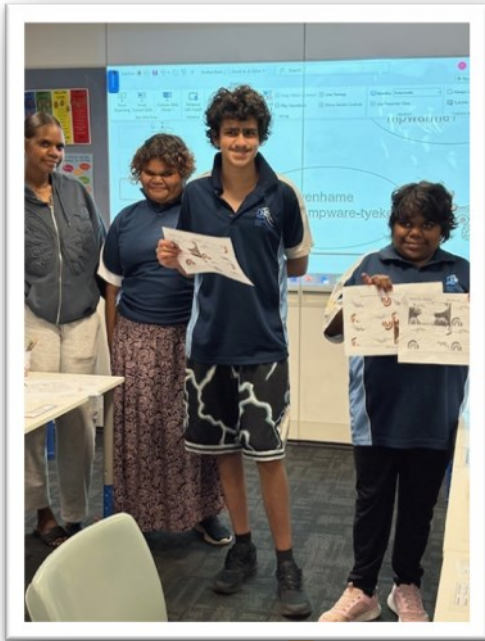
Julie Permezel

DATES COMING UP

- 9:30 am Friday 20th March – Harmony Day
- Tuesday 24th March - Whole school photo day
- Thursday 2nd April - Last day of Term 1
- Tuesday 14th April - Students return

Room 18

Acacia Hill Senior Students at Centralian Senior College developing confidence through structured learning program.



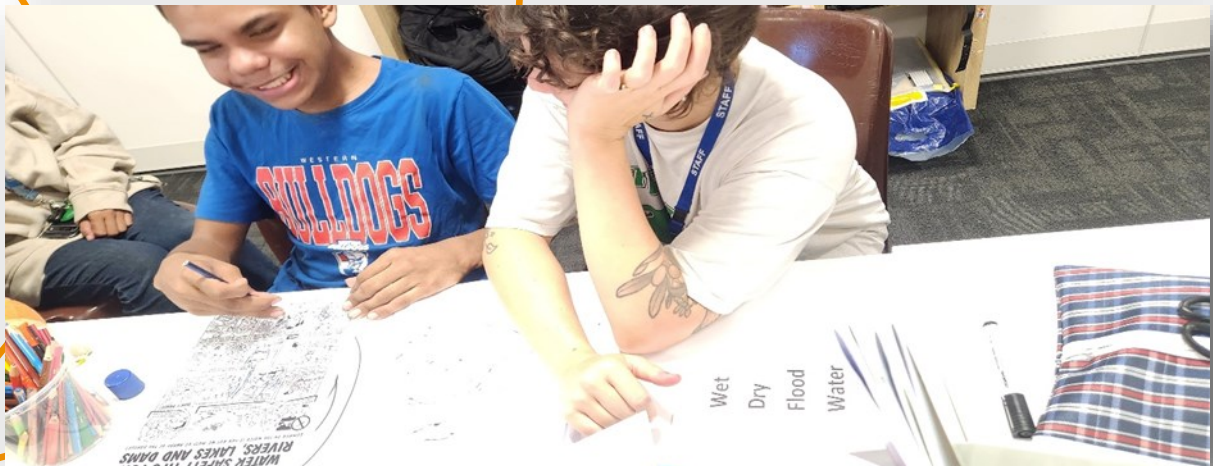
Room 18 joins with room 17 for box fit with Mr. Mark, Stem session, and Arrernte language lessons with Ms. Tanisha to build fitness, problem solving and positive communication skills.



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



Building positive relationships, trust, confidence and respect.



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

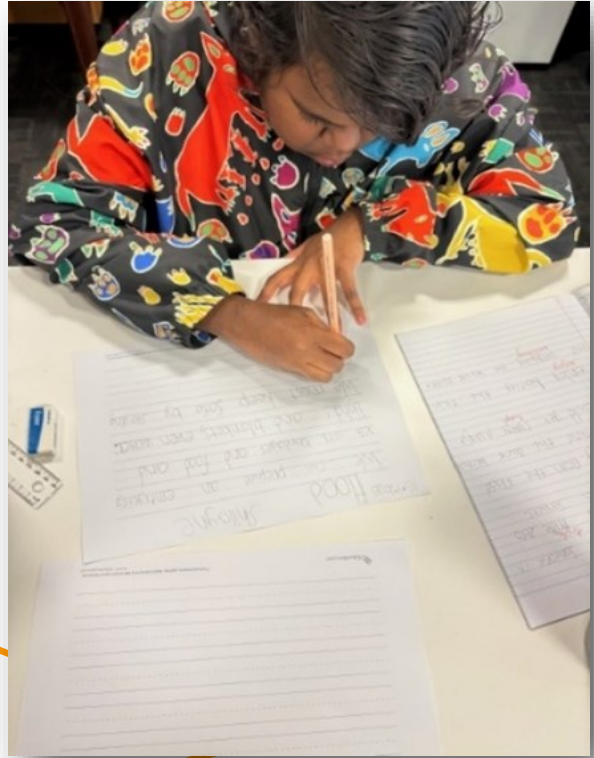
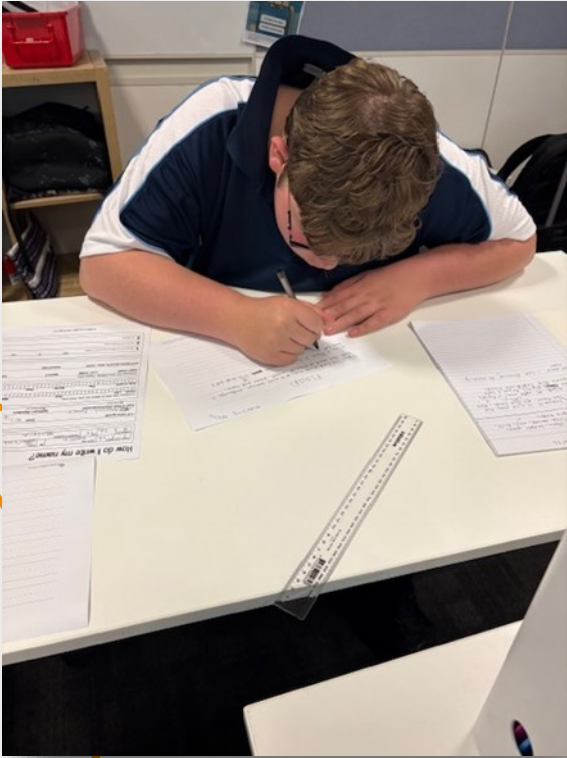


After community access we travel back to school on the bus.

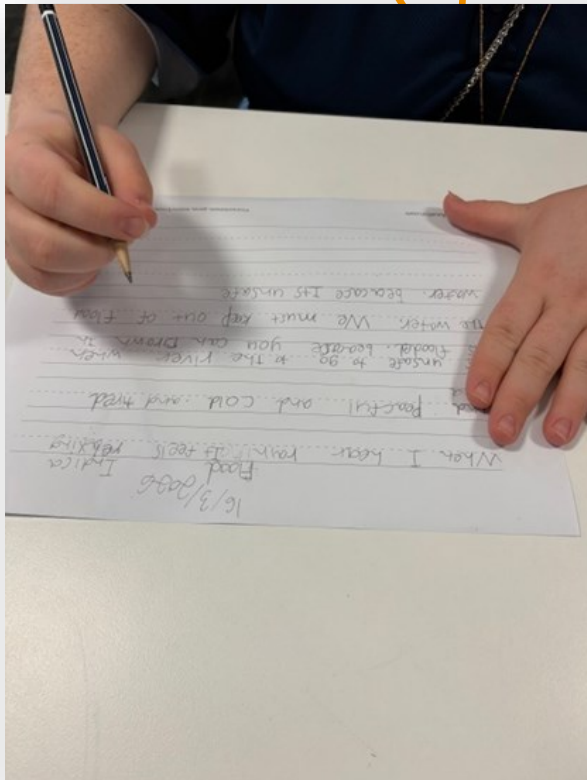
The students follow their selected recipe in the CSC hospitality room and cook, plate and share their meal. After their meal they reflect and gather feedback on how to improve.



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



Students viewed pictures and engaged in depth discussions about floods. They explored safe and unsafe behaviours around flood waters. Students reflected on how floods make them feel and wrote their own thoughts and understanding about floods.



Room 20- Exciting News!!

Congratulations to Liam and Quincy who received their leadership badges at Ross Park assembly last week. They have been democratically voted and elected by their classmates to represent their class as Eco Ranger and Student Representative respectively. Each of them prepared and delivered a speech to convince their peers why they should be voted. We wish them all the best in their new leadership roles.



PRIMARY SCHOOL FAMILY CONSULTATION

PLANNING FOR HIGH QUALITY FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION IN ALICE SPRINGS

As a result of the NT review into secondary education, there will be significant changes to what our government high schools look like from 2027.

Please come along to share your views on how to shape high quality free public education in our town.

24th March 2026

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Venue: Witchetty's Araluen Arts Centre

A light meal will be provided so please let us know if you are coming and whether you have any dietary requirements.

Hosts: Transitional Principal, Donna O'Brien and
CMS School Council Chair, Rohan Barwick



RSVP:
donna.obrien@education.nt.gov.au
or call CMS on 89552333

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



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

**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!**

