



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Issue 1, 2018



Shepherdson College Council



Alyangula Area School Council



Kalkaringi School Council

NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS

STRONG SCHOOLS · STRONG COMMUNITIES

Rock & Water Training - Northern Territory

The Rock & Water program engages participants with skills for physical-social teaching with a focus on body awareness, emotional awareness and self-awareness.

The program is an excellent tool to support young people in finding their grounding, learning how to centre oneself and learning how to self-manage in social settings.

Topics include Discussion topics include: bullying, life goals, developing a mental strength, emphatic feeling, positive feeling, positive thinking and positive visualising, intuition, body language, positive self-image, communication skills, personal boundaries and following an inner compass.

Participants will receive many Rock & Water games, options, strategies and exercises that can teach young people: verbal and emotional expression, identity development, physical boundaries and personal safety, emotional and behavioural regulation and skills required to respond to and manage aggressive tendencies in both themselves and others.

DARWIN WORKSHOPS 2018

April 30th, May 1st & April 2nd

3 Day Workshop

May 21st & 22nd

Focus on Primary School Workshop

August 14th & 15th

Focus on Girls & Women Workshop

October 22nd & 23rd

Focus on Autism Spectrum Workshop

FIND OUT MORE HERE:

<https://goo.gl/758w1j>

CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER

President's Message

I hope your children have had a wonderful start to the school year and are immersed in their learning.

This term the NT COGSO team held our first conference for 2018 in Alice Springs where we received presentations from many organisations offering innovative programs.

Each member of the NT COGSO team is a parent of a student or students in our wonderful government schools. They volunteer on their local School Representative Body and also volunteer to represent all NT students with NT COGSO. Each of us welcomed an opportunity to hear from those organisations who deliver programs on the ground which make a difference to our Territory students.

We live in a time that sees mental health disorders becoming more prevalent and our very young children experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety. Please take the time to have a look at the Smiling Mind website and its evidence-based approach to wellbeing. Also available to schools and students is the Smiling Mind free app that promotes wellbeing through mindfulness to all age groups.

Happy children are successful learners and become happy adults.

Approximately one in four grade 4 to year 9 students have reported being bullied every few weeks or more and the results of bullying can be absolutely devastating. With 45% of primary aged children accessing social networking sites, this number increases drastically as the child ages.

I encourage you to attend any cyber safety/bullying information sessions that become available as these sessions are invaluable. You will also find good

information at <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent> as well as <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/health-and-community/enewsletter/kids-online-statistics> and the <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au> website.

As a parent it is important to encourage physical activity and set boundaries for all electronics - for the whole family!

Most of the School Representative Bodies (also known as School Councils or School Boards) will have held their Annual General Meetings by now, with memberships confirmed. Any parent, whether a member or not, is always welcome at meetings, so don't feel you have to be an elected member to attend your local School Representative Body meeting.

Your child's education is a partnership and we encourage you to work and engage with your child's teacher and school to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

Encourage a positive mindset, model the behaviour you want to see in your children. Children will rise to the expectations you have of them. Have high expectations for children's behaviour and achievement to help them excel to their ultimate potential.

Take time to have positive conversations and interactions with your Principal, teachers and school community.

Wishing you a fun and safe Easter break with your family and friends.

**Tabby Fudge,
President**



Dundee Beach School

IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SKILLS.



Collaborative work to build language skills



Wearing the storyteller's hat



Upper primary students sorting verbs into categories

IN 2018 DUNDEE BEACH SCHOOL IS FOCUSING ON IMPROVING STUDENTS' WRITING SKILLS.

"We have been challenged to be the most improving jurisdiction in the country", said Teaching Principal, Jocelyn Seamer. "We believe that our student's location should not impact on the quality of education they receive and are committed to helping them achieve at a high level".

As well as a strong focus on the explicit teaching of systematic synthetic phonics through the Read Write Inc. program teachers and students at Dundee Beach School work towards the goal of strong writing through exploring and drawing inspiration from rich, high quality literature.

"We recognise that all literacy is grounded in oral language and that picture books are a wonderful source of language development and literary enjoyment for children".

Teachers at Dundee Beach know that while conversational speaking skills mostly develop naturally, reading and academic writing require purposeful, intentional teaching.



A Read Write Inc Lesson in progress

Using the principles of Age Appropriate Pedagogy across the school (which calls for a range and balance of teaching approaches) and grounding instruction in engaging, high quality literature, the school is excited to see a continuation of their student's growth in literacy. "As a teaching team we are committed to continual improvement for all students", said Karen Lane, early year's teacher.

The text based units of work currently being undertaken see students engaging in drama activities to build comprehension of the text, inclusive group work to expand skills in vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure and opportunities to write texts utilising new learning. "Students have responded with enthusiasm to this year's program and we can already see development in their use of complex language. Working in a small, multi-age setting can present challenges but we are delighted to be on board with the Department's quest to ensure that all children receive the best, evidence based instruction possible."

Celebrations with Mataranka School !!

The Mataranka Never Never Festival 2018 will be awesome! "Back to the Never Never" Theme Night, Friday 18th May will be super exciting. There will be a Deckchair cinema showing of "We of the Never Never" movie, history and entertainment by Ted Egan & Indigenous elders, period costume - prizes for best dressed. Plus awesome food.

Mataranka Never Never Festival

MAY18 Back to the Never Never Theme Night - Fri 5pm

MAY19 Family Sports & Fun Day - Sat 9am

MAY19 Mataranka Rodeo & Entertainment (NNF) - Sat 5pm

MAY20 Mataranka Market Day - Sun 9am

MAY25-27 Mataranka Campdraft



Register here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/214787515735765/>

School Representative Bodies

NT COGSO working with schools across the NT



NT COGSO supporting School Annual General Meetings (AGM's)

Bees Creek Primary School AGM

An open letter to the school community from the Chair encouraged parents to consider the benefits of becoming a Bees Creek Primary School Council Member. Attendance was high and several nominations received. New Parent Members were elected and welcomed to the Council with many others continuing into the second year of their term.

An informative report from the Principal and Chair highlighted the positive impact that parent-school partnerships have on student learning outcomes at Bees Creek. Keep up the good work!

Ross Park Primary School AGM

The Ross Park Primary School Council AGM and Governance training were attended by over 20 members of the school community. It was wonderful to hear from the Principal and Chair on the successes of the school in 2017. Ross Park Primary School elected new Parent Members and held a training session on School Council functions and Governing v Managing. The new Council is ready to apply their new-found knowledge in the year ahead!



Ross Park School Council

Alyangula Area School AGM

NT COGSO partnered with the Department of Education to meet with schools on Groote Eylandt.

Vicki Baylis Chief Executive, Susan Bowden Executive Director Schools North, Sue Beynon Regional Director and Jodi-Anne Williamson Finance Manager Arnhem were invited to attend the Alyangula Area School AGM.

A huge show of numbers saw a full Council elected to commence the 2018 school year!

Vicki and Jodi-Anne were helpful in responding to questions on the night. After discussing the roles of Treasurer and Secretary it was inspiring to have Parent Members elected to both positions.



Alyangula Area School Council

Gray Primary School AGM

Great things are happening at Gray Primary School! After completing Governance training, NT COGSO was invited back to support the School Council with their AGM. Council takes great pride in sustaining and continuing to build strong community school partnerships with numerous successes celebrated through the Principal and Chair reports.



Gray Primary School Council

NT COGSO delivering Governance Training

Governance with Girraween Primary School Council

With new Parent Members elected, the Council was enthusiastic to commence the year with Governance Training. Council Members were engaged and asked lots of great questions during the session. A strong School Council partnered with the Principal creates and sustains a meaningful school community where children can reach their fullest potential.



Girraween School Council

Governance with Alice Springs School of the Air Council

Alice Springs School of the Air parents were gathered in Alice Springs during an in-school week for students which provided the perfect opportunity for NT COGSO to deliver Governance training. Thank you to the dedicated group of parents who travelled from various remote locations to attend and who continue to support the Principal and staff to inspire isolated students to engage and achieve the best possible learning outcomes.



Alice Springs School of the Air

NT COGSO Strengthening Community Engagement

Pine Creek School Council and Community

Pine Creek School Council invited NT COGSO to present at the Pine Creek School Community Engagement Day.

The students opened the morning with paper plane construction and the longest flight competition which left NT COGSO impressed at a school filled with budding aero engineers! Congratulations to all of the children who participated.

Parents and community members joined a Governance training session to learn more about the functions of a School Council and how everyone can work together in a productive partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children at Pine Creek School.



Pine Creek School Community

The School Bookfair was opened and NT COGSO joined the staff, families and students for an informal chat and shared lunch before heading back to Darwin.

Kalkaringi School Council and Community

The Kalkaringi School Community is committed to strengthening school partnerships and governance through School Council. After receiving many nominations for Parent Member positions, voting was required to elect the 2018 School Council.

What a wonderful school community who are being supported by a Principal who is truly dedicated to positive partnerships and community led governance and decision making. A strong community voice enables a strong school community. An excellent achievement for Kalkaringi School to have a full School Council!

Angurugu School Council and Community

NT COGSO worked with members of the Angurugu Community to re-engage a positive and proactive School Council. Discussions were held about how the school Constitution could be amended to ensure School Council membership and composition was truly reflective of the community. Through inclusive and collaborative discussions, members of the community were excited about the upcoming AGM and the positive future for the School Council in supporting Angurugu students and the school.



Angurugu School Council

A Message from the Chief Executive, Department of Education



Reflecting on 2017, we had a very busy year with a number of key achievements and initiatives delivered.

The completion of the department's Education NT Strategic Framework 2018-2022, with the centrepiece of the framework the Education NT Strategy 2018-2022, which commits us to being a strong public education system that gives every child the opportunity to engage, grow and achieve.

The record number of students completing their NTCET in 2017 is testament to the huge effort from teachers and support staff and you, the parents and school councils/boards, for your tireless contribution to support Territory students to achieve the best results.

The start of the 2018 year has been very busy with our first priority for the department to ensure our organisational structure will enable us to meet our goals of engagement, growth and achievement, by putting students and schools at the centre.

Prior to the start of the school year our 174 new teacher recruits attended a two-day orientation in Darwin to assist teachers develop networks, learn about our schools and get ready to teach our students.

As educators we are faced with a number of challenges daily. We experience more positive situations than negative situations in a typical day, but why is it that we tend to remember the negative ones more?

You won't be surprised to learn that taking notice of the positive things in our day boosts our positive emotions. But you might be interested to



Nightcliff Middle School students

learn that positive emotions, in turn, bring a raft of benefits. In a clear example of the mind–body connection, scientists have shown that laughter really is good medicine.

You may have students who have had a day filled with positive events and yet they'll tell you about the one thing that went wrong for them. Why? The simple explanation is that our brains have developed to make us notice what's wrong more than what's right.

During the extensive heavy rain throughout the Territory in early February, a number of remote schools in the Top End were affected either from flooding or road access. We managed to turn a negative situation into a positive, with the set-up of two flood schools at Nightcliff Middle School and at the Marrakai Community Centre. Both schools were well attended and students were able to continue their education.

Twenty teachers from our remote Arnhem and Katherine schools took a detour to Darwin as the wild weather prevented them from flying back to their community schools after the holidays. The teachers were treated to a day of professional development learning about Verbal Judo – the art of using communication to reduce conflict and promote positive behaviour.



Professional Development - Verbal Judo

Also observing the positive impact of initiatives such as the Families as First Teachers program with 10 new programs established across the Territory providing more support for young children and their families.

We established and expanded programs in Alice Springs, Darwin, Palmerston and Tennant Creek to support students with additional needs, as well as those with challenging behaviours, providing a range of programs to engage students in learning.

I would like to thank all parents, School Representative Bodies and staff who have contributed to a great start to the 2018 school year.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with COGSO and school councils and boards to further our shared objective of improving education outcomes for Territory students.

Vicki Baylis
Chief Executive



FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE

f @NTCOGSO

t @NTCOGSO

What Happens When We Place
Wi-Fi on School Buses?
<http://rviv.ly/lzXrJ> #k12 #edtech

t Mar 14 @AdvocateforEd



We were thrilled to attend the official opening of the Taminmin College STEM Centre. This world class facility provides the College's students and staff with an incredible, expansive learning space.

f Mar 14 @NTCOGSO



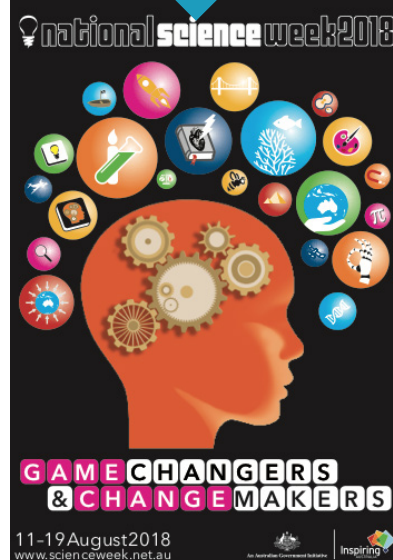
We used Gonski funding to engage a community nurse. Our nurse organised external hearing and vision screening for all Kindergarten. #earlyintervention

t Mar 07 @johnago



Need some extra funding to do a 'wow' National Science Week activity this year?
APPLY FOR A SCHOOL GRANT!!!
Even more funding is available for grants in 2018.

f Mar 14 @NTCOGSO



Attending the first event for the gonski institution for education
@pasi_sahlberg

t Mar 14 @stephygsalazar



A Positive Message
At Darwin High School two years ago, the entire student body (over 1200 students) gathered on the oval to form the words Cyber Bullying No Way! Students sent a strong united message to the community in support of proactive participation in the elimination of bullying and violence.

f Mar 12 @NTCOGSO



New Executive Team 2018



TABBY FUDGE
President



ROBIN LAWRENCE
Vice President



TOOBA AWAIS
Treasurer



WAYNE GREEN
Barkly Regional Rep



NOELENE ARMSTRONG
Darwin Regional Rep



FRED RICHARDSON
Invited Member



NATASHA O'KEEFE
Katherine Regional Rep



NOELA ANDERSON
Katherine Regional Rep



NIKKI ELLIOT
Palmerston & Rural
Regional Rep



DAVE SARGEANT
Southern Regional Rep

We have been busy

During Term 1 we have:

Attended the NGO Consultation Forum to discuss the Royal Commission and Board of Inquiry into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

Lodged our submission for Round 1 - DoE Review of Policy and Practice for Students with Additional Needs (SwAN).

Commenced discussions on the Teacher Registration Board (TRB) of the Northern Territory **Review of the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Act and Regulations**. We will widely circulate the exposure draft of a Bill for public comment when released.

Met with Delta Electrics on Solar renewable Energy (26/02/18)

To hear how they assist schools to explore options to save money through smart energy solutions.

Attended our monthly meetings Minister for Education, Eva Lawler (19/02/18 & 26/03/18)

We continue to advocate and lobby for the return of School Based Constables in schools and although not specifically within our Ministers portfolio, she understands and supports the great work this program has done in the past in our schools.

Continued to seek a meeting on School Based Constables with Chief Minister and Police Minister, Michael Gunner. This has now been scheduled for (12/04/18).

Held discussions with Independent MLA's and also attended a meeting with Shadow Minister for Education Lia Finocchiaro (05/03/18).

Attended the Making Justice Work (MJW) - Youth Justice subcommittee. The first meeting for 2018 was held (28/02/2018).

Met with Mission Australia (20/02/18)

To learn from each other about our respective roles and programs. It was helpful for us to hear about DoE programs and collaboration with NGO's.

Attended our monthly meetings with CE, Vicki Baylis (26/02/18 & 26/03/18)

We sincerely thank Vicki for productive meetings and allowing us to double the allocated meeting time as there is much to celebrate and discuss in NT public education.

DoE Community Led Schools - NT COGSO meeting (01/03/18)

Inaugural meeting to hear about each other's work and possibilities for collaboration between NT COGSO and the Community Led Schools unit.

Attended 2018 - THE YEAR AHEAD where Chief Minister Michael Gunner set out the Territory's path in 2018 (12/02/18).