

ALAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 WEEK 3
14TH FEBRUARY
2024

Dates to Remember

- Wednesday 28th February
5:30pm - School Council
AGM
- Tuesday 27th &
Wednesday 28th February
- Student Led Conferences

Student Leaders

At Alawa Primary School we are committed to ensuring students have a voice – an opportunity to inform and influence all that goes on at our school. We are also committed to providing a range of opportunities for students to develop and display leadership skills.

We have now elected our School Captain and Vice Captains and then we move onto our House Captains elections on Friday this week. Mrs Barnett and I have been super impressed with the quality of the written applications and the thought our students who have self-nominated have put into submitting these to us last week.

2024 School Captains	2024 Vice-School Captains
Hien Duc Ta	Reuben Dwyer
Georgie Jenner	Catherina Brady

Following this each class Years 1-6 elect their Class representative for the Student Council.

This week we also hold our interviews for the Senior Learning Commission [Years 5 and 6].

Mrs Stratton will announce the Tek Interns and within the next week Ms Sacha and Mr Daniels will announce the Tek Ninjas.

Principal's Message

Week 3 - the term is rolling by already! I continue to be impressed by the attitude, efforts and resilience of the majority of our students as they settle into learning for 2024. We have had a few very tired little cherubs as reality of full days back at school has hit but we are all working closely with families to support the separations each morning. I have certainly appreciated the feedback parents & carers have provided with regards to our Xuno communication platform and commit to further improvement as we refine the new system and address issues being encountered.

Over the week I have seen our students in our primary classes discussing their data for Maths and Reading with their teachers and establishing their learning goals for this term - the quality understandings and ownership of their learning is terrific and we look forward to sharing these with you at Student Led Conferences late this term. Don't forget to book in now through Xuno.

Last Friday we held our first Assembly for the year, hosted by Caspar, Cleo, Georgie, Alexandra, Jaxon, Hien Duc and Lucinda from the 2023 Learning Commission. We were all super impressed with the updated Alawa School Song video re developed by Ms Stratton. The link has been shared via our Facebook page and also via email to all students in Years 3-6.

Weekly Newsletter

You will have noticed we are doing our best to revamp the look of our newsletter and make it more vibrant and engaging for you as our school community. If you have any formatting feedback, suggestions or have talents as a graphic designer absolutely we would appreciate you getting in contact through the front office.



Principal's Message contd.

School Improvement Plan

We have launched our 2024 - 2027 Explicit Improvement Agenda - see infographic to the right.

Our focus is on two things over the next 4 years commencing right NOW:

- Educator Switches - focussing on an Alawa Instructional Model with clear routines and expectations across the school
- Student Lights - building capacity of our students to apply the ALLE 21st century learner tools through accessing and developing the 10 key thinking skills through inquiry.



Student Led Conferences

It is that time again when families are invited into school for a chat with your child and their teachers. This is the opportunity for you to share their successes, their challenges and their plans for moving forward.

See further in the newsletter for details re booking directly online. A brochure with details was shared via Xuno Monday. Bookings close Friday 23rd February.

Have you booked in yet?

Don't disappoint your child!

Have a fab week, Sandy Cartwright [Principal]



Assistant Principal's Message



Hi Alawa Families!

It has been another big week at school, with all students settling in well and lessons moving full steam ahead by now. Students are preparing for the Student Led Conferences coming up in Week 5 (27th & 28th of February) so don't forget to book in with your child's teacher.

I was lucky to be a part of the interviews for School Captains last week and I was so impressed with all of the amazing students who put their names forward for the role. We are very lucky to have such enthusiastic, responsible and driven students here at Alawa. Well done to all the nominees!

A reminder that the NT Music School has a few spaces left for students who wish to learn flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or bass guitar. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the NT Music School directly for enrolments: nt.musicschool@education.nt.gov.au or visit their website to apply online: www.ntms.net.au.

There are still a few changes happening to the Music timetable as new students enroll, however I will be able to finalise this over the next week or so and will send this out to parents again. Thank you for your patience as this is developed.

NAPLAN 2024 Information for Parents will be sent out via Xuno this week. Paper copies will also be sent home with students in Year 3 & Year 5. Please let me know if you do not receive this or have any questions.

"I have no special talent, I am only passionately curious." – Albert Einstein

Rachel Barnett [Assistant Principal]

What We See



HOW TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS

Growth Mindset

What to say:

"When you learn how to do a new kind of problem, it grows your math brain!"

"If you catch yourself saying, 'I'm not a math person,' just add the word 'yet' to the end of the sentence."

"That feeling of math being hard is the feeling of your brain growing."

"The point isn't to get it all right away. The point is to grow your understanding step by step. What can you try next?"



SOURCE: Carol Dweck

Fixed Mindset

What not to say:

"Not everybody is good at math. Just do your best."

"That's OK, maybe math is not one of your strengths."

"Don't worry, you'll get it if you keep trying."

"If students are using the wrong strategies, their efforts might not work. Plus they may feel particularly inept if their efforts are fruitless."

"Great effort! You tried your best!"

"Don't accept less than optimal performance from your students."



IS IT BULLYING?

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE**.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN**.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it*—even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset—that's **BULLYING**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

I LIKE KNOWING
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Friday 23rd February	Assembly hosted by Year 1 /2Thorne	8:40am
Tuesday 27th February Wednesday 28th February	Student Led Conferences	3pm - 6pm
Wednesday 28th February	Alawa Primary School Council AGM	5:30pm
Saturday 2nd March	Farm Working Bee	8am - 10am
Tuesday 5th March	Sean Choolburra 'TOTALLY DEADLY' whole school performance	8am - 10am
Friday 8th March, 15th March & 22nd March	Years 3-6 Swimming Program	
Friday 8th March	Assembly TBA	8:40am
Friday 29th March	Good Friday	
Monday 1st April	Easter Monday	
Friday 5th April	Soccer Gala Day Assembly hosted by Year 5/6 Baines Last day of Term 1	All day 8:40am

**SAVE
THE DATE**

DON'T

MISS OUT!

HONOUR AWARDS AND HONOUR DISTINCTION



Question of the week...

Who are our 4
2024 School
Captains?

Email your answer to
Ms Cartwright



ROAD SAFETY

Safety of all people in our school community is a focus for our team and we hope for all parents / carers.

We ask that you remain vigilant when entering or exiting our car park / drop off zone.

PLEASE adhere to safe practises when stopping to drop off or collect children, which includes:

- **NO double parking,**
- **NO stopping in unmarked areas,**
- **NOT queuing up through the entrance to the car park etc**
- **Crossing the road at the designated crossing area**





INTRODUCING NATASHA ROBINSON



I would like to introduce myself to the Alawa school community. My name is Natasha Robinson and I have recently moved to Darwin from Perth. I am teaching a beautiful Year 1 class here at Alawa and am thrilled to be part of the Alawa team!

I have been teaching for a number of years in Western Australia and have also previously lived in Katherine. In my spare time I love camping, four wheel driving, hiking and fishing or anything really that involves been outdoors! I look forward to meeting some of you around the school.

KITCHEN NEWS

We have made a great start to the kitchen program with all 3 year 5/6 classes donning their aprons and getting back into the cooking.



This semester we are doing A World of Flavours and exploring the different flavours used by countries around the world.

We started with flavours of Italy, followed by flavours of Thailand.

Everyone had been showing off their knife skills and excellent cooking talents. A call out to any parents interested in volunteering in the kitchen to please contact the front office.



Ms Stratton [Kitchen Teacher]



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**



Have you got your Xuno App all set up and working? We appreciate the regular and ongoing communication so we can do our best to support your family.

ALAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL
AIMING HIGH
Planting seeds for the future!

ALAWA FARM

Farm Working Bee

Please come along and support our Working Bee
on Saturday 2nd March
8.30am - 10am
Refreshments and a fruit snack supplied

Please wear a hat, sun-safe clothing and covered shoes. Any extra wheelbarrows and machinery to prune trees etc welcome.
Each volunteer receives 100 House points.

We have lots of wet season jobs to do!

We Need Your Help



LIBRARY NEWS



From an early age reading has been a passion of mine. My parents encouraged this opening up worlds real and imagined, near and far through the pages of books both owned and borrowed. Some of my favourite memories are of visits to the Casuarina Library and in particular of my Dad reading to us at night. As my Mum recalls we would ask for just one chapter more and she then would have trouble getting us out of bed in the morning! But what stories we heard and what adventures we went on...

The ability to read is such an important life skill and inspiring and motivating our kids to read is so important from an early age. Not everyone finds reading easy and the harder it is to do something the less pleasurable it is, the less we want to practice or learn and the harder it is to succeed.

This years Book Week theme is Reading is Magic. My challenge both to myself and to you is How can I/You make reading Magic this year and open up a whole new world for someone who finds reading hard. Come and have a chat if you would like some book recommendations or inspiration on how we might open up a whole new world and a love of reading for someone in your life.

Sacha Evans [Library/ICT]

PLAYGROUP NEWS



What a lovely first day back for Playgroup on Friday. It was so nice to see some familiar faces and everyone so excited to see their playgroup friends. After such a long break everyone had been hanging out for the playgroup doors to open!

Miss Erin was quick to make a fresh new playdough, a pretty ocean blue colour ready for squishing, rolling and making into wonderful creations.

It was also a great day to do some baking so Miss Erin brought out the ingredients and mixing spoons. All little helpers were ready to lend a hand and were so patient taking turns around the table to pour in the fluffy flour, squish in the golden butter and stir in the creamy milk to make the perfect dough for our scones! Then we squished and rolled our dough into ball shapes and placed them on the tray.

While we waited for our morning tea to bake we all went outside to play. We played on the slides and climbing frames, balanced on the seesaws and read books with our parents but our most favourite activity was making cups of tea and playing pretend in the cubby house! Very soon our scones were cooked and ready to share. Miss Erin dolloped on some jam and cream and we shared them all around, they were so delicious! We also had a little visit from our Playgroup friends from last year who are now in Pre-School! It was very cool to see them looking so smart in their new Alawa shirts and having such fun at Pre-School.

Looking forward to seeing you all again this week.

Miss Erin [Playgroup Coordinator]



PRESCHOOL NEWS



We are looking for a few Preschool parents to join our preschool committee for 2024. All parents are encouraged to be members. The preschool committee is a forum to share ideas and to come up with fundraising plans and activities. Our first meeting for 2024 will be held on Wednesday 13th March [Week 7] straight after the morning session at 11:30am. Babysitting will be provided.

At this first meeting we will be discussing our current preschool philosophy. We will also be looking to nominate a preschool parent representative for the school council. If you would like to be part of the preschool committee let your child's teacher know. We would love to see you at our first meeting!



The Preschool Team

[Angela Henschke, Emma Churchman, Kelly Crawford, Katie Wedel, Flor Hodgson]

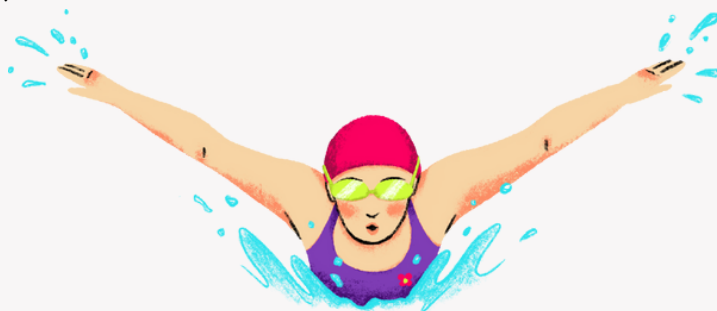
PRIMARY SWIMMING NEWS

Hi Parent/Carers of Students in Years 3-6.



Alawa Primary School in conjunction with RLS NT [Royal Life Saving Northern Territory] is excited to offer students in Years 3-6 a swimming program. Students will swim, learn survival skills, and participate in land-based activities on Friday 8th, 15th, and 22nd of March from 9-2 pm. Your child will have received a physical copy of the permission note this week. Can you please make sure that you fill it out and return it to the front office with payment. I am looking forward to some great swimming lessons.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or the front office.



Jed Henderson [Senior Teacher Primary]

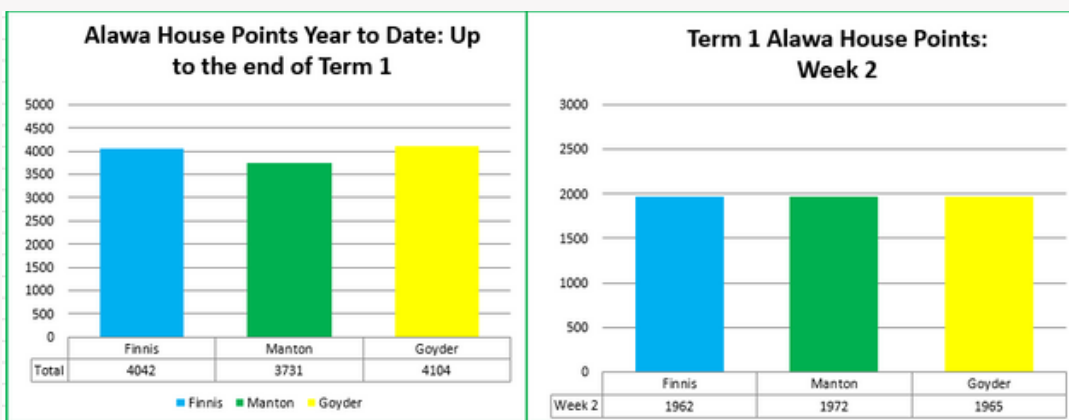
HOUSE POINTS



Students at Alawa receive raffle tickets [house points] for their attitude and behaviour in the playground and out the front of the school at the end of the day. Points are then counted on a Friday along with the points for students in full uniform, wearing house shirts etc.

At the end of each term, we also include the point's earned through the recycling project and water bottle checks. Parents can also earn points for their houses by volunteering at the school- Whether it's in the kitchen, the farm, the library, the canteen or even in the classroom, parents can earn 100 points each time they volunteer. Make contact with your classroom teacher or the front office to find out more information.

**In Week 2 of Term 1 Manton was ahead with 1972 points!
In the lead for the Year to date is Goyder with 4104 points!**



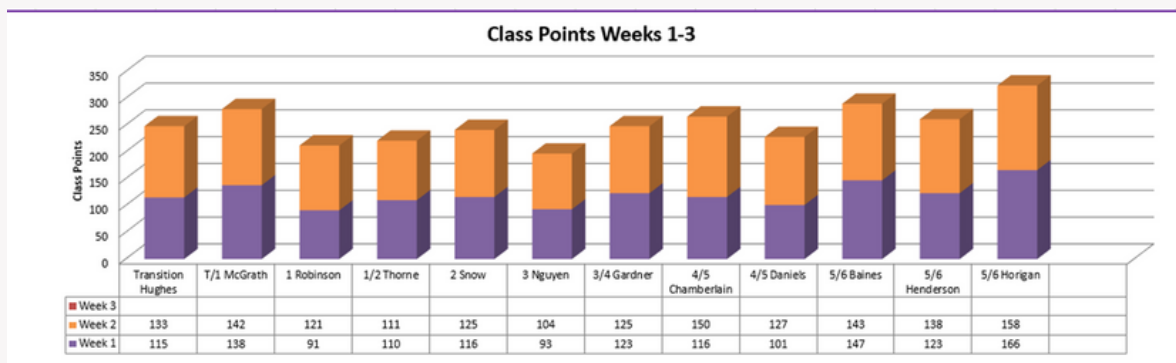
CLASS POINTS



Muster is held at Alawa after each recess and lunch break - this gives us an opportunity for everyone to settle from playtime, share any celebrations and work on consistency of messages and expectations.

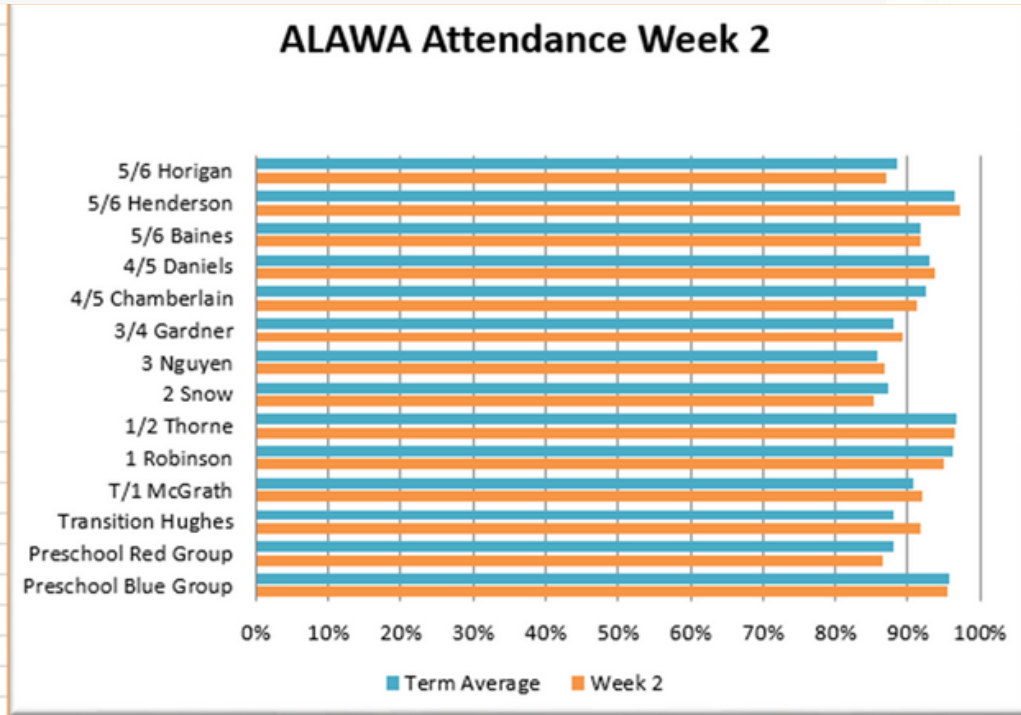
Each week we allocate class points during Muster time recognising those students who were ready and waiting to go back to class calmly and quietly after break times. The winning class from each 3 weeks will receive ice-blocks from our Principal and get to choose 3 songs that will play before our bells for the following 3 weeks.

The class with the most points in Week 2 of Term 1 was...5/6 Horigan with 158 points !!!



ATTENDANCE

Primary School Average for Week 2 Term 1: 91.42%
 The class with the highest attendance for Week 2:
Year 5/6 Henderson with 97.30%!!! Amazing job!!!



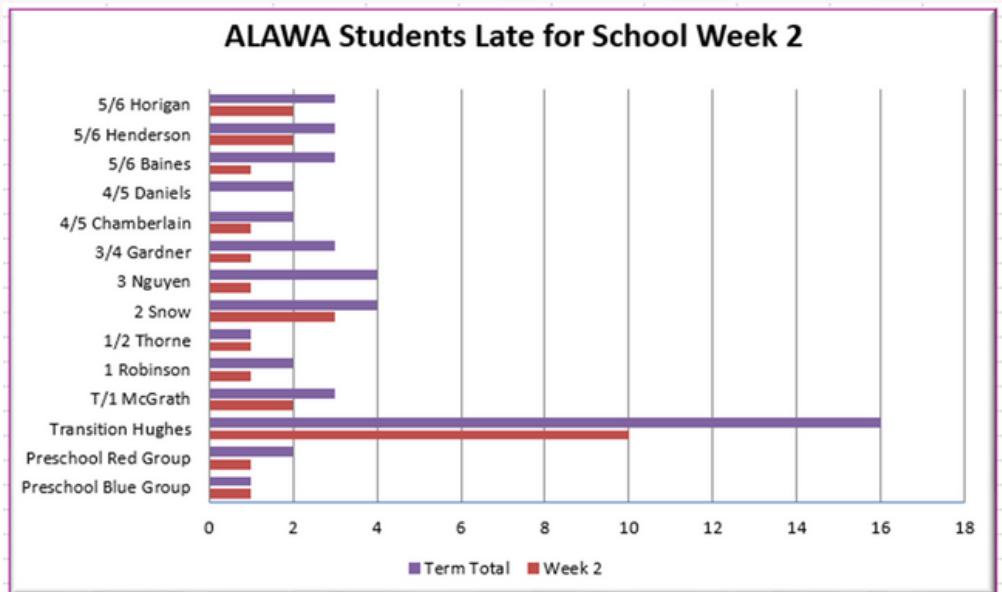
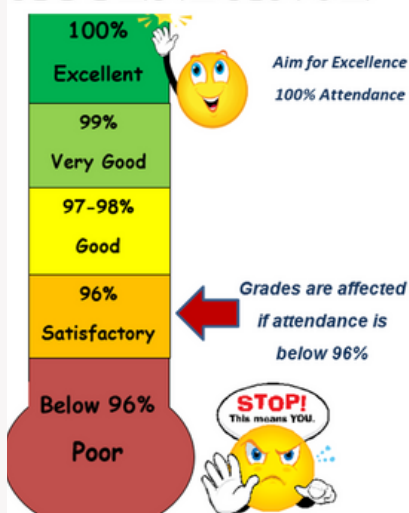
LATES

Arriving late for school has a significant impact on your child's learning and engagement in the education program.

There were **27** lates in Week 2!

For Week 2 it was **fabulous** to see **NO** lates at all for 4/5 Daniels.

ATTENDANCE



BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Just a gentle reminder for families who have not as yet accessed / utilised their NTG Back to School Voucher, these expire at the end of Term 1. Please make contact with the Front Office to arrange how you would like the available funds to be spent / allocated.

You can choose to allocate money towards school uniforms, stationary, sporting equipment, events like camp and swimming and more.



SPORT VOUCHERS

Sport vouchers can now be accessed online. Download your child's voucher to use as payment towards different sports. Sport vouchers can also pay for your child's swimming lessons at our School.



CAFE NEWS



Our Mission is to provide the Alawa School community with delicious health, and to create meaningful links to our Kitchen Garden Program. We will do our best to ensure we order the same products as advertised but occasionally have to change due to stock availability.

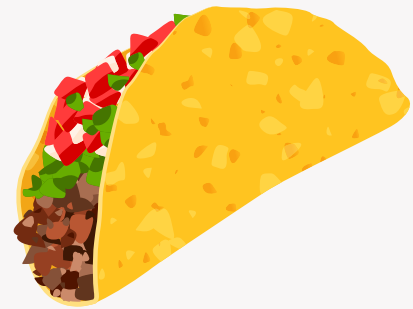
Available everyday lunch only:

- mini beef burgers \$4.50
- spaghetti bolognaise small serve \$4.50 or large serve \$6.50
- /Gluten Free Spaghetti \$6.50

SPECIALS Term 1, Weeks 1-3

Thursday: 2x Beef tacos \$6.50

Friday: Roast pork and gravy rolls \$6.50



A reminder that our school Cafe is open Thursday and Friday ONLY.

Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Order online at www.quickcliq.com.au

yummm!



DSM NEWS

It has been lovely catching up with you all these first couple of weeks back at school. And a huge welcome to the 3 new Defence families that have joined us at Alawa this year!

As many of you will already be aware, Ms Katie has taken on a full-time administration role in the front office, and so has stepped away from the Defence School Mentor [DSM] role this year. This year, I am sharing my time across both the DSM role, and classroom support in 2 Snow and 4/5 Chamberlain.

Please notify me if you know of any postings or deployments that may affect your family this year. If I am informed, I am better able to support your child. As I am sure you are very aware, having a parent away can greatly affect a child's emotional coping ability at school. This affects all children differently.



For Term 1, we have developed a timetable to capture each child in the DSM program. If you [or your child's teacher] believe that they require additional support, this can be negotiated, and I will do my best to assist with this.

Defence Kids Club is running again on Wednesday lunchtimes in the Hub. I highly recommend that you encourage your child to attend. Kids Club allows students to interact with other children from similar family situations and provides them with a network to support each other. Each week I run a different activity, and students are welcome to bring one friend along with them. For some students, bringing a friend from their class helps them to feel more comfortable. These first couple of weeks, we have eased into the term with playing some games and colouring in.

I will be available from 8-8:30am on Wednesdays before school this term if you'd like to catch me for a chat.

If we haven't yet had a chance to meet, please come and introduce yourself.

Otherwise, you're welcome to email me at any time at laura.thiele@education.nt.gov.au.



Laura Thiele [Defence School Mentor]

A Parent Information and Family Activity Session

Come along and learn more about our hands-on approach and how you can support your child with expanding their mathematical knowledge and skills at home.



Your child would like you to come along so they can teach you how they are learning and how you can try this at home.

Date: Tuesday 27th February 2024

Time: 3:30 - 5:00pm

Location: The Hub

An open session for you to drop in on during SLC's





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- ADD STUDENT (your child's details), select their school & save to your account
- ADD CREDIT to your online wallet before ordering or pay as you go using a credit or debit card
- Select MEAL ORDER & you're good to go

Orders can be placed up to 30 days in advance. You can view your completed orders via the Action Orders or Transaction History tabs in your account.

- ✓ Need of accounts around for base change every morning before your kids run off to school? With QuickCliq, lunch money is a thing of the past.
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COMMUNITY NOTICES



PERMISSION TO ATTEND DARWIN REGION TRIALS 12 Years & Under Touch Football

Ages 10 - 12 Primary & Middle School Students - Boys & Girls
Students born between 1st of July 2011 - 31st of December 2014.
Age dispensation applies for students born 1st of July - 31st of December 2011.

You are invited to attend the 2024 12 Years & under Touch Football Selection Trials for Darwin Region.

To be eligible for selection in the Darwin Region Team students **MUST** attend a minimum of 1 of the 2 trial days, be the correct age and attend a Darwin Region School. Selectors will identify the students that will make up the Darwin Region Team and reserve members. Students will be selected based on their ability to meet game specific criteria and participate as a team member.

Students are encouraged to both of the 2 days to give themselves the best opportunity for selection. Results will be communicated via email within 5 business days with those selected receiving a Darwin Region Team Member/Reserve Booklet and Invoice.

Darwin Region aim to take 1 boys team and 1 girls team to the School of Sport Education NT Championship Event being held in Darwin from 30th April - 2nd May 2024.

If you are selected for the Darwin Region, either as a team member or a reserve, it is expected that you will attend all trainings, hand in all paperwork and make all levy payments by the due dates.

Booklet paperwork (permission form with principal and parent signature) is due back to the Team Manager/Darwin Region on the **22nd of February**. Levy cost will be approximately \$490 with an initial \$100 deposit being due on the **29th of February** and remaining amount due on the **28th of March**. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the student losing their position in the squad.

If the student is unable to attend a training session please contact the team manager/coach or Darwin Region Sport Office before training.

School of Sport Education NT will be selecting a NT Team to compete in the School Sport Australia Championships in Brisbane, QLD, 20th - 25th October 2024.

IMPORTANT: Trial permission forms are preferred to be received via email to darwinsport.doe@education.nt.gov.au prior to the trials commencing. Once received a response will be emailed and a registration number will be issued, this number is requested to be remembered for trials.



TRIALS			
Day	Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday	14 th February	3.30 - 5.00pm	Territory Rugby League Stadium Marrara
Thursday	15 th February	3.30 - 5.00pm	

Please bring appropriate clothing, footwear and water bottle

JAZZ CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

5 Charlton Court Woolner

- Monday
 - 4:30pm - Grade 5 (11 & up)
 - 6:30pm - Grade 7 & 8 (13 & up)
- TUESDAY
 - 5:30pm - Open Jazz - (13 & up)
- SATURDAY
 - 9:45am - Pre Modern & Junior Modern (5-8yo)
 - 1:15pm - Grade 1 & 2 (8-10yo)
 - 4:15pm - Grade 3 & 4 (8-10yo)

dpamarn@gmail.com
0400 229 686



Stage Song

Have you spent your whole life wishing we had a musical theatre group for kids in Darwin? Ta Daaaa! 2024 will see that wish come true. Join Sian Edeson and a bunch of musical theatre enthusiasts for three terms of jazz hands and fun. No experience necessary, no auditions, all welcome between the ages of 8 to 18.

Find us at stagesongdarwin.com.au or on Facebook and Instagram!