

Girraween Primary School

'It takes a community to raise a child' is a strongly held belief at Girraween Primary School. The partnership between parents, grandparents and the wider community is valued and leads to a positive and collaborative school environment.

As partners in their children's education, parents can often be found helping out around the school, attending camps and excursions, working in the gardens, organising school banking, doing craft and supporting students in reading and writing. Families volunteer on the weekends to care for our animals making the farm program viable. The partnership starts early with our Seedlings Playgroup and our Songs and Stories for Littlies programs.

Our School Council are a very proactive group who work with teaching staff to make decisions about our school. Working Bees are well supported with many families showing pride in the school environment.

Students participate in 'Our World' as a specialist subject teaching the general capabilities within Science and Geography. This leads to whole school recycling, composting, animal and gardening programs.

Students at Girraween know that ***'It Matters What You Do,'*** and take action to reduce their global footprint. Annually students share their learning at our Field Day, this year's theme is: ***From Little Wonders, Big Ideas Grow.*** Members of the wider community and other schools also set up displays with the day running like a fair with everyone learning from each other. You are welcome to **join us on June 26, from 10:00-12:30** for this years' events.

Helen Chatto
Principal
Girraween Primary School



Top: Girraween Primary School students discovering 'Our World'

Above: Girraween Primary School Dance Night

Right: Girraween Primary School Transition students learning about composting



Community Engagement & Governance

Meaningful school relationships

President's Message

Hello,

We are half way through the year already! I hope your children have had a great term 2.

The Federal election result did not deliver a better, fairer funding model for our children in the Northern Territory. Rest assured NT COGSO will continue to advocate for our children and schools to both Federal and NT Government's. It is imperative that the Federal cut to the Student Resourcing Standard (SRS) and the NT government budgeted cut in Indexation do not impact our children.

On a brighter note, being actively involved in your child's education is one of the best ways to help your child do well at school. Read books together, cook together - following recipes covers literacy, numeracy, science, health and so much more. Ask to see what they are working on at school, offer to help with homework; show that you value their education. Build positive and respectful relationships with your child's school and teachers as good communication is key. Please go to parent teacher interviews as these are so very important. It saddens me to hear from teachers how low participation rates are in these crucial meetings. Your child's education is a partnership between you, your child's school and their teachers, please be involved.

Have a wonderful mid year break and an even better term 3.



Tabby Fudge
President
NT COGSO

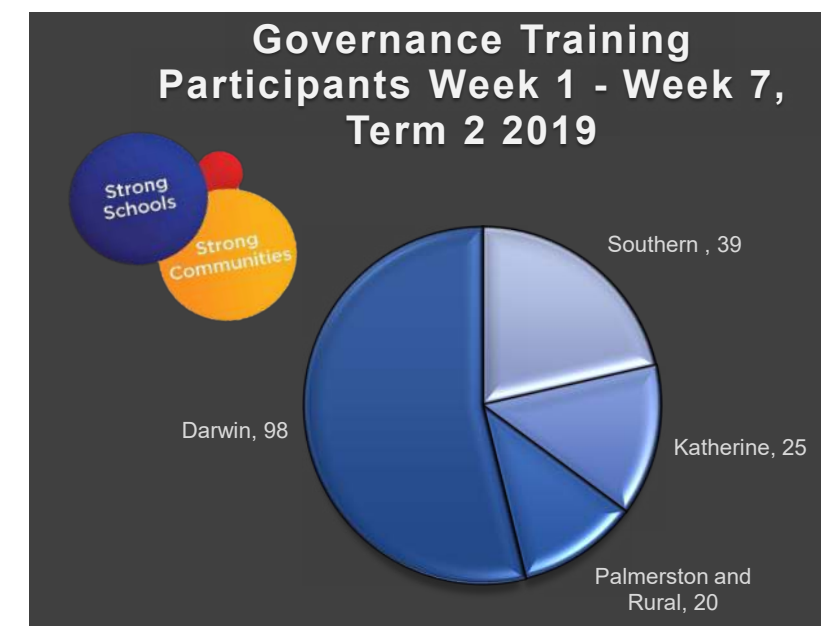


Middle: Manyallaluk Parent Consultative Group meeting

Bottom: Darwin Region School Finance Training

NT COGSO have been busy in term two delivering contextualised, adaptable and culturally appropriate training to urban, rural, remote and very remote schools.

All training sessions are supported by quality resources, ongoing mentoring and support to members and the school community.



Darwin Middle School Board members are committed to governance and ongoing successful partnerships. Developing a strong business plan focused on student engagement and harnessing student voice to ensure the best possible learning experience and outcomes for all students.



"Training was tailored and focused to our educational environment. Very satisfied. Thank you, your support is valued."



An informed School Representative Body ensures that schools establish and maintain genuine engagement and meaningful partnerships through best practice governance and decision making.

In the first 7 weeks of Term 2 NT COGSO travelled over

7485km

by road and air delivering training to 182 participants.

Below:
Governance training with Darwin Middle School Board

Chief Executive Officer's Message



This term, approximately 13,500 Northern Territory students sat NAPLAN tests, including 4650 students who sat the test online.

You may have heard reports nationally around technical difficulties with NAPLAN Online specifically on Tuesday 14 May when the writing test was conducted. In the Northern Territory, the overall feedback around NAPLAN Online was positive however we did have some students who chose to re-sit the writing test on the basis that they may not have had a fair opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do.

Moving to NAPLAN online in the Northern Territory is a significant initiative as a result of our unique circumstances. Our focus remains on ensuring that students have the resources and confidence to thrive in the online testing environment.

We are continuing our school improvement agenda, supporting schools to provide all students the opportunity to engage, grow and achieve.

Part of the school improvement journey is ensuring that we have contemporary learning environments for our students and it is fantastic to see a number of infrastructure projects in final stages of development. This includes the multi-purpose hall at Darwin Middle School, the STEAM centre at Darwin High School and the construction of the new school in Zuccoli, which is on track to welcome students in Term 1, 2019.

In May 2019, we celebrated the completion of the first stage of Ludmilla Primary School masterplan. This \$7.4 million redevelopment has revitalised one of the Territory's oldest schools, with upgrades to the two storey building creating light, bright and engaging learning spaces. The redevelopment incorporates a vibrant and welcoming Early Learning Centre including an integrated area for a supported play group, Families as First Teachers program and other services.

Vicki Baylis
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Education



Above and right: Opening of Stage 1 of Ludmilla Primary School