Merry Christmas

Amazing, we are in the last week of school about to end another year. I have not stopped often enough to smell the roses and celebrate the joys of life. As I write this last newsletter for 2016, the overwhelming thought and message I wish to express is Thanks and Gratitude. Thank you for being part of the Palmerston Christian School Community.

I wish to thank every family who has entrusted their most precious child into the school’s care. It has been an honour and privilege to have your child at PCS. We have so enjoyed nurturing and promoting your child’s growth and development. Every student has thrived this year and grown tremendously. The process of education is not always an even and straightforward path but it is one where I know every child has grown substantially in 2016. Twice a year we do standardised tests to measure the growth of student’s numeracy and literacy. All the students have had natural growth, just as is expected with the process of childhood growth. We as a school were however, very pleased to see that there are over 80 students in the school whose growth academically, was substantially more than the expected natural growth. We have sent home certificates recently for students who had an additional 10 percentile points growth in numeracy or literacy. It has been such a joy and a pleasure to witness students thriving at PCS.

I pray that your holiday will be a blessing. I love Christmas because it helps me refocus on Jesus Christ and realign my priorities in preparation for a new year. The Christmas holiday is a time of great blessing and rejoicing. It is also hard for many folk.

I encourage you to reach out and pass on the spirit of Christ to those in need this season.

PCS will be holding our first Christmas Carols this Friday night starting at 6:15pm. We would love to have our community join us for the night. We will be switching on the PCS Christmas lights after the Carol singing so do take a drive past the school one night to see our lights. Each year we add to what we have done the year before.

We are ready and set for 2017. It is going to be a fantastic year at PCS. All our staffing and plans are ready to roll. But first we will pause and enjoy a rest. I pray you get some rest and special ‘me with your loved ones, before the awesome - business of 2017 starts.

In Christ,

Ken McAllister, Principal

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**Prayer and Praise**

* **Praise** God for the birth of Jesus Christ.
* **Pray** for the departing staff of PCS as they journey into the new chapters of their lives.
* **Praise** God for the opportunity to refresh and re-energise for the new year. We pray for safety for all our staff, students and families over the Christmas break.
* **Pray** for all the departing students and families as they too venture into their new chapters.

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**Calendar**

**December**

* **Thursday 15th December**
  Last Day of Term 4
  Casual Dress Fun Day
* **Friday 16th December**
  PCS Carols
  PCS Christmas Lights

**January**

* **Wednesday 25th January 2017**
  Thursday 26th January 2017
  Saturday 28th January 2017

**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN**

* **9am-1pm**
  Monday 30th January 2017
  First day of Term 1
END OF YEAR REPORTS

This term’s school reports will be available electronically on Compass for all parents to access. If you require a hardcopy, please email admin.pcs@ntschoools.net with your request.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Please note the different operating times during the holiday break:

- Friday 16th December, OPEN — 8:10am - 12pm
- Monday 19th December - Thursday 22nd, OPEN — 9am - 3pm
- Friday 23rd December — Friday 13th January, CLOSED
- Monday 16th January to Friday 20th January, OPEN — 9am - 3pm
- Monday 23rd January to Friday 27th January, OPEN — 8:10am - 3:30pm, (26th January, CLOSED for Australia Day)

2017 SCHOOL FEES

The 2017 fees are now available on the PCS Website.

STUDENTS MOVING FROM YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7

Parents are reminded that an upgrade charge of $150 deposit will be applied from students promoting from Year 6 to year 7 (Middle School). The amount will be applied to the Term 1 invoice which covers the iPad students receive to further their education.

UNIFORM ORDERS

The 2017 uniform order forms are available on the school website. We encourage parents to place an order in advance which can be collected when the shop is open late January 2017.

VOLUNTEERS

We are seeking parent volunteers with current ochre cards to assist with the following events:

- PCS Fun Day — Last Day of Term: Thursday 15th December by preparing food for morning tea and lunch.
- 2017 Uniform Shop: The Shop will be open on Wednesday 25th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January between 9am and 1pm for families to try on and purchase uniforms. Helpers are required for preparing orders and assisting with uniforms. If you are available to assist, please contact the Office.

LOST PROPERTY

There are a number of items in the lost property box in the Office. Please come and check the box for missing items. Any leftover items at the end of Term will be donated to charity.

Class Requests

We have received a large number of class allocation requests. We are concerned that not all requests will be met for reasons parents and students may not always understand.

The process we engage in to determine classes for 2017 is:

- Recommendation for students with disability
- Recommendation by class teachers
- Lengthy professional meetings between current and future teachers as to best placement
- Review by Head of Primary and Principal
- Consideration of parent’s requests

We want to set your child up for success in 2017 and value their wellbeing and educational development. We carefully consider the individual but also carry the big picture of knowing all the children and their social and educational groupings, and learning styles.

We pray and trust in the Lord for His guidance as we continue through this process in the best interest of every child in 2017. Finalized class lists will be available at the uniform shop next year.
FAREWELL

It is with great sadness that PCS farewells the following staff members as they commence the next chapter in their lives.

Miss Amy Taylor, Miss Emma Doyle, Mrs Dianne Jackson, Mrs Grace Higgs, Mrs Kylie Koeford and Mr Richard Carter.

We would also like to acknowledge Mrs Penny Dempster who will be taking some time off to further her own horizons.

We wish you all every happiness and God's blessings upon each of you.

You will be missed!

Thursday 15 December 2016

is the last day of school for students.

To celebrate we will be having some fun activities.

♦ Jumping Castles and Lots of Fun Activities (wet and dry)
♦ All Food Provided
♦ Volunteers required to prepare and cook food.

Please contact the office if you can assist.

The day will be the same times as a normal school day—8:30am to 3:10pm

♦ What a fantastic way to end the year!
Congratulations on completing Year 6, 9 and 10!

Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Year 9 Graduation Dinner

Year 10 Graduation Dinner
Middle School News, Our Year at a Glance

2016 has been an exciting year to watch PCS Middle School students striving to reach their academic and creative potential in English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Physical Education, and Indonesian. Our Arts programs this year have encouraged the development of student’s gifts and talent in creativity. The introduction to our NEW Digital Technology subjects are an exciting addition to our holistic faith centered programs.

Highlights of 2016

The highlights for 2016 include:

- NEW 3D Designing and Printing program
- NEW Programing and Robotics program
- NEW Dance Troupe: performances at the Family Fun Day and the opening of our New hall
- Excellent NAPLAN Result - best in Palmerston region.
- Whole school Batchelor camp, Kakadu camps and the Larapinta Trek
- Adoption of the 2016 NEW Australian Curriculum for ‘The Arts’, ‘Technology’ and ‘Indonesian’

What is happening in 2017?

Next year we look forward to:

- The development of a dedicated STEM Projects HUB
  (Projects based on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- NEW Technology subjects - website creation and podcasts, CO2 Car design and racing, food processing and preserving, Solar energy projects, advanced robotics and programming rotations and elective options
- Term 4 Mission Trip to Cambodia to do service projects and learn firsthand about Asia
- Opening of the new Middle School undercover seated area
- ‘Subway’ school lunch orders available on Fridays

What we will continue to do?

- Offer an exceptionally high quality educational experience in a very safe and nurturing environment
- Know each child individually and ensure a fantastic school experience
- Continue to meet the needs of every student
- Continue our iPad program which enhances student learning
- Continue our pastoral care program with social and emotional learning as a focus

We look forward to providing your child with exciting, new and stimulating programs in 2017 in order to assist them in reaching their full potential.

Jill Carter - Middle School Pastoral Care and Curriculum Coordinator

This Term in Year 8 & 9 electives we have turned old pallets into furniture and shelving. Students have worked hard in class and their lunch hours. A big thanks to Mr Duke for helping us out with finishing off and making everything stable!
**Parenting Tips— Don’t Forget To Teach Social Skills**

Ask your children three “you” questions every day. The art of conversation is an important social skill, but parents often neglect to teach it. Get a kid going with questions like, "Did you have fun at school?"; "What did you do at the party you went to?”; or "Where do you want to go tomorrow afternoon?"

Teach kids this bravery trick. Tell them to always notice the colour of a person’s eyes. Making eye contact will help a hesitant child appear more confident and will help any kid to be more assertive and less likely to be picked on.

Acknowledge your kid’s strong emotions. When your child’s meltdown is over, ask him, "How did that feel?” and “What do you think would make it better?” Then listen to him. He’ll recover from a tantrum more easily if you let him talk it out.


*Throughout the year, our board of advisors -- a brain trust of the best paediatric doctors, developmental experts, and educators in the country -- shares the latest thinking about raising happy and healthy kids in the pages of Parents. Now we’ve gathered our all-time favourite nuggets of their advice in one outstanding article that will have a profound effect on your whole family. (By Barrie Gillies from Parents Magazine).*

May you walk in peace, know joy and always have hope.

*Dianne Jackson – Chaplain*
CAROLS SERVICE
16 December 2016
@ PCS, 6:15pm
(prior to the lights display)

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16 December 2016
@ PCS, 6:15pm
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