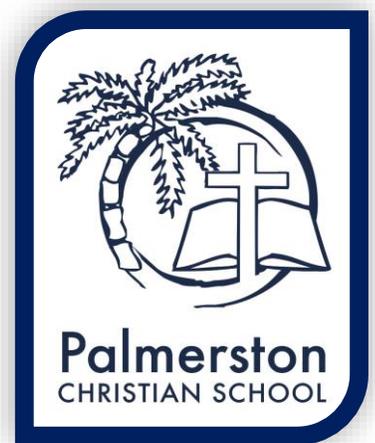


Palmerston Christian School 2017 Annual School Report



Location: Marlow Lagoon
Postal: PO Box 113, Palmerston NT 0831
Telephone: (08) 8932 3377
Fax: (08) 8932 3440
Email: admin.pcs@ntschoools.net
Website: pcs.nt.edu.au

Vision Statement

The vision statement of NT Christian Schools is:

'We desire to be a Christian community, learning together to live life as God intended, offering hope for the world'.

The mission statement of Palmerston Christian School is:

'To serve families through the process of nurturing and educating children in an environment where Christ is central; thereby enabling them to be the people that God has called them to be'.



Principal's Message

The academic year of 2017, was again a year of growth at Palmerston Christian School. Student enrolment, as well as financial turnover increased again, even though the greater Northern Territory region has plateaued or declined statistically. Sustained growth at Palmerston Christian School, particularly in the Primary section of the School, has the School on a solid foundation of ongoing sustainable growth. We again, saw the vast majority of students enrolled at Kingdom Kids Early Learning Centre, proceed into Transition (Foundation Year) at PCS. This ongoing growth trend is seeing the confirmation that, Palmerston Christian School Council's strategic decision, to build an Early Learning Centre at Palmerston Christian School, was a decision which is now producing positive outcomes in student learning and enrolment. It remains a long term goal of the Palmerston Christian School Council to have a Christian, Senior School in Palmerston to serve the community.

Next year, Palmerston Christian School will celebrate its 30th Anniversary of servicing the Palmerston and surrounding region, with quality Christian education. We plan to relish and enjoy celebrating those who have gone before us, in establishing this wonderful School and as a community setting goals for the future.

It is a privilege to serve as Principal. I wish to thank the parent community for partnering with us. The School Council is made up of parents who faithfully meet and serve the community in the area of governance. It is with appreciation and thanks that we recognise Jen Roberts, who after 4 years as Chairperson, is stepping down as Council Chair.

Ken McAllister

Principal

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Staffing Information

All teachers have a minimum of four years training and are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

PCS Staff - 2017

Position	First Name	Surname	FTE
Principal	Ken	McAllister	1
Admin/Registrar	Chris	Kirkham	1
Admin/Reception	Kathryn	Beazley	1
Admin/Finance	Amie	Wagner	1
Admin	Angelique	Schinkel	Casual
Admin	Suzy	Harley	Casual
Maintenance Officer	Paul	Vaatstra	0.6
Maintenance Officer	Harry	Moes	Casual
Caretaker	Janelle	Fisher	0.2
Library	Chris	Macrides	0.6
School Chaplain	Samantha	Price	0.4
DSTA	Jake	West	0.8
Indonesian Teacher	Dom	Modoh	0.6
Primary School			
Head of Primary	Lubka	Gaitt	1
Transition	Tasha	Robertson	1
Transition	Gweny	Thomsen	1
Year 1/2	Amanda	Hynes	1
Year 1/2	Ashlee	Kirkham	1
Year 2/3	Jasmine	Shawel	1
Year 3/4	Megan	Kennedy	1
Year 3/4	Emma	Moore	1
Year 4/5	Samantha	Hickman	1
Year 5/6	Ranny	Kim	1
Year 5/6	Amy	Clisby	1
PE	David	Brabham	0.6
Ed Support			
Special Education	Bev	Garside	0.8
Special Education	Cynthia	Chapman	1
TA/ISA	Kathy	Guy	0.8
TA	Marcus	Forsyth	0.8
TA	Rosanna	Beath	1
TA	Genelene	Macabuhay	1
TA	Lara	Kershaw	0.8
TA	Nomvula	Ndlovu	0.2
TA	Emiliya	Stoyanova	1
TA	Samantha	Price	0.2
Middle School			
Middle School Team Leader	Jill	Carter	1
Year 7	Heike	Wentzel	1
Year 8	Carol	Basil	1
Year 9	Emily	Shea	1
Year 10	Chad	Robertson	1
Middle School Teacher	Ana	Abbott	0.6

Highlights of the School Year

Much of the work of the School in 2017, was focused on improving the academic programs on offer and reviewing student learning outcomes. There was a significant overhaul and financial investment into the STEM program, involving especially, Robotics and Programming offerings in the academic program offered at PCS. Whilst every student was impacted by the changes in STEM during 2017, the most notable new event was participating in the Mindstorms Robotic Tournaments in the Northern Territory; as well as the National Tournament in Queensland. Every student in Middle School had a new subject timetabled into their academic program of STEM. Every Primary School student had age appropriate opportunities with robotics and programming, as per the new Technologies Program at PCS.



In order to improve student learning, there was whole school focus and PD on our assessment practices. The School Leadership Team, also invested in professional development to lead PCS in the implementation of Visible Learning. Much of this work focused on assessment for learning, and the links this has to Visible Learning, where students need clarity of the learning targets, as well as ownership of their learning progress against their own learning targets.

At PCS, there was a review and improvements made to the elective offering in Middle School. This was to ensure alignment with the National Curriculum subject area of Technologies, as well as seeking student engagement in the elective subject line.

We have also had a significant increase in students who are receiving support, as per the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). Ensuring every student's academic, as well as social and emotional needs, are being accommodated and aligns not only to our professional expectations of educating every child, every day, but also to our Biblical world view.

Matthew 25:40 says; 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Academic data is regularly reviewed to track student academic progress, especially in numeracy and literacy. PAT testing in Numeracy and Literacy occurs twice a year. NAPLAN, PM Benchmarking, as well as Star Reading data, is used to track student progress and initiate support programs if required, for below expected progress. The daily reading program in Transition to Year 2, is a strong program supporting students in their early literacy development. Accelerated Reader, remains the most significant and embedded program at PCS to support student progress in reading, from Year 3 through to the Middle School years.

PCS continued to actively participate in the Sporting Schools Program, which saw a variety of sporting codes represented, and specialist coaches coming into the School to contribute to the physical education of the PCS students.

The annual whole school athletics and swimming carnivals were once again significant successes in the school calendar. The swimming program, which PCS offers all Primary aged students, inclusive of the school fees, culminated in the *Escape from Treasure Island*, themed carnival.

Parents and Community

Official Parent Teacher Conferences occur twice a year, normally at the end of Term 1 and Term 3. These one-on-one meetings between parents and teachers, normally focus on the academic or social and emotional development of the student. Written reports are published twice a year at the end of each semester. The interaction and support of the parent community extends well beyond this official academic feedback times. Even before the school year starts, we have parents who volunteer in the Uniform Shop. This year we had seven parents spending significant volunteer time in the Uniform Shop to support the uniform sales, prior to school starting.



The camping program in Primary and Middle School, saw significant parent volunteers actively assisting on the camps. As an example, the Year 9 class camp to Larapinta had three staff and four parents in attendance. It is this high level of interest and high quality support from parents, that ensures the activities such as camps and sports events are positive and memorable experiences for students at PCS.

The changing of readers, from Transition to Year 2, operates as a purely parent volunteer system. It is a huge support to teachers having the reading books changed daily by parent volunteers. Parents will routinely come and support their children in sporting events, and a significant number of parents support the School as officials, in the capacity of place judge or time keeper.

100% of the Palmerston Christian School staff responded in a survey, to be either: extremely happy; very happy; moderately happy; in their role as staff at PCS. No staff responded; slightly happy; not at all happy.

Last time, PCS parents were surveyed, 'How satisfied are you with Palmerston Christian School', 95.5% responded either: moderately satisfied; very satisfied; extremely satisfied. 4.5% responded, either slightly satisfied or not at all satisfied.

During 2017, PCS hosted a Church Pastor/Minister/Priest Meeting. Eight local churches were represented at this Meeting. This was a time of sharing the vision of PCS and seeking how we could connect with the local church community. The end-of-year carols event, was seen as an ideal time for the churches to join with Palmerston Christian School, in creating a Christian community carols event across non-denominational lines.

We held a bush dance on a beautiful, dry-season, Friday evening, which was plenty of fun and a large family engagement. This was a good community building event with minimal effort.

During the year, we also hosted information evenings for different grade levels. These were especially important for the students who were transitioning between Primary and Middle School, or from Middle to Senior School. The Transition to School Orientation was on a Saturday morning, with a majority of new parents attending. These information sessions for parents, are invaluable in building community and preparing students for success at school.



Facilities

The facilities at Palmerston Christian School are in good order, and the grounds are neat and presentable. Routine maintenance has ensured ongoing safe use of the facilities. During 2017, we ended our mowing contract, and chose to buy our own mower and hire additional Grounds Staff; 2 days a week. The result is continued neat and tidy grounds, with the added advantage of; during the dry season there are additional personnel to assist with maintenance matters.

Palmerston Christian School, has been one of the schools in 2017-2018 to engage in the Northern Territory Government Grant, Building Better Schools. This Grant has seen an upgrade and capital investment of \$300,000 to our: Transition classroom, Uniform Shop, Staff Workroom, and covered walk way access to the School Library, regardless of the weather.

There are sufficient, well-maintained classes for the current enrolment. Limited growth can occur before additional classrooms will be needed. There is no need for new buildings in the next 2 to 4 years. It is anticipated, additional classes will be required after the next 4 years if current growth trends continue.

Critical Incidents

There have been no critical incidents at Palmerston Christian School in 2017.

School Self-Assessment

SIRF (School Improvement and Renewal Framework) occurred in two areas in 2017.

Care & Wellbeing - People Matter, was reviewed in Semester 1.

Commendations from this review were:

- The NT Christian Schools Policy on Bullying and Harrasment.
- The work of the Action Team to identify and progress, Care and Wellbeing, for staff and students.



Recommendations from the SIRF:

- Review the, Care and Wellbeing Policy, which was dated 2011.
- Implement recommendations from Wellbeing Action Team, such as exercise bicycle in the staff room, staff weekly coffee voucher draw, and encouraging staff wellbeing.
- Continue to implement KidsMatter.

Christian Identity – Faith matters, was reviewed in Semester 2.

Commendations from this review were:

- Christian ethos at School is actively practiced in staff devotions, student devotions, public events, and integrated in our curriculum.
- Easterfest, has a positive impact on the Christian ethos of the School.
- Recent Bible Curriculum review was a good improvement in the curriculum flow of the Bible Class.

Recommendations:

- Develop relationships with the local churches is to be encouraged and fostered.
- Easterfest format to be reviewed and a committee formed.

The Annual Action Plan, was a new process embarked upon in 2017. The Annual Action Plan, serves to align to the NT Christian Schools Strategic Framework and Key Priorities, 2016-2020, to the operational plan at a school level.

2017 Annual Action - Strategic Framework Goals Achieved in 2017

Christian Identity:

- Church leaders engaged in the School's vision and mission
- Local church support and involvement in Easterfest
- Implemented new Bible curriculum at PCS
- Student Representative leaders trained using the work of John Maxwell.

Care and Wellbeing:

- Started Social and Emotional lessons once a week in the Middle School
- Appointed a POD leader in Primary to support student wellbeing issues
- Completed component of Kidsmatter training for staff at Palmerston Christian School.

Schools and Programs:

- Staff professional development on Assessment
- Implement STEM across the whole School
- Review Middle School electives and subject offerings in the National Curriculum area of Technologies.

Governance and Leadership:

- Assigned additional administrative support to the leadership team at Palmerston Christian School
- Created a new position of responsibility in Primary (POD Leader).

Community and Culture:

- Two churches actively use the School's facilities for their operation
- Met with local church leader
- Engaged in land discussions with Palmerston City Council.

Finance and Resources:

- Increase the physical size of Room 12 for a larger Transition classroom
- Increase storage for Kingdom Kids
- Create office/confidential meeting space for parents in the ELC
- Redesign the back workroom area for staff and include the uniform shop in this redesign
- Replace damaged shade netting on the basketball court
- Review, Schools Capital Works, wish list towards the masterplan.