



11 February 2019

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

We are really looking forward to this year! It will be a year filled with exciting new adventures and learning opportunities. It may also be a challenging year as your child learns to take on the greater responsibilities of Middle School.

My name is Ben De Klerk and I am the Year 8 PCG teacher for Term 1. Your child will also be taught by Mrs Jessup (Science), Mr De Klerk (Maths), Mrs Carter (English & SEL), Mrs Abbott (HaSS & Biblical Studies), Mr Allison (PE), Mr Modoh (Indonesian) and Mrs Garside and Mrs Shea (The Arts). They will also participate in a range of rotation and specialist learning areas such as Woodwork, Food Technology, Web Design and Textiles (sewing).

Equipment

At the beginning of the year all students will receive the following equipment: a blue pen, a pencil, a ruler, glue, eraser, scissors and pencil case and relevant subject exercise books and text books (we have a class set of sharpeners). Please help ensure that your child comes to school every day with their equipment, as it is expected that Middle School students begin to take on greater responsibility for their learning and for their belongings. If your child loses his /her stationery, please replace it as soon as possible.

Textbooks/Novels are loaned to your child. Please ensure that your child keeps them in good condition.

iPads are a great privilege and will also be loaned to your child. The iPad is to be used as a **learning tool**. Please review the iPad information booklet and return the agreement document.

Diaries

Students have not been issued a diary this year. All teachers will expect students to record their homework, assignments, and study requirements on their iPad. Please encourage your child to refer to their iPad for required homework and assignment dates. As homework and the load of work increases in Year 7, our teachers will continually update the 'homework board' in the Year 7 classroom. We would appreciate it, if you as parents, could also check and physically see that your child is completing their homework.

CANVAS

CANVAS is the NT Christian Schools online learning portal. Students have gradually been exposed to CANVAS in a range of subjects over the last year. CANVAS will be used again this year for classes and for submitting assignments. This online learning portal allows students to interact in a safe space, engage in online discussions, submit assignments easily, and review or catch up on missed class work at home.

Homework

Learning Together – Bringing Hope to the World

PH: 08 8932 3377

PO Box 113 Palmerston NT 0831

ABN: 65 060 686 305

Students will be given homework each night, for English and Maths and at times other subjects also.

English- This will be in the form of a specific sheet from their Skills workbook, activities and assignments.

Mathematics- Questions based on the content being studied, will be given to assist in consolidating learning, as well as regular times tables practice.

At times, homework will be focused on preparation for a test or completion of assignments.

If your child is unable to complete the homework by the due date, please write a quick note to explain, as incomplete homework will be completed during lunch time Homework Recovery.

Assignments

Every term students will receive a schedule of when all the assignments are due for the term. For every assignment students will receive an outline sheet that has a due date on it, a description of what the task is and what is expected. Students will be given class time to begin working on their assignments and have their questions answered. Assignments will also have a marking rubric on them which gives students an idea of the expectations required for the different grade levels (Well Above Standard, Above Standard, At Standard, Below Standard, Well Below Standard). Teachers will use these as a marking guideline.

Late Assignments – If your child cannot meet the deadline of an assignment, please contact the subject teacher by email or note at least two days before the due date. Students who fail to meet the assignment due dates will be required to attend Homework Recovery at lunch time until the assignment is completed.

Homework Recovery- If your child has not brought a parent note identifying why they have not completed their assigned homework work they will be required to attend this lunch time session.

Plagiarism Policy - Plagiarism is the act of taking and using another person's published or unpublished thoughts or ideas and claiming them as your own. Please refer to the Plagiarism Policy for more information.

Homework Centre

The Homework Centre is open on Weeks 2-9 every Wednesday from 3:15 - 4:00pm. Students have the opportunity to attend Homework Centre which is held in the library. Students will have a teacher able to assist them with homework or assignments as needed. This is a free service which students are encouraged to attend, this is not for social gathering.

Behaviour Expectations

Students are expected and encouraged to develop intrinsic motivation towards learning and display appropriate actions towards themselves and others. The four expectations that are upheld are: Respect, Responsibility, Maximising Learning and Service to Others. For further information on this as well as disciplinary actions for behaviour management and incomplete work, please refer to the PCS Student Behaviour Management Plan attached.

Tournament of the Minds Regional Challenge Competition

During Term 2, teachers will select 14 students who have excelled in two or more subject areas to take part in the Tournament of the Minds regional challenge competition during Term 3. During this time, students will work in teams of seven students across year levels, to develop a creative response to a clearly defined problem in their chosen discipline, areas include Language Literature, Social Sciences and Science and Technology disciplines. Students extend their lateral thinking and problem-solving skills as they research the set topic and devise with a unique solution. They then rehearse a creative presentation of their solution, in preparation for the regional final tournament. They will also develop the skills and strategies to respond to a 'spontaneous challenge', common across all challenge areas, which is revealed on tournament day and forms a significant percentage of the team's overall score.

Extension and Accelerated

Students who are working above the expected standard, will be offered extension or accelerated learning opportunities in each subject.

Guided Movie Viewing

As part of the Year 7 curriculum, students will be asked to watch film clips and films that are rated G and PG. Permission is required for viewing that is PG rated. If you have any concerns about this please contact me.

Marlow Lagoon Oval

On occasions such as Physical Education activities, Sports Carnival and various subjects in class activities, students are required to go over to Marlow Lagoon Oval and Lagoon. As this is not school owned land, parental permission is required. Students are only allowed access to the area if supervised by a teacher.

Education Support

If your child is on an Educational Adjustment Plan they will be assisted by the Middle School Education Support team. Please contact myself and Tash Robertson for more information tashaa.robertson@ntschoools.net

Assembly

Assemblies will be held in the hall on Mondays at 9:30-10:15am during the odd weeks of each term. Please refer to the Newsletter and Friday bulletin for assembly dates.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Students will participate in a SEL course fortnightly, which will develop important social and emotional understanding and skills. Students with well-developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, develop resilience and a sense of self-worth, resolve conflict, engage in teamwork and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. The development of personal and social capabilities is a foundation for learning and for citizenship.

Service Project

This year we are continuing our service program, which offers students the ability to participate in a variety of service projects within the school, in order to develop their capacity to care for each other and our school. Service areas include; Primary buddy classes, gardening and art projects, administration duties, assisting in the PCS Early Learning Centre- Kingdom Kids and participating in the band.

Camping

Trip 1: Batchelor Year 7-10 students attend a 3-day camp to Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre, 20-22 February, where they are challenged physically and mentally through a vigorous program. This program is also designed to give both students and teachers the opportunity to strengthen their relationships and build the school community.

Trip 2: As part of the Year 7 and 8 curriculum in Term 3, students will be heading on an educational adventure to Katherine. This trip supports learning taught in Geography and Science; Place and Liveability and Rock formations. The students will participate in a range of activities such as bush walking through the Nitmiluk National Park (Baruwei Walk- 5km), viewing Cutta Cutta Caves, visiting the Katherine Museum, attending a show at the Katherine Outback Experience, and swimming in Katherine hot springs. This camp will enhance the student's knowledge and appreciation of the importance of the Katherine Region to surrounding farming and cattle station communities, and provide an exciting opportunity for your child to develop stronger relationships with teachers and students. Available parents are invited to attend the camp as assistants and join in the experience.

Free Dress Days

Camps and casual clothes days (Last day of each term)- Please ensure that your child wears sun safe shirts (must have sleeves) and all shorts must be modest in appearance. To ensure your child's shorts are the correct length, ask your child to place their hands at their sides, if their shorts are above their fingertips, they are too short and must not be worn to camps or on casual days. Students will be asked to change their clothes to meet this requirement.

Mobile Phones

If your child brings a mobile phone to school, they are expected to place it into the classroom lock box every morning, this will ensure that it is kept safe during the day. Students can then take their phones home in the afternoon. Phones that are not placed into the lock box will be confiscated and placed into the safe at the front office for parent collection.

Teacher contact details

Science/STEM Projects- danielle.jessup@ntschoools.net and heike.wentzel@ntschoools.net

English & SEL- jill.carter@ntschoools.net

PE – doug.allison@ntschoools.net

Mathematics- ben.deklerk@ntschoools.net

Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) & Biblical Studies - ana.abbott@ntschoools.net

The Arts – bev.garside@ntschoools.net and emily.shea@ntschoools.net

Indonesian- dom.modoh@ntschoools.net

Specialist learning areas- Bev Garside – Bev.garside@ntschoools.net, Emily Shea - emily.shea@ntschoools.net

Ana Abbott - ana.abbott@ntschoools.net Doug Allison – doug.allison@ntschoools.net Ken McAllister

ken.mcallister@ntschoools.net

Please feel free to contact me at school anytime. The best method of contact for me is via email and my address is ben.deklerk@ntschoools.net. If you contact the front office, they will take your name and send me an email to return your call.

Please fill in and return the form on the next page by Friday 8th of February.

Kind regards,

Ben De Klerk



Middle School Consent Form

Please circle

I do / I don't give my child permission to watch PG rated films as part of the school curriculum and last day of term activities.

Student Name: _____

I do / I don't give my child permission to walk over to Marlow Oval and Lagoon (supervised) for sports and other in class activities as required.

I _____ can be available as a parent volunteer on the Batchelor or Kakadu/Larapinta Camps (Circle)? (An Ochre Card is needed in order to volunteer)

Yes No Contact number to discuss _____

Please initial the following statements

Parent/Guardian

Student

I have read the plagiarism policy

I have read the behaviour management guidelines

I understand the dress code for camps and casual days

I have read the uniform policy

Optional- Parent Comments

Parent Name _____

Signature _____