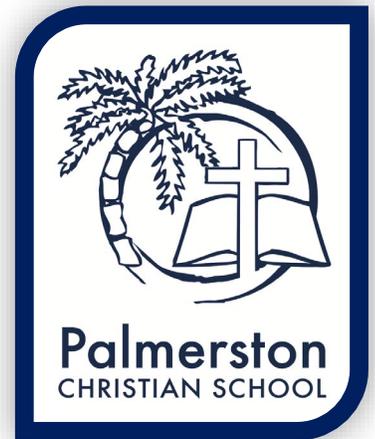


Palmerston Christian School 2018 Annual School Report



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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

In 2018, PCS celebrated 30 years since the first students were enrolled. There were many events to celebrate the history of the school. It was also a time of goal setting as we consider the future. Highlight events were the Palmerston Christian School Birthday party. The opening of the heritage paving and the planting of a timecapsule to be opened in 20 years time when the school celebrates its 50th anniversary.



The school has once again enjoyed some enrollment growth and for 1st semester of 2018 achieved the strategic goal of having 11 classes in the Primary section of the school. Tougher economic times and an exposure to the winding down of the Ichthys LNG project building phase meant that a departing teacher was not replaced during semester 2. Palmerston Christian School remains committed to building enrollment numbers up to an 11 class Primary section but the school will need to have the right economic factors at play in the local economy and population before it will be viable to achieve this enrollment goal.

The school is actively supported by the parent community and the relationships between school, home and church are highly treasured and appreciated. The many events the school has each year rely heavily on parent volunteers to enable the sports program, camping program, reading program, maintenance programs to flourish at Palmerston Christian School. On the 17 March Palmerston Christian School was impacted by cyclone Marcus. This category 2 cyclone had a significant effect on the vegetation of Palmerston Christian School. Over 35 trees were removed due to storm damage and the school was closed for 2 days as the clean up work was done to ensure a safe school environment. Fortunately there was minimal damage to infrastructure beyond the expected shade sail damage. The response from the teaching team and parent body was a huge blessing as work crews were instrumental in quickly getting the school safe and back in operation. The community building effect that has come from the storm damage is a silver lining to what was a destructive weather event.

It remains my joy and privilege to be Principal of Palmerston Christian School. This is a wonderful school, with a great spirit, which ensures students thrive both in the academic expectations as well as in every area of their lives which are not tested by academic tests but rather demonstrated in how they achieve in lifes realities.

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.

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	Susanne	Harley	Casual
Maintenance Officer	Paul	Vaatstra	0.6
Maintenance Officer	Harry	Moes	Casual
Caretaker	Janelle	Fisher	0.2
Library	Chris	Macrides	0.8
DSTA	Jake	West	0.8
Indonesian Teacher	Dom	Modoh	0.6
Primary School			
Head of Primary	Lubka	Gaitt	1
Transition	Tasha	Robertson	1
Transition	Gwenyth	Thomsen	1
Year 1/2	Dee	Little	1
Year 1/2	Ashlee	Kirkham	1
Year 1/2	Lyka	Zarate	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	Sarah	Impett	1
PE	Danielle	Jessup	0.4
Ed Support			
Special Education	Bev	Garside	0.6
Special Education	Cynthia	Chapman	1
TA/ISA	Kathy	Guy	0.8
TA and Chaplain	Marcus	Forsyth	0.8
TA	Rosanna	Beath	1
TA	Genelene	Macabuhay	1
TA	Lara	Kershaw	0.8
TA	Liliana	Leschi	0.8
TA	Nomvula	Ndlovu	0.2
TA	Whitney	Jones	1
TA	Sheila	Brown	0.6
Middle School			
Middle School Team Leader	Jill	Carter	1
Year 7	Heike	Wentzel	1
Year 8	Ben	DeKlerk	1
Year 9	Emily	Shea	1
Year 10	Chad	Robertson	1
Middle School Teacher	Amy	Clisby	0.4
Middle School Teacher	Ana	Abbott	0.6



Highlights of the School Year

The biggest year-long highlight was the 30th year celebration of Palmerston Christian School. There was a commemorative shirt included as part of the uniform and a number of school events to celebrate the past and anticipate the future. The highlight being the 30th Birthday party and the end of year thanksgiving service.



PCS started the year reaching its enrolment goal of 11 Primary classes. This is the strategic goal for Primary at PCS and the current maximum size of classes for the Primary facilities. Semester 2, Palmerston Christian School had not realised the anticipated growth in student enrolment which saw the non-replacement of a departing teacher in July and a redistribution of students into the remaining 10 classes. It is expected that the addition of a new private school in Palmerston along with the completion of the construction phase of the Ichthys project is impacting the slow down in growth that Palmerston Christian School has enjoyed for the last few years.



There has been another significant increase in the Palmerston Christian School involvement in PARRS sports event and the school engaged in at least 2 different sport code events per term. Palmerston Christian School also participated in the Palmerston region inter-school athletics and swimming events.

The most significant new curriculum development was the change to the mathematics program from Foundation Phase to Year 3. The new program is Pr1me Mathematics. Pr1me Mathematics is based on the the International Mathematics program of Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum but only up to year 3 in 2018. In 2019 it will be aligned to the National Curriculum up to Year 6 and PCS will then use Pr1me Maths up to year 6 in 2019.



The Middle School of PCS doubled the electives offered to students, doubling the learning opportunities of Middle School students from 1 elective each week to 2 electives each week. This review of time allocation has once again seen the elective program grow in type and quality of learning opportunities afforded to Middle School students at Palmerston Christian School. The Middle School also introduced a dedicated lesson each week to address the school value of service. This has provided various opportunities for Middle School students to engage in activities which go beyond the routine academic

opportunities into opportunities which serve others. It's wonderful how reaching out and serving others results in growth opportunities beyond the curriculum.

Cyclone Marcus struck in March and was a significant event causing Palmerston Christian School along with the rest of Darwin Schools to close for two days as the clean up took place.

The camping program was a resounding success with students in Years 3 and 4 having a sleep over "camp" at school with two days of activities either side of the sleepover night. The Year 5 and 6 students went to Coomalie Creek as well as a day visit to Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre. The entire Middle School did two camps. The whole Middle School spent two nights at Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre. The Year 7 and 8 classes went to Kakadu and the Year 9 class held the Rite of Passage trip to Larapinta and hiked portions of the Larapinta trail and camped at Simpson Gap.



Palmerston Christian School continued with the NCCD program for students with disabilities. This saw an ongoing growth in this area as staff understanding of disabilities and how to make adjustments grew. The whole staff also engaged with an online training course to understand and support students with ASD.

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.



It was a challenging yet rewarding year which saw students thrive in the Biblical based education provided at Palmerston Christian School.

Parents and Community

This year saw significant interaction with the parent community. The volunteers that came to help after the cyclone demonstrated a strong commitment by the parent community to see the school thrive. The community events supporting the school as it celebrated its 30th year of operation was well attended.

Palmerston Christian School enjoys a regular stream of parents who volunteer and support the school. Every day there are parents at school assisting with the reading program by changing the students readers. Every camp has parent volunteers who assist in various ways as drivers, cooks and wherever the need is. Each sports day there were parents volunteering and supporting the school staff. Parents also do the bulk of the labour when we run the Mother's day and Father's

Day stalls. We are blessed by our caring and supportive parents who contribute positively to our school.

We continue to engage with the community through events such as the Sommerville Christmas appeal, Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, Palmerston Christmas Carols and in various ways through the Duke of Edinburgh Program. Our hall is hired out to organisations needing a space to meet and two churches use our facilities every Sunday.



Parents are encouraged to meet with teachers at any mutually convenient time. There are however written reports of the students progress twice a year and also formal parent teacher conferences held twice a year.

In 2018, the community events also included the 30th celebration events. It was wonderful to have the engagement of local territory politicians, founding parents, past students as well as local pastors join in the celebrations. Palmerston Christian School held its third annual Easterfest event leading into the Easter holiday. This was well attended by local church representatives. During the year, a variety of different pastors have come and spoken to students at Middle School assemblies.

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.

The Primary School hosted some class socials. The most memorable event was the Year 1 and 2 sunset / family picnic.

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.

The original classes which were built when the school opened have needed significant maintenance in 2018. As the school considers future capital development, the plan to update these original 3 classrooms will need to be considered alongside any other development plans.

Palmerston Christian School continued to benefit as one of the schools in 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.

Critical Incidents

Cyclone Marcus was a significant weather event which impacted the school causing 35 trees to be removed from the school as they were uprooted and damaged during the cyclone. The cyclone saw school closed for 2 days as the clean up work was carried out.



School Self-Assessment

SIRF (School Improvement and Renewal Framework) occurred in two areas in 2018.

Governance and Leadership, was reviewed in Semester 1.

Commendations from this review were:

- Instructional leadership is a core focus and a strength of the leadership team.
- Leaders and teams understand, value, develop and care about people.

Recommendations from the SIRF:

- Improve organizational structure and lines of authority so that people are clear about expectations, process and responsibilities.
- Develop clear learning goals, courses and benchmarks for the various levels of leadership.

Community and Culture, was reviewed in Semester 2.

Commendations from this review were:

- There is a strong partnership between the school and the parent community. Parents are engaged in multiple ways with the school and opportunity for parent input is welcomed and encouraged.

Recommendations:

- Whilst the school acknowledges and values cultural diversity, additional units of work featuring indigenous and other cultural perspectives need to be developed. Building and expanding on the cross cultural competencies taught.



2018 Annual Action - Strategic Framework Goals Achieved in 2018

Christian Identity:

- Local church support and involvement in Easterfest
- Making camps a meaningful spiritual experience
- Have church leaders speak at assemblies

Care and Wellbeing:

- Consolidate the Social and Emotional program in Middle School
- Continue Kidsmatter at Palmerston Christian School.
- Celebrate the 30th anniversary

Schools and Programs:

- Start using Canvas as the student learning portal
- Implement Service program in Middle School
- Introduce Specialist Learning Areas in Middle School which doubles the Middle School elective options.

Governance and Leadership:

- Ensure council members receive support and governance training.
- Grow council knowledge and understanding regarding Christian Schooling and CEN.

Community and Culture:

- Increase the use of the school facilities by the community.
- Meet with Pastors and share the vision and mission of Palmerston Christian School

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