

Palmerston Christian School



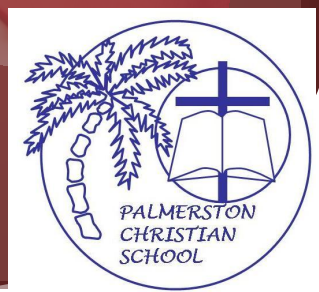
**KNOWLEDGE**



**UNDERSTANDING**



**WISDOM**





**W**elcome to Palmerston Christian School and thank you for taking the time to consider what we as a community have to offer not only your children but your whole family. The intention of our prospectus is that it will allow you to gain an understanding and appreciation of the unique learning opportunities that we can provide children with.

Palmerston Christian School provides families with a quality Christian Education from Transition to Year 12. The Palmerston Christian School Campus (PCS) is designed to serve students from Transition to Year 10. PCS Students for senior secondary (years 10 – 12) are part of the Northern Territory Christian College which is a multi-campus program based at both the PCS campus and the Marrara Christian College Campus (MCC).

Both PCS and MCC are campuses of the Northern Territory Christian Schools (NTCS) group of schools. The NTCS is the second largest provider of Non-Government education in the Northern Territory and been serving NT families for over 30 Years. PCS and MCC have been working together in this way for the past 10 years.

We provide a high quality of education to our students within a caring Christian community. The teachers at Palmerston Christian School are fully-qualified and registered, and their professionalism and Christian commitment are seen daily in the classrooms. Every teacher is a practising Christian who strives to live a life as an example of Godliness.

*“...understanding and appreciation...”*





## Our Mission

To serve parents/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.

*...nurturing and educating  
children...*

## Our Aims

Palmerston Christian School is by no means an ordinary school, we have so much more to offer your children and indeed your whole family. Here at Palmerston Christian School we endeavour to:

- ❖ provide a general education of the highest quality using a curriculum that has a Biblical world-view.
- ❖ provide a Christian environment for children to learn skills, attitudes and knowledge through their academic studies, which will equip them to participate in the modern world.
- ❖ foster a co-operative relationship between all members of the school; parents, staff, students and the local churches.
- ❖ support parents whose lifestyle is sympathetic with Christian ethics, by continually building Christian faith and character in their children so that our relationships with Jesus may be strengthened and understood.



## Connecting With God

**A**s a Christian School, we seek to do much more than tell students about God or teach about the Bible – we want them to experience the hope and joy that God offers them personally. Here at Palmerston Christian School, we believe that God loves each person, and that if we trust God with our lives, he will lead us to live a life that has purpose and value.

Learning about God is not just theory – it’s about learning to understand God’s ways – his principles, his values, his teaching and his direction. It’s about learning to love God and to love others. It’s about learning to trust God in our everyday lives, and how he can take the things we give and do and make those things special. It’s about finding and developing our gifts and talents to benefit others.

We encourage children to connect with God through the sharing of Bible stories, music, prayer, service and role modelling from Christian staff. We seek as much as possible, to give children opportunities to discover more about God and connect with him through each and every day – whether it be about recognising God’s greatness in his creation, looking to see how God is reflected in the lives of others, or helping children persevere through difficulties by encouraging them to trust God as they step out in faith.

Our hope is that a Christian education will not just teach them about God, but will give them an opportunity to let God be a vital part of their everyday lives, so that they will know and experience his blessing and his work in their lives long after they leave their classroom.



“...he can take  
the things we  
give and do and  
make those  
things special.”



## Our History

The vision for a Christian school in Palmerston began in the early 1980's. That vision was realized when on the 8th of February, 1988, 36 students and 2 teachers attended, for the very first time, at Palmerston Christian School.



The grounds were wet and muddy on that very first day in the middle of the wet season and the buildings few but the years that followed were exciting. The school community worked hard to provide beautiful grassed areas and gardens and with the natural bush surroundings the students were eager to attend school.

*“...first class educational program...”*

Many activities commenced that first year – sports days, camps, carnivals and pie days to name a few. As the years progressed more activities were added including fetes and character days. The concerts have been legendary and the fundraising fun. PCS has always been a community in action.

## Our Present and Future

Over 20 years later the numbers of students has grown to be in excess of 200 and the dedicated Christian staff now exceeds 30, accompanied with many modern facilities and a first class educational program, Palmerston Christian School is still an exciting place to be.



As that first vision in 1988 has advanced and exceeded expectations, so the school community will continue to move forward and continue to provide quality Christian education in Palmerston.

## Primary – Transition to Year 6

The primary school years (Transition – Year 6) are fundamental in the academic development of young people. At Palmerston Christian School students are supported to reach their academic potential as well as being nurtured to develop knowledge, love and understanding of God and empathy towards others.

*“...aspires to instil core values such as honesty, acceptance, respect and friendliness.”*

A rigorous phonemic and literacy program in the Early Childhood section (Transition – Year 2) equips young children with the necessary kick start to be readers and writers, equipping them to be life-long learners.

The Accelerated Reading program enhances classroom literacy programs in Years 3-6 by, stimulating and challenging students to read frequently and widely at their appropriate level.

Students attending Palmerston Christian School undergo regular assessments to track numeracy and literacy development throughout their school years. This enables teachers to make accurate judgements when planning and assessing student learning. In the primary years an integrated program is developed around the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework and The Australian Curriculum.

All Primary school students engage in a social and emotional health program that aspires to instil core values such as honesty, acceptance, respect and friendliness. The program supports students to develop resilience and to live out the values taught by Jesus.

In the senior primary years (Year 5 – Year 6) Palmerston Christian School students undertake leadership skills training. Afterwhich they lead small groups of younger students in fun activities which strengthens social skills and community identity.

The Primary years at Palmerston Christian School are dynamic and fun, providing students with firm academic foundations and support family and community values.





## Middle School – Year 7 to Year 9

The Middle School Program at Palmerston Christian School (Years 7, 8, and 9.) is a dynamic and exciting program specifically aimed at the unique needs of young adolescents. The PCS Middle School provides a supportive environment that focuses on developing positive relationships and finding success. This offers students the opportunity to develop and nurture their God given gifts and abilities. At PCS our aim is to provide students with structures that enable them to flourish through these crucial years of schooling.

For many years the ‘middle years’ of schooling has generally been recognised as a difficult group to teach and as a result was often neglected. Students in Years 7, 8, and 9 find

themselves in unfamiliar school environments having just finished Primary School, or at the lower end of a daunting senior secondary program. This lack of identity and belonging, coupled with the physical and emotional changes that are happening at this age, often cause students to struggle with the many changes occurring in their lives across this time.

Over the past 15 years PCS has meet this challenge head on by combining the various forms of teaching that have a proven record of success and drawn on these to create rich learning environments that encourage students to work effectively and find success across their middle years of schooling.

The outcome is a middle school program which recognises that by building positive relationships with students, teachers can more effectively work with them. We believe that students learn best when they feel safe, know teachers care and they experience a sense of belonging. The PCS middle

*“...dynamic and exciting program specifically aimed at the unique needs of young adolescents.”*



school program strives to meet these unique individuals where they are at and bring them to a place where they are equipped to take on the challenges of senior secondary with confidence.



## Senior Secondary School – Year 10 to Year 12

On completion of year 9 our students enter senior secondary school which encompasses Years 10, 11 and 12. Palmerston Christian School students continue their education with the Northern Territory Christian College with campuses at both Palmerston Christian School and Marrara Christian College. This Senior Secondary School offers a number of sought after academic and reputational qualities for students.



As the first non-government school to establish a partnership with the Australian Technical College (ATC) Darwin, we have found that Education and Community Services courses are providing valuable training opportunities for students and equipping them for future careers. In 2008, we were one of the first schools in the NT to implement a holistic “work ready” program. Students in Senior School are able to undertake VET (real-life vocational training) courses. The Fabrication and Construction Training (FACT) Company involves students in a commercial fabrication and construction workshop and enabling them to achieve Certificate II in Construction.

*“...teachers who are there to listen, advise and inspire.”*

The Senior Secondary School allows for the exhibition of students sporting talents through participation in Athletics and Swimming carnivals. However, students are also presented with the opportunity to partake in whole school cross-country events and senior sport with local high schools. Students with athletic abilities and potential are able to participate in NT Institute of Sport programs.

We seek to foster a sense of “giving-back” to the community through a number of programs and opportunities including Mission Trips, the Prefect system as well as the Year 12 involvement in the “helping out” Service Program, based at the school. Students in senior classes are able to utilise & practice the skills that they have gained by helping out with younger students.

The Senior Secondary School curriculum builds on the foundation laid by the academic and elective programs offered at Palmerston Christian School. In Years 10, 11 & 12 we fine-tune those skills by offering students the widest possible range of learning experiences and the support of enthusiastic Christian teachers who are there to listen, advise and inspire. Further information can be obtained from the office at Palmerston Christian School.



“...experiences that encourage them to grow.”

## Outdoor Education

**L**earning can happen anywhere and at PCS we recognise that effective learning outcomes can be achieved when we are provided with experiences that are not only fun, but take us beyond what is familiar and out of our comfort zone.



The PCS outdoor education program is designed to introduce students gradually to a range of experiences that encourage them to grow. This growth is facilitated by exposing them to environments and challenges that force them to re-evaluate what they are comfortable with and take for granted. Early first term each year the whole Middle school spends 4 days at the Bachelor Outdoor Education Facility. Students and staff are able to come together and get to know each other away from the school and pressures and routines of day to day school life. It also provides the basis from which the broader range of outdoor education experiences run later in the year.

Across terms two and three students participate in the following outdoor education adventures:

Year 6 – Riyala

Year 7 – Kakadu

Year 8 – Litchfield

Year 9 – Larapinta (Alice Springs)

Year 10 – Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne



## *Mission and Service Trips*

Students are also encouraged to participate in a range of mission and service trips. These are voluntary and range from working with communities in Arnhem land through to India.

## Facilities

**W**e have the benefit of a combination of established and new facilities at Palmerston Christian School. Each of our spacious air-conditioned classrooms has an interactive electronic whiteboard. We also have fully equipped information technology rooms as well as rooms that are specifically designed for subjects such as Art, Drama, Music and a Light Machinery Workshop. Our school boasts a state of the art Language Centre, Science Lab and Library, all of which have been purposely built to accommodate the future expansion of our school. To compliment the internal education environment we provide we have numerous outdoor facilities including several undercover play areas consisting of a basketball, netball and a handball court. Palmerston Christian School has a large playing field suitable for an assortment of sports including football, AFL and softball. We also have close access to and the use of other adjoining sporting ovals as well as the Palmerston Aquatic Centre for all of our water related education programs.



*“...purposely built to accommodate the future expansion of our school.”*

## Bus Services

**P**almerston Christian School employs a qualified bus driver to operate our 22 seater bus which provides a before and after-school bus service. This service is available to support families who have students who require transportation to attend before and/or after school care facilities. Palmerston Christian School provides this service at a minimal cost. For all other transport requirements, public buses are available before and after school.



“  
...treat  
others  
as God  
treats  
us...”



### Distinguishing Features

#### Godly Outlook

“If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God” (1 Peter 4:11). This tells us that in all we do, think, say, act and teach we must be people representing Jesus Christ. This doesn’t mean that we attach a verse to each lesson, or pray before each recess. Instead it means that our school community seeks to treat others as God treats us, grow toward God, and view our world as God views it.

#### Character Development

There is no point in training clever criminals. To be truly effective in our teaching we need to train our children to be morally responsible citizens. Teachers and parents need to implant in the children virtues like kindness, self-control, and responsibility. We endeavour to teach the reasons why we do things so that the child’s character is developed. Children from Palmerston Christian School should be recognised by their strength of character.

#### Communication with Parents

Palmerston Christian School recognises that God has given parents the responsibility to bring up their children. Upon their enrolment our school becomes a part of this process. There must be frequent communication between the staff and parents. Staff will make an effort to contact parents, but parents need to be actively seeking out teachers either by making an appointment or, if appropriate, catching up with staff informally.

#### Core Curriculum in Education

Palmerston Christian School is a Primary and Middle school which offers quality education. There is a strong emphasis on academic excellence in the core curriculum subjects of literacy and numeracy, as well as character training such as honesty, respect, kindness and being responsible.





### *Family Feel*

God has placed individuals in a society of varied people. Individuals should be encouraged to work and play with people who are of a different gender, age or background. Older students are encouraged to look after the younger children, who in turn should feel comfortable with playing with the older students.

### *Safety and Wellbeing*

Palmerston Christian School endeavours to provide a haven of safety where each child, staff member and parent feels they are accepted, valued and cared for. It is imperative that safety is a priority for all members of our school community. We actively encourage and maintain a school culture that promotes and protects the physical, mental, social and spiritual wellbeing of all. Developing respect for and an understanding of others is fundamental.

*"...accepted,  
valued and  
cared for."*

## Training the Whole Person

**A**s a school we believe that God created humans with several dimensions. We aim to teach the whole person in the following ways:

### *Physically*

Through physical education activities and the health curriculum we will be encouraging children to be physically active during school and also to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our physical education program aims to give students experiences with a range of sports and associated skills. It is hoped that students will find sports that they enjoy and pursue them through sporting clubs. Sport at PCS is directed toward fun and encourages maximum participation and team work.

### *Intellectually*

We recognise that everyone has different skills and gifts and treat everyone as individuals. Those children who show aptitude will be encouraged to extend themselves and to broaden their learning experiences. Through the high quality of education provided in the classroom the children will have the opportunity to develop as independent learners. We believe that it is imperative that children learn how to access, collate, interpret, present and act on information for themselves. We place the responsibility for learning on the student and teach them that they must make an effort to learn.

### *Socially*

It is essential that our students learn to be active, productive members of the communities they are part of. Increasingly in today's competitive world there is a need for people who can work together for a common good.

### *Spiritually*

We will be teaching your children that there is an all-powerful, perfect God who created them and has a plan for them. We will be teaching that they need to have a close relationship with God in order to be fully complete and that they need to mature as Christians in order to have a full, meaningful life. It is vital that the home supports and upholds what is being taught in the school.

*"... students learn to be active, productive members of the communities they are a part of."*



## Parental Involvement

**W**e believe that God has given parents the responsibility for educating their children. When you enrol your child at Palmerston Christian School you ask us to share this responsibility with you and as such we are committed to developing an ongoing and purposeful relationship with you that will contribute to providing the best possible education for your child.



Parents who become actively involved in our school:

- ❖ Have a better understanding of the aims of the school and how it works.
- ❖ Emphasise the importance of school to their children and this influences their child's attitudes towards learning and the school.
- ❖ Help teachers use their time more efficiently.
- ❖ Are able to talk with their children about school from their own experiences.
- ❖ Are able to better support their children with work.

Parents are encouraged to help in the class and around the school as much as practically possible. If you have a special skill, or would like to spend some time at school, we would certainly appreciate your help.

Some activities that parents may contribute to include:

- ❖ listening to reading;
- ❖ sharing craft skills;
- ❖ assisting sports coaching;
- ❖ helping maintain school grounds;
- ❖ maintaining library materials.

*"...we would certainly appreciate your help."*

In an ideal situation the school, home and church are all working to educate the child. These three God-established institutions should all have the same goals and ideals. If you want the school to be as effective as it can be in training your child then you need to reinforce by your own words and actions the things being taught at school.

## Professional Affiliations

### Northern Territory Christian Schools (NTCS)

Palmerston Christian School is a member of the NTCS, which is a Commonwealth approved school system. The NTCS is one of the largest education providers in the Northern Territory responsible for the operation of nine schools. Schools of the NTCS offer a unique education community where:

- ❖ High quality education is provided – from a Christian perspective;
- ❖ Students can develop a Christian world view;
- ❖ Parents are encouraged to participate – be partners to staff;
- ❖ The school participates in the wider community – is not isolated;
- ❖ Parents are supported and can shape the school community – in school community forums and through the school council;

Teaching and learning at Palmerston Christian School are based on Christian beliefs. The association and its schools are non-denominational. Wishing to work in close cooperation with Christian churches, the association and its school communities are not tied to any one particular church or congregation.

*“High quality education is provided - from a Christian perspective”*

### Christian Education National (CEN)

Christian Education National Ltd promotes a partnership between home, church and school to provide a Christian worldview that informs all understanding, practice and community life in member schools.

### Australian Association of Christian Schools (AACS)

The AACS provides assistance to Christian schools in Australia by advocating and protecting their interests at the national level. The AACS provides support and advice for individual schools in their relationships with Government.

### Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory (AISNT)

The AISNT represents and promotes the diverse interests of independent schools in the Northern Territory. The AISNT is a service organisation that provides information and advice to schools on many issues and promoting the sector to governments, the education community and the general public.



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*“...your  
children’s  
future is  
safe in our  
hands...”*

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### Your Children’s Future

***T**hank you for taking the time to learn more about Palmerston Christian School and what we have to offer for your children’s future.*

*If after examining our prospectus, you would like more information or have any enquiries you will find our staff to be friendly and helpful and more than willing to take the time to answer any questions you may have. Our staff are committed to the principles on which the educational foundations of our school are established. They have a genuine love for young people and a passion to see them receiving the type of education that will transform their lives. We aim to educate the ‘whole child’ and value the individual gifts and talents that each student will bring with them.*

*If after considering the benefits of enrolling your children at Palmerston Christian School you decide that your children’s future is safe in our hands please contact our Registrar to initiate enrolment.*



Questions You May Have

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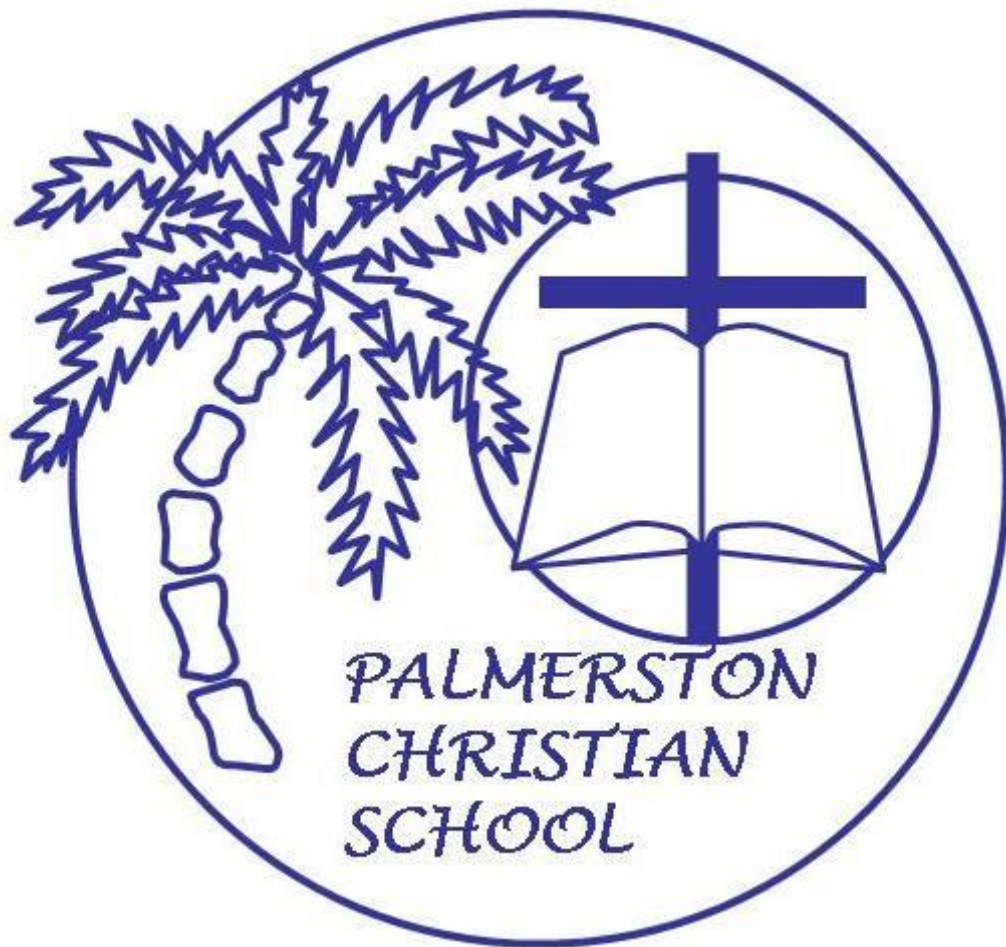
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## DISCLAIMER

All information is true and correct at the time of printing. Information is subject to change and notification will be provided to families regarding any changes.



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