



Opening doors to **successful futures**

A Northern Territory Government  
Independent Public School

**DARWIN**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parent/ Guardian Notices

9 February 2018, Week 2 Term 1

## **Welcome**

Welcome to new families, students and staff who join our school community for the first time this year. There are 830 students enrolled at Darwin Middle School. We are a busy campus, combined with Darwin High School and Northern Territory School of Distance Education, there are over 2500 students entering and exiting the Bullocky Point Education Precinct daily. With this in mind, I would like parents to be exceptionally vigilant when driving around the campus and be aware peak time for collection of students is between 2:20pm and 2:45pm, causing the roads to be quite congested. If possible, I suggest you arrange to collect your child post this time.

If you do come to the front of the school to collect your child, please continuously move your car forward as often as possible, to allow other cars to safely park adjacent to the school and ease the traffic congestion.

Myself and senior teachers are assisting with traffic management until safe, clear habits are established by all parties accessing the school.

## **Important Dates**

Council/ Board Meeting

Wednesday 14 February

School Photos

Tuesday & Wednesday

27 & 28 February

(Catch up: Thursday, 22 March)

Year 7 Immunisations

Tuesday 6 March &  
Wednesday 7 March

DMS AGM

Wednesday 14 March

We are fortunate that our designs for the new multipurpose hall have moved to a position where we expect this project to go out to tender mid year. This is a significant Northern Territory infrastructure development that will enhance the lives of our student body and complete the DMS campus. It will include performing arts spaces and a basketball court with large seating capacity. This is commiserate with the school's needs as the largest middle school in the NT and I congratulate the Government for its vision and commitment in completing this campus. We are likewise building a covered walkway to the bus area so that students will stay dry and be out of the sun. This project will be completed before the commencement of Term 2.

I have also spoken to the students about the importance of behaviour. I have no tolerance for violence and any person or parties that assault others, particularly by striking to the head, can expect a minimum suspension of four weeks. I have no tolerance for any drugs on campus. All drugs or substances not appropriate for students of this age will attract a suspension and I will inform the police as to these matters.



Darwin Middle School is a member of the Darwin City Schools,  
in partnership with  
Darwin High School, Northern Territory Open Education Centre,  
Ludmilla Primary, Larrakeyah Primary, Stuart Park Primary and  
Parap Primary Schools

It is most importance that we encourage a safe school and any form of aggression including bullying and cyber bullying will be dealt with wherever possible. Likewise I would ask parents to support this in the area of cyber bullying and monitoring their child's access to technology.

I am pleased to be able to report to you the schools academic results for 2015– 2017 show that the school is well above the NT average, as well as the Australian mean in all areas tested- mathematics, writing, and reading. Likewise, the Department analysis of the school's results shows the school's academic program as being assessed in the optimal achievement area. This is achieved by excellent teaching but also the caliber of our student body and great parenting. This partnerships is an essential element in ensuring that we continue on this journey of success. At the Year 9 Graduation last year, I quoted the following which I think is relevant to our school's success

*"There is no such thing as a difficult piece of music. A piece is either impossible or easy.*

*The process whereby it migrates from one category to the other is known as PRACTICING"*

Sir Yehudi Menuhin

The new uniforms introduced last year continue to look even more stylish than their predecessors. We also have two jackets now available and in addition to this, a school bag made by Crumpler, one of the most popular designs being produced in Australia.

I would encourage all parties to please take an opportunity to visit our website, there is a plethora of information about the school and also materials for parents to use such as school shop, teacher contact details or student attendance notification.

Parents also need to be aware the 2018 school holiday dates changed this year, with only one week break in April, three weeks in July and two weeks in October. Further information can be found on the [Department of Education](#) website.

Once again, I am looking forward to the 2018 journey. It is my 35th year as a Principal in the NT and I am proud and privileged to be your Principal and I will do my best to meet your expectations.

Warmest regards,  
Marcus Dixon



## **Outdoor Education**

The Outdoor Education students have recently begun a unit of Ice Skating. The skills required for this activity are being developed very quickly.

This Semester students will be involved with Rock Climbing, Paddle Boarding, Fishing, Sailing, Underwater Hockey, Water Polo, Trampoline, Orienteering and a 3-day camping/hiking expedition through Litchfield National Park.



## **DMS Skoolbag App**

Please note the Darwin Middle School Skoolbag App is no longer active. For student absence notification or to update your details, please use the new Darwin Middle School webpage or email the school directly.

## **Darwin Middle School Uniforms**

Parents are advised the previous emulsion print school shirt will no longer be accepted as part of the Darwin Middle School uniform from the beginning of Semester 2, 2018. This is for safety reasons. Uniform shirts and shorts can be purchased throughout the year from the front office or online through the DMS webpage.

## **Message from School Nurse**

Hello, my name is Alison Fitzgerald, and I would like to introduce myself as your Health Promoting School Nurse. My role is to promote a healthy lifestyle for the students, and as part of this the NT Government provide vaccinations for all Year 7 students in week 6 of this term. The two vaccinations provided are Boostrix which protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (or whooping cough), and Gardasil that protects against Human Papillomavirus. Further details can be found on the consent forms and on the link to a Government website below

We strongly recommend students receive these two vaccines and have sent consent forms home with students this week. Could parents/carers please sign and return these forms as quickly as possible. Spare copies are held at the front office. If you do not wish for your child to receive these vaccines or they have had these recently, could you please indicate this on the form. For further information regarding immunisations, please visit the following link:

<https://nt.gov.au/wellbeing/healthy-living/immunisation/child-vaccinations>

Thankyou for your support and cooperation and I look forward to working with your children.

## **School Photos**

School photos will take place at the school in Week 5 on Tuesday, 27 February and Wednesday, 28 February. A catch up day will be held in Week 8, Thursday, 22 March.

Payment envelopes will be given to students during Week 2. Please note only one envelope per household needs to be completed. Orders can also be made online at [www.ntschoolorportraits.com.au](http://www.ntschoolorportraits.com.au) with the pre paid discount code **DMS2018** valid until Friday, 16 March. If you have any questions please contact NT School Portraits on 8914 0000.

## **School Buses**

If your child will be catching a school bus to and from school, please visit the following link to find the best bus route and timetable.

<https://nt.gov.au/driving/public-transport-cycling/school-bus-darwin/darwin-high-school-darwin-middle-school>. School buses drop off and collect students at the back of the school. Students in school uniform can use school and public buses free for travel.

## **Student Lockers**

Lockers are available for students in each conch. There is no fee or registration, students need to provide their own locks and are responsible for their belongings. Once a student no longer requires a locker, locks and contents need to be removed. At the end of each semester, all lockers need to be emptied and locks removed. If your child has any questions please ask them to see the staff in the administration office.

## **NT Government Sports Vouchers**

Students returning to Darwin Middle School this year will have received their semester 1, 2018 NT Government Sports Voucher. If they did not receive it, please ask your child to check the Office of Good Standing. If your child is in Year 7 or attended a NT Government School at the end of 2017, these vouchers will be forwarded on from their previous school and will be given to students as they arrive. If your child is new to the Northern Territory, you can register online at [www.sportvoucher.nt.gov.au](http://www.sportvoucher.nt.gov.au) or contact the Sport Voucher Team on 1800 817 860 to have a voucher issued directly to you.

## **Student Contact Details**

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to contact details, including mobile, work and home phone numbers, residential and postal address and email. Alternative emergency contact details also need to be kept up to date. If you need to advise of any changes or are unsure what your child's current details are please contact the school at [admin.darwinmiddle@ntschoolors.net](mailto:admin.darwinmiddle@ntschoolors.net) or phone 8942 5200.



## **Drop Off and Pick Up Zone**

If you are dropping off your child, or collecting them after school, please ensure you move as far forward as possible in the pick up zone to allow other cars and buses to safely pass through. Due to the monsoonal weather and the beginning of a new school year, traffic congestion has been more than normal. If possible, please arrange with your child to meet them 5 or 10 minutes after the final school bell to help ease this congestion.



## **Varsity and Track and Field DMS Jackets available now to order**

Parents can now order DMS jackets and Crumpler school bags from the Administration Office or online via our school webpage. Varsity Jackets are \$100, Track and Field are \$50 and schoolbags \$65. We are expecting a limited supply of the school bags later this month, however we have been advised of a 6 to 12 week turn around timeframe for jackets to arrive.



## **Maths Help for Students**

Sessions will run on Thursday afternoons from 2.30pm to 3.15pm in 3F. Any queries please contact Katelyn Moon at [katelynmoon@ntschoools.net](mailto:katelynmoon@ntschoools.net).

## **Afterschool Homework Support**

Darwin Middle School will be offering an after school Homework Support Program in 2017. Students will have the opportunity to work on class assignments and homework in a relaxed and quiet environment. Sessions will begin Week 2, Tuesday, 6 February and will be conducted every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30pm until 3:30pm in the school Library and will be fully supervised. If you would like your child to attend, please fill out a permission form and return to the front office. Permission forms can be collected by students from the Office of Good Standing or Administration Office. Alternatively you can contact the office to request a form be emailed to you. Students who would normally catch a school bus home will need to make alternative arrangements as no school buses will be available. Please contact Sue Neal ([sue.neal@ntschoools.net](mailto:sue.neal@ntschoools.net)) should you require any more information.

## **Student Absence**

This year there are more ways to notify the school of your child's absence. You can either telephone the school on 89425200, submit notification via the school webpage or e-mail [hlo.darwinmiddle@ntschoools.net](mailto:hlo.darwinmiddle@ntschoools.net). You may prefer to send a note with your student upon their return to school, which is also an acceptable form of notification. However, if your student is going to be absent for an extended period e.g. holidays, please notify the school before going.

## **Late Arrivals**

The school day begins at 8:00am. If your child is expected to arrive at school after 8:00am but BEFORE 8:20am, they must go directly to their roll class and ensure their name is marked off the roll. They will still be marked as late by their roll class teacher. If your child is expected to arrive at school AFTER 8:20am, they must go to the Office of Good Standing (Building 1G) and sign in. If your child is expected to be arriving late to school, please provide them with a note or use any of the other methods listed above to notify the school. This will ensure the school that they are late with your knowledge.

## **Early Departure**

Permission for early departure will not be obtained unless the school has authorisation from a parent / caregiver. When a parent / caregiver notifies the school, an exit note is completed for the student. Students can collect their exit notes from the Office of Good Standing at recess or lunch and can use them to be released from class at the appropriate time. When students leave the school, they need to sign out on the attendance register in the Office of Good Standing before leaving the grounds. It is now a Department of Education requirement that students who leave school during school hours have an official Leave Pass, which students will be given when they sign out.

Please do not hesitate to contact Pam Vaughan, Home Liaison Officer on 89425200 or e-mail [hlo.darwinmiddle@ntschoools.net](mailto:hlo.darwinmiddle@ntschoools.net) if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's attendance.

## **Staff Contact List**

An updated Teacher and Staff email list for Term 1 is now available. A copy can be obtained from the front office, on the [Darwin Middle School](#) webpage or by emailing at [ad-min.darwinmiddle@ntschoools.net](mailto:ad-min.darwinmiddle@ntschoools.net).

Embark on one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of your life

#### HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

- ✓ Experience a new culture
- ✓ Learn a language at home
- ✓ Rediscover and share the beauty of New Zealand

Students arrive in January and July and stay for 3, 5 or 10 months.

All students have a wide range of interests and hobbies.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today 1300 135 331 or [info@studentexchange.org.au](mailto:info@studentexchange.org.au)

[www.studentexchange.org.au/hosting](http://www.studentexchange.org.au/hosting)  
experienceiseverything



## AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS CADET RECRUITING

The Australian Air Force Cadets is one of the Premier Youth Organisations of Australia. We are currently recruiting for 2018.

#### Do you want to:

- Learn to fly
- Develop your leadership and communication skills
- Participate in adventure training and field craft activities
- Meet new people and make life long friends
- And heaps more

#### If you:

- Are an Australian resident
- Have good general health
- Are between 13 and 17 years old
- Can attend weekly activities
- Have permission from your parent or guardian

Come to our Recruit Information Night

Become a Cadet in the Australian Air Force Cadets

EDUCATES ⊕ CHALLENGES ⊕ EXCITES



RAAF Base Darwin

Wednesday 14 Feb

0414 190 319

[admino.801sqn@aafc.org.au](mailto:admino.801sqn@aafc.org.au)

Palmerston Senior College

Wednesday 7 Feb

0473 816 694

[admino.802sqn@aafc.org.au](mailto:admino.802sqn@aafc.org.au)



# DARWIN IRISH DANCE ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION DAY - SAT 3 FEBRUARY

Only qualified TCRG Teacher in Darwin with the Commission in Ireland

Fun and Fitness for ages 5+

School Sports Vouchers Accepted

**CLASSES**

**WEDNESDAY**

Intermediate & Advanced Hardshoe 5:30pm

**SATURDAY**

Adults 9am  
Beginners 10am  
Intermediate One 11am  
Intermediate Two 12pm  
Advanced 1pm

Masonic Hall  
23 Stokes St,  
Parap NT

P: 0412 288 424  
E: [rincenah@bigpond.com](mailto:rincenah@bigpond.com)  
W: [darwinirishdance.com](http://darwinirishdance.com)

# Start your ADVENTURE Join Scouts!

JOEY SCOUTS  
6-8 yrs

CUB SCOUTS  
8-11 yrs

SCOUTS  
11-15 yrs

VENTURER SCOUTS  
15-18 yrs

ROVERS  
18-25 yrs

## Learn life skills

For more information call us on 1800 726 887  
or visit our website [nt.scouts.com.au](http://nt.scouts.com.au)



# The Waratah Cricket Club Junior Sign-on Day



**The Waratah Cricket Club Sign-on day will be held:**

Sunday February 18th, from 10.00 am until 11.30 am

at the NT Cricket undercover nets facility in Marrara  
(off Abala road - behind the Pints Club)

**For further information please contact:**

The Junior Co-ordinator: Chris McCormick: 0438 094 497 or

Email: [chrisandcate@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisandcate@hotmail.com)

## Palmerston Hobby Ceramics



Phone 0402500603

Afterschool classes available Thursday anytime  
between 2.30-4.30pm. Programs are individually  
designed.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY / KIMBERLEY AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADETS



**Youth! - Looking for a new experience?**

**Want adventure and new skills in leadership,  
team building and survival?**

**Army Cadets is for young adults 13 to 17 years old.**

### INFORMATION NIGHT: 13 February 2018

Local Army Cadet Units will conduct an information / enrolment night: Tuesday 13 Feb 18 from 7:00PM at  
70 ACU Larrakeyah Barracks (Darwin) & 71 ACU Robertson Barracks (Palmerston).

(\*\*\* Proof of age will be required when submitting forms and adult family members will require photo  
identification (i.e. driving licence) in order to gain entry to the Barracks).

**We are also looking for volunteer adult leaders (full training provided).**

Information on joining (and the enrolment forms) are available at <https://www.armycaadets.gov.au/how-to-join/information-for-cadets/>

**1<sup>st</sup> qtr Training Calendar** (Dates are provisional & subject to confirmation with stakeholders)

- 10 Feb 18 ..... Cadet information stand at the DCO Top End Welcome Expo  
(Darwin Convention Centre)
- 13 Feb 18 ..... New Cadets - Induction and Information evening - 7:00pm
- 17/18 Mar 18 ..... Induction bivouac (Darwin)
- 15 to 21 Apr 18 ..... AAC 1/18 Courses Camp (All NTK held in Darwin)

For more information - visit [www.armycaadets.gov.au](http://www.armycaadets.gov.au) or email Headquarters  
Northern Territory / Kimberley Australian Army Cadets Battalion at:  
[aachqnt@drn.mil.au](mailto:aachqnt@drn.mil.au) (Telephone 08 8935 5488)

**ARE YOU UP  
FOR THE  
CHALLENGE?**



### Week 3 Lunch Specials:

- |            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday:    | Vegetable Pasta Bake            |
| Tuesday:   | Fried Chicken with<br>Chicken   |
| Wednesday: | Carbonara                       |
| Thursday:  | Beef Pumpkin Curry with<br>rice |
| Friday:    | Hot Dogs                        |

### **Gluten free options now available**

The café now stocks gluten free pies and  
sausage rolls. Orders must be placed at  
the café during Roll Group.

Please ensure your child has the correct  
currency in coins and notes. No foreign  
currency will be accepted.

Darwin Middle School  
Atkins Drive, The Gardens  
Phone: (08) 89425200  
mail: [admin.darwinmiddle@nts.schools.nt.edu.au](mailto:admin.darwinmiddle@nts.schools.nt.edu.au)  
Web: <http://www.darwinmiddle.nt.edu.au>