

NHULUNBUY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Building character and community and pursuing academic excellence.

PROSPECTUS



A GREAT PLACE TO
Live, Love & Learn

WELCOME TO NHULUNBUY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

On behalf of the school council, staff, students and parents of Nhulunbuy Christian School, I would like to welcome you and thank you for taking the time to connect with the school.

I hope that this prospectus gives you a feel for our community and whether it might be the right school for you and your kids.

If, after examining this brochure, you need more information, or if you would like to talk to a member of the staff, please contact the Administration:

E-mail: ncs.admin@ntschoools.net

Phone: 08 8987 2187

Fax: 08 8987 2357

Address: Eugenia Ave

Postal: PO Box 621

Nhulunbuy NT 0881

Website: www.ncs.nt.edu.au

*Alternatively, you may contact me directly via e-mail at:
steve.venour@ntschoools.net*

However you wish to contact the school, we look forward to serving you.



STEVE VENOUR

Principal

Nhulunbuy Christian School

CONTENTS

MISSION 4

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 4

SCHOOL HISTORY AND STRUCTURE 5

QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT..... 6

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES 8

EXPECTATIONS 10

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT..... 11

ENDORSEMENTS 12

CHRISTIAN PARENT CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 14

NORTHERN TERRITORY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION 14

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS 15



OUR MISSION

To assist parents in the education of their children, so that they may live, love and learn to their fullest potential through a relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of the Bible.



AIMS & OBJECTIVES

NHULUNBUY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AIMS:

- To provide a general education of the highest quality using a curriculum which has a Biblical world view.
- To 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.
- To foster a co-operative relationship between all members of the school, parents, staff, students and the local churches.
- To support parents whose lifestyle is sympathetic with Christian ethics, by continually building Christian faith and character in their children so that our relationship with Jesus may be strengthened and understood.

SCHOOL HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

A number of years ago a group of Christian parents felt there was a need for our town to have a school which provided quality education accessible to all families that desired Christ-centered instruction for their children. In 1999 that desire became a reality when 23 adventurous children began at our school. All of you who have ever been involved in a new venture will be well aware of the blood sweat and tears, as well as the joy and excitement of that first year. Our school moved onto its present site during the first year and we have since then added many more buildings to the existing classroom and grown to a community encompassing around 180 students and over 15 staff.



Nhulunbuy Christian School is a non-denominational, co-educational Primary and Middle School catering for children from Transition through to Year Nine. Enrolments are open to all families who support the aims of the school.

Nhulunbuy Christian School is part of the Northern Territory Christian Schools Association, an organisation which was founded in 1978. This Association has been instrumental in establishing 8 schools throughout the Northern Territory and provides ongoing support for the running of these schools.



Christian families who agree with the Statement of Faith are invited to join the Association and become active in Association matters. They are also eligible to sit on the School Council. The school is also a member of the national organisation Christian Education National and is therefore associated with around 70 Christian schools throughout Australia.



A QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Nhulunbuy Christian School has been serving the Gove Peninsula community since 1999. From these humble beginnings NCS continues to provide high quality education to its students within a caring Christian community.



NCS is run by a local council of committed Christians who set the policy and directional heading of the school ensuring that all school activities are supportive of the school's mission. The Principal and teaching staff run the school on a day-to-day basis and are in charge of the curriculum and classroom activities.

Our experience has been that students leaving our school to travel interstate have made a ready transition and were well equipped and confident to fit into their new class programs.

FACILITIES

NCS has grown considerably since its early days. With 5 classroom blocks, the school boasts its own science lab, extensive state of the art library, art room, sports shed, stage and uniform shop. It has developed a vegetable garden and chicken shed and will soon complete its home-economics room, and reptile enclosure. Children enjoy access to the playgrounds, large and small undercover play areas, oval and surrounding scrub vegetation for play.

NCS provides a two tiered system of computer access for students. Transition to Year 5 are able to utilise the dedicated computer room as well as some classroom laptops, while older students in Years 6-9 participate in the 1-1 laptop program which equips each student with a personal laptop. This system provides increasing levels of access according to the needs and abilities of students.

FIRM FOUNDATION—TRANSITION

At NCS we aim to provide all children with opportunities to excel. This begins with



Transition, where students are given a safe and caring environment in which to build a solid foundation for their early school years. Students are gently assisted to confidently establish themselves socially and emotionally in a classroom and playground environment.

Transition at NCS also provides students with a solid educational teaching and learning sequence from which students learn the foundational elements of Numeracy and Literacy, including basic counting, spelling, writing and

reading. The primary objective is to enable students to effectively make the transition from Pre-school to Year One.

Our experiences with this Transition model has been extremely positive, but we encourage all parents to carefully consider whether Transition at NCS will be suitable for their child and their individual needs. Here at NCS a child can start school at the beginning of the year if they have turned 5 by 30 June in that year. However, having turned 5 by the end of June does not mean that a child is necessarily ready to start school. Please read the NCS Transition brochure for more detailed information regarding school readiness. The transition and Year 1 students have their own play spaces and toilets.

STEP-BY-STEP LEARNING— PRIMARY

The curriculum for Nhulunbuy Christian School is based on the Northern Territory Curriculum Framework. Our teachers are informed by this document in their planning to ensure the students are covering the required aspects of education.

While giving literacy and numeracy the highest priority, our school also gives children many other learning experiences, actively endeavouring to provide experiences that enable all students to identify their individual gifts and talents and to pursue and develop them in happy and positive learning environments.



A Learning Support Team with its own dedicated staff and classroom, exists to assist students who have special learning needs. Aides work with students individually in the classroom and also with individuals or small groups in the Learning Support room.

Our school continues to place an emphasis on the arts, providing each class with a weekly art lesson and encouraging teachers to use and teach music within their weekly program. There are also opportunities for students in Year 5 and above to be tutored in a range of school band instruments.

Our students also actively participate in art, sport and a range of both academic and interest based competitions. There are many opportunities to represent the Arnhem region in cluster sport and we are fortunate to have sporting professionals visit the school regularly.

As a young school, curriculum development is one of our highest priorities. Our curriculum seeks to be of the highest academic standard providing broad and challenging experiences for our students.

A QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CONTINUED...

LEARNING FOR LIFE—MIDDLE SCHOOL



Experience tells us that the transition into the secondary school is stressful and in some cases students take a significant time to adjust. This is not surprising when the fundamental philosophy of the primary school is significantly removed from that of a high school. This same experience also strongly suggests that students in these age groups are the most difficult for teachers to manage. As a result educational institutions have been trying to develop a model of education that best suits this

unique group of students. The result, in most cases is this concept of “middle school”. The middle school was designed to create a bridge from the upper primary to the lower secondary where relationships and the development of the student continue to be the focus rather than subjects.

Middle School at NCS is designed to provide opportunity for students to experience research based learning from a Christian world-view. It is underpinned by a strong Numeracy and Literacy based program and encourages the students to be aware of their own learning style and to use this information to their advantage. NCS has identified that the needs of Middle School students differ from those of younger children. While still providing the students with the same sense of belonging, safety and care and encouraging them in their character development, the Middle School aims to provide students with real and challenging situations, balancing team and individual learning in a flexible environment.

At NCS, Year 6 has been developed as a transition year. The students have one primary teacher but have access to Middle School electives and specialist subjects. After Term 1, the Year 6 students join home-groups with the older students. We have found this to be a terrific way of helping students make the challenging transition from Primary to Middle School.



DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF NHULUNBUY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM NCS

GODLY OUTLOOK

We believe in Jesus and want to emulate his compassion, grace and wisdom in all that we do. We want students to view the world and all that is in it as God does—even if it that means being sacrificial in putting others before ourselves.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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 the virtues of kindness, self-control, responsibility and respect, and teach the reasons why we do these things so that the child's character is developed. Children from NCS should be recognised by this distinguishing feature; they are people with character. A chaplain works within our school providing invaluable support in this area.

CORE CURRICULUM IN EDUCATION

NCS is a Primary and Middle school which offers excellent education. There is a strong emphasis on academic endeavour in the core curriculum subjects of literacy and numeracy and this is reflected in the government's NAPLAN results.

FAMILY FEEL

We believe individuals should be encouraged to work and play with people who are a different gender, age and background to themselves. Older students are encouraged to look after the younger children through our 'buddy system' and they should, in turn, feel comfortable with playing with the older students. Our aim is to provide a safe and fun learning environment that all members look forward to visiting each day. Being a smaller school with smaller class sizes provides great opportunity for this to occur.

SAFETY AND WELL BEING

NCS endeavors to provide a community where each child, staff member and parent feels they are accepted, valued and cared for. 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.



COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

NCS recognises that God has given parents the responsibility to educate their children. Upon enrolment, our school becomes a part of this process, to help parents to do their job better. We believe that frequent communication between the staff and parents is a fundamental key to successful education. Formal communication consists of fortnightly newsletters, bi-annual report cards and bi-annual parent-teacher interviews. Informal communication is encouraged and parents are able to make appointments to see their child's teacher or the Principal at any time.

EXPECTATIONS—OF STUDENTS

- Regular and punctual attendance.
- Sensible behaviour and respect for yourself, others and property.
- Completion of homework and assignments and full participation in school activities.
- Use your God given talents and abilities to the fullest.

EXPECTATIONS—OF PARENTS

- An interest shown in your child's education by communicating any concerns with teachers and assisting your child/ren with homework.
- Active and visual support of the instruction and discipline of the school.
- Informing the school of any absences by written note.
- Ensuring the school dress code is followed.
- Encouraging appropriate behaviour and respect by your children towards staff, other parents and other children.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT INCLUDING PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE

The Nhulunbuy Christian School Parent's & Friends Committee is a voluntary school organisation that operates as a Sub-Committee of the Nhulunbuy Christian School Council. It consists of members who are generally volunteers and active within the Nhulunbuy Christian School community. All adult members of the school community are able to serve on the P & F Committee, namely, parents of students, staff, volunteers, school associates, etc. The P&F Committee is made up of 10 people—9 elected positions, and one School Council Representative. There are five Executive positions as well as the five portfolio positions.



The primary roles of the P&F are:

- Encouraging all members of the school community to join in and lend their expertise and enthusiasm to assist the school whenever they can;
- Giving parents and friends the opportunity to meet and interact with other parents and members of the school community;
- Assisting the school in working towards fulfilling its vision and potential.

All parents are encouraged to become involved in the running of the school and are encouraged to support and participate in school activities. These activities cover many areas including helping in the classroom, assisting at carnivals and excursions, giving input on policy matters and serving on any of the committees.

We encourage parental involvement in our school because:

- It helps families better understand the school's aims and what goes on in the classroom.
- It helps teachers use their time more efficiently and so benefits the students.
- The encouragement and support of parents is a major influence on the children's attitudes toward life and the school.

ENDORSEMENTS

“...thorough preparation of their primary and middle school education..”

Since the beginning of 2006, four students from Nhulunbuy Christian School have been accepted into St Monica’s College as boarders. The girls have settled into our community very well. They have managed their academic studies effectively because of the thorough preparation of their primary and middle school education and their own very good work ethics. As boarders, they are reliable, helpful and considerate in their approach to others.

The girls have contributed to the community life of the College, have made friends easily and participated actively in all school activities. We are delighted that one of these four girls has been elected as one of our College Captains for 2009.

**Jan Neumann
(Principal of St Monica’s College)**

...dedication of the staff in both academic and welfare of the students is second to none

My husband Gil and I are very thankful to the Nhulunbuy Christian School for a very rewarding experience especially for Geordi, our daughter who transferred to the school in 2004.

The dedication of the staff in both academic and welfare of the students is second to none and

the caring nature flows from every level, from the Principal to the voluntary staff.

**Ansil Avila
(Parent from 2004—2008)**

As parents of 4 children who have attended Nhulunbuy Christian School, we would recommend NCS to anyone. The teachers at NCS are approachable and easy to talk to regarding any issues concerning the children.

The Nhulunbuy Christian School teachers are excellent and dedicated, and the quality of Middle School education has helped prepare our children for the challenges of senior years of high school.

..teachers at NCS are approachable and easy to talk to

**Cathy Chieng & Des O’Sullivan
(Parents of children who have experienced all year levels at NCS)**

Various students in Middle School say:

...The classes are nice and small ... Every part of the school contributes to how great it is!



œ *Every part of the school contributes to how great it is!*

œ *This school is the best. The classes are nice and small so I feel like I am learning loads. The teachers are awesome, you can really talk to them and they can always help you out. Everyone is so friendly. It's going to be sad to leave!*

- œ *Great atmosphere*
- œ *Fun electives*
- œ *Great teachers*

- œ *Fun classes*
- œ *Good facilities*
- œ *Great friends*

- œ *No oversized classes*
- œ *Wireless internet is good*

Nhulunbuy Christian School is a very special school to teach at and I just love teaching at our school. Being able to talk to the children about God's goodness and His amazing grace is a privilege. Working amongst a staff where everyone has a personal relationship with our Lord, makes it extra special. My family and I were taken into this family and everyone made us feel so welcome that we decided to make Australia and for now, Nhulunbuy, our permanent home.

After being in a state school for many years and moving to this school I was pleasantly surprised at how well the staff and parents work together.

Anne Fourie
(Staff member of NCS 2009-Current)



WHAT DOES CHRISTIAN PARENT CONTROLLED SCHOOL MEAN?

- Being a Christian Parent Controlled School means that the school recognises that the children are the responsibility of the parent. We exist to help parents perform the task of bringing up their children in a way that is pleasing to God.
- Being a Christian Parent Controlled School means working in partnership with families to ensure that, as far as possible, the goals of the family and the goals of the school are met.
- Being a Christian Parent Controlled School means that all parents will have opportunity to give input on policies and decisions affecting the life of the school.



NTCSA—AN INTRODUCTION

VISION: Under God, nurturing children into Christ.

The Northern Territory Christian Schools Association (NTCSA) is our 'parent' organisation and is responsible for the establishment and direction of schools providing high quality education based on a Christian perspective. The association is committed to supporting parents in the nurturing of their children and promotion of a strong partnership between parents and staff in each of its school communities.

The NTCSA comprises people who share the Christian faith on which the association is based; people who share a vision for education from a Christian perspective and whose Christian belief and practice are in accordance with the Fundamental Truths contained in the association's constitution.

Schools and education units currently operated by the association include Araluen Christian School, Gawa Christian School, Litchfield Christian School, Marrara Christian School, Woolaning Christian College, Palmerston Christian School, Marrparu Christian School and Nhulunbuy Christian School. School communities are governed and directed by the Association through its elected Board of Directors and the Councils of each constituent school community.

Further information may be obtained from the school or the Association Office.

CONTACT NTCSA:

Phone: (08) 8945 4355

PO Box 228

FAX: (08) 8945 3581

Sanderson NT 0813

Email: admin@ntcsa.nt.edu.au

NTCSA—FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

What the NTCSA understands “Christian” to mean is captured in a statement of faith known in the association constitution as *The Fundamental Truths*:

- A. Christ is to be central in the school or schools. Central because He is honoured in daily practice, as the Lord of all, and therefore, Lord of the learning process. The unity of all things in Him is made known; His Word gives the direction to all that is done. Christ is Lord, not in name only, but in reality; not in matters of faith and morals only, but in learning also.
- B. The unity of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.
- C. The sovereignty of God in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
- D. The divine inspiration and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scripture and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- E. The sinfulness and guilt of man since the Fall, rendering them subject to God’s wrath and condemnation.
- F. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin solely through the sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute, of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.
- G. The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and His ascension to the right hand of the Father.
- H. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I. The justification of the sinner by the grace of God through faith in Christ alone.
- J. The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
- K. The one holy universal church, which is the body of Christ and to which all true believers belong.
- L. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The NTCSA believes this statement of faith involves a commitment of life to Jesus Christ by persons believing it. Such a commitment should be demonstrated in quality of life and witness.

