Dear friends,

With Christmas fast approaching, it is time to reflect on the past year and acknowledge just some of the outstanding work that has been done in the NT Christian schools. In this edition of our newsletter we will highlight work from Araluen Christian College in Alice Springs and Palmerston Christian School in Darwin.

For more inspirational stories from these and our other NT Christian Schools, please have a look at our website. You are welcome to join our story and share it with others whom you know. We would love to hear what you are doing also.

We trust you have a relaxing holiday season and remember the true meaning of this time – when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. And as W. J. Tucker, said, “For centuries men have kept an appointment with Christmas. Christmas means fellowship, feasting, giving and receiving, a time of good cheer, home.” Enjoy!

NT Christian Schools:

Araluen Christian College (Alice Springs)
Gäwa Christian School (Elcho Island)
Mäpuru Christian School (NE Arnhem Land)
Marrara Christian College (Darwin)
Nhulunbuy Christian College (Gove)
Palmerston Christian School (Darwin)
Sattler Christian College (rural Darwin)
Woolaning Homeland Christian College (adjacent to Litchfield NP)

Palmerston Christian School is the first school to offer MOPS, a support group for mothers of children aged 0-5. Most MOPS groups across Australia and the world are run by churches.

The MOPS philosophy is that Better Mums Make a Better World. Each session includes morning tea, education and discussion on relevant topics and creative activities. Children are cared for in a separate MOPPETS program to allow mums to relax and enjoy some time out.

MOPS is about recognising that what mothers do is very important and an investment into the wellbeing of mothers means an investment into the wellbeing of families and the community as a whole. MOPS Palmerston meets on Thursday fortnights.

www.ntcsa.nt.edu.au
Araluen Christian School celebrate “Leaders that Matter”. As part of our social and emotional care of kids through the Kidsmatter initiative, we had a BBQ to celebrate our Year 5 & 6 Peer leaders who ran peer support with the other primary students during Term 3.

Palmerston Christian School recently ran a Co2 Dragster Yr7 technology rotation where students designed, manufactured and painted a 25cm long balsa wood Dragster powered by an 8gram Co2 cartridge – trying to be the fastest vehicle down a 20m race track. The Co2 Dragsters had to meet standard design criteria including minimum friction, maximum aerodynamics and reduced weight. With just a few hand tools, sand paper, some cans of spray paint and lots of work – many streamlined and artistic racing machines were developed.

The best speed in 2010 was 85.5km/h – that has been surpassed in 2011 with a speed of 87.46km/h. Future PCS Yr7 students would love to race against other schools – matching their fastest Co2 Dragsters for the year against those of other schools to help gauge their engineering and manufacturing prowess.

PCS Design and Technology teacher - Mr Richard Carter has the full program, resources, documents, training and all supplier details for those schools that might be interested in participating in a little inter-school rivalry. He has offered to make a perpetual trophy for the winning school to hold each year (Contact: (08) 8932 3377). A video clip of all the race-day action is available on www.pcs.nt.edu.au.

A passion for Christian teaching led Rupert Croutz from England to Alice Springs. “My main aim as a teacher is to help people understand that the Bible is the anchor that grounds, the air that sustains you and the North Star that guides you.”

Rupert and his wife are originally from Cape Town. He graduated in Primary Education, specialising in Religious Education from Cape Town University in 1998. Rupert then moved to Reading, Berkshire UK, where he worked for 12 years as a deputy principal.

After working in a state school for his entire career, Rupert didn’t feel complete. He prayed for a change, and asked how God could help them. During this period Rupert discovered the NT Christian Schools website, which stood out dramatically for him. Most significant was the Statement of Beliefs. “These core beliefs were spiritual,” Rupert says. “I couldn’t believe that an organisation that wanted these core beliefs to shape its every decision and action actually existed.”

So strong was the call that in January 2011, Rupert and his family migrated to Alice Springs, Central Australia, so Rupert could pursue his passion for Christian teaching. "All teachers who are passionate about Christ and passionate about education should consider NT Christian Schools; it is not a compromise if you love these two aspects.”

To read more of Rupert’s or Richard’s story, or other NT Christian Schools staff stories, please see our website www.ntcsa.nt.edu.au/stories