



CHRISTMAS ISLAND
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Information For Parents

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Christmas Island

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Department of
Education



School Ethos

Christmas Island District High School is a safe, secure and happy school that respects and values:

- its community;
- its environment;
- its cultural diversity;
- the inclusion of all individuals;
- the home languages of the Island;
- achievement and excellence and
- innovative approaches.

School Purpose

Christmas Island District High School aims for a culturally inclusive education that enables students to develop a positive and healthy self concept. Together we strive for students who:

- are self-motivated learners;
- develop personal excellence whilst working with others;
- are adaptive to a changing world.

Term Dates 2020

Term 1: Mon 3 Feb - Thu 16 Apr

Term 2: Wed 29 Apr to Fri 3 July

Term 3: Tue 28 July to Thur 24 Sep

Term 4: Tue 13 Oct to Thur 17 Dec

Public Holidays In Term

Chinese NY: 28 & 29 January

Labour Day: 16 March

Good Friday: 10 April

Hari Raya Puasa: 25 May

Hari Raya Haji: 31 July

School Session Times

Students arrive from 7.30am

Secondary start: 7.50 am

Primary start: 8.00 am

Recess: 9.50 - 10.20 am

Lunch: 12.00 - 12.30 am

School finishes: 2.10 pm

PRINCIPAL

Ian Francis

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Sarah Faulkner

Amy Luetich

Rhys Bird

Tina Auld-Bower

MANAGER-CORP. SERVICES

Jeannie Ku

FINANCE OFFICER

Kirsty Faulkner

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Ho Koon-Yong

Farisha Fadal



Introduction

Christmas Island is unique in its geological formation, its environment and as a culture within Australia. The school reflects and is enriched by this diversity and uniqueness, providing curriculum opportunities to students that challenge them to think critically and develop problem solving skills.

Located in Drumsite, Christmas Island District High School (CIDHS) operates under the Department of Education, Western Australia. It caters for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The students at the school reflect the diverse ethnic mix of the community. Most of the local residents are of Chinese or Malay ethnicity but there are also groups



of Indian, Eurasian and Anglo-Australian residents.

All teachers at the school are selected through a rigorous merit selection process and have access to the latest professional development.

Our fully air-conditioned classrooms have Smartboards or wide screen TV's. Students also have access to the latest in information technology through our STEM and computer laboratories. We provide laptops for every secondary student, individual iPads for students in years 3-6 and shared iPads for K-2 students. The \$860k extension to our library provides plenty of room for students to research, study or simply read a book in a warm and welcoming environment. Our \$1.5 million trade-training centre provides students with outstanding facilities in which to develop their trade skills.

3+ Programme

The 3 Plus Programme is an early learning educational programme for 3 year olds. It helps children to develop many valuable early learning skills including literacy, fine motor and social skills which are required for both school and lifelong learning.

Parents attend the weekly sessions with their child and are shown how everyday play at home can support early learning and development. Guest speakers are a regular feature of the programme and inform parents on topics such as literacy, health and child development. It is

a family friendly programme where younger siblings are encouraged to be involved.

The 3 Plus program operates at the Kindergarten, located at the Tom Paterson Centre. Children and parents attend once a week with parents during Terms 2, 3 and 4. In the last few lessons in Term 4 the children have the opportunity to attend without a parent.

Kindergarten & Pre-Primary Education

Kindy and Pre-Primary are important years that provide the foundation for future learning at school. The programs at CIDHS provide fun and exciting play based learning opportunities to develop important skills, knowledge and attitudes to learning vital for future development. Through play, new understandings are stimulated, and with teacher guidance, become more complex and involved as time passes. Students' stages of development are supported and whilst playing in the Early Childhood environment students develop independence, confidence, curiosity, friendships, cooperation and resilience.



At CIDHS we value strong relationships between our school families and caregivers and believe that parents and caregivers have much to offer the Early Childhood programs with their expertise, skills and knowledge. We appreciate the individuality of each child and the unique set of experiences they bring with them. Children and parents are encouraged to be actively involved in planning and participating in the learning environment.

The Kindy program operates at the Tom Paterson centre in Settlement.

The Pre-Primary program operates on the school site every day as part of the normal school session times.

Primary School Education (Yrs 1-6)

Our Primary School is well resourced with class sizes kept small and multi-lingual Education Assistants timetabled to work within each class to support student learning. Junior Primary classes enjoy working in double classrooms and all Primary classes are resourced with interactive whiteboards and state-of-the-art information technology facilities. Students also have access to a STEM laboratory.

Our school respects the home languages and cultures of Christmas Island. In order to support and

develop these languages as valuable in their own right and as a strong foundation for English language literacy we offer a choice of two languages, Bahasa Malayu and Chinese Mandarin, from Pre-Primary to Year 10. The programs are available to first and second language speakers and are taught by highly qualified staff who use the latest second language teaching methodologies.

Specialist teachers develop and implement the Physical Education, Technologies, Visual Arts and Music programs.



Secondary School Education (Yrs 7-10)

In addition to providing a solid foundation in English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences, secondary school students can select from an exciting range of options including pottery, visual arts, music, digital video production, digital media, outdoor education, woodwork, metalwork, mechanics/engineering, foods, textiles, childcare and Mandarin or Malay language. Our Health and Physical Education programs ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn about and improve their personal health and wellbeing.

Senior School Education (Yrs 11-12)

Our Senior School program offers subjects catering for students entering university, TAFE, apprenticeships and employment at the completion of Year 12. CIDHS graduates have been offered university places in medicine, forensic science, naval architecture and commerce and some have gone on to study in areas such as nursing, drafting and fitness. In addition to



this, Christmas Island Phosphates generously awards \$14.5k in scholarships to our top performing students each year.

Extra Educational Support for Students

In addition to classroom teachers, our school provides extra support staff to allow for greater flexibility and enrichment in the educational program and pastoral care. We have staff specialising in the support of literacy, numeracy and information & learning technologies.

Our school employs a number of highly skilled and experienced Education Assistants who hold a wealth of cultural and linguistic knowledge which supports student learning. Education Assistants work closely with classroom teachers and provide interpreting and translating support throughout the school.

Students at Educational Risk

We provide early intervention and individual education planning for children at educational risk. This includes:

- a whole school approach to intervention involving the student, teachers, parents and

specialist support such as the school psychologist, visiting paediatrician and/or specialist SAER teacher;

- support in the classroom; and
- developing home/school relationships to assist with learning programs.

Health Support Services

Our school psychologist is available for parents or students to contact during or after school. The school psychologist provides support for a range of challenges including family issues, being successful at school, dealing with disagreements and conflict, choosing careers or dealing with difficulties such as separation, loss or friendships.

The visiting school health nurse provides vision, hearing and developmental checks for 4 year olds and vaccinations for students in Year 8 and 10. In medical emergencies first aid is administered by one of our trained staff members. Parents are contacted in the event of any significant sickness or accident.

Our school is also supported by a number of visiting specialists including a paediatrician, speech therapist, occupational therapist and the School of Special Education Needs: Disability.

Homework

A range of homework activities may be set by the class teachers as follows:

- PP - Yr 2: Home reading
- Yrs 3 - 12: Research or project work, completion of class work, writing drafts or publishing, revising/studying

Reading is encouraged at all levels of schooling. The following suggestions provide a guide for the amount of time spent on homework daily:

- Yrs 4 - 5: Up to 30 mins
- Yrs 6 - 7: 45 mins - 1 hour
- Yr 8: 1 hour
- Yrs 9 - 10: 1.5 - 2 hours
- Yrs 11 - 12: 2+ hours

Parents are encouraged to contact class teachers for further information



Admission

In 2020, children who are born between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016 can start Kindergarten and if they were born between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 they can start Pre-Primary. You will need to provide a Birth Certificate (Passport or Birth Extract are also acceptable) and immunisation records upon enrolment. Students enrolling from overseas need to provide a passport and the relevant visa.

Absences from School

All absences must be explained by a parent/guardian. This can be done by phoning the front office or by emailing the classroom or form teacher before the beginning of school.

Dress Code

We are proud that our students take pride in their appearance. Please refer to our Uniform Brochure for information on our school uniforms.

All school uniform items, including sports shirts, can be purchased at the Uniform Shop at school.

Behaviour Management

The school staff seek to create a positive atmosphere that promotes learning and development of the whole child. Whilst every teacher is responsible for behaviour management in their own class, a whole school approach is followed by all staff. CIDHS uses a School Wide Positive Behaviour Strategy that encompasses three core expectations:



- Show Respect
- Be Responsible
- Challenge Yourself

A Whole School Behaviour Matrix has been developed that explicitly promotes these positive behaviours throughout the school. This matrix sits alongside the school code of conduct.

Code of Conduct

All staff and students, regardless of race, gender, age or disability have the RIGHT to:

- work without being disturbed by others;

- take part without fear, ridicule or intimidation;
- work in a clean and safe environment;
- have his/her individual property respected; and
- feel safe.

All staff and students also have the RESPONSIBILITY to:

- respect other people's right to work;
- treat all people with respect;
- keep the environment clean and safe; and
- respect all property.

All parents, regardless of race, gender, age or disability have the RIGHT to:

- respect, courtesy, honesty and fair treatment;
- be informed of behavioural management procedures and decisions affecting their child's health, safety and well being; and
- be heard in an appropriate forum on matters related to their child.

All parents also have the RESPONSIBILITY to:



- contact the school immediately when an issue or concern arises. Matters will be dealt with in confidence. The first point of contact should be the classroom teacher, then the deputy principal and principal.
- ensure their child attends school, unless they are unwell or provide a genuine and acceptable reason;
- support the school in providing the best possible education for their child; and
- ensure their child is provided with appropriate materials to make effective use of the learning environment.



Factions

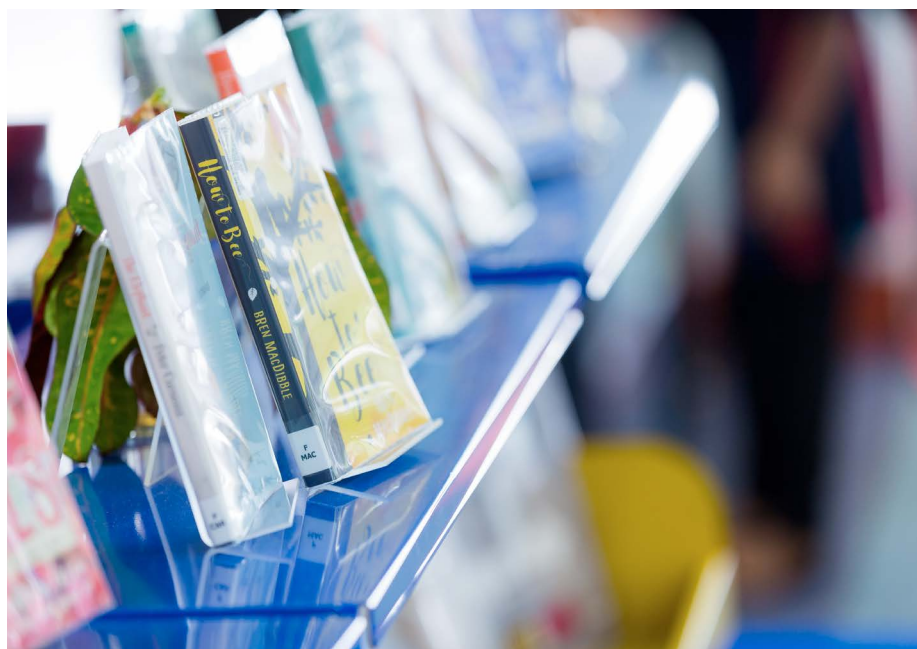
Our school has four faction groups for sporting activities. These are based on the island's wildlife - Red Crabs, Green Turtles, Blue Marlins and Golden Bosuns. A t-shirt of the appropriate colour needs to be worn for faction competitions.

Bus Service

A free bus service operates through all sections of the community to bring students to and from school. The buses are air-conditioned, with seatbelts, speaker systems and DVD players.

School Canteens

Our halal and non-halal canteens provide a range of delicious Malay, Chinese and Western style meals, snacks and drinks. Students are free



to bring their own lunch or use the canteens. Students need to order both their recess and lunch before the start of the school day. A basket ordering system is used in the Junior Primary and older students order directly from the canteen.

School Assemblies

Parents and community members are invited to attend our assemblies, held regularly each term on Fridays. Watch for information on school assemblies in the newsletter and on the roundabout blackboards.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement and input is encouraged and valued at CIDHS.

Opportunities for involvement are many and varied including:

- assistance in primary classrooms;
- attendance on excursions or special class events;
- support during whole school events such as school development days and sports carnivals;
- membership of the school council;
- feedback through surveys;

- parent information sessions;
- parent/teacher interviews.

If you have concerns about your children's progress or behaviour please contact the school as soon as possible. Appointments can be made through the front office or directly with the relevant teacher.

Parent Communication

To assist with dissemination of information to parents, the school utilises Facebook.



Further Enquiries

The Administration team are always willing to discuss school matters with you. Appointments can be made by contacting the school on (08) 9164 8546.