



Dripstone
middle school



Information Handbook 2017

Delamere St Tiwi NT 0810 • PO Box 41370 Casuarina NT 0811
e: dripstone.middle@ntschoools.net p: 08 8983 7777

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students and families

Welcome to Dripstone Middle School, a “**Community of Achievers**”. The move to middle school is a time of great change and exciting opportunities as you transition from a child into a young adult. You will meet new students, make new friends, experience new and exciting activities and have greater responsibilities as you get older. At Dripstone we cater for a wide range of students with differing abilities. In 2016 we introduced **our Learning Enrichment for Advancing Pupils Program (LEAP)** and **Recognising Individual Student Effort (RISE)** programs to challenge and extend students. We also offer Judo as part of the PE program, an excellent Performing Arts program featuring Music and Dance and in Year 9, **Duke of Edinburgh** and **VETiS** programs to cater for our students.

We have high expectations of students at Dripstone, both academically and behaviourally. Our staff expect you to try, and will assist you to rise to meet these and the challenges that you will face going into middle school. We uphold our SOAR (**Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect**) values in everything we do.

The transition program to our School will include visits to primary schools, you attending an orientation day at Dripstone where you will meet staff and students as well as learn about the School and participate in some lessons. The Enrichment program will continue in Semester 2 as will your invitation to participate in CrickKids (Year 6), and there will an Information Evening for all new parents and families that will include a tour of our excellent facilities.

I look forward to working with you at Dripstone Middle School.

Peter Swan
Principal



ABOUT DRIPSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

History

Dripstone Middle School is named after the nearby Dripstone Caves, which provided the site for RAAF No 31 Radar Station during World War 2. That unit began operations in January 1942, and supported Australian and United States aircraft against enemy bombers until the end of the war.

From 2006, Dripstone has operated as a Middle School. This has provided the opportunity for the School to focus on the education of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 by providing programs and support for students at this important stage of learning.

Our School motto "*A Community of Achievers*" highlights our commitment to have high expectations and deliver programs that are challenging and actively engage all our students.

Dripstone Middle School has excellent facilities providing opportunities for a full range of subjects to be taught within a Middle Year's framework. The physical facilities are complimented by outstanding school grounds, setting the school in a parkland environment.

Facilities

The design of the building caters for practical work areas downstairs such as Technology, Physical Education, Science, Home Economics, Art and Photography. The classrooms upstairs radiate around the Library/Resource Centre.

Vision

Dripstone Middle School strives to provide a stimulating, innovative, quality learning environment where all students and staff are respected and valued, and where all students and staff are encouraged and supported to achieve their potential in a safe, supportive and caring environment.

Mission Statement

Dripstone Middle School is committed to achieving success for all members of the School community. The School provides a flexible, safe and innovative environment based on respect and responsibility with consistently high expectations.

Values

Educational research highlights the importance of positive relationships between the School, the parents/carers and the student.

Dripstone Middle School has implemented the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Program. This framework reflects a learning environment that is focused on creating positive relationships that promote student engagement. As part of this process, the School has reinforced the use of our traditional School logo of Aquila. The acronym **SOAR** was developed by staff and students to symbolise that our School is an environment where all students can succeed.

The letters in **SOAR** stand for:

S Safety: looking after yourself, others and property by making the right decisions.

O Ownership: taking responsibility for all your choices and actions.

A Achievement: working to your full potential in every possible way

R Respect: showing consideration for all people's rights, cultures and individual needs.

These are values and characteristics that are taught and modelled by our staff. All staff are encouraged to acknowledge students both in and out of the classroom. These take the form of 'Good On You Awards', Merit Awards, and gift voucher draws, as well as Principal's Postcards sent home to parents of students who have displayed good behaviour.



CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

Middle School Curriculum

Dripstone Middle School staff assist and guide students as they prepare to make decisions as they develop into young adults. Adolescents are experiencing rapid changes in their physical, emotional and intellectual development, and it is at this stage that they are discovering their interests, greatest strengths, and begin to decide where they would like their future study and career path to lead them. To support students at this crucial time in their development, we offer a curriculum (Australian Curriculum) designed to provide a rigorous and as broad a range of experiences as possible.



Year 7 Program

Students in Year 7 are making the first of two transitions they experience during the middle phase of learning. The Year 7 program caters for both the welfare and academic needs of the students in a variety of ways. Students' academic requirements are met in the core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Humanities incorporating History and Geography. Also, Year 7 students complete eight electives over the year in preparation for Years 8 and 9 where they begin to choose their own elective pathway. Welfare requirements are coordinated by the Year Level Coordinator and managed in a lesson called 'Personal Learning' which occurs once a week. There are regular assemblies where the students are kept informed of housekeeping matters specific to Year 7.

Year 7 programs offered at Dripstone will include:

Core Program: English, Maths and Science, Geography and History.

Electives: access to a range of electives including Languages (Indonesian, and Japanese), Music, Food Technology, Drama, Dance, Art, Judo, and Physical Education.



Homework Program

All students have homework that supports their in-class program, especially in the areas of Maths and English.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Talented Students

Dripstone Middle School is committed to providing the best possible education for all students and acknowledges that all should engage in learning that:

- ✪ recognises their particular needs and special abilities
- ✪ further develops their talents and potential capacity
- ✪ assists with promoting their optimum development
- ✪ builds upon their existing levels of learning
- ✪ engages, inspires, motivates and challenges them

We aim to extend students' abilities through classes of high potential and the student centred learning opportunities undertaken within the classroom. (LEAP & RISE)

National and International Assessment

Dripstone Middle School participates in a wide range of assessment activities at a territory, national and international level. Dripstone Middle School is involved in assessments such as:

- ✪ Year 7 and Year 9 National Assessment Program (NAP) testing
- ✪ PISA (Program for International Student Assessment)
- ✪ TIMSS (Third International Mathematics and Science Study)
- ✪ ICAS (International Competitions & Assessments for Schools)
- ✪ Chief Minister's Anzac Spirit Study Tour Award
- ✪ Science and Engineering Challenge
- ✪ AURECON Bridge Building Competition

These programs vary from year to year but we are committed to participating in these activities and providing opportunities for students to excel and be recognised for their achievements.



Special Education Support

Students with special learning needs are catered for within the School. Our Special Education program provides students with the opportunity to improve their social and literacy skills through targeted learning programs. The Special Education Assistant and Inclusion Support Assistants help students who qualify for support.

Sister School - Kibi Cho High School (Japan) International Cultural Exchange Program

For the past fourteen years Dripstone Middle School has participated in a cultural educational exchange with Kibi Cho High School in Japan. The students from Japan come to Darwin on an annual basis and Dripstone Middle School students visit Japan approximately every second year.

VET in Schools – VETiS

Year 9 students of Dripstone Middle School participate in the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) Program. Students are given the opportunity to study a certified course while still at school. The student takes part in VET studies one or two days a week and this contributes toward achieving their Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET).



Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an exciting worldwide self-development program available to young people over 14. The Award is a 'leadership in action program', being voluntary, flexible, noncompetitive, balanced, progressive, challenging and most of all enjoyable. It provides an opportunity for young people to achieve personal excellence and build self-esteem, self-confidence, self-reliance, self-motivation and respect for others via their involvement in the areas of service, skills, adventurous journeys and physical recreation.



Sport

Dripstone Middle School has a strong sporting tradition. Students participate in a wide range of activities within the Health and Physical Education program which provide the appropriate pathway via Cluster Challenge Days and School Sport NT Development Camps, to School Sport NT and School Sport Australia events. In recent years we have won the Top End Cluster Sports Middle School Shield which recognises participation and achievement in a range of cluster sports.

Clontarf and Stars Programs

These programs exist to improve the education, discipline, self-esteem, life skills and employment prospects of Indigenous students. The Dripstone Middle School Clontarf and Stars Academies focus on developing leadership skills, positive attitudes, assisting students to complete school and secure employment. Fundamental to this, is the development of values, skills and abilities that will assist students to achieve better life outcomes. Indigenous students enrolled with us can register to be part of the program.



Debating

Dripstone Middle School regularly participates in the Northern Territory debating competition. Dripstone has been a strong competitor in these competitions for many years.

Visual and Performing Arts

Students regularly participate in events such as, Eisteddfod, Sculpture in the Park, Festival of Darwin, Darwin Show Art Competition or performed plays to school/s and community audiences.

Music

The Music program at Dripstone Middle School offers instrumental tuition on brass and woodwind instruments, guitar and percussion, and vocals through the NT Music School. The additional instrumental lessons compliment the very popular and expanding music program currently operating and integrated with the Dance and Drama program.

A number of highly professional performances are produced during the year at each year level and provide exposure and enrichment to students in music, dance, drama and theatrical sound and light production.



Tournament of Minds

Tournament of Minds is a problem solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from a number of disciplines.

A-Z OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Attendance

Is essential every day.

Assessment and Reporting

Written reports are sent home to parents at the end of each semester containing information on student progress. Parents are invited and most welcome to speak to teachers at any time of the year. Parent /Teacher interviews occur on a formal basis at least twice per year (Term 1 and 3) Interviews provide valuable opportunities to support students in their academic and personal development. Parents should contact teachers or senior staff if they have any concerns about particular subjects or other aspects of school life.

Bike Rack

To ensure safe and secure storage during the day, bicycles must be placed inside the bike shed and locked to the individual racks. The bike shed is locked at 8:30am and opened at the end of the school day.

Bookroom

The Bookroom provides a good selection of exercise books, general stationery, memory sticks and scientific calculators, all very fairly priced. It is open all day during the first week of each term. Thereafter it is open during recess and lunch breaks. Credit card, EFTPOS and Basic Card transactions are available.

Camps and Excursions

Various camps and excursions are run at various year levels to enhance programs eg Year 8 trip to Canberra and Year 7 camp.

Canteen

The school canteen provides a range of hot and cold food and drinks at very reasonable prices. Sandwiches and rolls can be ordered before the lunch break. A canteen price list is available to all students at the start of the year. Extra copies may be obtained from Reception.

Dripstone Day

This is an annual celebration of school activities and community involvement in Term 3.

House Groups

The school is divided into three sporting houses, named after the tropical palms: Alexandra (Blue), Carpentaria (Red), Phoenix (Yellow). Students are allocated to houses for the duration of their time at Dripstone.

Leadership

Students in Years 7–9 are offered a range of leadership opportunities including: Student Representative Council, School House Captains and Vice Captains. Students may receive training in leadership skills. Students are involved in decision making at Dripstone.

Mobile Phones, Technology and Ear Phones

Mobile phone and technology are not to be used in the school building, unless specifically invited by teachers. At school mobile phones may ONLY be used outside the school building. When inside the building, mobile phones must be switched off or on silent and in the school bag. Mobile phones are brought to school at the student's own risk. They are not the responsibility of the school.

Newsletter

Newsletters are issued 3 times per term. (Weeks 3, 6 and 9) If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically please email the school at dripstone.middle@ntschoools.net with your email address.

Parent Participation

We encourage parent participation at all levels, including:

- ✪ discussing your concerns with Teachers/Year Level Coord/Assist. Principal/Principal
- ✪ answering questionnaires or surveys
- ✪ attending Parent Information nights/days/sessions
- ✪ advising the school of planned absences eg. annual leave, family crises
- ✪ fundraising and helping with school events.
- ✪ participating on the School Council

School Timetable

The day is divided into 5 sessions with 20 minute break for recess & 45 minutes for lunch.

School uniform

The Dripstone Middle School uniform consists of:

- ✪ Dripstone Middle School uniform shirt and shorts (available from the Bookroom).
- ✪ plain black shorts preferably with School logo, skirts or trousers to accompany the uniform shirt. Short shorts, skirts and tights (leggings) are not permitted.
- ✪ Runners, sandshoes or joggers or fully enclosed school shoes.
- ✪ Students are expected to bring an appropriate change of clothing for physical education classes.



Special Events

The Dripstone Middle School Swimming Carnival is held at Casuarina Pool during Term 1, the Athletics Carnival in Term 2 and Dripstone Day in Term 3. There are many more!

Visitors

Visitors to the School must sign in at Reception and will be issued an official pass.

Website

The school's website is: <http://www.dripstone.middle.nt.edu.au>

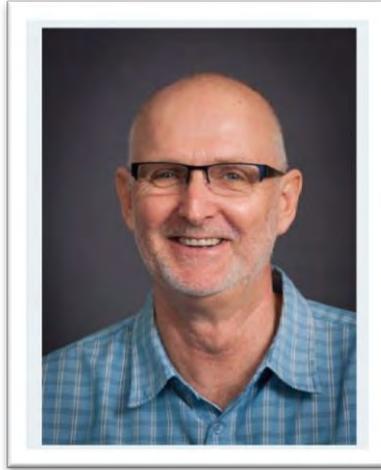
Wellbeing Team

Well-being is the concern of all staff at Dripstone however there are various personnel on the staff available to students who have problems or concerns they wish to discuss. Students should make an appointment with the person they wish to see. Our Team works closely with Year Level Coordinators in monitoring student wellbeing and provides appropriate support.





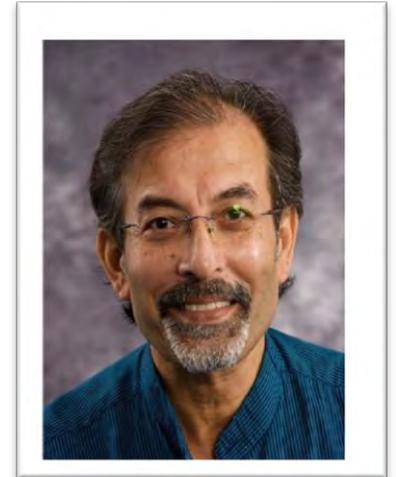
Our Team



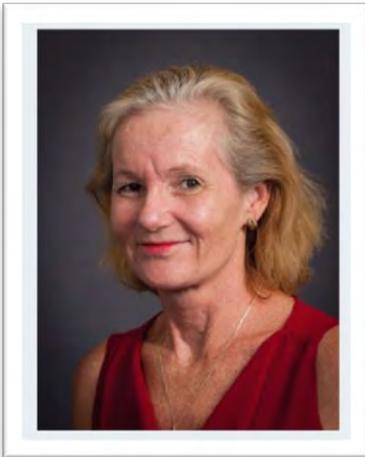
Peter Swan
Principal



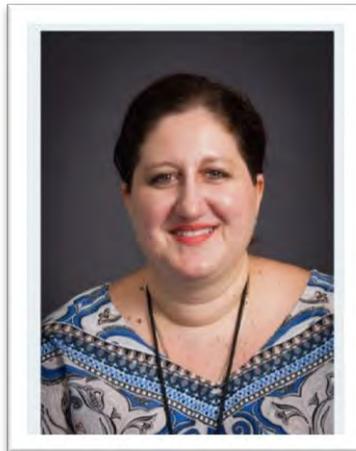
Nektaria Pikoulos
Assistant Principal



Amit Kundu
Assistant Principal



Marg Vatskalis
Senior Teacher
Year 7



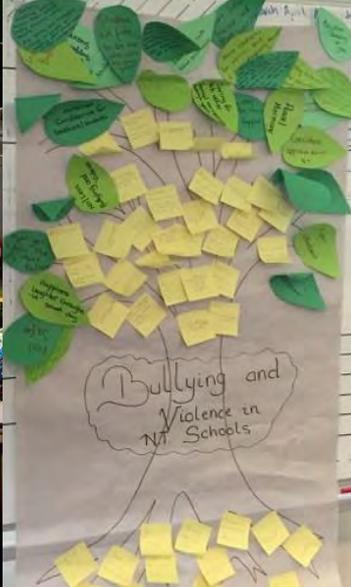
Irini Pikoulos
Senior Teacher
Year 8



Brent Carter
Senior Teacher
Year 9

Contact us:

Dripstone Middle School
Phone: 89837777
Email: dripstone.middle@ntschoools.net

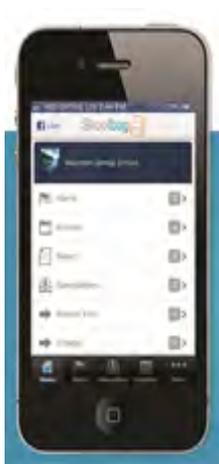


DO YOU WANT UP TO THE MINUTE DRIPSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTICES SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR PHONE?

Download our School App now.

Skoolbag delivers our school notices directly to your phone

Here's how to install



Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- School free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How to install Skoolbag on your Smartphone

iPhone Users

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.



Android Users

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC, or Mac and install.

