



Murrupurtianuwu Catholic Primary School Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst Island

Murrupurtianuwu Catholic Primary School

Murrupurtianuwu Catholic Primary School (MCPS) is located at Wurrumiyanga, on Bathurst Island, about 70kms West of Darwin. Wurrumiyanga is an Indigenous community of 1600 people. They are one people, the Tiwi, divided into four skin groups.

The Tiwi people are the traditional owners of the land on which the Wurrumiyanga Township is situated. Wurrumiyanga was founded as a Catholic mission by Bishop Gsell in 1911 but the community is now run by the Tiwi Islands Shire Council. The Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart established the school in 1911, originally known as St. Therese's school, for girls only.

MCPS has a combined staff of forty two, thirty of whom are Indigenous. Of these, there are approximately sixteen Indigenous staff who work as teachers, assistant teachers, literacy workers and ancillary staff. Current enrolment is over two hundred and forty, catering for girls and boys from pre-school to year six.

The school's vision statement states that, *"As Tiwi and Non Tiwi teachers in the school we work together with parents and community to provide the best environment to enable our Tiwi children to be educated in a Tiwi*

Catholic way. We strive to achieve this by working together to develop self esteem through two way learning that will lead to a strong self identity. We work together to develop in the student's respect that will lead to responsibility and a strong faith for the Tiwi people."

The use of English as a Second Language strategies is an important underpinning feature of all curriculum areas. The school conducts a formal Indigenous Languages and Culture program which is delivered by Indigenous teachers and community elders through the medium of the Tiwi language. There is also a Literature Production Centre for language resource production and this also serves as a cultural link between school and community. MCPS has also taken part in projects of national significance, including *Growing Our Own, Leading Aligned Numeracy Development* and *Strong Foundations*.

The school boasts a number of new and refurbished classrooms, administration areas and facilities, including interactive whiteboards and computer lab. It also offers a student nutrition program, providing breakfast, morning tea and lunch for all students.



Teaching & Learning

- Teachers work closely with an Indigenous assistant teacher who knows and understands the students, families and their relationships
- Both teachers and assistant teachers bring a range of skills in a spirit of active and mutual participation in the teaching and learning process
- ‘Learning Together’ sessions are on-site meetings where staff learn and plan in a cooperative group providing opportunities to develop teaching skills and to gain or share knowledge about cross-cultural situations and the school curriculum
- All students learn using English as a second or additional language. Teachers are provided with introductory and on-going support for teaching ESL
- Religious Education is a key priority for Indigenous people in Indigenous Catholic Community Schools
- Professional Learning is provided for teachers to deliver school designated approaches to literacy and numeracy



Community Facilities

- Church and resident priest
- Well equipped store - groceries, general items
- Eftpos and ATM facilities
- Take away shops - two
- Shire office
- Manned police station
- Post Office
- Centrelink Office
- Health clinic - two full time doctors
- Creche/childcare
- Mechanical workshop and fuel outlet
- Next G mobile and wireless internet coverage
- Television and radio coverage
- Swimming pool and sport and recreational activities program
- Arts and Cultural Centres - three
- All weather airstrip
- Excellent fishing
- Licenced club

Teacher Benefits

- Paid removal costs and storage costs for 2 years
- Airfares for you and your family
- Vehicle delivery costs
- Salary packaging
- Special teaching allowance for all teachers and a district allowance paid to employees with dependants
- Free health care and remote tax benefits
- Free housing in a range of 1-3 bedroom furnished units and houses with most contents provided
- Free electricity, gas, water and contents insurance
- Food freight costs reimbursed
- Special study leave arrangements and access to the Study Incentives Program
- Laptop computer supplied
- 10 days sick leave and 10 days personal leave per year
- Portable long service leave
- 1 day per term for private business
- 2 FOILS per year– travel and accommodation

