



ACN 063 049 669

Maier Road, P.O. Box 771, Gordonvale, North Queensland 4865

tel. (07) 4056 3555 fax: (07)4056 6111

admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au

School Rover

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COMMENT FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Applications for enrolments for next year are already starting to come into the school. This is good news. It means that people are happy with what the school is doing for their children and students are happy attending this school. Staff at this college are committed to the delivery of quality educational programmes. Most parents support us by making sure their children attend school every day and it is generally the students who attend regularly who achieve the best results. Those parents who do not make sure their children attend school every day may not realise what a huge impact their lack of attendance will have on their future success. Mr Joe will continue to visit families where students have been absent without reason. We are hoping that eventually all our students will be regular attenders, but parents need to do their bit to support their children. If you know of any children who will be coming to this school next year, please get them to apply soon as places for next year are filling up fast. They can phone the school office and an application form will be sent.

Jean Illingworth

SCHOOL CONCERT :



"Seldom have I seen so much improvement in students in such a short period of time.

When first our students began work on their concert items, they were reluctant performers. At the end of five weeks many students excelled in their chosen items.

The individual members of staff deserve most of the credit. They selected a wide variety of entertaining items. They were responsible for the hours of practice.

As organizer, I appreciated the assistance and cooperation I received from everyone.

I am very proud of what we, at Djarragun College, achieved."

John Gregg



SCHOOL OPEN DAY (September 10) : A very special and successful programme was effected by the students for parents and interested visitors. This was an occasion for parents to meet teachers and inspect the classrooms, to be hosted with morning tea and a light lunch, a concert and a cultural performance.

The concert element was a fitting tribute to the efforts of the students. Each practice run showed improvements but there were enough moments of 'suspense' to relegate the 'real thing' passe. When the final moments did arrive, the sequence of events was flawless.

Yes, there were still the signs of shyness and the



awkward stance of the uncomfortable but 'true grit' did shine through and no one should have left the stage space in any way disappointed.

Thanks to the significant sprinkle of parents to whom the students were most likely to rise to the occasion - and they did !!

The afternoon session with visiting professional dancer, Dion Drummond capped off the day's undertakings with cultural, musical and comedic interplay.

The Principal (and Dean of Students) added a bit more Punch and Judy to the show than would ever have been anticipated and the gyrations witnessed verged on orbital. It was met with deserved thunderous applause and spontaneous delight from a mesmerized audience.

THRASS : On Friday and Saturday, August 23 - 24, **Ms Kathy and Ms Liz** attended a literacy workshop in Malanda. The workshop aimed to introduce teachers to the THRASS program and to present teaching strategies. Both teachers found the workshop extremely valuable for teaching literacy skills. THRASS stands for - 'Teaching Handwriting and Spelling Skills'. Teaching handwriting and spelling with THRASS involves teaching students phoneme and grapheme awareness through a multi-sensory approach. The THRASS program moves away from the 'old' phonics in which children are taught that one letter makes one sound. One letter can make different sounds in different words. THRASS acknowledges this fact and presents a program in which children learn the various spelling choices in the English language. THRASS also caters for the different learning styles by involving all of the senses.

Primary school teachers at Djarragun College are in the process of introducing this new program into the curriculum. It is already being used in Years P/1/2, 3-4 and Year 5/6. We look forward to positive results.

OPEN DAY : P/1/2 greatly enjoyed the school Open Day. The P/1/2 students opened the school concert with the national anthem., "Advance, Australia Fair." All the students sang the words with confidence despite their shyness. P/1/2 also performed the song and

dance, 'Mr. Knickerbocker Knickerbocker Number 9'. Each child wore a number nine mask that they made themselves. Brenda Stafford-Hill was 'Mr. Knickerbocker' and did a fantastic job of leading the other children in the actions. It was great to meet some of the parents and share with them their children's successes.

Ms Liz Myers

DORMITORY DOSSIER :

Houseparent - **Lency Sailor**

Dorm Supervisor : **Mapa Kudub**

Students:**Kassie Dotoi & Thomas Namaibai**

A recent interview sounded out a few thoughts for consideration.

The new dorms have been well received by students and definitely considered a far patch better than the previous accommodations in separate houses and at Tropicana Lodge. Meals are organized by Cook **Rod Murray** who is employed under Spotless Catering Service. Students are pleased with the food supplied and the quality of the meals.

As with any home environment, chores are an unavoidable component of daily life and each student is responsible for certain duties on a roster system. These include washing up after meals, cleaning the toilets and showers, removing litter from the yard, landscaping and cleaning the sleeping quarters.

Students are responsible for their personal laundry and days are rostered for the use of the machines during the week days.

After school hours can be filled in with games of basketball in the covered area , watching some television or videos or listening to music. At the moment, we use the Dining Room also as our Common Room where we watch television and videos. The football season is over at the moment so no one is involved in that way.

The boarders usually go on shopping trips to Cairns Central or other large Centres on Saturdays. Other trips out will include the local creeks and popular swimming spots like Lock & Ross on the Mulgrave River. We go fishing at Port Douglas and Redbank on the way to Yarrabah.

All our pocket money comes from our families and we all have to contribute towards travel and the buying of bait and any extras that we might want.

Dormitory life follows a set routine such as waking up at 6:00 a.m., breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and then dorm cleanup to get ready for school at 8:30 a.m.

We are allowed to enter the dorms again straight after school. Shower call is at 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. is Dinner followed by Munchies at 8:30 p.m. Bedtime is 9:00 p.m. Lights out at 9:30 p.m.

Houseparents are **Gabriel and Lency Sailor** and Dorm Supervisor is **Mapa Kudub**.

During the weekend, Uncle **Tony Epsag** comes in to do the bus drives. He also does some of the supervising when we are out on the various trips..

Recently new surveillance cameras were installed outside the dorms as a form of security. This places an extra hurdle for anyone with designs towards trespassing in the dorm areas at nights. Big Brother is alive at Djarragun!!

NAIDOC SPORTS : Bentley Park College

A very enjoyable day on Friday, September 13 was spent by a select group of our students in competition with students from other local schools in a Sports Competition organized by the ASSPA Committee of Bentley Park College. The main organizer was Mr. Keith Sambo who together with a capable team of helpers guided the programme smoothly through to completion. At lunch time students were primed with some information on Careers Guidance and had the input of several indigenous role models. These included basketballers from the local Kuyam Pride team, police and health officers, representatives from Bumma Bippera Media and Cairns College of TAFE.

Teams were divided into age divisions -

Years 5 - 7; Middle school and Senior School. The team sports competition included volleyball, touch football and basketball. Whilst it was a competition, the focus was on participation, good sportsmanship and respect for each other. Djarragun Primary students won the trophy for the basketball; the Middle school won touch and volleyball.

We extend a word of thanks to the organizers of the Bentley College ASSPA committee for including our school in the agenda allowing our students the opportunity to participate.

Kym Kerry reported briefly - "we went to Bentley Park to play sports and have lunch there as well. We played volleyball, we were too slack to play because everybody was shouting at each other and teasing at first but in the end we sort of got the hang of it. We won a trophy for basketball and we were all excited."

Willie Charlie added his comments : "On Friday, Djarragun College went to Bentley to play sports. When we got there, we went under their shed and they told us what to do. The first game was football. We put three tries but we didn't know the rules so we didn't win. Then we went to play basketball. We know the rules and won but all the other games we lost."

Pamela Aruba : "On Friday 13th September, we went to Bentley Park to play sport. We played Touch Football, volleyball and basketball. I enjoyed volleyball the best. Djarragun won six trophies in the competition.

KUBIN SCHOOL CHILDREN VISIT : On Monday, Sept. 16 a small group of students came to have a look at our school. They were Cessa, Akira, Patrick, Toshie, Erimiah and John. Their teachers were Michael Ho, Ms Ott and Ms Bosun. We hope that they liked Djarragun and hopefully a couple of them might want to enrol in the future.

HEARD AROUND THE TRAPS :

Puppet 1 : What mouse is nearly nearly the size of an elephant?

Puppet 2 : I don't know. I give up.

Puppet 1 : Inner mouse !!

Teacher : ENORMOUS !!!

BOARDING STUDENTS DINE AT RADISSON

The presence on the campus of members of the Board of Djarragun College was edged with a touch of glamour for all of our boarding students who were invited to

dinner at Radisson last Friday evening.

With the assistance of Elwyn Cameron, students took special interest in decking themselves out in fashion finery, body decor and grooming.



Neville Airi is our special on the spot reporter who commented on the progress of the evening : "Uncle Gabriel drove us in by bus and Ludo and Ms Jean met us at the front. The first stage of the dinner, we were served pre-dinner drinks. Bishop Malcolm and other Board members arrived soon after. We sat at our tables and we helped ourselves to the smorgasbord prepared.

We could select from seafoods- prawns, oysters, fish, calamari - both hot and cold. Later we could choose desserts - cheesecake, icecream and fruit salad. We could have as much as we wanted.

Mr. Tekoa beat all of us who could manage seconds. He was seen heading up for 'fourths.' " His plate was piled up like a reef. Rumour is developing that the Department of Fisheries is looking for him to explain the alleged disappearance of a whole marine ecosystem.

"Kassie Dotoi thanked the members of the Board for making the arrangements and the invitation. This occasion was especially provided for us because we were the first students to occupy the new dormitory.

After the meal, Ms Jean, Mr. Tekoa and the students took to the floor for dancing rock and roll. The best dancers on the floor were Nelson Dotoi and Tolafar Baudu. Vincent Wosomo entertained us with his funny dance.

We finished around about 11:00 p.m. and returned to school. On behalf of the students, I would like to thank the organizers for the special night out." **Neville Airi**

YOU CAN DO IT PROGRAMME : A small committee has been formed which will promote the inculcation of YOU CAN DO IT into our school regimen. A very brief first meeting included Andre Moore, Michelle Foxhall, Joe Matamu, Lifu Sipi and Ross Walters. Materials had arrived and the first strategy was for familiarization with at least some of it. Ross Walters will scan through the notes given out at a Workshop attended earlier during the Term and then effect an induction for the others.

MUSICAL SPARES : A trio of music notables on campus is probably more readily recognized for its monopoly of silver hair amongst the members of staff. The first shaky start towards forming cooperative chords

has been made. A keyboard, trumpet and saxophone have emerged from obscurity. Other rumoured talents will be prised from the woodwork by the allure of our resident pied-Pipers. Naming such a group has raised notions of 'cronies' or 'chronics' as appropriate metaphors to describe any transition towards a chromatic scale. It's yet to be decided who's to face the music ... and live !! C'est la vie.

DANCE PERFORMANCE : Our dances were kept busy during the past weekend, committing themselves to performances each evening either on the Cairns Esplanade or Anzac Park. The students were accompanied by Mapa Kudub, Gabriel and Lency Sailor and Tony Eseg. The singing was done by Mapa and Tony. This was for the Pushing Paradise Festival organized by JUTE (Just Us Theatre Ensemble). Other groups were involved - Cairns High School, Obe PNG Dancers. Our students danced traditional Torres Strait Island dances from Murray Island. Everyone did well. Thank you to several of our students who participated and made themselves available to represent the school in their own free time - **Jamella Dotoi, Nelson Dotoi, Kassie Dotoi, Harriet Dau, Koza Passi, Saggi Eseg, Bablu Day, Roseline Day, Ray Noah, Bradley Noah, Pado Kaworo.**



BOARDROOM TABLE : The latest triumph emanating from the School Manual Arts Workshop is a neatly crafted table. Assembled from a variety of unidentified spare timber and plywood, the table is a lasting tribute to the latent skills of a group of students, under the direction and guidance of Roland Reck. Congratulations to **Benjamin Richards** and **Koza Passi** for their contribution.

The centre of the table is inset with a wooden grill into which is further inlaid the name of 'Djarragun' which is protected by glass panel placed flush with the table surface.

SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE : A very thoughtful memorial service was organized by **Ms Kathy Waia & Ms Liz Myers** and their classes to which the whole school assembled. **Mr. Rick Johnson** maintained the order of contributions which included the reading of Psalm 23, a rendition of 'Amazing Grace' by Mr. **John Gregg** (saxophone) and Mr. **Roland Reck** (keyboard); the 'Our Father' sung by Mr. **Lifu Sipi** and his group and a one minute silence observed for the nearly 3000 people who died in the attack on the Trade Centre.

DANCE FEVER : What a feast of cultural movement we've had during the past week. On Thursday, Cairns West State School dancers gave us an action-packed programme which ranged from contemporary 'Ilan Style', rap, line dance, samba and rock. A very popular item was the karaoke performance to the song, 'Love is in the Air'. The thumping beats pounded out through a very effective speaker system kept the programme fully alive and moving. Thanks to Mr. Waia who accompanied the group for their first visit to the school.

RECRUITMENT DRIVE : Tekoa Tafea and Ludo Kuipers spent one week bustling through the Torres Strait, visiting schools on Moa, Badu, Mabuia, Yam, Warraber, Poruma and Masig. They talked to the Year 6 students about life in Djarragun College, showing a large display and photos on the laptop computer.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS : During the week, Board members, **David Cantwell, Tony Watt** and newly appointed Bursar for the School, Steve Pardey and wife, Liz spent time on campus.

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF : Introduced at the school assembly was Environmental Science teacher, **Mark Piper** originally from Oxford in England. After a teaching post in New Zealand, Mark has returned to Australia, having previously worked in Numbulwar NT. Mark will be starting projects including recycling, composting, making a pond and landscaping.

MEDICAL MONITOR : It is pleasing to inform parents that Djarragun College has newly appointed **Ms Elwyn Cameron** as our Medical Monitor. Ms Elwyn has been involved in health as a Day Centre Coordinator in Victoria supervising activities and programmes for well-being needs.

MsElwyn has organized dental appointments, head lice procedures and followed up with Sick Bay patients. Other activities include assistance with the reading programme and input towards makeup, hair, grooming and deportment skills particularly for the students who attended the recent Friday Dinner with the Board members.

END OF TERM 3, 2002 It is not unusual for the end of School Terms to suddenly crop up, especially when people are enjoying themselves and keeping extremely busy. As perhaps a gentle reminder to all for a brisk start in Term 4, classes will begin on **Tuesday, October 8, 2002.**