



DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

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School Rover

Issue 12, Oct. 26, 2007

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Whoever gossips to you will gossip of you."
Spanish Proverb

SENIOR CONFERENCE

This annual event prefaces the final jaunt to the finish line for our Senior students. Laptop presentations are produced by each student to show how the sum total of their efforts culminate in a satisfying, successful conclusion. Students showcase their skills, their talents, abilities and confidence.



This exercise is an indicator to the students that their efforts do not go unnoticed and that due respect is given to honest application and to the quest for quality results.

Parents are also invited to this minor celebratory function and can also soak in some of the kudos.

It has become something akin to a modern rite of passage for these indigenous educational initiates. Their gradual trudge through the system has endowed them with appropriate skills for future options.

Select speakers define the directions that can be taken and point out some of the obvious obstacles.

Mr. Noel Pearson and Ms Altovise Buli encouraged students to apply themselves to the inevitable challenges that are the normal routines of life.

Mr. Pearson amplified the message of 'Responsibility', the theme for the Conference this year. His summary message impeached the 'rights' of people in society where those rights have been alienated from the incumbent responsibilities. Each is an inextricable corollary to the other; they come hand in hand.



He went on to laud the primacy of Djarragun College in his estimation to state, "This is my most favourite school in all of Australia."

Proud, Empowered Active Resilient (PEAR for Girls)

Now a few weeks into existence, this Girls' Group is forging through exercises to raise the level of involvement and esteem for its participants. With the firm intents of solidarity and attitude shaping in mind, the girls in Years 8 & 9 are engaging themselves constructively in managing their own course of action. The infrastructure for the movement is squarely defined in its mantra which follows below and the direction that the girls are heading become immediately transparent.



Congratulations to the female staff members in the Middle School who conjured up this initiative to prompt the girls towards excellence in desirable skills.

Ms Cate, Elisa Epsseg, Allena Tabuai, Layla Dodd don't plan on being puppets

The PEAR Mantra

I aim to build myself up
And others around me too
We all can use a pep up
A helping hand will do

I aim to choose the high road
The one that suits me best
And when I feel I have a load
I will share it while we rest

My friends will make me feel great
And be positive in my life
I will ignore those who spread hate
And attempt to bring me strife

Challenges I will adore
With faith and confidence
My body will have more
Beauty, vitality and strength

Others I will show
The way to live and be
I will help them grow
And embrace positivity

Together we will work hard everyday
Hibiscus, Crane Flower & Frangipani through

To blossom and become the women we may
Proud Empowered Active and Resilient too

A number of concerns were raised regarding Year 8/9 girls and their health and well-being. The issues that arose were as follows:

- o Lack of confidence
- o 'Shame' factor
- o Lack of motivation
- o Lack of interest and hobbies
- o Underage sex
- o Lack of positive role models
- o Vulgar conversations
- o Unkempt appearance
- o Unwillingness to broaden friendship groups beyond cultural group
- o Poor hygiene
- o Home tattooing



- o Self-harming
- o Poor attendance at school
- o Double life (negative behaviours out of school)
- o Slow response to personal health issues

Mr. Aaron is given a face mask by up and coming beauticians, Jocelyn DeJersey & Breanna Lenoy

On close examination, it became apparent that these issues are, in fact, symptoms or manifestations of the real issue, which is that



our students tend to have really low self-esteem. There is a variety of reasons why this is the case, most of which we have little control over. Many of our students are products of the Stolen Generation, victims of abuse, as well as facing the same issues associated with low socio-economic families in Australia.

Aim of PEAR Programme:



- o To build students' self esteem;
- o To build consciousness of destructive behaviours;
- o To equip students to deal with negativity thrust upon them.

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- o Follow safe protocols when dealing with stress and conflict
- o Develop a positive attitude towards activities
- o Build healthy relationships with peers of different cultures
- o Build healthy relationships with males based on respect
- o Demonstrate increasing confidence in a variety of challenges
- o Become positive role models for primary students
- o Take ownership of their health and personal presentation

Much more has been placed on the agenda during subsequent weeks and hopefully, the girls will



KEV CARMODY

Celebrated indigenous singer and songwriter, Kev Carmody treated the school with his company on Thursday, October 18.

Of great interest is that he also started off his early life in the shadow of Djarragun hill. Leading the life of a drover with his family herding cattle, Kev did not attend school until he was ten years old. His important life skills were imprinted in him during the long hauls with the cattle herds. With time on his hands, his leisure hours, as such, were spent playing music on the harmonica and later the guitar which he learnt from a book that he has recovered from a town dump. He honed his skills later in his adult life when he attended university as a mature aged student.

Recognized now as a national icon in the Music industry of Australia, Kev Carmody has ventured into the international scene with his recordings. From there, history will acknowledge his personal prophesy - "From little things, big things grow."



provide their own updated reports about activities that have already taken place.

HARVEY NORMAN MATTRESSES

No sleeping on the job at this stage of the latest installation into the dormitories. Eager hands are testing the posturepaedic value of the Z-zone nests and Goldilocks can't be seen anywhere on the horizon. It seems a queue is already forming.

This massive donation of 80 commercial grade mattresses and 40 bunk beds from Harvey Norman is a welcomed gift that will bring added comfort to weary bodies. Djarragun College acknowledges the consideration and generosity that Harvey Norman Company has extended to nominally unconscious prospective recipients.



TORRES STRAIT TOUR

Mr. **Tekoa Tafea** and Mr. **Vimal Shankaran** took to the air during the last week of Term 3. Their annual trip to the outer islands informed parents of their children's progress in school and also promoted the school for prospective students.

Because of the brevity of the trip, there was no occasion for angling and enjoying the delights of harvesting in one of the seafood catchments of the world. The fish could feel safe this time round, if ever they felt fear of capture.



The hospitality of parents and some of the past students added to the warm reception to our touring pair and a collection of photographs taken during the island hopping was shown to the rest of staff - just to prove that each was doing his job (in-between the fishing trips).

Modern technology provides an amazing facility to promote the school and provide visual evidence of the school at work. Our intrepid campaigners were armed with laptop presentations that clearly defined the propensity of the school and the busy schedule of events in which students can be earnestly engaged.

Past Djarragun teacher from Saibai, **Cathy Waia**, was captured on one of the digital camera frames. Other familiar faces of past students cropped up on the various islands and great raps of successful members of the workforce made satisfying hearing.

