

DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

Creating pathways for every student



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Introducing our new Residential
Principal

Letter from the Campus Principal

At the beginning of this year, the Djarragun College Gordonvale Campus officially merged with the Cape York Girl Academy at Wangetti and in February, the Gordonvale Campus hosted the first Djarragun College Board meeting of the year in the Hub Gallery. I am so proud to relay that our Board members were extremely impressed to be welcomed by our Certificate III Hospitality students, who had prepared an amazing array of lunchtime treats for them. Headed by Ms Alison Conroy, the standard of our Hospitality students' catering was simply outstanding.

I am pleased to see that students, on the whole, have been complying well with our long-standing expectations of wearing closed-in shoes and leaving mobile phones in their bag or in the classroom mobile phone bag during class time. This really does show respect for learning as well as for fellow students and staff at the College.

There have been a number of approved capital works at the Gordonvale Campus and works commenced this term on the extension to Girls' Boarding. A grant for a new Boys' Boarding facility has already been secured and we have also applied for funding to construct a new reception/administration building and to extend the hospitality facilities for our VET students. Some exciting times ahead I hope you'll agree!

At the commencement of term, myself and the campus executive were busy arranging learning for those students who were unable to travel to campus for face-to-face teaching. The Djarragun College Virtual Campus was set up to assist these students, providing a relevant and engaging educational experience, including wellbeing support. Learning activities and work packs were sent out to meet the needs of our remote learning students and we will continue to provide this service for Term 2, as the need arises.

With some of the COVID-19 restrictions lifting in March, we were so pleased to see some of our students involved in AFL, NRL and other sporting activities. Congratulations to all those students involved, it is fantastic to see our young male and female students getting the opportunity to compete and excel in these areas of interest.

As part of International Women's Day recognition this year, I was fortunate to attend the CYP's inaugural International Women's Day event at Crystalbrook Flynn with some of our staff and students. It was a wonderful event, the students were exemplary and a credit to the College. This event, along with the panel sharing their stories and wisdom, challenged me to reflect on how we celebrate this week. I believe that we should do as Romans 12:10 instructs, "outdo one another with honour." Let's spur one another on (Hebrews 10:24) to encourage and advocate for women both near and far. In our own homes, we can speak words of life to our girls and point out the good ways God made them. We can pay attention to their unique gifts and pursue their growth and flourishing. In our communities, we can applaud the women in our midst who are serving their families, their businesses, their nonprofits, their friends, and their churches for the good of their communities and we can reach out with a word of appreciation.

Lastly, on Friday 25 March, I was blessed to be involved in the 2022 Student Leadership Ceremony. We all play an active role in mentoring and supporting these fine young First Nations' students as they navigate the responsibilities of serving others at Djarragun Boarding and Day Campus. It was a wonderful celebration of the students' achieving a milestone in their educational career.



Mr Damien Gainsford
Campus Principal

Leaders' Ceremony 2022

On Friday 25 March, the whole Campus gathered with invited parents, carers, families and guests at the MPA to recognise students' leadership achievements and officially acknowledge our School Captains for the year. Our Principal, Damien Gainsford, addressed the audience and expressed how proud he was of this year's cohort of student leaders. Both staff and leaders joined in the pledge for the year ahead, agreeing to carry out their duties to the best of their ability and endeavouring to foster supportive relationships amongst students, staff and the community.

Unfortunately, some of our leaders were unable to attend, but here are some of our 2022 leaders and some beautiful photos of the morning's ceremony.



PRIMARY & SECONDARY NEWS

Principal for a Day

When the school bell rang on the morning of 10 March, Senior students Linda Solomon and Gwenda Jones walked past their morning maths class and into the office of Principal Damien Gainsford. In celebration of Queensland Women's Week, the two Year 12 students spent the morning shadow-leading one of Australia's leading Indigenous Colleges.

In joining the Campus Principal, Linda and Gwenda developed their leadership skills, knowledge and experience. However, learning is a two way street. After showing the girls the ins and outs of Djarragun College operations, Mr Damien talked to them about changes they'd like to see in the school and why Indigenous representation in school staff is important to them.

With their eyes set to the future, Linda & Gwenda are beginning to prepare for their post-secondary journeys. Linda plans on joining the Navy after her gap year, and Gwenda plans on studying to become a nurse and eventually working as a remote nurse.

(words by: Josaphine Seale, CYP Content Writer and Producer)



Chess Club

Mr Richard started a Secondary Chess Club during lunch break twice a week - it's becoming very popular!



Art Class

In Ms Amanda's Art class at the beginning of term, Uncle Aurie shared some wonderful stories of home with the Year 7 students.



PRIMARY & SECONDARY NEWS

Primary Library

Thanks to the collective efforts of the Teaching Assistant team, the Primary library is now back in use and students are loving the opportunity to read a variety of books in a clean, quiet, organised space.



Year 5 have a New Classroom

Our Year 5 students have been working hard on their number recognition skills and love their new classroom!



Middle School

The core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities are setting challenging curriculum tasks and students have been meeting the challenges.

Year 7-9 English classes have been covering Australian Identity. Their Mathematics classes have been working on Pythagoras's Theorem and Indices with good math students stretching themselves and those who don't enjoy math surprising themselves. Year 7-9 Science classes conducted an introduction to the subject and focused on laboratory practices as a means of preparing students to be mindful of safety and the wider possibilities of doing many interesting practicals later this year.

Year 7-9 Humanities classes delved into the Industrial Revolution and especially the status of children during that era. Some wonderful didactic learning took place where students expound on the concept that the teachers present. Great learning!



Primary School

Students have been actively engaged in their learning, producing high-quality work and achieving good outcomes. For example, it has been encouraging to see the growth in students' PM Benchmark reading levels with some students improving by up to four levels!

A highlight for Lower Primary this term has been the great interest the students have taken in learning how to say Hello and Goodbye in different languages. Years 3-4 have worked extremely hard, focused on reading fluently and literal and inferential comprehension. The Year 5's wrote an imaginative story; planned, illustrated and then presented their story to the class. In their HASS unit, Year 6 students completed a PowerPoint presentation to market the selling of chocolates to their friends. Well done Primary!



ACADEMIES OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

Sport Returns in 2022!

With COVID-19 restrictions starting to lift, this term saw the return of Rugby League and AFL events and also several TCS and Peninsula Sports trials.

TCS Boys Rugby League Trials - the senior boys had their first games for the year as they showcased their talent to the TCS selectors in an attempt to be named in the TCS Boys team to progress to the Peninsula trials. The boys played excellently in two 30-minute games in very hot conditions. Djarragun successfully had 3 boys selected into the TCS team to trial for the Peninsula team on 8th March at Stan Williams Park. These boys played very well during the Peninsula Trial but unfortunately missed further selection.

Tuesday 1 March was the TCS Girls Rugby League trial at Gordonvale SHS. We had a number girls trial and 5 girls were selected to continue in the Peninsula trials. All of the girls played very well on the day, but unfortunately the girls were not selected into the final team.

Wednesday 2 March was round 1 of the Karen Murphy Cup which was played at Jones Park. The girls played Cairns State High School but unfortunately went down 5 tries to 1. After struggles in the first half, the girls came out in the second, after some simple messages from Head Coach Peri Creamer, and began playing some strong running footy!

We took 20 of our Djarragun girls to compete in the AFLQ State Schools Cup Senior Girls carnival at Watsons Oval Manunda. We were required to play 2 games back-to-back in our pool in very testing and hot conditions. We played St Monica's College in game one and were comfortable victors winning 9 goals to 0. The second game was a little more of a tussle against St Mary's Catholic College who tested our girls up until the last quarter, but they stood tall and came away with a comfortable win to give us a spot in the Grand Final against reigning winners, St Andrews College. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful at the final and went down by 5 goals, but our girls did us proud!

The girls played superbly and they represented the College extremely well. Congratulations to the girls on their performance in this competition!

On Wednesday 23 March we ran the Djarragun Cross Country event for students who wished to trial and be selected to attend the TCS Cross Country trial on 6th May. Good luck to those students for Term 2!



Devon Seymour
Acting Sports Academy Lead

ACADEMIES OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

ON SCOPE IN 2022

Certificate III in Hospitality has been introduced this year into our Academy of Excellence Program!

Students who have chosen this as one of their courses will participate every Monday, Wednesday and Friday completing a range of theory and practical tasks. Students will gain a solid foundation of operational skills to work in the fast-paced hospitality industry. This course will prepare our students for a career within the Front of House or Back of House within the hospitality industry.

The Academies of Excellence Hospitality students started 2022 with a BANG. Amazing food and presentation, demonstrating our up and coming new talent.

Our Certificate III students prepared and presented food to a high standard when they presented a number of functions this term including a Board Meeting and both morning tea and lunch for Cape York Institute.

You may be wondering why our students are preparing platters of food for functions? The reason being is students that have chosen to participate in Certificate III in Hospitality must complete 36 service periods. A service period is when our students are interacting with and positively responding to diverse demands and requests of different customers. This is achieved through our cafes, boardroom functions, outdoor catering and festivals.



Alison Conroy
Lead of Hospitality

The Academy of Arts

This year, the Academy of Arts is offering students a Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts. The practical areas of study range from painting and drawing to printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics.

There are 4 core modules where students learn about their own identity in an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander context, that are delivered in conjunction with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander representative. It is important to have Indigenous staff when delivering these modules, as we can draw on prior knowledge and experience as well as being culturally appropriate in the course content and its delivery of culturally sensitive information.

The course has been extremely popular amongst our cohort of talented young artists.



Noel Mason
Dean of Creative & Performing Arts of Academies

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS

With around 20 programs on scope in VET - more than any other school around the Cairns region - it has been a busy beginning to the year.

Jomella Kabai, Linda Solomon and Japheth Wosomo were accepted into the 3 day Navy Work Experience program. The intense training course took place at HMAS Cairns Navy Base in Portsmith.

The program consisted of just 12 students from different high schools in the Cairns area. Whilst on placement, the students participated in a sea and survival course, including riding on jet boats in the Cairns Inlet, a practical life rafting safety session in the swimming pool and a physical test. To emphasise how well our students did, they were the only 3 to successfully complete the Navy Physical Readiness Test! Although they each agreed this was the hardest part of the course as it consisted of push-ups, sit-ups and either running or swimming. Each of our students received very positive feedback from the program coordinators and strong encouragement to apply to join at the end of Year 12.



The Certificate II Hospitality students ran a mini café out of their classroom, K4, offering a range of espresso coffees, health drinks, smoothies, milkshakes and iced coffees and chocolates. K4 Café was a great experience as the students expanded their repertoire in café style beverages. They were also introduced to using a cash register and EFTPOS for the first time.



In Certificate III Early Childhood Education & Care, students have been developing new activities so that they have some ideas to support a child's learning development. One example is students making a playdough using materials that are safe for the children. The learning objective of this is to support a child's physical development.



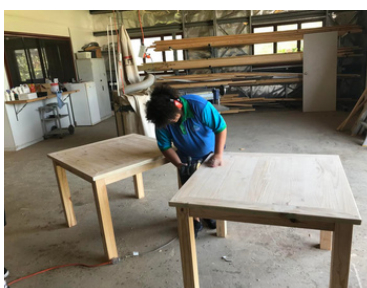
Ms Karina Nerot took a group of students from the trades area for a 'Breaky with the Tradies' excursion. The breakfast is an annual event held by the Business Liaison Association (BLA) at the Cairns TAFE. This was a fantastic opportunity for our trades students to find out more information from actual workers from a variety of trade areas and to hear their own stories about their careers in the industry.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION NEWS

Mr Ryan Galea, our resident Certificate II in Construction Pathways Trainer (aka Bob the Builder), has been busy building café tables with his students for the K4 Hospitality kitchen.

Our students have been working alongside Mr Ryan and what an amazing job they have done!



Miss Leigh Noemberczyk in the hair salon has done a wonderful job engaging the Certificate II Salon Assistant students to learn new skills. They learned basic two strand and three strand plaits and were then asked to get creative.

This is what can be achieved from a basic hairdressing technique. Fantastic.



Looking ahead to next term there are a number of excursions planned for VET students. The Department of Transport will also be coming out to the College to conduct the Queensland Learner Driver written test with interested students over the age of 16yrs.

We have work experience opportunities coming up for our Year 10-12 students. Students that participate in work experience increase their self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence. It helps to increase motivation to continue their study and gives them a better understanding of what work life is like compared to attending school. It also gives students the chance to gain hands-on experience, to see what they like and don't like, then plan for their future. A great opportunity.

BOARDERS' NEWS



I would like to introduce myself to the Djarragun community. My name is Dan Niemerg and I began this year in the role of Residential Principal. My responsibilities include overseeing the entire residential program on the Djarragun and Girl Academy campuses. I come with over 20 years of experience in education.

Term 1 saw many challenges, which started with the COVID-19 looming over our heads. Boarding students worked under a strict testing regime where boarders were tested daily before school and those who tested positive were quickly isolated in an area in boarding that was purposely prepared. Activities were limited to places away from the general public in the first few weeks of the term when the Cairns area outbreak was at its peak. As a result of the COVID-19 challenges we saw many students not return for the start of the school year. Many of those not returning were supplied education packs to provide that opportunity to keep moving forward.

The activity program included wellbeing support for students in the form of the Respect Me program, which targeted Senior students. Students also participated in weekly sports including volleyball on Wednesday evenings and swimming on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Often, students also attended the local community youth group on Friday evenings, which was built around Christian values and fun activities. This proved to be a very popular way for students to wind down the week that was.

The Rabbitohs came up to Cairns and played against the Cowboys earlier in the term and our students had tickets for that, as well as tickets to the Taipans game later in the term. There were many trips to the local beaches including Ellis Beach and Etty Bay, as well as weekends spent in the sun on the Esplanade. Some of the exciting paid activities that students enjoyed included 10 pin bowling, cinema trips, Laser Tag, and swimming at the Aqua Park.

We also said farewell to a few supervisors this term, including Eddie Daniel, Casey Meager, Noela Millican, Patrick Ranasinge and Wade Munro. We wish them well in their future endeavours and thank them for their service to the students of Djarragun College.

Next term we are expecting to see many of our boarders returning who were held up from COVID-19 restrictions in their home communities.

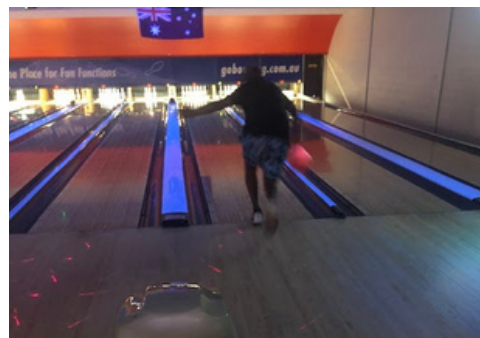
Daniel Niemerg
Residential Principal

Mobile Phone: 0419 156 755

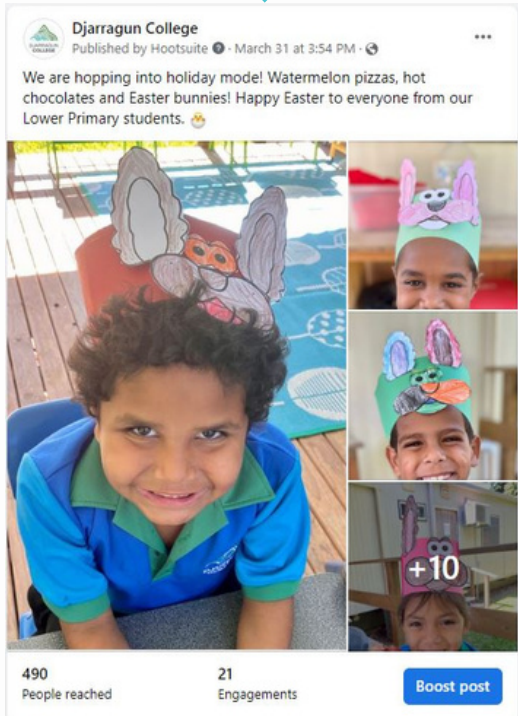
E-mail: daniel.niemerg@djarragun.qld.edu.au



Term 1 in Boarding looked like this...



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UPCOMING EVENTS

19 April	Qld New & Returning Boarders Travel In
20 April	NT New & Returning Boarders Travel In
	Qld New Boarders Orientation
21 April	Term 2 Commences
	NT New Boarders Orientation
22 April	ANZAC Day College Ceremony
	JCU 2022 Health Career Breakfast
6 May	College Mother's & Carers Day
10-20 May	NAPLAN
16-20 May	National Boarding Week
20 May	Dept. of Trans. Learners Written Tests
26 May	National Sorry Day
27 May	Anniversary of 1967 Referendum
27 May - 3 June	Reconciliation Week
3 June	Mabo Day
17 June	Athletics Carnival
23 June	NAIDOC Day
24 June	Last Day Term 2
13 July	Qld New & Returning Boarders Travel In
14 July	NT New & Returning Boarders Travel In
15 July	Cairns Show Holiday
18 July	Term 3 Commences

TERM DATES

TERM 2	Thursday 21 April	First Day Term 2
	Friday 24 June	Last Day Term 2
TERM 3	Monday 18 July	First Day Term 3
	Friday 9 September	Last Day Term 3

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