

THE DAGUN DIGEST

 **The Newsletter
of the
DAGUN STATE SCHOOL
and
P. & C. ASSOCIATION**



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President:: Niccy Sogiannis **Vice President:** Travis Mallett **Secretary:** Sheena Haselden **Treasurer:** Jaye Shaw **Tuckshop Convenor:** Darren Edward

"P. & C. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month"

DATE: 12th November, 2013

Our 2013 School Improvement Goal: to improve student outcomes in Writing, Reading Comprehension and Spelling.

DATES TO REMEMBER

18 Nov.	P&C Meeting—4pm
18 Nov.	Swimming Lesson
21 Nov.	Prep—Year 2 Camp Meeting—3.30pm
25 Nov.	Swimming Lesson
26/27 Nov.	Prep—Year 2 Camp
3 Dec.	Prep Orientation Day
4 Dec.	Swimming Carnival
10 Dec.	Presentation Night
13 Dec.	End of Term 4

If you are planning to enrol your child in Prep next year, please collect an enrolment form from the office and return as soon as possible.

CAMPS:

Daydreaming...

What an excellent camp we had at Daydream Island last week. The children enjoyed a very interesting education program, learning about coral reef ecosystems, the negative and positive impacts on our world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, fish life cycles, water cycles, food chains and general sustainability of our Reef. Children had some amazing experiences, namely: holding a shark, feeding stingrays, holding star fish and sea cucumbers, and viewing the reef in a submersible boat. They learned to snorkel and took a 90km day trip to the outer reef (Knuckle Reef) to see the corals and fish in the wild. Whilst the water slide was good fun, the sea sickness on the trip was not pleasant. Please read some of the student reflections attached. Thank you to our P&C for their enormous contributions and hard work to make these very special, life changing experiences happen for our children.

Mon Repos...

Our students in Prep to Year 2 are now looking forward to their camp. We are finalising bookings for our visit to Mon Repos on 26th and 27th November—in a fortnight! Please ensure your payment of \$60 has been paid to the office by this **Friday, 15th November**. Please find attached camp forms which need to be returned to school by next **Tuesday, 19th November**. Please don't hesitate to contact Mrs D or Mrs. Green if you have any queries or concerns. We will hold a parent information night on **Thursday, 21st November** at 3.30 p.m. to provide further information and answer any questions.

Student of the Week...

Congratulations to the following student who received a Student of the Week Award:

Week 4 Kayden

School Photos...

A reminder that school photos are available for parents to view and collect.

From the Principal...

This week brings mixed emotions for our staff and School. Firstly we farewell Rocky Dixon, our financial officer for the past 7 years. Rocky has literally been our stalwart, ensuring our finances were always up to date and accurate. She always brought cheer and joy to our busy office, and we thank her sincerely for her excellent contributions to Dagun School over the past years. Rocky has the opportunity to increase her administration hours at Mary Valley College (her other home) and is unable to continue at Dagun.

The other side of a farewell is always a greeting. We welcome Lisa Schroter, who will take up the financial role from Rocky, and bring her cheery smile to Dagun on Thursdays and Fridays. Lisa works at Amamoor School Monday to Wednesday.

Of course, Mary will continue to provide consistent efficiency in the office Mondays to Wednesdays for the many other administrative tasks.

P&C Meeting...

Due to other commitments our P&C meeting has been changed to next **Monday, 18th November** at 4.00 p.m.

Swimming Lessons...

Just a reminder swimming is on next **Monday, 18th November**. For those families who haven't paid in advance, please don't forget swimming money.

Prep Orientation Day...

On **Tuesday, 3rd December**, we have a very exciting day with orientation for our new Prep students for 2014. This will be their first day at Dagun as a group and we are looking forward to helping them settle into their new school. Mrs. Green will have a fun day of activities prepared, so please keep this date free if you have a Prep student starting next year or have friends interested in enrolling their child for 2014.

Jane Desmarchelier
PRINCIPAL

Daydream Island camp was so much fun. The part I loved the most was on Thursday when we went out to the outer reef of the Great Barrier Reef. We went with Cruise Whitsundays catamaran from Daydream to Hamilton Island and then out to Knuckle Reef. It was pretty rough and most people got sea sick, but I didn't.

When we got there, we went on a semi-submersible and we could see lots of Sergeant Major fish, Cleaner Wrasse and smaller fish. There were huge bommies of coral, some thousands of years old. If coral grows by 2cm each year, and they were metres across, that makes them very old.

After a seafood lunch we put on our snorkel gear – flippers, mask, snorkel and stinger suit. We had to wear stinger suits so we didn't get stung by the irukandji jellyfish. We all went as a group off the back duckboard and pulled ourselves along the rope which guided us across the reef so we didn't drift off in the current. We saw a huge and friendly maori wrasse and lots of brain coral and branching coral. It wasn't as colourful as it looks on tv because it was at high tide. But it was an amazing experience. By MAX

On Daydream Island we learnt a lot about the Great Barrier Reef. One of my favourite things was learning to snorkel in the pool. Then we went for a practice in Lover's Cove. I got to feed the fish at Lover's Cove and we looked at the coral. Even though the water was a little bit murky, it was still pretty cool. What was even better was that we snorkelled in the Great Barrier Reef and we saw a huge Maori wrasse fish. And we got to play on the water slide - it **was mad fun!** We got to do a fun activity it was feeding the stingrays and patting them. When they wanted more food they would start sucking on our feet or toes. It felt funny but cool and scary. Thanks to the P&C for helping raise money for our school camp. It was an awesome experience and I learnt a lot about the Great Barrier Reef and all different kinds of sea creatures. Thankyou so much it was amazing. By Kacey

Whilst on Daydream we underwent many educational modules teaching us about how the reef system works and how we can help preserve it. In our luxury ocean view classroom we were given booklets with the corresponding worksheets to the modules. The island also had a large outdoor aquarium called the Living Reef. Most aquariums use plastic coral but this one used actual living coral, hence the name living reef.

Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef was one of the best experiences of my life. Seeing the maori wrasse fish was amazing, it was as big as me!!! It was good to see all the coral swaying around in the water. The colours in the corals ranged from bright pink to electric blue and everything in between. I would like to thank all the parents and members of the P and C Association for all the fund raising and work they have done to make our camp possible. The money that they raised helped to make our camp cheaper. THANK YOU!!! Cameron Edward

