### National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2008
#### Project Report

**Project title:** Lifelong Literacy-Partnerships in Learning

**Project description:**
- Students sent invitations to parents, extended family and community members to attend our Literacy Day.
- All classes focused on the Talking and Listening aspect of the *English K-6 syllabus*; Oral presentation skills.
- A criteria was established for assessment, this was based on the *NSW English K-6 syllabus*.
- Class representatives were selected from each class for the Readings and Recitals session.
- Staff chose to demonstrate a variety of Literacy tasks and strategies to demonstrate to parents that ‘Literacy’ involves three strands and can be taught in a variety of ways.
- Guests enjoyed morning tea and shared a book with their children while they looked at our wonderful Library.
- DET QT consultant, staff and guests participated in the Open Microphone session to demonstrate to students their love of poetry and how they valued Literacy.
- Guests shared a barbeque lunch with their family.

**Person responsible for project:** Louise Jenkins

**School, region, diocese:** Cooma Public, Illawarra South East Region.

**Contact person’s email:**
louise.jenkins@education.nsw.gov.au

**Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:**
- Students – 230
- Teachers – 14
- Parents and Community members – 80+
  throughout the day. This included the Literacy introduction by Mrs Downey, classroom sessions with staff and the Readings and Recitals session in the hall (70)

**Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**
- “Learning To” and “Learning About” *NSW English K-6 syllabus* outcomes.
- Values and Attitudes include:
  - *enjoys creating, experiencing and responding to a range of spoken and written texts.*
  - *shows independence, confidence in using language in a variety of contexts.*
- Consistent message from the school of the importance of (Home-School) Partnerships in Learning, especially Literacy.
- Demonstrating to the community the skills and strategies Cooma Public staff are implementing to improve student Literacy.
- Culmination and celebration of four years of PSP initiatives.
- Acknowledgement of improved pedagogy in the teaching of Literacy.
- Recognition of the use of elements in the *Quality Teaching* framework to improve student learning outcomes.
Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:

We have

- improved the literacy experiences and achievement of all students through the increased effectiveness of classrooms
- improved the quality of teaching for all students through a positive and inclusive school culture
- written and used criteria in a variety of strands to ensure all students are working towards achieving the syllabus standards for their stage
- increased family knowledge of what Literacy entails and the innovative ways Literacy is taught as well as the recommended standards achieved, i.e. “raised the bar”
- increased family awareness of the importance of “Partnerships in Learning” in their children’s learning
- recognised the changing literacy needs of our “Digital Native” generation and are preparing for their different learning styles
- ESL student won the Year 2 section
- There was a natural gender balance of students who represented their classes
- Posters were created to promote the uses of Literacy. These have been displayed in classrooms and schools.

COMMENTS from Guests:

- Great effort, the kids continue to be put first.
- Very interesting, especially the Interactive Whiteboards.
- Thanks for a really great morning and the efforts from the teachers and children and for being so welcoming and involving me in some class time.
- We had a fun time helping in the class and learning about what the kids get up to.
- We’ve come a long way from ‘Betty and Jim’.
- Love the way the Interactive Whiteboard involves action as well as listening.
- AWESOME!
- Excellent! What a great way of teaching - so different from the earlier methods of teaching.
- Great participation from students and staff, seeing how technology is used to teach Literacy.
- There is equity of opportunity for students at Cooma Public because teachers are fair.

Judge:

- I was very impressed with the standard of students’ presentation of poems and the confidence they displayed. The range of poems selected for presentation was impressive and even included poems written by the students. The student audience were interested and responded positively to the presentations. Parent support of this event was strong. Lovely to hear the audience respond so enthusiastically.

Staff:

- The parents enjoyed the interaction and varied approaches to teaching Literacy.
- I was impressed by the parents. It brought in parents that would not normally come in. It gave me the opportunity to communicate and share what I do with their children. Students were responsive with a parental audience.
- It gave guests the opportunity to see the innovative strategies, use of PhotoStory, used to engage students who need visual stimulus and support to write.

Students:
- I’m glad my mum read ‘Matilda’ - it was good to see her up on stage.
- It felt good having mum, nan and pop in my classroom so that I can show them what is in my classroom and what we do for reading on the interactive board.
- I felt excited that they came to see what happens when I get taught strategies for reading.

Other information:
Please find attached:
- Invitation
- Posters – 2 of several developed to promote the day and Literacy.
- Scanned Article from local media- Cooma Monaro Express. A photo collage also appeared in the Monaro Post
- Cooma Public School Newsletter
- Various photos of student and community engagement.

Feedback about making grants available for such projects
This grant, along with the national focus on literacy and especially the 2008 focus on *Partnerships in Learning*, gave us the opportunity to showcase to the community the excellent Literacy focus at Cooma Public.
Dear…………………………
You are invited to be our guest and see Literacy in action.
Where: Cooma Public School
When: Wednesday 3rd September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.45-10.15</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Mrs Downey will speak on <em>What is Literacy?</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15-11.10</td>
<td>Classrooms and Library</td>
<td>Guided Reading session. Games to build Sight word vocabulary. Spelling activities. Big Book lesson. Interactive White Boards; using literacy software. Visual Literacy; Aboriginal Mural area Computer Lab: PhotoStory program Library session Reading Recovery Program Home Reading Program</td>
<td>See how Literacy is taught today. Literacy in action. How can you be part of this partnership?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.10-11.45</td>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
<td>See the fantastic resources we have and share a book with your family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45-1.10</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Readings and Recital</td>
<td>Listen to class representatives and members of the school community entertain us with poetry recitals or readings of their original work. Judges will award prizes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10-1.40</td>
<td>Canteen</td>
<td>Sausage Sizzle</td>
<td>Free for our guests.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We hope that you can make time to join in some of the activities planned for this special day.*

Louise Jenkins
on behalf of CPS staff

Margaret Downey
Principal

An Australian Government Initiative
Student literary skills on show

Cooma Public School children across all grades showed off their literary skills at a public reading and poetry recital last week.

The reading was held as part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2008, where the students not only read poems to parents, teachers and members of the community, but the school also showed off their educational resources.

Year four teacher and literacy coordinator Louise Jenkins said she was delighted in the interest the community had taken in the children’s development of what was one of their most essential life skills.

“Literacy is the basis of all learning and covers all areas of life, and is a life long skill,” Mrs Jenkins said.

“I think the recital demonstrated the students’ deepening understanding of literacy,” she said.

The open day, held at the school on Wednesday, also allowed parents and the community to see how education had expanded, by allowing them to visit classrooms and see what resources were available in modern times.

“We’ve tried to demonstrate how literacy has broadened over the years and invited parents and the community to see how literacy education has expanded, from just comprehension, to using things like interactive white boards and computers,” she said.

Cooma Public School students accept awards for their poetry recitals. Back row are Noah Saddler, Chelsea Lunt, Mirina Moruz and Livinia Evans, with (front) judge Barb Wilkinson, Georgie Rossiter, Jessica Hartley, Peter Craze and Department of Education and Training quality teaching consultant Jenny Dearden.