### Project title:
Books Alive – Integrating Technology with Literary Learning

### Project description:
Students incorporated literary learning (learning through literature) with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) through the development of short (60 sec) animated presentations that promoted selected fiction and junior fiction. Students in Years 5 and 6 chose from a selection of books that had been short-listed for the Children’s Book Council of Australia Awards 2008.

Through Literature Circles, students identified the main focus and themes of texts and prepared a script that motivated and encouraged the audience from Kindergarten to Year 6 to read the texts for interest and meaning. Students used PhotoStory software to present a visual report or exposition of the text, which was used during Book Week. Students presented their animations and explained their procedure to the larger community during National Literacy and Numeracy Week. Kits have been developed incorporating texts and DVD stimulus.

### Person responsible for project:
Mary Walsh

### School, region, diocese:
Mary Help of Christians School, Toormina NSW 2452

### Contact person’s email:
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### Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:
Year 5 & 6 students (99); Yr 5 & 6 class teachers (4); Teacher Librarian (1); ICT Coordinator (1); Senior Students who study ICT at John Paul College (2); Teacher Assistants (2); Parent Helpers (2)

### Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:
Students will:
- enhance their literacy skills
- identify the important aspects of a text type
- incorporate different medium to engage themselves in improved literacy outcomes
- identify appropriate text types for a purpose and audience
- be engaged in reading for pleasure and meaning
- provide an account of the procedure undertaken for their project and report on significant findings and unexpected outcomes
- suggest ways in which the process may be sustained for future projects
- present a new model for future text type presentation
- develop new partnerships in learning with each other, their teachers, parent helpers, support staff and the teacher librarian.

**Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**

- Students read widely and with interest
- Displayed a new interest in print
- Became conversant with new software – PhotoStory
- Wrote a procedure explaining the process undertaken.
- Used a wiki as a means of communication
- Developed and presented excellent PhotoStory presentations with a pertinent question to encourage others to read the text indicating they have a full understanding of the content of the text.
- Students have commenced further PhotoStory presentations after reading a text in Literature Circles
- Students have become tutors for other students and teachers.

**Other information:**

- Resources used were MS PhotoStory: Key to Rondo (Emily Rodda); Amelia Dee and the Peacock Lamp (Odo Hirsch); Dragon Moon (Carole Wilkinson); Parsley Rabbit’s Book about Books (Frances Watts); Winning the World Cup (David Metzenthen); Ned Kelly’s Jerilderie Letter (Carole Wilkinson); Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley (Aaron Blabey); Cat (Mike Dumbleton); Ziba Came on a boat (Liz Lofthouse); Dust (Colin Thompson); Australia’s Deadly and Dangerous (Steve Parish); Shaggy Gully Times (Jackie French).

**Feedback about making grants available for such projects:**

This was an excellent opportunity to engage students in their learning and incorporate ICT into Literary Learning. The grant enabled teachers to be able to work with small groups to introduce new technologies.

The presentation of the completed project to parents at an evening inspired parents to take an added interest in their child’s learning and to develop new skills for themselves. The PhotoStory presentations will be added to the school’s intranet. Hopefully there will be the opportunity to further develop this initiative next year.