**Project title:** Parent Numeracy Workshop

**Project description:** Recent anecdotal evidence suggests many parents are unsure about helping their child with their Maths/Numeracy homework. Rutherford Technology High School ran a Parent Numeracy Workshop to assist parents to build their confidence in what they know and to develop simple strategies to assist their child as they move from primary to high school.

Years 5 – 6 Parents from our six feeder primary schools were invited to attend, together with Years 7–8 parents from Rutherford Technology High School.

The venue was the Bradford Hotel and Conference Centre, a centrally located venue that provided a pleasant environment at a location central to all participating schools.

The workshop was coordinated by the Community Liaison Officer who liaised with feeder schools to encourage as many parents as possible to attend. This included a parent survey to determine areas of highest concern that were addressed at the workshop.

Rutherford Technology High School’s Numeracy Tutor, Catherine Boorer, ran the workshop on the day with a manual provided for each participant.

The workshop included group discussion and activities that demonstrated how students are taught in the classroom.

**Person responsible for project:** Maryka Gibson, Community Liaison Officer, Rutherford Technology High School

**School, region, diocese:** Rutherford Technology High School, Hunter/Central Coast Region

**Contact person’s email:** maryka.gibson@rutherfordhs.nsw.edu.au

**Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:**
- 6 x Feeder Primary Schools
- 1 x High School
- Flyer re workshop sent to 340 x primary students and their parents
- Flyer re workshop sent to 400 x high school students and their parents
- 1 x Numeracy Tutor from Rutherford Technology High School
- 1 x CLO from Rutherford Technology High School

**Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**
- Parents will have a greater understanding of the Language of Numeracy. This is often the greatest barrier to helping their child.
- Parents will have a greater awareness of the importance of numeracy skills in everyday life.
- Parents will be provided with a number of simple strategies to assist their child with their homework.
Parents will be more confident in assisting their child.
Parents will understand why children are being taught in a different way to when they attended school.
Parents will have an understanding of NAPLAN which is explained as part of the workshop.

**Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**
- Feedback from participants (summary attached)

**Feedback about making grants available for such projects:**
- The grant provided funding for a venue outside of the school. This was considered an essential element in attracting parents from a number of schools and was very much appreciated by those who attended.
- The grant allowed us to involve parents from 6 feeder primary schools in the local area – this is an important element in demonstrating the consistency of classroom teacher between primary and high school.
- Thank you for provision of this grant – the Parent Numeracy Workshop was considered a successful venture and feedback was very positive.

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**RUTHERFORD TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL**
**PARENT NUMERACY WORKSHOP – 4.9.08**
**SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS**

No. of participants who attended the Parent Workshop: 18

1. **What year is your child in?**
   - 7 x Yr 5
   - 5 x Yr 6
   - 7 x Yr 7
   - 3 x Yr 8
   - 1 x Yr 2
   - 2 x Yr 3
   - 2 x Yr 4

2. **How did you hear about the workshop?**
   - 15 School Newsletter
   - 1 Teacher
   - 2 Other parents

3. **Was the venue appropriate for the workshop?**
   - 18 Comfortable
   - 0 Cramped

4. **Which part of the workshop did you find most useful?**
   - 15 Newman’s Analysis
   - 17 Strategies to use at home
   - 15 NAPLAN questions
   - 15 Games
   - 16 Language of numeracy
5. Is there anything specific you would like included in future parent workshops?
   - More Maths info, space, 3D shapes, geometry.
   - No – I feel the wider the range of information the better.
   - More of everything!
   - Anything is helpful. Thanks.
   - More of the same.
   - More samples of NAPLAN.
   - Trading
   - More of same

6. Have you any comments you would like to make about today’s workshop?
   - Most helpful to relay to my child and I feel I can help her more.
   - Very informative. Thank you.
   - Very informing and it will help me to do a bit extra with my granddaughters.
   - This is the second I have attended and find them very helpful.
   - Probably need to have a longer workshop.
   - Very good – the ways of teaching maths was welcome.
   - Great day – very relaxed.
   - Great morning, learnt heaps.
   - Extremely interesting and very informative – very helpful.
   - Very informative. Thank You.
   - I enjoyed all the sessions.
   - Very helpful. If talking to feeder schools they could run a similar program. Information would be helpful at early primary level.
   - Excellent and well run. Would come again.
   - Very informative – thanks.
   - Very useful.
   - Great!