National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2008
Project Report

Project title: Extending Gifted and Talented Writers

Project description: Eleven Stage 2 writers were withdrawn from classes to work with a specialist literacy teacher. The focus of this group was to address narrative writing. The students analysed the work of talented writers, learnt new strategies for improving their writing and then used this to write their own narratives.

Person responsible for project: Katreena Fernandes

School, region, diocese: Saint John the Baptist Primary School, Woy Woy, Diocese of Broken Bay

Contact person’s email: kfernandes@stjohnwoywoy.dbb.catholic.edu.au

Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:
• Eleven Stage 3 students
• One teacher

Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:
• Students write well-structured and well-presented literary texts for a wide range of purposes and audiences, dealing with complex topics, ideas, issues and language features.
• Students write well-structured sentences, effectively using a variety of grammatical features.
• Students use a fluent and legible style to write and employ computer technology to present written texts effectively in a variety of ways for different purposes and audiences.
• Students evaluate the effectiveness of their writing and the writing of others by focusing on grammatical features and the conventions of writing.

(Taken from the Stage 3 NSW Primary Curriculum Foundation Statements)

Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes: Students worked towards producing a narrative text that was intended for one of the grades in the school. The work leading up to this text provided observational evidence of outcomes being achieved.

Students were able to identify writing that they felt powerful and effective. They were then able to articulate how the writer had deliberately structured their text for effect. The students then put this knowledge into practice, manipulating language and deliberately structuring their own texts to achieve desired effects. Student work samples provided evidence that they had achieved the intended outcomes.

Feedback about making grants available for such projects:
This was an amazing project that allowed talented writers to have an opportunity to gather, share ideas, learn and produce some exceptional pieces of writing. The writers themselves set the pace of what happened in the sessions as the nature of what was done in the time spent together evolved to suit the needs of the students.

During National Literacy and Numeracy Week, the students shared some of their writing with the school community at Assembly. This was a very affirming experience for the students and it also gave the school community an opportunity to see the incredible work that was being produced.
Thank you for giving me such an exceptional opportunity to be able to work with these students and nurture their talent.