### National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2009
#### Project Report

**Project title:** One in a Million Literacy and Numeracy Projects

**Project description:** Literacy: all students write contributions for a school magazine “One in a Million”; James Roy speaks to selected student writers. Magazine including work of 200 students is printed for distribution to DEAR classes. All students participate in a literal representation of “one in a million” and a competition for students to memorise Pi to as many decimal places as possible.

**Person responsible for project:** Sandra Crossan

**School, region, diocese:** Birrong Girls High School

**Contact person’s email:** Sandra.crossan@det.nsw.edu.au

**Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:**
- 960 students, all teachers

**Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**
- Literacy reading and writing personal responses
- Comprehension of the size of “one million”.

**Evidence of achievement of intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**
- Student participation, publication of STELLAR, sales of STELLAR at $5 per magazine to pay for extra printing costs.

See materials below:
FOREWORD
Welcome to our second edition of STELLAR. This year our publication is a compilation of students’ thoughts on the theme of One in a Million. Once again we asked the whole school to Drop Everything and write during our DEAR lesson on the 10th of August. Three weeks later during National Literacy and Numeracy Week, ninety students, out of the six hundred and thirty three who submitted their writing for inclusion in STELLAR, were selected to attend a workshop with acclaimed author, James Roy. James entertained students with anecdotes about growing up in Fiji where he discovered the power of books such as Lord of the Flies. He challenged and coached students to learn to write in a way that makes readers feel true empathy for the person about whom they are reading.

The theme, One in a Million, was Ms Wilkins’ idea. It seemed like a great challenge for students to actually create something which included “one million” components, so we could all see what a million, actually looks like and then write about how one in a million makes us feel. Ms Lee and her able team of Year 11 students developed a number of ideas until they eventually formulated the concept of creating a mural composed of exactly one million dots. Lunchtime workshops, some lessons and before and after school time were utilised by classes and interested volunteers to complete the cityscape mural.

The one million dot mural was unveiled at assembly during National Literacy and Numeracy Week and remained a feature of the quadrangle for an entire 6 days until a rainstorm threatened to dissolve the thousands of thousands of dots.

Students admiring the million dots
In this week too, we had a competition to see which student could memorise Pi to the most decimal places. The competition was fierce and the winner made a stellar effort in learning to recite Pi to 188 decimal places – an amazing feat!

All authors of work in STELLAR have been acknowledged in the list of contributors printed at the back of this publication. To the teachers who submitted their writing – the editing team regrets that there were not enough entries from staff to publish, if we were to maintain your anonymity; however, your entries made inspiring reading for the editors. Thank you!

Once again the snapshots of students’ perceptions, reflected by the writing in STELLAR, reveals the eclectic, personal, difficult, heartfelt, serious, compassionate, sometimes idealistic, at other times disappointed and always candid perceptions of our student body. This year a wonderful editorial team of Year 11 students has selected, typed, photographed, organised, read and retyped the first drafts and edited work of contributors from years 7 to 12 (and a few staff members too) to create this publication. A special mention must be made to acknowledge the art work of Roukaya Saraya Year 11 (cover design) and Melissa Mui Year 10 (title pages for year groups). To all those (including every roll teacher who supported STELLAR writing) who have made STELLAR as well as Literacy and Numeracy week activities so inclusive and successful in 2009 – Thank you. (Especially Mrs Sutton whose tireless formatting of the editors’ work has made publication of this STELLAR possible)

Apologies for the late publication – it was a number of one in a million technology hitches, which delayed the printing of STELLAR in Term 3.

Millions of grains of sand, millions of stars, millions of microbes, atoms, people, ants, ideas, words, bubbles, memories, hopes and possibilities – we hope you enjoy reading about those that are one in a million.

All submitted works were edited by the editorial team to tidy up some grammar, vocabulary and spelling errors. Students who submitted photographs and art works which have been used throughout STELLAR made a fantastic contribution to the publication this year.

All Literacy and Numeracy Week activities, including STELLAR, have been financially supported by a Literacy and Numeracy Week grant.

Ms Crossan
Deputy Principal
September, 2009

THANK YOU TO THE KEEN, CREATIVE AND DILIGENT YEAR 11 STELLAR EDITORIAL TEAM.