

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2009 Project Report

Project title: "BE A WRITING KING!"



Project description: Our project predominantly concentrated on literacy skills associated with writing. Well known children's author, Stephen Michael King, visited our school and conducted a workshop for each class where he presented his stories and demonstrated how he does his illustrations for his books and those of other authors. He shared where and how he gets his writing ideas and how he matches text to pictures.

We also incorporated our Book Week activities where we had a Book Fair, Book Parade and storytelling sessions.

Person responsible for project: Maureen Dillon

School, region, diocese: St. Joseph's Primary School.
GLOUCESTER.
Diocese of Maitland Newcastle.

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Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:

- All students (56)
- All staff – principal, librarian, class teachers and aides (8)
- All parents, grandparents and the wider school were invited to attend.
- Editor of the 'Gloucester Advocate', Mrs Therese Ryan
- Diocesan Assistant Director Mr. Gerard Mowbray

Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:

- Encourage and enthuse students to the possibilities and enjoyment of writing by having a positive and motivating role model
- Engage students in a variety of interesting and exciting writing situations
- Raise an awareness of the importance of reading and writing, not only for the students but the whole school community
- Encourage and promote parental involvement in children's literacy.



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

- High level of attendance at our Book Fair, Book Parade and Assembly. Of 35 families, nearly 100 people were in attendance.
- We sold over 250 books at the Book Fair (55 students).
- We received donations from parents to purchase new library books.
- The children were genuinely excited and enthused about Steven Michael King's visit. All his

books were (and still are) borrowed from the library with a waiting list in place.

- A higher than usual borrowing rate from the school library as well as lunch time attendance in the library has resulted.
- After King's visit, students have been writing and drawing in their free time and at home.
- Many students wrote and illustrated a thankyou card to send.
- Article appeared in the local paper the same week as Stephen Michael King's visit highlighting the school's activities and author visit (article titled *Weaving Literary Magic at St. Joseph's*).
- Significant amount of positive verbal feedback from parents about how much their child enjoyed the visit and workshop.



Feedback about making grants available for such projects:

It would not have been possible for our school to have organised such a focus on literacy and writing without a grant like this. We could never have afforded an author's visit fee in a school as small as ours.

By using this grant the way we did, we have helped raise an awareness of the importance of literacy in the whole school community. The positive results and feedback we have received have confirmed how worthwhile and important opportunities such as this are. Opportunities the children often miss out on.