Ways to celebrate literacy and numeracy

What: Our community, promoting a community event or service with the local council
Who: Teams of students from Years 5 to 8 work with the local council to promote an aspect of their local area that is of interest to young people
How: A representative from the local council worked with a team of students to produce a pamphlet, sign or article in the local newspaper which promoted the event or service, e.g. skating rink, library, neighbourhood centre.

What: Literacy and Numeracy Quiz in the school newsletter
Who: Students and teachers produced quiz questions, competition prizes were donated by the community
How: The school newsletter was used to post quiz questions each week leading up to National Literacy and Numeracy Week. A grand prize was presented during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

What: Teacher celebration afternoon tea: “My best lesson”
Who: Teachers across a cluster of schools, principals
How: Celebration of a quality teaching afternoon tea where each teacher shared a five minute presentation on a lesson or strategy that worked for them (ideas and resources were compiled in a booklet for all teachers to use).

What: What do you read for work?
Who: Members of the community from various professions, primary and/or high school students
How: Members of the community, e.g. doctors, gardeners, builders, shared texts that they read and used as part of their work (including how they used various texts to gather information, and answer questions) with students.

What: Numeracy WebQuest
Who: Working group of teachers, mathematics consultant and technology advisor.
(WebQuest was available to all schools in the group.)
How: Working group wrote quest challenges, and researched the technology needs of the participating schools. Quest began four weeks prior to National Literacy and Numeracy Week, with the winners announced during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

We would like to thank the many schools for willingly sharing their ideas.
There have been some highly successful celebrations in schools across the state during National Literacy and Numeracy Week in past years. Schools have used this opportunity to showcase their literacy and numeracy programs. Some celebrations have been based at individual schools and others organised across a group of schools. Below are some of the ideas that schools have shared with us that you might like to use or modify to suit your school community.

What: Gala literary afternoon tea
Who: Teachers, principals, executive and community members
How: Afternoon tea organised amongst a group of schools aimed at celebrating literacy with a publishers’ display, guest speaker or author.

What: Writing workshops with touring author
Who: One author organised over a week, covering approximately 18 primary and high schools
How: Writing workshops were aimed at offering students opportunities to learn about how an author generates ideas and refines a draft (can be organised specifically for boys, as well as combined primary and high school groups).

What: Grandparents’ day with a literacy focus
Who: A group of schools including students, teachers, grandparents and community members
How: Students wrote poetry and stories about their grandparents and combined these with artwork and presented them at Grandparents’ Day in a booklet.

What: Literacy and Numeracy Week Challenges
Web site competition
Who: Literacy consultant (using a group web site), primary and high schools
How: Questions were posted about authors and their books (encouraging students to read further), these questions formed part of a competition leading up to National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

What: Excursions with a numeracy theme
Who: Approximately 100 students a year (from adjoining high schools and primary schools)
How: Each year the excursion had a different focus, e.g. lessons afloat with lunch on Shark Island, numeracy activities at an art gallery, numeracy at the zoo. Students produced a newsletter of the day for their home schools.

What: Presenting poetry: workshops with whiz
Who: Primary and high school students, interested parents and community members, Technology and Visual Arts or Creative Arts staff
How: Two workshop sessions focused on techniques for presenting poetry using creative arts, and computer technology, culminating in a CD for each participant.

What: Numeracy and literacy games day
Who: Senior and junior primary students, parents and teachers
How: Senior students (with assistance from parents and teachers) made numeracy games for younger students and then organised a morning to teach and play the games.

What: Book sharing afternoon
Who: Junior high school students were paired with senior primary school students
How: High school students shared three of their favourite books and talked about their favourite authors.

What: Supermarket writing challenge
Who: Year 7 to 10 students, teachers and the community (shopping centre)
How: Students were set up in a shopping centre armed with paper and pens. Shoppers gave students a topic to write about (or chose one from a collection) and collected their piece of writing after their shopping. (Writing was presented on school letterheads with a brief explanation indicating it was a “first draft”).

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