



Life Long Writers

In 2014 we received a grant from Rural Education Australia Program – REAPing Rewards for \$6,000 for a writing program that we have wanted to implement across the entire cluster.

This project has been designed to assist teachers and school leaders across our cluster to create and sustain the organisational conditions that enable exemplary literacy practice to be embedded with their team and influence change across our schools. We have been working with an outside consultant, Keay Cobbin, who works with Wilcob Education Consulting.

Keay has a passion for literacy. Part of that passion is to see significant, systemic change around leading literacy, particularly the way literacy is taught in our schools. Her organization sees leadership as instrumental for enduring change, and high quality professional development is critical for change to occur.

This project is undertaken over the entire year with intensive professional development opportunities of the first two terms. Staff will be contributing to the following activities:

- preparatory and ongoing reading
- a number of workshop days
- a School-Based Literacy Initiative.

The literacy component of the project covered the following key areas with a focus on the specific requirements of primary schools:

- formative assessment, providing effective feedback and setting achievable goals for students
- teaching comprehension and metacognitive thinking strategies
- the workshop model
- the gradual release of responsibility model of instruction
- engaging students in experiences that facilitate collaborative learning.

From the Professional Development

One concept that Kaey covered during the sessions with her was the concept of a Writer's Notebook program. A Writers Notebook is for every student and is basically used to build the students confidence when writing.

One element we have been working on is the development of a student's Writer's Notebook. These notebooks are;

- Tools our students use to support them as they grow as writers
- A blank book
- A place of low risk, high comfort-zone where students can take on the persona of a writer.
- A place that houses ideas that writers can return to.

Please see links on the website of outstanding pieces the students have written throughout 2015.