

Secondary entry #17: Wadalba Community School

Wadalba Whistler



RESOURCE: Primary students use the library for reading time.
Picture: Sarah Stratford

Library has become key to learning

By ZOE WILSON

WADALBA Community School is leading the way in enhancing students' learning through their well-resourced library. Students who access the library can do their work with ease because of the wide range of resources available to them.

Wadalba's library has class sets of software that allow students to complete tasks with ease.

"Having computer access at school means you don't have to cut into your personal time to do school work," a high school student said.

Students finishing schoolwork with ease because of a well-developed library makes them more inclined to finish set tasks.

Wadalba Community School also has a large array of different texts and book titles for students, ranging from just-beginning-to-read to advanced readers.

There are two sections to the library: one caters for high-school students and the other for primary. In the high-school section, students have access to many text types including graphic novels, newspapers and magazines, non-fiction books, and the latest novels.

Literacy is a major part of education at Wadalba Community School. The school library is a key area in ensuring that students have the best resources, so they have the best possible chance at accomplishing great results.

Literacy overhaul starts

By JESSICA WILSON

WADALBA Community School has received a grant from the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership. This is to help students who are struggling with literacy and numeracy by employing more teachers and teacher aides and to offer one-on-one tutoring to students who are truly behind.

Colin Harris, the teacher co-ordinating the program at Wadalba, said: "Programs have been introduced to Wadalba's students to turn this grant into something useful. One of the first initiatives is to train a substantial number of staff in the Focus on Reading program."

This involves learning explicit instructions for students to improve their reading and comprehension.

The second initiative is an Aboriginal literacy program that involves all indigenous students from kindergarten to year 10 reading for 30 minutes a week with a teacher, teacher aide or senior student. The students also undertake lessons on Aboriginal art and culture and work towards producing a series of children's books and a website for local indigenous students.



ENGAGED: Wadalba's students will be involved in an innovative literacy program.
Picture: Sarah Stratford

The third initiative is to help with the development of a maths and science class to improve the numeracy skills of students who

have shown promise in the numeracy area in primary school and are in danger of not progressing at the rate expected. This program will

involve experienced teachers developing a range of project-based learning tasks to extend and engage the students.

The fourth initiative is to develop literacy classes to be introduced into stage four in 2014.

Both year 7 and 8 students will undertake four literacy classes a fortnight.

The fifth and final initiative is for students who are seriously falling behind in their literacy results to be withdrawn from class and given one-on-one tutoring sessions.

With the help of these initiatives, it is hoped students reach for the stars, "to improve literacy and numeracy levels among our students so that they can achieve their goals in life", Mr Harris said.

This grant is to be run for many years, with the hope that future generations will be able to reach their academic goals. As this program progresses, it is only going to become more efficient.

This literacy overhaul is a great opportunity for the students of Wadalba Community School, extending them in literacy, maths and science and the learning of cultures through the arts. The lasting legacy will be teachers having a better understanding of how to teach literacy-based work.

Same but different but the same

By SARAH STRATFORD

THE students of Wadalba Community School are being taught the importance of diversity, inclusiveness, respect and tolerance for individuals, families and parents in the school and community.

The Wadalba Community School Proud Schools student committee decided a prominent mural on the library wall would be a great way to acknowledge lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and parents.



Angela Moir, the mural squad co-ordinator said: "It is a colourful and confident representation of our support of same-sex and gender questioning young people in our school. At Wadalba Community school we

understand, appreciate and respect that although we can be quite different, we are all in fact the same: people."

The words "Same but different but the same" were painted with bright

ACCEPTANCE: Wadalba students painting the colourful Proud School mural.
Picture: Sarah Stratford

colours. The project began at the start of the year and should be finished by term four.

Wadalba was one of 12 schools to participate in the pilot Proud School program which teaches students the correct terminology to use as well as the benefits of treating people equally.



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