Opening doors to improve literacy standards

Bees Creek Primary School uses Doorway into Practical Literacy (DIPL) to improve literacy standards at the rural school. Literacy improvements have been noted since the strategy was introduced in 2014.

Principal Shona Henderson said she believes the “explicit nature of the program contributes to its success”.

“It capitalises on the fact that learning is a cumulative and systematic process, starting with building a strong foundation in word recognition skills and comprehension, and in an awareness of how to manipulate parts of syllables and words,” she said.

“Students learn to feel what their mouths do in producing sounds. It has encouraged kids to think about and use spelling and pronunciation strategies.”

DIPL: because then we learn more spelling so when we get older we won’t get bad grades.

Matthew Lodge, 10

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The best way to learn numbers and words is probably with spelling and times tables.

Jorja Jones, 11

With Youtube, because we just get to sit down and watch numbers and words.

Xander Bowles, 10

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Xander Bowles, 10

Probably in DIPL when we are using the book and math games.

Jed Dennis, 10

Probably in DIPL when we are using the book and math games.

Jed Dennis, 10

Jingili Grade 5/6 teacher Michael Waldron said it has helped his students stay engaged in learning literacy, and the impact is cumulative.

“IT’s staged so the students move up with each year, and the same skills are revisited, so it actually builds their skills right through to the end of primary school,” he said.

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Bees Creek Primary School student Declan Wait, 10, and Lilly Wright, 10, enjoy the games that form part of the Doorway into Practical Literacy program.

Jingili Primary School principal Carin Symonds said the success of Doorway into Practical Literacy is illustrated by the school’s improved scores in NAPLAN, the national test of literacy and numeracy.

Bees Creek Primary School students Taryn Harrower, 6, and Charlie Burrows, 6, are loving learning through the Doorway into Practical Literacy program.

Jingili Primary School students Declan Wait, 10, and Lilly Wright, 10, enjoy learning using Doorway into Practical Literacy.

“IT helps us learn more about grammar,” Lilly said.

“We have to do activities, we have to play games, and do spelling and pronunciation of words.”

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Bees Creek Primary School students Xander Bowles, 10, and Jed Dennis, 10, probably in DIPL when we are using the book and maths games.

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