

### **Literacy Focus at Richmond Primary School**

Students at Australia's oldest school are focusing on literacy as part of the Richmond Writers Festival.

Labor Member for Lyons Heather Butler this morning joined parents and students in activities at Richmond Primary School as part of the celebrations.

Ms Butler said the festival was an example of the positive outcomes that can be achieved by parents and school communities working in partnership.

"Like the State Government, Richmond Primary School believes strongly in the idea of education as a partnership between parents and the school and the writers festival definitely builds on that," Ms Butler said.

As part of the festival children and members of the community entered writing competitions with prizes for poetry, fiction and non fiction.

"Today's literacy open morning has been a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the learning opportunities that students at Richmond participate in all year round."

Ms Butler said that literacy outcomes for Richmond students had shown excellent improvement in recent years.

"Richmond Primary School's commitment to increasing resources for literacy learning in the upper primary years is paying off."

"It builds on the good work of the long running Flying Start program coupled with the commitment of staff to ongoing professional development."

"The State Government is continuing to support schools to improve literacy outcomes.

"The Government has also committed \$32 million over the next four years for the Raising the Bar and Closing the gap initiative. It's specifically targeted at primary school children in schools where there is the highest learning need.

Ms Butler said 37 schools with concentrated disadvantage and low student performance had been identified to receive support based on benchmark results

over three years.

“Tasmanian public schools now have an explicit literacy strategy and they are working on an improvement plan to meet the needs of every child,” Ms Butler said.