

Early in November, Chatswood Public School hosted the official launch of the publication of more than 50 books. Over fifty students from Mowbray Public School, Chatswood High School, Chatswood Public School and Castle Cove Public School each wrote, illustrated and edited a book for 5-7 year olds. Working as partners, a year 5 student was 'paired' with a year 9 or 10 student from Chatswood High School. For 10 weeks students and teachers from each of the schools came together at the high school for 2 hours on a Monday morning to learn and share their writing journey. Not only did the students have to commit to this demanding project, but their teachers also volunteered to be part of a true team teaching experience. They worked together to deliver specific lessons on the nature of children's literature, illustration for children, editing and publication.



The program was inspired by, organised and managed by Ms Lynette Russell. Lynette is a retired principal with an English and drama teaching background and a passion for innovative teaching and learning. The published works were quite exceptional and far exceeded everyone's expectations.



There was true pride displayed by each student and reflected by the parents present, the teachers involved and the principals of the participating schools, Ms Anna Blakeney (Principal, Mowbray Public), Mr Tim Dodds (Principal, Chatswood Public), Ms Jeanette Cope (Principal, Castle Cove Public) and Ms Sue Low (Principal, Chatswood High School), when they were presented with and displayed their book. Each book will be placed for loan in each school library and the Willoughby Library.



The Young Authors program is a truly authentic learning task and we know how well students learn in this context.

The literacy and creative skills gained are quite complex and our students met the challenges brilliantly.