

SUCCESS!! EVERY Student...EVERY Day!!



Our Contact Details:

Poinciana Drive, Flagstone
PO Box 517
Jimboomba, QLD, 4280
Ph (07) 5547 9333
Fax (07) 5547 9300
<https://flagstonescc.eq.edu.au/>



**LITERACY IS THE KEY
TO SUCCESS!**



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LITERACY SUCCESS!! EVERY Student...EVERY Day!!

Literacy is now identified and accepted as a major determinant of success in education at all levels and for personal, social and work outcomes (Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling: Queensland Project Report, 2007).

OUR BELIEFS

- ♦ Literacy is our core business.
- ♦ Literacy is the ability to comprehend and communicate information confidently, fluently & accurately in a range of contexts.
- ♦ Literacy involves reading, viewing, writing, speaking & listening using a range of communication technologies & critical thinking.
- ♦ The quality of teaching makes the biggest difference to a student's literacy outcomes.
- ♦ Every teacher has a responsibility to teach the literacy of their subject.
- ♦ All students have a right to be literate.
- ♦ Effective use of data can improve student results.

OUR GOALS

- ♦ Embed literacy across the curriculum in every faculty and in every classroom.
- ♦ Build on teachers' repertoires of skills to teach literacy and analyse data.
- ♦ Increase literacy abilities so every student can effectively engage with the literacy demands of the curriculum and today's world.
- ♦ Promote literacy as an imperative.
- ♦ Focus on reading as a key area of development and improvement.

OUR POSITION

- ♦ Teachers at our school have had extensive training in pedagogy and the teaching of literacy.
- ♦ Our learning environments differentiate for the literacy needs of both individuals and student groups.
- ♦ Reading programs exist to improve student reading comprehension skills and to encourage a culture of reading.
- ♦ Accountability processes (data collection & analysis) exist to monitor student performance and progress.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

The following stakeholders are vital in ensuring our students experience literacy success:

- ♦ Teachers, Teacher Aides, Students & Parents,
- ♦ Partner Primary Schools, ENABLE network, Community & Universities
- ♦ Regional and District literacy support services.

READING AND WRITING

- ♦ Read daily! Set aside 30 minutes each day for reading before turning on electronic games or television.
- ♦ Encourage your teen to read for pleasure by building on his/her interests.
- ♦ Give books as presents, so books become special and pleasurable.
- ♦ Suggest your teen read different types of fiction, such as plays and poetry. Broaden your range of novels to include thrillers, mysteries, romance, humour, and science fiction.
- ♦ Encourage your teen to read for information. Reading newspapers, autobiographies, reviews, and manuals will give your teen practice with nonfiction.
- ♦ Ask your teen to read aloud with the appropriate rate and expression to younger siblings.
- ♦ Help your teen learn to question what is read and heard. Not everything is true or accurate. Having conversations about sources of information will help your teen understand an author's bias and if a source is reliable.
- ♦ Show your teen you never stop learning and building vocabulary. Find new words in reading. Use new words in writing.
- ♦ Help your teen discover their creativity. Keeping a journal, writing stories, or poetry are good ways for teens to deal with the challenges of adolescence.
- ♦ Encourage seeking different points of view and multiple sources of information to support writing.

LISTENING & SPEAKING

- ♦ Talk to your teen! Be a good listener when your teen talks to you.
- ♦ Listen to books on tape or compact disc with your teen. Libraries offer many different audio books from which to choose.
- ♦ Put learning to use. Ask your teen what he/she thinks about a current event. Have him/her support positions with facts.
- ♦ Share your family history stories and encourage your teen to interview other family members about their lives.
- ♦ Let your teen teach you something.
- ♦ Watch and discuss television shows, movies, and videos with your adolescent. Check your teen's understanding and encourage him/her to ask questions and relate the show to real-life experiences. Be your own movie critic and develop a family rating system.
- ♦ Ask your teen to teach you facts or ideas from their homework or act out a character from their reading. When teens bring learning to life it helps them remember.
- ♦ Support your teen's use of technology for presentations. Most public libraries offer free computer and Internet access.

TIPS FOR PARENTS: YOU ARE YOUR TEEN'S LITERACY ROLE MODEL!

How can parents support their children to improve their literacy in high school?

Though it may seem like teens do not want their parents' advice, research shows they really do. It is around fourth grade when reading becomes difficult for some students. This is the time when children are no longer "learning to read" but "reading to learn." Books at this level have fewer pictures, are longer and more challenging. Reading for and learning about information becomes critical, and materials are presented in written, spoken, and visual forms. Students who become frustrated risk falling behind.

If they do not catch up, many of these young people will leave school. Poor literacy is the number one risk indicator for dropping out. Over time, active family support often declines as parents struggle with how to remain involved in their child's education as their children gain more independence. The fact is, students are more successful when their families stay engaged in their learning through upper primary, junior and senior secondary school. Literacy is the ability to use reading and writing, as well as listening, speaking, viewing, and presenting, to communicate and learn new ideas. There are many simple and fun ways families can support out-of-school literacy and learning. Literacy is the bridge to success and families help build it!

What can you do if your teen is struggling with reading and writing?

- * Do not worry. Everyone learns at different rates; it is never too late to gain necessary communication skills.
- * Talk with your teen's teachers and share your concerns. Ask if the same struggles are taking place in school. Talk to your child's teachers about the support they are providing and request strategies to use at home.
- * Ask teachers what types of literacy activities are taught within each subject. Students should be reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and presenting in every class.
- * Take advantage of extra tutoring opportunities offered through school.
- * Show your teen you value education. Monitor your child's attendance and completion of homework and assignments. Our assessment calendar is available on the College website.
- * Focus on the positive. Write them a note or tell them they have done a great job.

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What does literacy learning look like @ Flagstone SCC?

- ♦ Literacy skills are explicitly taught across all key learning areas in Junior and Senior Secondary.
- ♦ Improving Reading and Writing are key teaching and learning priorities @ FSCC.
- ♦ Teachers regularly engage in professional development to enhance their instructional practice.
- ♦ Student literacy levels are tracked over time to measure improvement and inform personalised teaching strategies.

Reading & Writing @ Flagstone SCC

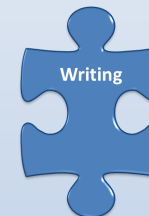


- ♦ All teachers utilise tactical reading strategies to teach students comprehension & inferencing skills to use before, during & after reading texts.

- ♦ All teachers engage Junior Secondary students in regular formative assessment & diagnostic testing (Torch, Probe, PAT R Vocabulary) to assess student performance & inform reading instruction & improvement strategies.

- ♦ Year 8 students engage in weekly reading lessons during which targeted strategies are employed to improve fluency, phonics, oral language, vocabulary, comprehension & Higher Order Thinking skills.

- ♦ All assessment tasks clearly outline the language features & text structures students are expected to utilise in their writing e.g. similes, metaphors, nominalisation, juxtaposition, simple sentences, compound & complex sentences, through the use of the assessment template and "A" exemplars.



- ♦ All teachers explicitly teach genre patterns & conventions & encourage students to write with grammatical accuracy.
- ♦ All teachers encourage and guide students to reflect on and improve their own writing through the utilisation of monitoring & drafting processes.
- ♦ All teachers provide consistent & continual feedback to students that explicitly outlines relevant strategies to improve writing.

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Building a Success Culture

Our purpose, **SUCCESS!! EVERY Student...EVERY Day!!**, acknowledges the importance of success in creating a love of learning for each student whether in academic, sporting, cultural pursuits or in the vital skills of **LITERACY!**

Student Literacy development is tracked over time through a range of short, medium and long term diagnostic tests and in class assessment.

Teachers meet regularly to analyse this data and develop strategies to provide targeted support for individuals and groups of students.

Student literacy improvement is recognised and acknowledged through our school based rewards systems.

Literacy Learning @ Flagstone SCC

Our strategic priorities, with their strong focus on quality teaching, ensure our vision of Inspirational Teaching and Inspired Learning is realised for every child. Improving our students' reading and writing skills are key teaching and learning priorities across Junior and Senior School.

Literacy across the Curriculum

It is recognised that student literacy levels are enhanced when literacy skills are taught across the curriculum (Literacy and Numeracy in the Middle Years of Schooling: Queensland Project Report, 2007).



All FSCC teachers have been trained in Tactical Reading which focuses directly on the explicit teaching of skills to use before, during and after reading. These strategies are embedded across the curriculum and help to develop a shared language for reading comprehension for all students.

In addition, all teachers use Makers Model to differentiate learning experiences for students and utilise Blooms Taxonomy supported by digital tools through the Symphony of Teaching and Learning to explicitly teach higher order thinking skills.

Reading @ Flagstone SCC

Our Junior Secondary reading program, **"The Building Blocks of Reading"**, focusses on engaging students in instructional strategies that helps them:

- ♦ **learn to read:** decoding & meaning making
- ♦ **read to learn:** the ability to build knowledge and understanding, make inferences and use critical thinking skills.

All Junior Secondary students participate in weekly reading & explicit literacy instruction within their English lessons.

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Literacy Support

Language Support Program

Students in Year 8 who have not met the national minimum standard for reading, spelling, grammar & punctuation in Year 7 NAPLAN have the opportunity to undertake Language Support Lessons during which students are provided with explicit literacy instruction.

Our Support Teacher (Literacy and Numeracy) works in conjunction with teacher aides and the school Speech Pathologist to develop strategies to support individual students to improve their reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation skills. Students are expected to engage in regular reading as part of their homework regime.

In Year 9, additional Language Support is offered through the SOSE curriculum. An alternate class is developed to deliver the History curriculum in a modified environment in which literacy skills are a focus of targeted improvement strategies.

LITERACY EXTENSION

Accelerate Program

In Year 8—10, Accelerate classes are provided for students demonstrating high mastery of English, SOSE, Mathematics and Science.

Student diagnostic, formative and summative assessment is used to identify students meeting the criteria for these extension classes.

Students must maintain a GPA of 4 or higher in addition to high performance on diagnostic testing to maintain enrolment in these classes.

Students who improve their results and meet the criteria for these classes throughout the school year can be promoted to the Accelerate program.

Extension Activities

All students have the opportunity to participate in extension literacy activities including:

- ♦ ENABLE Interschool Debating
- ♦ Public Speaking
- ♦ Writing competitions
- ♦ Opti-minds Challenge
- ♦ Literacy Week - Trivia Challenge
- ♦ Lexile Reading Rewards Program



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