

Community Project: Imagination Library Illawarra

Imagination Library IllawarraThe Imagination Library has been successful in receiving a District Grant of \$2500. This will help fund more children. Currently there are 317 children enrolled in the Imagination Library in the Warrawong, Cringila and Bellambi areas. There is a waiting list because at the moment we can't increase the numbers but have to wait for a child to graduate when they turn 5 before putting another child into the program. The Imagination Library were present at Paint the Gong Re(a)d at Warrawong in August and took many names for the waiting list.

As in previous years volunteer readers helped at the Lord Mayor's picnic on Sunday 6th November in McCabe Park.

At the moment there is only anecdotal evidence that this program is benefiting children from these lower socio-economic areas. These children would not normally be exposed to books. Many of the parents are poor or are themselves illiterate.

Infant teachers at Warrawong Primary School have said that they can tell which children have been exposed to books before starting school. Their feedback was positive – the children who had been exposed to books are respectful of books; they have a love of books and choose to look at them in their free time; they can sit and listen to a story; they know that a book is telling a story; they have a better vocabulary; they are more adventurous with their use of words when writing. The school has agreed to ask parents of 2017 Kindergarten enrolments if they have received books through the Imagination Library for feedback on the project.

Di North