



Media Release

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Lakes Grammar students win awards for writing and maths

Central Coast primary school students at Lakes Grammar in Warnervale have excelled in this year's Wakakirri national story sharing arts festival and the Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition, continuing the Anglican school's success in both competitions.

Year 6 student Scarlett Frazer received an award for originality for her story about "a little boy whose dad got cancer", drawing inspiration from her own experience of her grandmother's recent battle with cancer.

Popular children's author Jackie French judged Scarlett's story to be the most creative in her age group. Scarlett said she has loved writing since she was just a little girl and wants to be a writer when she grows up.

"My teacher, Mrs Walters, always encourages me and helps me bring out my best," Scarlett said.

Another young Lakes Grammar student, Robbie MacDonald, also shone amongst more than 17,000 of his peers following the 2011 Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition.

Robbie, who is in Year 4, took home a Gosford District Award in the Year 5 Division. Robbie said he enjoyed the challenging nature of the exam and hopes to do even better next year.

"I love maths because it challenges your brain to learn new things," Robbie said. Robbie said he is considering being an astronomer when he grows up, a career path that relies on maths skills as much as telescopes.

The Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition is the largest exam of its type outside of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority's NAPLAN exam and does not permit the use of calculators, rulers or geometrical instruments.

More than 270 schools from the Central Coast, Newcastle and the Hunter participated in this year's competition.

Established in 1992, Wakakirri is Australia's largest arts festival for schools involving over 30,000 students in every State and Territory and challenges school students to 'make a positive impact on the world around you'.

Lakes Grammar students have a history of excelling at these competitions, previously winning



the Wakakirri Australian Writer of the Year and picking up second place and Regional Winner awards in the Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition.

Both Robbie and Scarlett are part of the school's Opportunity Class program, which provides a range of initiatives to support the learning of gifted and talented students to ensure that they remain challenged and engaged in their learning.

According to their teacher Mrs Nicole Walters, students in the Opportunity Class are challenged in their areas of strength and encouraged to build upon their weaker areas so that they also become the child's strengths.

"When we believe in our students and expect greatness from them in a supportive environment, our children rise to the challenge, producing some amazing results that they previously felt incapable of achieving," Mrs Walters said.

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