

## **LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMS AT BELROSE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Learning and Support at Belrose Public School provides specialist assistance to students in all our classes with additional learning and support needs. Students who require additional support include those who may have a specific learning difficulty in literacy or numeracy, they may have particular health care needs, a physical disability, vision or hearing loss or specific diagnosis of Autism or ADD.

Learning and Support provided at Belrose P.S. reflects the unique needs of our individual students and our current school priorities. This support may include additional support to the class teacher in the classroom, development and implementation of Individual Learning Programs or Individual Health Care Plans. Support may be given to the whole class through co-teaching, small targeted learning groups or individual support. This extra support and or adjustments are to enable all students to participate in education on the same basis as other students. The additional support may be provided directly by the Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) or the SLSOs.

The Learning and Support staff at Belrose include Mrs Jane Cohen (LaST) , Mrs Kerry Watson (SLSO), Mrs Karen Judson (SLSO) and Mrs Mel Maye (SLSO). Adjustments required for our students are carefully considered and planned for by the Learning and Support Team. This team comprises of the LaST, Class Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal and our School Counsellor/Psychologist.

The LaST works closely with teaching staff through the Learning and Support Team to identify, plan and implement appropriate learning adjustments for our students. Consultation with parents is a vital part of this support process. Parent-Teacher partnerships are extremely important to us and essential in reaching successful outcomes for our students at school, no matter what their specific need may be. This process may also involve parents sharing reports from external agencies such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Psychologists with recommendations that assist us in creating an individual plan that best meets the specific needs of a student.

The successful acquisition of Literacy Skills has been and will always continue to be a priority for Belrose P.S. Within each class teacher's literacy group sessions specific skills are expertly taught to move students forward in their learning. We do, in addition, use the well-researched and highly successful Australian based programs from MultiLit (Making Up for Lost Time in Literacy). The focus of the program is not on the underlying causes or reasons why a student may not have made progress, but looks at using best practise on how to effectively help an individual child to learn.

The MultiLit Programs are specific intervention instructional programs designed to support students individually or in small groups. Students selected to participate in these programs are initially nominated by their class teachers and are screened by the LaST to determine the appropriateness of the student for the program. The MultiLit approach is, to find out

what skills students have, and which areas are cause for concern, and to then fill in their knowledge with direct, systematic and intensive teaching and/or tutoring of these skills.

The MultiLit Intervention Programs that we offer at Belrose PS are:

- MiniLit – a group intervention program for Year 1 students and identified Kindergarten students delivered by the LaST. MiniLit is an evidence-based, explicit and effective early literacy intervention program for teaching reading skills to children who are in the bottom 25% of the expected range for their age group in Year 1 or 2. MiniLit is a Tier 2 small group program (up to four students per group) within a Response to Intervention framework, but it can also be used on a one-to-one basis.

Reading Tutor Program – an individual program for Year 2 students delivered 1:1 by SLSOs and trained volunteers.

The MultiLit Reading Tutor Program (RTP) caters for students who have not yet acquired the basic skills needed to become functional readers.

MacqLit – a group intervention for Year 3 & 4 students delivered by the LaST. MacqLit is an explicit and systematic reading intervention program for small groups of older readers. It provides teachers with a comprehensive sequence of lessons that includes all the key components necessary for effective reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Word Attack Extension – an individual program delivered 1:1 for students in Years 4, 5 & 6. After completing the Word Attack Skills component in the MultiLit Reading Tutor Program, many students are able to generalise the strategies they have learnt to all text. However, in some cases, students do need further assistance to continue to make progress. The one-to-one Word Attack Skills – Extension (WASX) program teaches strategies to help struggling readers tackle multi-syllable words with confidence.

Each program is tailored to meet the specific needs of the age and stage of student's learning. The MacqLit and Word Attack Extension Program are designed to incorporate more complex multisyllable words and reading phrases and paragraphs. These programs are specifically designed to support the more complex literacy skills that are required in the Primary Years.