Having access to some of the state's top writers is a pretty good reason to throw a literary festival. At least it was good enough for Ashgrove State School teacher/librarian Julie Gwynne-Jones. The book enthusiast has pulled together a list of well-known names to talk to and inspire children into pursuing literary goals at this week's Ashgrove Literature Festival.

Authors and journalists, including Brisbane children's writers Richard Newsome and Katherine Batterby, will be on hand to stimulate young minds over the three-day event which concludes on Thursday (Aug 21).

"I think that authors are like rock stars to children," Julie says. "They get so excited about meeting them and finding out where they get their ideas. And when children meet authors, their eyes absolutely light up."

Julie didn't have to go far to find some willing talent. Ashgrove is home to several published writers, including Michael Gerard Bauer and author and The Sunday Mail columnist Frances Whiting.

And if there's any risk of the children not being inspired by word builders, a host of other local celebrities have been invited. "The Queensland Reds are coming and hopefully the Firebirds will also be able to attend," Julie reveals, adding that Flipside Crocs is also making an appearance. "I think that gives our kids the opportunity to see things and meet people they could then write about," she says.

What Julie is talking about, of course, is offering a muse to young minds whose focus might not already be on creative writing pursuits. She says an important part of the festival is that it's inclusive to all children - not just children who are A-grade students.

To ensure that each child gets as much as possible out of it, the school has teamed with the Queensland University of Technology to develop a program where students will hear from two authors and attend two workshops per day. They will attempt to write the world's shortest short story - using only 12 words - or create poetry from newspaper articles.

Being a true teacher at heart, Julie also wanted to open the event to as many students as possible. Children from smaller schools such as Mt Nebo, Hendra and Haiglea are also attending the festival. Other students will be able to download the complete program from the internet.

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