Festival a real page turner

STUDENTS TAKE IT AS READ AS LITERATURE EVENT KICKS OFF

FORGET a Book Week parade of favourite characters. One westside primary school teacher wants to celebrate the written word with an entire literature festival over three days.

Julie Gwynne-Jones, teacher-librarian at Ashgrove State School, has organised 11 of Brisbane’s leading authors to visit from August 19-21.

Hundreds of pupils from other schools will join in and some sessions will be streamed live to schools across Queensland.

The success of past Book Week celebrations prompted Ms Gwynne-Jones and principal Pat Murphy to establish the Ashgrove Literature Foundation.

“This philanthropic foundation will provide financial support to allow students from small local schools as well as students from rural areas to attend the festival each year,” Mrs Gwynne-Jones said.

This year 1000 kids from Mt Nebo, Hatton and Hendra primary schools will visit.

Reading is popular at Ashgrove State School, where each week pupils borrow 1200 books from its library.

“Our students greatly benefit from working with authors, attending events, participating in many internal and external competitions and writing workshops,” Mrs Gwynne-Jones said.

The agenda also includes a session for the school’s advanced writers with award-winning journalist Trent Dalton, a visit by players from the Broncos and Queensland Reds, filmmaking, speed poetry and more.

The public is also invited to get involved. The foundation will hold an in-conversation event with Matt Condon, author of Three Crooked Kings and Jacks out Jobbers, tonight.

Tickets are $20, visit event.com/4dgj2c5h.

---

BOMBHELLS

by Joanna Murray-Smith

SIX WOMEN ON THE BRINK. WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

CHRISSIE O'LEARY

BOMBSHELLS

STARRING CHRISTEN O'LEARY

DIRECTED BY DAVID BELL

O2 WESTSIDE NEWS, Wednesday, August 20, 2014