




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate, Schools

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.56 pm): Mr Speaker, second only to my pride in the achievements of my own children is my pride in the extraordinary achievements of students in schools across my electorate. Recently I had the pleasure of attending the Northgate State School Arts Extravaganza. Every classroom came alive with a display of visual arts from an 'under the sea' theme in prep classrooms to decorative lanterns and carnival masks in the upper primary. The hall also came alive with choir, band and dance performances.

One of the showcased artists was year 6 student Akari. Akari is a talented pianist and at such a young age has already been invited to play for the Governor of Queensland and audition for world-renowned international concert pianist and teacher Lev Vlassenko. While at the gala it was also lovely to hear of student Emdadul, who came to Australia three years ago from Bangladesh. Emdadul played his first-ever game of AFL this year for the mighty Mayne Tigers in the under-12 division and was one of only four children from 250 players shortlisted for the best and fairest player. I am told that his growth from a relatively quiet student to one who has grown in confidence has been nothing short of extraordinary.

While on the arts, earlier this year I also had the pleasure of attending the Creative Generations State Schools Onstage, where local Virginia State School students Poppy and Mali were featured solo vocalists and Eddie a drum line player. The quality and maturity of their performances was nothing short of impressive, and I look forward to seeing the national broadcast on Network Ten on 12 December at 2.30 pm. I have no doubt that these students have a bright future ahead.

Moving from the arts to academia, Wavell State High School student Gizelle Pickering has recently returned from three weeks in Russia as part of the Australian Geography Olympiad team competing internationally. Gizelle performed admirably and achieved a bronze award. Wavell also excelled in the recent Middle School Literacy Olympics, where 80 teams of students from 24 state primary and secondary schools competed in English, SOSE and the arts. Wavell students won two out of four of the year-level categories.

A particular highlight for me was the lovely time I spent with prep students at Zillmere and Northgate state schools recently to celebrate Book Week. A mother of two boys under five myself, I summoned all of my bedtime reading experience and gave the prep students my best rendition of *Pig the Pug* and *Noni the Pony*, both Book of the Year shortlist books. To see the prep students' eyes light up at the joy of books and reading was such a thrill.

Mr Speaker, I could never mention all of the schools or do justice to all of the wonderful students across my electorate in the three minutes allotted to me, but I would like to take this opportunity to also acknowledge and thank the education minister Kate Jones, who visited my electorate last week to meet

my wonderful school principals and hear firsthand the great work that is happening in our local state schools. Thank you, Minister, for your commitment to providing Queensland children with the best education system in the country, and thank you to the principals, teachers, parents and volunteers who make our schools the safe and quality learning environments they are.