

Your Support Real Impact

Real stories of change made possible by you.

"It feels great that people care and help kids get good at reading."

**Inside this issue –
all thanks to you.**

- Kendall discovers a love for reading
- Year 6 students set up for high school success

**2026 Autumn
Sponsor Edition**



**The Smith
Family**

Learn today, change tomorrow.

Sponsorship helps Kendall's confidence shine



Kendall, *Learning for Life* student

12-year-old Kendall stands up in front of her whole school, breathes deep, and begins the Acknowledgement of Country. As the First Nations vice-captain, she takes the stage with pride, reading with confidence and speaking with clarity.

It's an emotional moment that shows how far Kendall has come – through her hard work, teachers' support, and the generosity of her sponsor. Before partnering with The Smith Family, challenges with reading impacted Kendall's motivation and confidence.

"Both girls used to really struggle," mum Mahalia says of Kendall and her sister, Koko. "They feel much more confident now, with the right uniforms and school equipment. And when our amazing *Learning for Life* Coordinator heard they were behind with reading, she got them onto the *student2student* reading buddy program. They are more motivated and both love school now – they've really excelled."

Reading powers learning

Every child in Australia should have the chance to build strong foundations in reading – the crucial skill that unlocks all other learning and helps build

confidence and motivation. But around 1 in 3 students in Year 3 from low income families are behind in their reading.¹

Without extra learning support, the impacts of poverty on learning can stack up quickly, making it harder for a child to keep pace – and even harder to catch up if they fall behind.

Right support at the right time

That's why sponsorship can be so life-changing for children like Kendall. Financial support for school essentials; ongoing support from a *Learning for Life* Coordinator; and access to programs like *student2student* proven to boost skills and confidence. This early intervention is vital for children who risk falling behind due to disadvantage.

Kendall's story shows how support given at the right time can help a child overcome poverty's impact to build core learning skills and see their confidence soar. "I love reading with my buddy," says Kendall. "I can read on my own now and pronounce words better. I used to not be very confident, but now I am."

"Without sponsorship, their reading, writing and confidence wouldn't be where they are today. It's wonderful," says Mahalia.

“Thanks so much for your support – you're helping kids reach their dreams.”
– Mahalia, Koko and Kendall's mum

1. NAPLAN National Results 2025, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.



Koko (right) with Mahalia and her sister Kendall (left)

Scan to watch the full story





Year 6 students preparing for high school

From Year 6 nerves to high school ready

“A confident start sets students up for success throughout high school.”

– Jody, Program Facilitator

With a huge milestone rushing closer, excitement was building – but so was the tension.

When Year 6 students gathered together to talk about high school, many said they were happy, but also nervous.

It's no wonder anxiety was creeping in. Starting high school is a major transition, made even harder for students dealing with the added pressures of living with poverty.

It's a critical milestone and the right support can truly set a child up for future success.

That's what our high-school preparation program, *Passport*, is all about. Busting myths about what going to high school is like, developing study routines, and building confidence, helping children start high-school feeling ready and motivated.

Passport is one of the life-changing learning support programs available through sponsorship, thanks to generosity like yours. Held in primary schools each Term 4, it gives Year 6 students a safe space to discuss their worries and ask questions about this next big step.

Over six interactive sessions, students find out what to expect and learn valuable skills, like how to do independent research and manage their time.

Best of all, they learn about high school from other students

“The myth-busting session where students can ask high-school students questions is always a favourite,” says *Passport* facilitator Jody. “It shows that high school isn't such a scary place and shows students all the fun things and opportunities ahead.”

The school's deputy principal, who sat in on the *Passport* sessions, said the students' transformation was amazing to see:

“Students who face challenges in their lives tend to have fewer opportunities to develop the confidence they need for a successful move to high school. *Passport* motivated them to be ready to learn and see high school as a stepping stone to further education and a world of opportunities.”

As for the children – they ended the program full of enthusiasm and confidence.

“I'm kinda confident now,” said one student. “I'm excited,” agreed another. “At high school, you can just be you.”



Reymon (centre-left) and his family

Photo credit: The Courier Mail

Reymon takes charge of his future

Students often tell us how much they love our community-based *Learning Clubs*. Not just for the fun learning activities and homework support they get there, but for the friendships they make with volunteers and other students.

13-year-old Reymon had such an amazing time at his *Learning Club* that when he started high school and found they didn't have one, he was determined to change that.

"Reymon absolutely loved *Learning Club* in primary school," says his mum, Leona. "He really used to struggle with learning, but it helped him so much. He always looked forward to it – especially the company of other kids."

Determined to keep the fun, community and support going, Reymon and his friends reached out to The Smith Family and helped set up a *Learning Club* at their high school.

The love of learning sparked through *Learning Club* encourages students like Reymon to stay engaged with their learning throughout the school year. Leona noticed how much it empowered Reymon: "He's much more confident now, and he's busy making plans for what to do with his life."

Access to *Learning Clubs* is just one of the many ways sponsorship has helped Reymon take charge of his future.

"Sponsorship has been the biggest blessing. I don't know where Reymon would be without it," says Leona

"Knowing that people care, like Reymon's sponsor, means the world to us."

– Leona, Reymon's Mum

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Education creates lasting change – and so do you.