



ARTISTIC PASSION: Dylan Sexton, Sam Gordon, Cameron Stelzer (resident artist) and Ethan Moller preparing a new collaborative art piece made up of several canvases.

Photo: MAX FLEET art1707d

Kids across the city stretch Accomplished teacher is back where he began

By LUCY KILLIP

LITTLE separates Year 8 Shalom College student Dylan Sexton from Cameron Stelzer — except their age.

It was in the same high school that illustrator and published author Dr Stelzer discovered his passion for art, which he now hopes to awaken in Shalom's next generation of students.

Cameron Stelzer did not like art when he was a young boy.

But through encouragement from art teachers in high school, he developed a passion for painting that led to a successful career.

"It is quite a bizarre experience," he said of finding himself back where his love for art began.

"I found that the more I applied myself the better I became so I could really see the results, which was

great."

Dr Stelzer, now based in Brisbane, will be in Bundaberg for two weeks conducting workshops at Shalom College, with students from St Mary's College, St Patrick's Catholic School, St Joseph's Primary School and St John's Lutheran Primary School.

The workshops coincide with World Youth Day and the students work will focus on the theme of celebration.

He said working with the students was a learning curve, not only for the young people, but also for himself.

"It is fantastic, they have really fresh and vibrant ideas," Dr Stelzer said.

The canvases the students create will be displayed at Shalom College at the same time as the Emerging Artists Exhibition in August.

Dylan and friends Sam Gordon and Ethan Moller said they enjoyed the workshops and chose a beach theme for their canvas.

"It's good to have classes with a professional artist," Dylan said.

Dr Stelzer's colourful character, The Stroogle, featured in his children's books, was created while he was working in a museum in London.

"It was a really cold winter's day and the Stroogle came out of that," he said.

"The characters are fun and there is no adults telling them what to do.

"I have taken away some of the authority and the kids really love that."

Dr Stelzer will hold a public information session this Thursday from 3.30pm until 4.30pm at Shalom College art room.