

College party time

A PRESTON school splashed out on a party for youngsters with special needs last week. Children living with autism, Down Syndrome or an intellectual disability were invited to an underwater-themed disco at Parade College last Wednesday.

Parade College's Julie Dwyer said the disco was organised by year 10 students as part of the school's Community Action program.

Co-ordinated by Anne-Maree Morello, the volunteer scheme runs for one term, in which boys, 14-16, do one hour of volunteer community work each week.

"Our student volunteers prepared the entertainment agenda, made the underwater-themed decorations and prepared goody bags for the children to take

home," Ms Dwyer said. "The Mary McKillop room was decked out in all things fishy to transform it into a sea-floor."

She said 25 students from Preston's Northern School for Autism and Merriang and Diamond Valley special developmental schools attended the event with their carers.

"The boys prepared a light lunch for their young friends before an afternoon of entertainment, including musical performances and dancing," Ms Dwyer said.

Now in its third year, the Community Action program has been embraced by the community.

"It's become really popular with our boys and special development schools," she said. "Everyone has a lot of fun on the day."



Dylan and Daniel have fun at the underwater disco.