



Media Statement

Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

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Nominate now for the 2009 WA Education Awards

The principal of Western Australia's top science school in 2008 is urging the community to nominate their public school for the 2009 WA Education Awards.

Greenmount Primary School, from Perth's hills, was named WA Science School of the Year in 2008 for its dynamic and engaging science programs and for improving student performance in science particularly for Indigenous students who are performing above the State's average in the subject.

Principal Lucinda Webb said she was thrilled with the \$15,000 award and recommended that other school communities get involved by nominating their school this year.

"We are using the prize money in three areas – professional learning for our teachers, resources and in school activities and excursion," Ms Webb said.

"For example we've had Scitech experts and environmentalists visit the school to teach specialist lessons.

"We have received a lot of community interest for our 'Under the Stars' night, supported by the Perth Observatory, where students learn about astronomy.

"Our science programs were also recognised nationally and we featured on the ABC RollerCoaster program's Surfing Scientist segment.

"Our students have benefited greatly and our science programs are continually evolving and improving."

Nominations for the 2009 WA Education Awards are now open.

The categories and prizes for 2009 are:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Principal of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA School Support Staff Member of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Literacy School of the Year sponsored by Edith Cowan University – \$15 000
- WA Numeracy School of the Year sponsored by Teachers Credit Union – \$15 000
- WA Science School of the Year sponsored by ExxonMobil – \$15 000.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the awards recognised Western Australia's best educators.

"Quality teachers, principals, support staff and schools are the basis of a great education," she said.

"The professional learning opportunities created by the awards and the cash prizes to schools benefit the whole school community and teachers are able to engage students in exciting lessons which enhance their learning.

"Give your child's teacher, school or principal the ultimate thank you by nominating them for an award."

Anyone interested in nominating a school or staff member for the WA Education Awards should talk with their school's principal.

Nomination kits are available from all public schools or using det.wa.edu.au/educationawards.

(ENDS)

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