



Department of  
Education and Training

## ***Media Statement***

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

8 July, 2009

### **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.

Westminster Primary School won the title of WA Science School of the Year 2008 for its innovative whole school science plan, which includes exciting excursions and in-school activities, and for improving student performance in science.

Principal Jeff Murphy said the school was delighted to win the \$15,000 prize.

"We have put prize money towards professional learning workshops which help teachers find new and stimulating ways to teach science," Mr Murphy said.

"Winning the award showed us that what we're doing at the school is working, and there is strong evidence that parents are becoming more involved in their child's science learning, which can only benefit their performance in the classroom.

"It is important for the whole school to be recognised in this way.

"We have been approached by organisations such as Curtin University of Technology for science project partnerships, an exciting prospect for the future."

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 recognise West 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](http://det.wa.edu.au/educationawards).

(ENDS)

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