2008

Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Awards

St Michael’s College, Primary Campus for its
5B Night- Boys, Books, Balls, Bamboozlement
and BBQ

This initiative is an after school ‘speed, read and feed’ event for boys and an older male companion (father, grandfather, uncle or big brother). The first half an hour involves being active together, followed by 2 half hour age appropriate and fun, hands-on activities or workshops – one being literacy based and the other numeracy based. The evening concludes with a casual BBQ.

The rationale for such an initiative comes from the findings of worldwide research that suggests that when fathers get involved in their son’s education, the boys perform better at school and there is a significant improvement in their literacy and numeracy skills.

The workshops intend to foster involvement, participation and fun by actively involving and encouraging fathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, and male staff members, to participate in literacy and numeracy games in small group and workshop activities.

This award is being accepted tonight by Louise Kometer and Belinda Melville Jones from St Michael's College, Primary Campus
Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Award

St Francis’ School, Lockleys for its

Kindy to School Transition program

The Board, Staff, Parents and Friends Group, senior students and the Parish Priest at St Francis’ school take a shared responsibility in welcoming new families into their school community to make the transition from kindergarten to school an easier one for the children and their families.

The Parents and Friends Group arrange for each family to be contacted by a nominated “Buddy Parent” prior to the start of the school term. This person arranges to meet the family at school on the first day and once the child is settled, brings them to a morning tea hosted by the P&F. This is attended by parents, including all “Buddy Parents”, administrative staff, the enrolment officer and the Parish Priest. This first ‘port of call’ helps the parents to feel welcome and enables them to have someone to talk to and ask general questions about the school.

In addition to the “Buddy Parent” a member of the School Board is designated to contact each family, usually by phone, to welcome them to St Francis’ school.

Over the years, the Parent Buddy system provides a social connection for new parents. This link assists new parents to enable future social links within the school community.

This award is being accepted tonight by St Francis, School’s Community Liaison Officer, Cherie Hawke.
Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Award

St Joseph’s School, Payneham for its
Parents as Partners in Drug Education

In 2007, The Board, staff, parents and senior students of St Joseph’s Payneham launched the school’s Drug Education Policy at a highly successful and informative Parent and Student Drug Education Forum for families. The Forum and policy launch was a celebration of the work of the School Board in collaboration with the school’s parents, staff and students in developing a policy to guide the school in working in together to “..promote the development of health enhancing values, attitudes and behaviours”.

Following the formal policy launch, families were invited to take part in a series of informative and interactive activities which gave the parents and their children a chance to learn together and to begin a conversation about the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices. The activities were developed and led by the senior students who demonstrated community spirit and leadership in their willingness to engage and present at a public forum. All families attending the forum received a show bag with information inside that provided a catalyst for further family conversations.

The Forum acted as a springboard to involve families more directly with current information, discussion about relevant issues and engagement with students to impart their skills and knowledge to others in the community.

This award is being accepted tonight by the Principal of St Joseph’s School, Payneham Laurie Sammut.
Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Award

*Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College*

**Multicultural Arts Club**

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College is an all girls Catholic secondary school whose students come from a great variety of cultural backgrounds including Indigenous, Asian, European, African and Middle Eastern backgrounds. It is a richly multicultural school. Acknowledging that some parents and students were not always involved in the co-curricula activities the school offered and believing that schools play a major role in developing cultural appreciation and understanding, the Multicultural Arts Club was born.

Involving students, parents, staff and the community, the Multicultural Arts Club uses the avenues of arts and craft to celebrate multiculturalism, counter racism and fosters an appreciation of peoples from all over the world.

This award is being accepted tonight by OLSH Principal Joy Bedford and P&F President, Umile Imbrogno
Tom Ffrench Family School Partnership Award

St Patrick’s School, Mansfield Park

**St Patrick’s Parent Participation Project**

One of the objectives of this ongoing project is to develop opportunities for parent participation in school activities. A number of initiatives have been developed including playgroups, home visiting program, individual family support program as well as establishing a Parent Volunteering Group. The school’s two part time community development workers also support the Parent Transition program, Vietnamese Parent Meetings and in recruiting new volunteers to school activities. In collaboration with staff this project has developed classroom involvement activities for parents, whole of school social activities and facilitated parent involvement in the school Dance Spectaculars and school fundraising activities.

School leadership participated in the development of the program and reviews strategies. Initiatives have also provided opportunities for school leadership to ‘connect’ and meet more of the parents and future parents at the school.

**This award is being accepted tonight by St Patrick’s School Community Liaison Officer, Chau Tran**