

Parents & Friends Federation of WA Inc 2018

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING POSITIVE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

NOMINATION - Principal

Principal Nominated: Coby Rhatigan

Email Contact for Principal Nominated: coby.rhatigan@cewa.edu.au

School: St Mary's College Broome

Nominated by: Sascha Wood, President P&F Email: careysascha@bigpond.com

Using the above criteria please briefly outline why you wish to nominate your Principal (please continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Coby Rhatigan is Head of Primary at our college and goes above and beyond for all the community at the primary campus. She is often found in the student drop off area first thing in the morning to ensure students safety but also greeting students and waving to parents. Just this morning when I dropped off my child she was sitting on a step with a child in grade one or two, deep in conversation. My child identified this child as needing extra help and that is exactly what Coby gives – extra help but to everyone. She is always there for students, parents and extended family if needed.

The primary campus has approximately 450 students enrolled, less than 400 students when Coby started at the college in 2013. A high percentage of the new students are Aboriginal students and Coby ensures that they are welcomed, made to feel safe and given all the resources that they need, just like all the students at the primary. The sense of community that she brings to the college, I believe, is a factor in the increase in numbers.

Coby has attended more P&F meetings than any other staff member and is always openly answering our questions and addressing our concerns. She also supports all events organised by the P&F and attends them all (I cannot think of an event that she has not attended). Her presence is never in the background either, for example she has been the chief popcorn maker for the last 4 years at our annual movie night that is attended by over 500 people (that is a lot of popcorn!).

Coby is a role model to all staff at the college. Her professionalism is second to none but more importantly her compassion, understanding and giving of herself is extraordinary. I was concerned for our college if she ever left as Broome is such a transient town and you never know when someone may leave for other opportunities. My fears have been allayed, however, as Coby's leadership has pushed others around her to be the best they can be, and we now have such amazing staff at the college with an example to live by and a leader to aspire to.

The parent body is extremely grateful to have Coby Rhatigan as the leader of our primary school. St Mary's Broome certainly wouldn't be the same without her positivity and strive for excellence for all in our college community.