



Parents & Friends Federation of WA Inc

2018 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN BUILDING POSITIVE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

NOMINATION - Parent Group

CRITERIA – Winner must demonstrate positive outcomes for students and the school community

- works collaboratively with the Principal and staff
- organises and/or promotes social initiatives to encourage community involvement
- promotes and affirms the work of the school in the education of the children
- takes time to listen to and support school requests
- provides good networking opportunities in the school to build positive school community

Parent Group Nominated: St Matthew's School Parent's & Friends

Email Contact for Parent Group Nominated: admin@matthews.wa.edu.au

School: St Matthew's School Narrogin WA

Nominated by: Paul Keppel - Board Chair. **Email:** Paul.Keppel@elders.com.au

Using the above criteria please briefly outline why you wish to nominate your Parent Group in your school community (please continue on separate sheet if necessary)

St Matthew's School P & F Group Nomination 2018

I wish to nominate the St Matthew's School Parents and Friends for their outstanding dedication to demonstrating positive outcomes for students and the school community.

Context

St Matthew's School, Narrogin, is a co-educational Catholic primary school located in the very heart of the Bunbury Diocese and South-West region of Western Australia. Our present enrolment of 170 students is drawn from the thriving farming region of Narrogin and surrounding towns. Our rich and proud history dates back to 1918 and this year, with the help of our P&F committees, we celebrate our 100-year anniversary.

We offer modern facilities in a well-resourced and progressive learning environment. We take inspiration from our past as we continue to seek new and innovative ways to cater for our students. St Matthew's places a strong emphasis on developing the whole child and, despite many of our students hailing from rural communities, St Matthew's, through the financial assistance from the P&F, has been able to offer our students access to cutting-edge technology and flexible learning environments.

St Matthew's Parents and Friends

The St Matthew's School Parents and Friends (P&F) has a 'friend-raising' as well as fund-raising focus. They provide in the organisation of social functions for parents and the broader community to network and build relationships, as well as organising and running fundraising events to provide additional resources for use of students and teachers. This is particularly important in a rural context as many of our school families live outside the town area and can often experience isolation and disconnect. The St Matthews P&F have actively worked to engage these families and build important relationships enriching our community.

CRITERIA

Works collaboratively with the Principal and staff

Through regular meetings and interactions, the P&F have consistently demonstrated a positive and collaborative approach. An example of this is the Easter Hot Cross Bun sale, which raised important funds for Project Compassion. The P&F planned, organised, advertised, cooked, sold and celebrated an amazing event, which the students (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed. Due to their friendliness and hard work, we have developed an excellent working relationship with P&F members and hope to go from strength to strength.

Promotes and affirms the work of the school in the education of the children

This year, our P&F Group have gathered to organise our Centenary Celebrations. This is a huge event, in which over 1000 people, past and present students, staff and families, are expected to attend. Staff alone would never be able to plan and organise such an event so the P&F have been a Godsend, taking the initiative, meeting weekly, and coordinating with multiple community organisations to support the event. Members of the P&F have used this event to build stronger relationships between the school, parish and local community and the 100 year celebration promises to be a fantastic occasion.

Takes time to listen to and support school requests

With the implementation of the new Technologies Curriculum, the P & F were approached to assist in purchasing and upgrading devices within the school. In previous years, St Matthew's were lacking resources in this area and students were experiencing difficulty with access, skills, speed and devices. After viewing the ICT School Plan, and in consultation with the Principal and staff of St Matthew's, the P & F committed to donating \$10,000 each year to assist with school IT upgrades for 3 years. This has resulted in the purchase of 50 Lenovo laptops for use by the students in accessing the Office 365 platform which offers students and parents access to professional and expert applications to assist in their learning.

Outdated and malfunctioning Interactive Whiteboards have also been replaced with Smart Plasma TV's incorporating Apple TV technology. These resources have significantly enhanced student's engagement with the Technologies Curriculum and also assisted with student engagement and skill-building in this area. Due to rural isolation, we feel it is even more important students have effective access to effective ICT and the P&F have been instrumental in making this happen.

Organises and/or promotes social initiatives to encourage community involvement

The P&F have also co-ordinated class representatives for each class to liaise with teachers and parents to assist with student learning and to attend meetings to represent classes. This has provided a wide range of representation of the school community. The P&F have been at the heart of our Easter Raffle and Bake Sale, all in an effort to raise funds for Year 6 Camp. These initiatives have promoted the school's values and events to the broader community and the P&F have been excellent ambassadors for St Matthews.

The P & F have also provided a service to the school community through food provision facilities at school sporting events, assisting the school with setting up an external school canteen facility.

Provides good networking opportunities in the school to build positive school community

St Matthew's P&F continue to organise several social activities including: 'welcome back to school morning teas', Sundowners, Quiz Nights, 'fun days'. Our first ever Fathers Days Breakfast, organised by the P&F, attracted over 120 attendees as students brought their fathers and grandfathers to participate in a variety of bonding activities and a hearty breakfast. The P&F were even successful in attracting new members to their group

Overall, St Matthew's would not be the school it is today if it were not for our vibrant and committed P&F. Despite many members working full-time jobs, working their farms and raising their own children, they still find time, generosity and passion to help St Matthew's students have every opportunity to learn and grow. We wholeheartedly recommend them for this award.

Only affiliated schools are eligible to nominate for these awards.

Closing date for entries

Tuesday 1 May 2018

Please return completed forms to:

**Parents and Friends Federation of WA Inc. PO Box 909, Inglewood WA 6932
or email admin@pff.wa.edu.au**