

Schools top of the class

Mluleki Moyo

THEY were celebrating doubly hard at Alice Springs's Bradshaw School as teachers and pupils celebrated two of the school's outstanding achievements.

Bradshaw saw off dozens of competitors to win \$20,000 in this year's Smart Schools Award for Excellence.

And teacher Penny Weily was nominated for NT Early Childhood Teacher of the Year.

The school took out the award for Improving Literacy and Numeracy, which principal Jill Tudor said was a well-deserved recognition of ongoing hard work by teachers and support staff.

Mrs Tudor says Bradshaw School's performance in literacy and numeracy was above the national average.

"We have consistently improved on students that are at or above national benchmark."

"Our NAPLAN results show evidence of consistent improvement over time, with this year's Year 5 writing average above the Australian average."

"That means our students compare very favourably with any students in Australia."

"The students at Bradshaw have high expectations of themselves as capable and confident learners and know that the harder they work, the smarter they get."

"With prize money of \$20,000, students and staff will both contribute ideas as to how the money will be spent to further support learning at the school," she said.

The school has an enrolment of 400 students, and a staff of 40, offer-



Bradshaw Primary School teacher Penny Weily with her transition class BELOW: Students Christiana Goodwin, Jorja Weily, Sarah Moore, Sharlee and Jae Clarke at the school library Pictures: CHLOE GERAGHTY and JUSTIN BRIERTY

ing education from pre-school to Year Six.

Assistant principal Jennie Ward said the success of the school was based on hard work, strong programs and commitment from teachers, students and the community.

"Bradshaw School has strong community support with parents providing excellent information about what's done well and ways in which we can do even better," she said.

"Staff, too, regularly review their work to ensure they are using the

best practices based on current research.

"Visitors to the school regularly indicate the high quality of teaching and learning they see in every classroom and the warm and friendly environment of the school," she said.

Last year the school won an award on Smart School's Award for Student Wellbeing and Inclusion. The school was established in 1975 and is named after Thomas Bradshaw, who served as the post-master at the Telegraph Station.

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Sum king Manthila



GILLEN Primary School in Alice Springs has defied the odds by producing an NT mathematics champion.

Year six student Manthila Ranatunga came first ahead of 3844 school students across the NT in the Commonwealth Bank Australian Maths Challenge, the nation's largest online maths competition.

Manthila added, subtracted, divided and multiplied his way to 14,659 points, an exceptional achievement.

Assistant Principal Lyndsay Thomas said Manthila had done the school, Alice Springs and the Territory at large proud.

"To win this he had to work extremely hard on an online maths program over a two-day period," she said.

"He was flown to Sydney this week to receive his award."

"Well done Manthila and a very big thank you to Mr Cole for organising this competition, which I know that the senior students and teachers all enjoyed participating in."

Manthila was also commended by Australian Olympian Suzanne Balogh and awarded a gold medal.

Andrew Smith, CEO of 3P Australia, which runs the event, said: "We are very proud of Manthila for coming top of his state."

Compulsory swim lessons

THE Northern Territory is backing national calls for compulsory swimming lessons for all primary school age children.

Royal Life Saving Australia, one of the nation's leading swimming bodies, is calling for compulsory learn-to-swim programs at school to halve the number of drowning deaths across the state by 2020.

New research from more than 370 young Australians reveals between 15 and 24 have drowned in the past decade - a jump of 25 per cent.

Royal Life Saving Australia chief Rob Bradley said thousands of children were not able to swim 50m competently and stay afloat for two minutes, prompting the launch of a campaign and petition for mandatory swim lessons in primary school.

'If children receive these basic skills in school we believe they should be able to keep themselves safe in the water as they grow up'

Executive director of RLSS Northern Territory Floss Roberts said less than four per cent of enrolled primary students can swim 50m. This means 23,000 will go into middle school without swimming and water safety skills.

Mr Bradley said swimming and water safety skills were "life skills that protect an individual's life". "If children receive these basic skills in school they should be able to keep themselves safe in the water," he said.

Event puts spotlight on disability funding

AN event that celebrates new Commonwealth funding allocated for people with disabilities will take place at Dymocks bookstore in Alice Springs on Sunday at 2pm.

Promoter Jenny Upton said the national event, DisabiliTEA,

aimed to keep pressure on governments to provide people with disabilities and their families with support.

She is the state manager of National Disability Service.

Acacia Hill School for students with severe disabilities is hosting its

Desert Morning Tea Nosh Up event today as part of the event.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is scheduled to be launched in South Australia, Tasmania, the ACT, NSW and Victoria from July next year.

Free breast-screening

A free breast-screening program in Alice Springs has had a strong response.

The clinic runs until

November 16, with appointments available for women aged between 50-69 years.

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