Schools top of the class

MileleiK Moy

THEY were celebrating doubly hard at Alice Springs’ 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 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,” she said.

NAPLAN results show evidence of consistent improvement over time, with this past year’s writing average above the Australian average.

“That means our students compare very favourably with any students in Australia,” she said.

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 private money of $20,000, students and staff will both contribute ideas as to how the money will be spent to further support learning in the school,” she said.

The school has an enrolment of 40 students, and a staff of 40, offering 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 postmaster at the Telegraph Station.

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

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 700 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 competently and stay afloat for two minutes, prompting the launch of a campaign to mandate compulsory swimming lessons in primary school.

Event puts spotlight on disability funding

AN event that celebrates new Commonwealth funding allocated for people with disabilities will take place at Dymocks book-store 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

Help support Apex at the Masters Closing Ceremony by visiting the “APEX BAR”. APEX is a local non-for-profit organisation that has been raising money in Central Australia since 1979. All proceeds raised will be returned to the Community. Thank you for all the support at the Opening Ceremony and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday night.