



Tom Ffrench Awards Family Engagement In Catholic Education

New Name New Focus

Showcasing examples of leading practice in Catholic schools in South Australia.

The Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities annual Family School Partnership awards have a new name and a new focus.

As of 2015, our Family School Partnership Awards, named in honour of Tom Ffrench, one of the founding members of the Federation, will be named the Tom Ffrench Awards for Family Engagement in Catholic Education to reflect a contemporary understanding of the importance of strong family engagement in learning and schooling.

In the schooling context, parental engagement is an intentional and collaborative strategy to support and leverage the knowledge, capacities and social capital of families to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for all children and young people. (*Family, School Community Partnership Bureau 2014*)

These awards are dedicated to showcasing and celebrating examples of leading practice that supports effective family engagement in Catholic schools in South Australia and will be offered in the following categories to reflect the levels of influence and impact required to create strong home, school and community engagement in our schools.

Sector Recognition

This category will recognise work led by the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools and/or Catholic Education Offices of South Australia to drive the development of sector wide policy and practice that aims to strengthen family engagement in learning and schooling.

The Sector Recognition award will be acknowledged by a framed certificate presented to a meeting of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools.

School Award

This category will recognise a school community that has committed to a whole of school approach to strengthen family engagement in learning and the life of the school community.

The 2015 School Award recipient will receive \$1,000 to support future initiatives that build parental engagement and a framed certificate.

Class Award

This category will recognise a class, subject or care group teacher who uses innovative and effective strategies for engaging parents and families in their children's learning.

The 2015 Class Award recipient will receive \$500 to support future initiatives that build parental engagement and a framed certificate.

Parent Leadership Award

This category will recognise a parent group or parent demonstrating effective leadership of the school's parent community to drive stronger family engagement in children's learning.

The 2015 Parent Leadership Award recipient will receive \$500 to support future initiatives that build parental engagement and a framed certificate.

Award recipients will be showcased in the Federation's quarterly e-newsletter: Federation e-News, and the national newsletter of the Family-School and Community Partnership Bureau which are distributed widely to school boards and parent groups, principals, state and federal politicians, journalists, Catholic Church officials, the Catholic Education Offices and other state and national Parent Associations.

Please note: *These awards are to acknowledge initiatives that **have been implemented and/or are ongoing** and can demonstrate a positive impact on family engagement in the school community. Applications for planned initiatives will **not** be eligible.*

Call for Nominations for 2015 Awards

Please note: *Only school communities that affiliated with the Federation in 2014 are eligible to nominate for the 2015 awards.*

The Federation now calls for nominations for the seventh annual Tom Ffrench Awards to be announced at the Federation's Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 30 May, 2015.

We welcome your submissions by Thursday 2 April 2015. Submissions, using the attached template, can be forwarded to fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au or posted to PO Box 459, Torrensville Plaza SA 5031.

We ask that you pass this information on to the school leadership team, staff and parent group for consideration.

For more information about the awards, past recipients or to discuss the suitability of a project, please contact Federation office on (08) 8301 6685 or go to www.parentfederation.catholic.edu.au.

In the spirit of genuine family/school partnerships,



Ann Bliss
Executive Director
February 2015



THE 2015 TOM FFRENCH AWARDS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

NOMINATION FORM

Name of school:
Name of project/initiative:
Award Category (Please tick the category that 'best fits' your project/initiative): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> School Award This category will recognise a school community that has committed to a whole of school approach to strengthen family engagement in learning and the life of the school community.<input type="radio"/> Class Award This category will recognise a class, subject or care group teacher who uses innovative and effective strategies for engaging parents and families in their children's learning.<input type="radio"/> Parent Leadership Award This category will recognise a parent group or parent demonstrating effective leadership of the school's parent community to drive stronger family engagement in children's learning.
Brief description of project/initiative: (If completing in hard copy and there is insufficient space, please use separate page if necessary) <i>Please note: This award is to acknowledge initiatives that have been implemented and/or are ongoing and can demonstrate a positive impact on the family-school partnership. Applications for planned initiatives will not be eligible.</i>

Describe the outcomes of the project/initiative. How has it strengthened family engagement in learning and schooling? (include plans for sustainability)

Any other comments:

Nomination submitted by: _____ **Role:** _____
Signature: _____ **Contact details:** _____
School: _____
Dated: _____

Principal's name: _____ **Signature:** _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date and time received: _____
Affiliated in 2014: Yes/No
Signed: _____

Please return by THURSDAY 2 April 2015 to:

fedadmin@cesa.catholic.edu.au or PO Box 459, Torrensville Plaza SA 5031