

Australia wins Grand Prix at KWN Global Awards

Students from Mundingburra State School in Townsville, North Queensland, have beat out 630 primary and secondary schools from across the globe to scooped first place in the 2010 Panasonic Kid Witness News (KWN) Global Contest.

Mundingburra State School triumphed above five other finalist's schools from Canada, U.K., Malaysia, China and Japan to take out the top prize in the tightly contested KWN competition. The win saw them walk away with the 'Creative Concept Award' and the crowning 'Grand Prix' award at the official ceremony held in Tokyo, Japan, on 27 July.

The film that secured their global win, entitled 'The Global Warming Rap', is a dramatic, call to action, five-minute video montage that shows three penguins delivering an important message on our eco footprint and the survival of earth through rap and animation.

Year 7 students, Rick GoonChew and Jacob Thompson, both 13, represented Mundingburra State School at the Awards, accompanied by teacher and KWN coordinator Erick Blechen.

Commenting on the school's success Mr. Blechen said, "This has been a truly incredible journey. The global success of our short video has exceeded all our expectations. It's a tremendous compliment to the students who worked extremely hard to create a film that communicates an important message about the consequential environmental effects of global warming."

"The KWN program has been an overwhelmingly positive experience for all students involved and I believe this project has inspired the students to realise their full potential. I am so proud of what they have achieved."

KWN Global Judge and Australian Documentary Film Editor, Jane St Vincent Welch, said, "This short film from Mundingburra just goes to show what a fresh innovative and imaginative approach can do to engage an audience with a serious subject. This engaging project has obviously involved the entire class, which is fantastic, not to

mention the guiding presence of a very inspiring teacher. This is collaborative film making at its very best, huge congratulations!"

Panasonic Managing Director, Steve Rust, said, "It's fantastic to see an Australian school outshine the competition at a global level. Mundingburra State School students have consistently been recognised for their creativity and talent. Winning the top prize at the KWN Global Awards further proves Mundingburra's enthusiasm and talent for film making. I would like to send my warmest congratulations to everyone involved."

The KWN family would like to congratulate Mundingburra State School on this incredible achievement and thank all the students, teachers and family members for their significant contribution to the program.

To view the daily updates and videos from the KWN Winners Week, simply visit the Panasonic Blog site at:

<http://blogs.panasonic.com.au/consumer/category/sponsorships/>