Little Grove Primary School is a semifinalist in the Innovative School of the Year category of the WA Education Awards.

Some of the programs that have helped the school to get to the semifinal are:
- An easy-reading system, which uses a simplified phonics approach.
- It uses colours to represent short and long vowel sounds, along with several other visual clues and a phonetic alphabet matched with visual pictures easily recognised by children.
- A parent and toddler library which runs as part of the school library and provides books, toys and games for young children. There is also a range of books for parents to borrow on parenting.
- Parent workshops are run to support early learning in the home and to help parents with issues such as bullying and raising happy, healthy families.
- The school has produced a DVD for parents to help with literacy learning at home.
- A weekly parent cafe has been running since May for parents with children up to four years of age promoting learning through play which also helps children become familiar with a school setting before starting school.
- We are currently leading in the area of guided reading and have produced a DVD on the evolution of our reading program.

We have since engaged in the delivery of professional development to schools in our district and across the State.

We know the value of implementing strategies and sharing the results with others from the fantastic feedback we have received.

We have found the opportunity to be among other teachers from other schools invaluable to our learning.

Big steps for Little Grove

LIZ NEWELL

NEARLY 100 staff and students of Little Grove Primary School strapped on their sneakers and slapped on the sunscreen to walk to school yesterday.

The gathering was in conjunction with national Walk Week, which runs from November 1 to 7 and is something the school has been participating in for some years.

Deputy headmaster Andrew Whitting said students and parents had loved the opportunity to spend time together and get a bit of exercise.

"It's all in the name of promoting a healthy lifestyle and enhancing community links," he said.

"Everyone really enjoyed it."

Mr Whitting said the school planned to take part in Walk Week again next year.