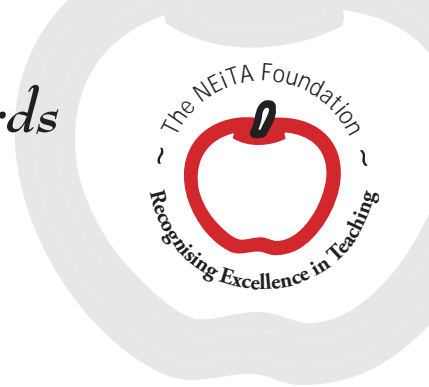


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Christine Bennett

Bachelor of Education (Honours First Class)
Katherine South Primary School, Katherine, Northern Territory
Nominated By: School parent

Position: Primary Teacher • Level taught: General Primary • School type: Government • Town: Katherine • Category: Primary • State: NT

Creating a child safety learning environment

As well as creating a caring and safe environment in her classroom, Christine Bennett is a great promoter of child safety. Working together with her students, Christine produced an award-winning fire safety movie and has developed an *Early Childhood Water Safety Web Quest* that has also received widespread acclaim.

Christine also promotes environmental awareness within her students. Her class helps plant trees in a local park on *National Tree Planting Days* and her students have been encouraged to create a vegetable garden, and worm farm at the school. Other teachers also benefit from Christine's encouragement as she runs workshops on using *Thinking Keys in Early Childhood*, as well as facilitating and chairing committees on classroom technology.

Christine is now at Minyerri Community School via Katherine.

Insight

Q: *In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?*

A: A good teacher enjoys laughing with their students. They are enthusiastic about what they teach. They willingly show they are fallible.

Q: *How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?*

A: By ensuring the students interests and enthusiasm is incorporated into my planning. Acknowledging what works and building upon it.

Q: *In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?*

A: Effective strategies to deal with different student behaviours. School visits to see examples of best teaching practices being implemented.

Q: *What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?*

A: Time - time to assess, plan, meet individual needs, display work, collaborate with colleagues and listen to student needs.

Q: *What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?*

A: Catering to the individual, group and whole class needs while meeting the learning, emotional, physical and social needs of each individual student.

Q: *How has teaching changed over the years?*

A: Teachers have become busier with administrative tasks. Teachers focus on each student's individual learning needs. Teaching is more interactive for both teachers and students.

Q: *What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?*

A: Be there, smile at them, physically and emotionally interact with them at their level, and listen to what they have to say.

Q: *If you were the Minister for Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you try to change?*

A: Create a feasibility study for newly qualified teachers to complete one year paid employment as a teachers' aide at four different schools.

Q: *What keeps you awake at night?*

A: The various needs of my students and how I can work towards fulfilling these individually, while maintaining the integrity of the class.

Q: *If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?*

A: We like you.

Contact Details:

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