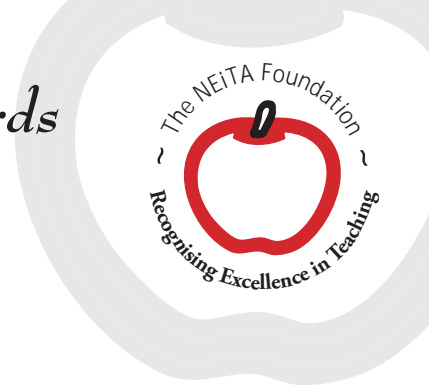


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Geoffrey Wriedt

Bachelor of Science, Diploma of Education, Diploma of Computing Studies

Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School, Canterbury, Victoria

Nominated By: School Board

Position: Mathematics and Science Teacher • Level taught: Secondary School • School type: Independent • Town: Canterbury • Category: Secondary • State: VIC

Passing on his love of science

Geoff Wriedt is passionate about all things scientific and enthusiastically passes that love onto his students. As Year 7 Coordinator, Geoff is also committed to engaging young women in developing a strong sense of self within both the school and broader community.

Geoff organises a special learning program for Year 7 students, called the *Nautilus Program*, which provides students with an understanding of multiple intelligences. The program includes Indigenous and Asian studies and is greatly enjoyed by all students. Geoff has also organised a Science Club within the school, and runs the school's *Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme*, which requires many hours of his own time to coordinate.

Insight

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

A: One who makes learning fun, inspires students to enquire, links the subject to real world examples, and stimulates discussion at the dinner table at home.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: I love the subjects I teach, plus each new year of students brings new inquiring minds to stimulate different areas of exploration.

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

A: Lecturers more in touch with current teaching practices and greater hands-on experience in the classroom – there is no better training.

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

A: Accepting the sheer volume of work, tailoring to different needs, meeting assessment and reporting requirements, all the while maintaining current general knowledge of your subjects.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: Attempting to provide the most interesting and effective tuition that caters for all learning styles and levels of ability in the classroom.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: We do not talk down to students. We take a more collaborative approach while offering personalised attention and thereby engendering mutual respect.

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

A: Structure the learning so students get a feeling of ownership and success with their work, and most importantly, listen to them.

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

A: Funding to all schools to develop a mentor program for all first-year-out teachers. Time release for whole departments to collaboratively workshop their curriculums.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: By the end of the day, I have no problems getting to sleep.

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

A: Fun, stimulating and memorable.

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