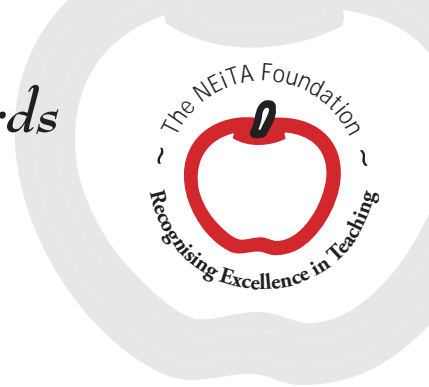


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Jean Marks

Diploma of Teaching
Loveday Primary School, Loveday, South Australia
Nominated By: Governing Council

Position: Primary Teacher • Level taught: General Primary • School type: Government • Town: Loveday • Category: Primary • State: SA

Providing students with the adventure of a lifetime

In addition to her roles as a classroom teacher and teacher librarian, Jean Marks has excelled in her additional roles as special education and physical education teacher at Loveday Primary School. Jean always employs a positive and caring manner with her students. She encourages students to do their best, and she has a passion for developing and maintaining children's fitness on an individual and school level. She designed and helped create a twenty-station fitness track at the school, and has achieved a 100 percent participation rate among upper primary students in the Regional South Australian Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA) sporting carnivals.

Most famously, Jean oversaw a huge mural project at the school. The magnificent artwork created by Jean, her students and a parent, won a \$10,000 Adventure Holiday prize. As a result, Jean's students gained the opportunity to plan and participate in a four-day Gold Coast holiday, which many students described as "the adventure of a lifetime".

Insight

Q: In your opinion what makes a good teacher?

A: A liking and empathy for children and their learning, coupled with good communication skills, the ability to motivate, and a sense of humour.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: Continually trying new ideas and schemes, striving to make a difference, and sharing the successes of the children in their learning.

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

A: Perhaps a deeper understanding of the individual needs of children and how to cater for them.

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

A: Time management in an environment of ever growing demands, and trying to meet the needs of all children in my class across year and ability levels.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: Keeping up with constant changes, especially in technology, and integrating them into the learning process, and making it relevant.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: The learning process is more 'hands on' and students are challenged to make decisions about content and methods of learning for themselves.

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

A: To always be available when children need me to listen to their problems and concerns, to give advice if required, and to share their good news.

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

A: Raise the profile of teachers and the teaching profession.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: Planning and anticipating issues and events and thinking of new ways to keep the children motivated. After that, sleep isn't a problem.

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

A: Caring, dedicated and fun.

Contact Details: Principal: Mrs Raelene Trimper
Phone: (08) 8588 7114

Teacher: Jean Marks
Phone: (08) 8588 7114 or 0429 171 872
Email: jeanmarks@yahoo.com

For further information, please contact:

Janet Thomas, Public Relations, ASG on behalf of the NEiTA Foundation.
Telephone: (03) 9276 7758 Mobile: 0402 837 758 Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au

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