

2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Lorelle Watson

Diploma of Teaching

Rockingham Lakes Primary School, Port Kennedy, Western Australia

Nominated by: School parent

Position: Primary Teacher • Level taught: General Primary • School type: Government • Town: Port Kennedy • Category: Primary • State: WA

Teaching students to **BE PROUD**

Lorelle Watson's dynamic teaching program at Rockingham Lakes Primary is student centred, skills based, and outcomes focused. Lorelle enables students to take active roles in their education and supports them in becoming self-motivated and willing to accept responsibility for their own learning and achievement.

Lorelle was the initiator and driver of the school's **BE PROUD** program. She is now the manager of the **BE PROUD** committee, which encourages students to take pride in their efforts, goals and achievements. In 2005, the **BE PROUD** program won the *Norm Hyde Pastoral Care Award*, highlighting the program's innovative approach and excellent student response.

Lorelle organised an inter-generational program recently with residents at the neighbouring Betahnie Waters Aged Care Home. The program developed respect and confidence among the students and helped bridge the gap between young and old members of the community.

Insight

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

A: One who strives to develop mutually respectful relationships with their students and provides a negotiated motivational and challenging program based upon student needs and interests.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: I get excited with the opportunities to assist students develop into respectful, responsible and resilient community members who have a hunger and passion for learning.

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

A: It is imperative that training is given in behaviour management and a broad base of instructional strategies.

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

A: With the current class sizes and lack of assistance, it is difficult to provide students with the pastoral and academic care they require to help develop their potential.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: My greatest challenge is to develop a sense of self worth and a hunger to strive academically and socially in students.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: Teachers today have been given a greater responsibility for the development of the individual, not only academically, but also socially and morally.

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

A: I have a genuine interest and desire to establish meaningful relationships with individual students where they know that they are listened to and respected.

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

A: Given such an opportunity, my focus for change would be on the reduction of class sizes, and increases in the number of teacher assistants throughout the school years.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: The action learning cycle resulting in the consequent development of motivational and inclusive activities which enhance individual development both academically and emotionally.

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

A: I feel that the three key words that my students would use are: fun, fair and firm.

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