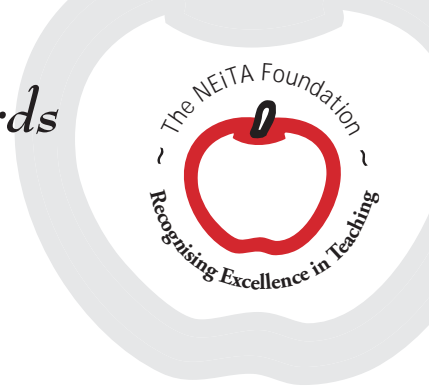


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Sherilee Grayson

Bachelor of Science (Human Movement), Diploma of Education
Prendiville Catholic College, Ocean Reef, Western Australia
Nominated By: School Board

Position: Physical Education, Health Education, Outdoor Education, Physical Education Studies and Surf Science Teacher • Level taught: Secondary School • School type: Catholic • Town: Ocean Reef • Category: Secondary • State: WA

Opening the doors to physical education for all

Sherilee Grayson's physical education classes and programs at Prendiville Catholic College are open to students at all physical levels, from the novice to the elite. Seven years ago, Sherilee initiated a school cross country running program that has resulted in Prendiville Catholic College students winning State Cross Country Championships, and more than 300 students participating in an annual cross country after-school event.

Sherilee gives generously of herself outside school hours. She has initiated a Surf Science program, that involved her accompanying surfing students twice a week at 6am, and a Dance Program for younger pupils, with up to 140 Year 9 and 10 students involved. Sherilee also initiated and developed the school Outdoor Education programme 6 years ago, which involves up to 180 students in Year 9 and 10, each year.

Sherilee uses physical education to build lasting positive relationships within the school and wider community. A recent school audit found Sherilee's integration of literacy into her teaching programs to be the best example of this practice within the school.

Insight

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

A: Providing opportunities for others to achieve success in anything and at any level.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: Reminding myself that you never know what each day will bring and there is never a dull moment. Teaching is full of surprises – good and bad.

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

A: Managing staff, resources, programmes, budgets, events, facilities, business proposals, community relationships, research etc. – everything but teaching a lesson!

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

A: Balancing the emotional, social and physical demands of work with personal and family life.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: Students striving beyond mediocrity to believe in their ability and the possibilities if they push themselves beyond their comfort zone.

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: The paper work seems to increase exponentially each year. Students are expected to discover a lot more themselves and become independent thinkers.

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

A: Take time to get to know students outside the classroom.

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

A: Implement comprehensive health and fitness programmes in all schools. Often it doesn't fit into the budget or timetable. Healthy people learn and work better.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: I used to think about whether I had locked everything at school, lesson planning, programs etc, but now mostly my 6-month-old son, Oscar.

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

A: Strive to achieve. This was my old school motto and I still live by it.

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