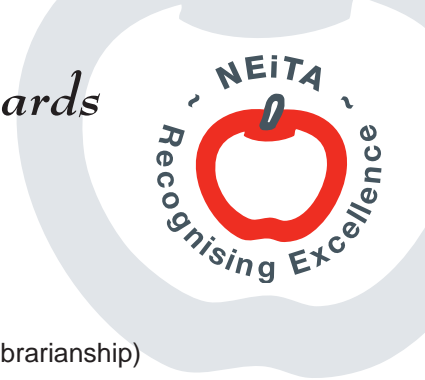


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Ann Hogan

Diploma of Primary Education, Bachelor of Education (School Librarianship)
Willow Grove Primary School, Willow Grove, Victoria
Nominated by: Parent and Friends' Association, school parents

*Position: Teaching principal • Category: Primary • Level taught: Year 5 and 6, Reading Recovery • Years teaching: 26 years
• Years at this school: 10 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Willow Grove • State: Victoria • Postcode: 3825*

Why teaching?

From my early days of teaching, I was always aware that as a teacher I could make a difference to the children in my class. As my confidence and skills grew I have worked actively with schools to develop learning communities where teachers, students, parents and the wider community have worked in partnership and with shared responsibility to improve the educational opportunities of the students attending the school. The decisions I make with my staff and community need to fulfil these fundamental requirements. 'Will it lead students to become more effective and empowered learners and more responsible and compassionate adults?'

When you work as a member of a team in a vibrant learning environment with students, teachers and parents and know you are making a difference, that's the stimulus for continuing in the profession.

Nurturing and care in a small rural school

Ann Hogan believes in an all-inclusive approach to educating. As principal of Willow Grove Primary School, she takes into account each student's strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes. Equal attention is given to all students regardless of their abilities. Ann encourages students to embrace each other's individual differences, whether they be physical, intellectual, racial, cultural or spiritual.

Willow Grove Primary is a small rural school several hours drive from Melbourne. To overcome the school's cultural isolation, Ann, in partnership with staff and school council, developed and implemented a cultural exchange program with Springvale Primary School, an ethnically diverse city school. Student visits followed, friendships were formed and preconceptions were challenged. Students from both schools still correspond via regular mail and email. Ann also organises excursions where the entire school travels to Melbourne to experience a performance such as Cirque du Soleil, or visit an institution such as the Melbourne Aquarium.

Ann is an avid fundraiser for the school and last year's fundraising initiatives allowed the school to purchase computer notebooks for students, as well as interactive whiteboards and a data projector for the classrooms.

In 2008, the school entered into the Gippsland Literacy Initiative Strategy to improve standards in reading, writing and spelling. This year, data collected by the program indicates that all students have made measurable progress. Staff Opinion Surveys for 2009 also indicate high levels of satisfaction particularly in the areas of student learning and teaching.

Through her dedication as principal, Ann has demonstrated that attending a small isolated rural school can be an advantage. Under her supervision, each child at Willow Grove Primary knows that they can strive for their very best.

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