

# NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient



## Gabriella James

Bachelor of Education

**Bakewell Primary School**, Palmerston, Northern Territory

Nominated by: Parents, Community organisation

*Position: Class teacher, specialist Italian teacher • Category: Primary • Level taught: Year 1 • Years teaching: 14 years • Years at this school: 10 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Palmerston • State: Northern Territory • Postcode: 0831*

### Why teaching?

I have always had a passion for teaching, as my own schooling consisted of numerous exceptional role models who inspired me to work hard and have goals in life. I wanted to make an immense contribution to the wellbeing and growth of our future, our children.

My enthusiasm is maintained daily when I see successes in my classroom, from my students and my pre-service teacher and parents who acknowledge my efforts in supporting their children to learn and grow.

### Promoting child safety and a love of language

Gabriella James is a fair, patient and caring teacher. When she sees a potential problem for her young students, she takes the initiative and tries to assist them. Six years ago, she developed and wrote the Being in the Know program to promote personal and road safety to her classes. The program involves visits to the school from guest speakers such as policemen, firemen and ambulance officers, as well as excursions to a fire station and a safety bike ride. Children finish the program with a firm knowledge of how to keep themselves and others safe.

As well as promoting child safety, Gabriella is also passionate about sharing her love of the Italian language. She teaches Italian to the year 4/5 and year 6 students, and creates a stimulating environment in her classes. Gabriella brings the Italian language to life by making her classes interactive and employing anything from hands-on cooking to a study of Italian art history. The school year culminates with an Italian banquet shared by parents and students.

Bakewell Primary School has students from a diverse range of backgrounds. The student population is 16 per cent Indigenous, 17.5 per cent Australian Defence Force families, 25 per cent from English as a second language background, and four per cent with high support needs. To cope with this diversity in her year 1 classes, Gabriella implements Restorative Practices and Circle Time. These methods give students a chance to listen and talk about their feelings and concerns and help create a sense of shared community.

Gabriella's innovative teaching practices have been recognised, and she has represented her school at interstate Department of Education and Training, and Languages Other Than English (LOTE) conferences.

#### Contact details:

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