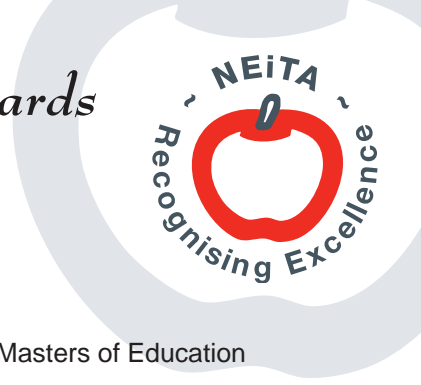


# NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient



## Merrick Brewer

Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Bachelor of Teaching (Primary), Masters of Education  
(Gifted Education/Constructing Knowledge)

**Chairo Christian School**, Drouin, Victoria

Nominated by: Committee of Management

*Position: Head of Middle School • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Middle school • Years teaching: 15 years • Years at this school: 15 years • School type: Independent • Town/Suburb: Drouin • State: Victoria • Postcode: 3818*

### Why teaching?

I am currently involved in teaching and leading at a unique, purpose built Middle School. My own schooling experiences didn't provide enjoyable memories, so my passion is to ensure that our students enjoy their educational journey and develop a love of learning that inspires them to grow as lifelong learners.

With a range of specialist classes based on Multiple Intelligences and a range of unique programs, I have enjoyed facilitating theory into practice. I am continually enthused by students who come and tell me that they love learning and being at school. This is just one aspect that brings a delight to teaching.

### Working with students' passions and interests to enhance their education

Merrick Brewer believes that each student's passions and interests hold the key to their learning potential. With 15 years teaching experience, he has seen how a love of learning can be stifled when students are forced to struggle through tasks that they consider irrelevant. Instead, as Head of the Middle School at Chairo Christian School, Merrick keeps his teaching methods relevant by tapping into the passions of each individual student. Once students' interests are uncovered, they are supported by developing their own learning contracts and self-assessment tasks. This method achieves rich learning experiences for his pupils and fosters in them a sense of ownership and pride in their own education. Self-reflection and assessments ensure that relevant learning is transferred across the curriculum areas.

Merrick's aim is to develop self-directed learners, and all learning styles are encouraged. Students are allowed to develop in their own manner, whether they be visual learners, bodily tactile or musical performance learners. Thematic studies and preferred pathways are also employed to bring out the best in each student.

Merrick is an active member of the school's Information and Communication Technology committee, develops staff review systems, and conducts professional development programs for other educators. He is the author of a teachers' resource manual that explains his methods for encouraging students' passions and creating in them a lifelong love of learning.

#### Contact details:

Principal: Mr Rob Bray  
Phone: 03 5625 4600

Teacher: Merrick Brewer  
Phone: 03 5625 4600  
Email: mbrewer@chairo.vic.edu.au

#### 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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