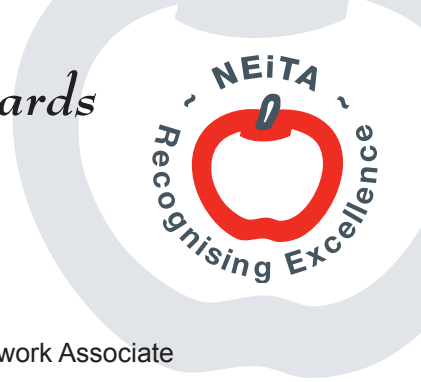


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Peter Cox

Diploma of Teaching, Bachelor of Education; Cisco Certified Network Associate
Captains Flat Public School, Captains Flat, New South Wales
Nominated by: Parents and Citizens' Association

Position: Teaching principal • Category: Primary • Level taught: 3 - 6 composite classes • Years teaching: 21 years • Years at this school: 3 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Captains Flat • State: New South Wales • Postcode: 2623

Why teaching?

Fate brought me to teaching. Three generations of my family have preceded me by donning the mortarboard and robes, choosing teaching as a career. Greatly inspired by my parents, who were highly experienced and respected educators, I sought a teaching career to which I'm still devoted to today.

I have always welcomed the challenges of teaching, learning from both my successes and failures. Working with and guiding students has always been something I have enjoyed, especially when celebrating their successes.

Using technology to benefit students and the wider community

Captains Flat Public School is a small school set in the ranges south-east of Canberra. As teaching Principal, Peter Cox is one of only two teachers at the school. Peter aims to provide a positive and stimulating learning environment and maximise the potential benefits of smaller classes and greater teacher involvement.

Since becoming principal in 2006, Peter has introduced interactive technology classroom methods to the school. His abilities in the application of information and communication technology have been an asset not only to the school, but also to the whole Captains Flat wider community. New technologies now play a major role in the delivery of Peter's lessons with his students using digital videos, online learning tools, and interactive classroom whiteboards. Peter has allowed the wider community to access these technologies and this has benefitted the whole town. Captains Flat Public School also facilitates information and communication technology lessons for parents to help them become more involved in their children's new learning practices.

With Captains Flat being a fairly isolated school, Peter encourages his staff and school community to provide and support at least one educational, sporting or cultural excursion per term. He believes these excursions are a way of engaging students in areas outside their local community, and helps also to broaden their view of the world. Examples of excursions Peter has organised include a visit to the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station, which features NASA operated radio telescopes as part of its deep space program, and an excursion to one of Australia's premier historic properties, Lanyon Historical Homestead. The school also travelled to Questacon, Australia's National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra.

Since Peter has taken over as principal, Captains Flat Public School has achieved higher student retention and growth rates. The school population has risen 150 per cent in just four years. Students are achieving excellent grades and eagerly participating in the school's new Active After School Program as well as a whole range of sporting, artistic and academic pursuits. To cap off his achievements, Peter recently oversaw the celebrations for Captains Flat Public School's 125th anniversary.

Peter is an inspiring teacher who believes in providing the best and most up-to-date educational tools for the students at his small school. His dedication helps to make attending a small regional school a rewarding and enriching learning experience for all his students.

Contact details:

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