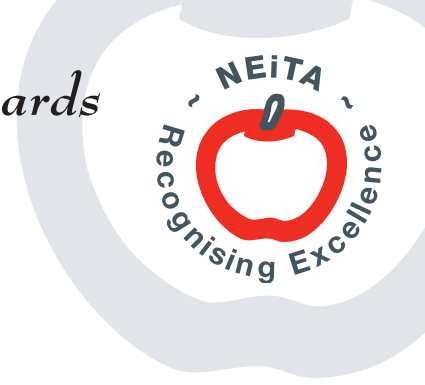


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Peter McKay

Higher Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Bachelor of Education
Longwarry Primary School, Longwarry, Victoria
Nominated by: Parents and Friends' Association, school parents

Position: Principal • Category: Primary • Level taught: Prep to year 6 • Years teaching: 21 years • Years at this school: 6 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Longwarry • State: Victoria • Postcode: 3816

Why teaching?

I was inspired to become a teacher when I came to the realisation that education and a positive attitude to learning can make a difference in a person's life.

They enable a person to open the doors of opportunity that arise, and that to be a facilitator, a teacher, involved in this is to be in a very privileged position.

Creating a school thriving with enthusiasm and inspiration

Since becoming principal of Longwarry Primary School, Peter McKay has constantly encouraged the school's students, staff and community to 'lift the bar'.

The team approach to school improvement that Peter has developed has produced some excellent results. Each member of the team understands the philosophy and has a clearly stated role to play, responsibilities to meet, and each supports the other. It is all about 'attitude, communication and relationships'.

Peter has developed a Health and Wellbeing Plan based on the philosophy that a healthy, physically active lifestyle is conducive, not just to improved learning, but also to more effective participation in all that society has to offer, and to greater levels of success within and beyond school.

Peter has also instigated a home reading program. Students are encouraged to establish reading milestones and when reached, students receive a reward their whole family can enjoy such as a free game of lawn bowls or a family swim pass. This program has achieved excellent results and also serves to involve a student's family in their reading journey. Local businesses in the wider community are also involved as Peter has enlisted them to donate the rewards. In this way, a student, a family and a community can come to place a greater value on reading.

He has also designed and overseen the development of a Hands On Learning Centre that caters for all students' learning styles, especially those who learn best by doing. Connectedness to school has seen a real lift.

By closely involving parents in the various school programs, Peter reinforces the value of school and the importance of quality education. Parents feel they are an integral part of their student's learning and this has certainly led to real development right across the board. As principal, Peter works tirelessly to ensure the school offers all students maximum opportunity to reach their individual potential.

Contact details:

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