

NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Tricia Meier

Bachelor of Education (Secondary), Bachelor of Education (Primary), Certificate of Gifted Education

Palmerston District Primary School, Palmerston, Australian Capital Territory

Nominated by: Parents and Citizens Association

Position: Class teacher (Gifted Students) • Category: Primary • Level taught: Year 4 - 6 • Years teaching: 22 years • Years at this school: 6 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Palmerston • State: ACT • Postcode: 2913

Why teaching?

I have always enjoyed learning. In a classroom environment the students and myself are able to work together on learning new things everyday. What better job could there possibly be?

I love the challenges and the hard work involved in teaching. Every day is exciting and challenging. I work with a diverse group of students who make my day interesting and fun. If I can make their day interesting and fun that is the best thing in the world. I love to be creative, active, absorbed and engaged.

Every day is different. We work hard but we also laugh. I have the best job in the world.

Providing the best educational opportunities for gifted students

Tricia Meier believes that students learn by being surrounded by, and immersed in, a stimulating educational environment. Her classroom changes frequently as her students' topics of study change. At the moment, the classroom is set up as 'Mission Control' as students explore complex questions about space exploration. When the children studied Antarctica, students completed mock expeditions, using a map of Antarctica super-imposed onto the school map. They entered the classroom via a cardboard tunnel. Similarly the class constructed their own cardboard Great Wall when learning about China. Tricia also uses excursions and visits to her class from members of the wider community to make learning come alive for her students.

To help engage her pupils, Tricia incorporates their interests, enthusiasms and passions into her curriculum. She allows students to negotiate their own research topics within a variety of curriculum areas; this helps to give students a sense of ownership of their own education. Tricia delivers academically rigorous programs specifically aimed at each child's strengths to enable each child to experience their own sense of achievement.

Tricia is an advocate for gifted learners and runs Palmerston District Primary's Gifted Student Program. She has educated herself in the needs and abilities of gifted pupils, and regularly attends sessions at the Gifted Education Research Resource and Information Centre at the University of New South Wales. Her specialist knowledge allows Tricia to advise other adults significant to the success of gifted learners such as other teachers, parents and the school board.

With over two decades of teaching experience, Tricia knows how to engage, challenge and stimulate her students. She is a dedicated professional with a special interest in promoting the educational opportunities available to gifted students.

Contact details:

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