

NEiTA 2008 ASG Inspirational Teacher Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Steve Robinson

Bachelor of Education, Diploma of Interpreting
Gagebrook Primary School, Gagebrook, Tasmania
Nominated by: Community Organisation (Tasmanian Centre for Global Learning)

*Position: General primary teacher • Category: Primary • Level taught: Year 5/6 • School type: Government •
Town/Suburb: Gagebrook • State: TAS*

Why teaching?

Over a sixteen year period as a sign language interpreter, I worked alongside teachers all around the state of Tasmania. I witnessed how students could be reached in a positive way by those teachers who really knew their craft. Now, as a teacher, it is this same goal that motivates me.

Giving students pride in themselves and their community

Steve Robinson's teaching is all about building self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of community. The young children in his class come from families with the highest economic needs index in Tasmania. Many of his students are suffering from behavioural problems associated with lack of pride. In his three short years at Gagebrook, Steve has set out to change this culture.

In 2006, Steve started his Grade 3 students off with a project to help them feel more involved in their wider community. The students completed a project beautifying the local sports ground by painting sheds and planting trees. In 2007, the students took on a more global view of helping others less fortunate than themselves, raising money for artificial limbs for victims of landmines in Cambodia. Now, in 2008, the project has expanded to encompass all the students at the school who are working on projects as diverse as recycling, water usage, and saving endangered animals.

The raised level of self-esteem, that Steve and his projects have engendered among his students, has resulted in marked changes in behaviour and achievements. There have been dramatic improvements in the areas of literacy, student engagement, and even staff morale. Incidents of extreme violent behaviour at the school have been reduced by 90 per cent. Steve's own class achieved the school's highest literacy results for Grade 3.

Although at Gagebrook for only three years, Steve's ethos of believing that people can make a difference is already paying off.

Contact details:

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