

Friday 10 March 2017

Instilling a love of reading wins national teaching award

A kindergarten teacher whose goal is for her students to become thoughtful and reflective readers will receive a national award at the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA) today at a ceremony in Melbourne.

Lyn Cleaver from Gowrie Primary School is the only ACT recipient and will join 12 other outstanding educators from across Australia in receiving the top awards.

Selected from more than 1350 nominations in 2016, the 13 national award recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching.

Ms Cleaver was nominated by a grandparent who says Ms Cleaver still has the respect of their three granddaughters and all the children she taught. The lead kindergarten teacher will receive an ASG NEiTA Innovation Award.

She says exposing young children to high quality literature is critical to engaging and motivating children to want to learn how to read.

“When considering that some students come from backgrounds where there are few books and adult reading role models, it is imperative that the classroom is set up to expose students to those crucial elements. Students need to hear quality literature to know how language sounds, to increase vocabulary and expand their knowledge of words.

In the early stages of reading, some students get bogged down in the complexities of the English language and decoding for them is quite difficult. It is essential that reading comprehension strategies be taught alongside learning about letters and words.”

ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says Ms Cleaver is not only instilling a love for literacy but also fostering a love for lifelong learning.

“Learning how to read is one of the first learning processes children are exposed to and through her passion for literature, Ms Cleaver encourages discussion and also challenges student thinking on what they are doing and more importantly, why. When students understand the mechanics of their learning and are supported by their peers, this helps build relationships and gives them the ability to take charge of their learning and respond to high quality literature. This is the keystone in developing thoughtful, questioning young minds. By harnessing students’ curiosity this promotes deep thinkers who will be able to engage in lifelong learning with confidence.”

Parents, grandparents, secondary student councils, school boards, councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations throughout Australia nominated these inspirational recipients.



Media Release

Chief Executive Officer of ASG NEiTA, John Velegrinis says the ASG NEiTA recipients have all been recognised by their local communities for making a genuine difference to education and for supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children.

"I congratulate Ms Cleaver along with the other ASG NEiTA recipients. These outstanding teachers and educators have earned the respect of their communities through their hard work, building trusting relationships and ensuring their love for education gets passed on to their students, creating a culture of lifelong learning.

Teachers have an enormous responsibility and our ASG NEiTA recipients take on this responsibility with humility, striving to always be accountable for their actions, working beyond what is expected of them and expecting nothing in return. Their joy comes from the challenge of ensuring their students flourish academically and socially, giving students choices and offering holistic solutions. This is why ASG NEiTA has thrived for the last 22 years. The community thanks and applauds you for your contribution to teaching the next generation of young Australians."

The national awards are divided into four categories: leadership and development, innovation, community engagement and introducing, early career teacher. For more information on the 13 national awardees, including profiles go to: <http://www.asg.com.au/neita>

Eleven national award recipients will receive \$5000 professional development grants with one teacher getting the incredible opportunity to go to Space Camp in the U.S. One teacher is also awarded a \$2000 Disability Inclusion Grant.

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Editor's notes:

The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members.

The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 34,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries, with more than 1050 teachers receiving about \$940,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.

For more information visit: www.asg.com.au



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