

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Georgina Wills

Wangaratta West Primary School
Wangaratta, Victoria

Georgina is a much-loved music teacher at Wangaratta West Primary School, where she not only undertakes classroom music lessons, but also leads ensemble groups, and produces the school's production. Through music Georgina finds students are engaged and excited to be involved in their local community.

Georgina runs a comprehensive African Drumming program throughout the school, which features in classroom lessons as well as performance groups, which regularly perform for and run workshops in the local community. Linked closely to this is the school's Heart Beat program, a community/school partnership with various health agencies working with people with neurological deficits.

Another innovative program introduced to the school by Georgina is the Beat Program, an early literacy intervention program based on the premise that the brain processes music in a similar way to how it processes language. Students with low level reading skills generally possess an inability to synchronise with a beat and so the program focuses on beat and rhythm tasks that develop keys to learning with specific activities aligning to particular brain function. Students in the program have developed improved concentration and memory, improved ability to make connections in learning, increased engagement, and significantly improved reading levels.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Music Teacher		Primary		17
	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
17	Public	Parent	Wangaratta	VIC, 3677

Contact details:

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