

# 2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## State and Territory Award Recipient

### Penelope Lang

St Johns Mitcham Parish Primary School  
Mitcham, Victoria

Penelope says of her time working a lawyer: "law paid the bills, but performing arts fed the soul". She quickly realised her passion lay in teaching Performing Arts, a subject she believes gives students the freedom to express and be creative without the fear and pressure of getting anything 'right' or 'wrong'.

Penelope teaches Performing Arts across St Johns Primary Mitcham's Prep to 6 classes, as well as visual arts for Preps. She has a visible learning approach to drama and roams around her classroom providing constant and immediate feedback on performances.

She also leads the school's junior and senior choirs, which have performed at the Whitehorse Spring Festival and Mitcham Anzac Day memorial service. Most recently, her choir performed at Hamer Hall, a performance for which she choreographed eight songs for over 200 students.

In the past year Penelope has trained in the Musical Futures Program and now imparts her knowledge of musical instruments to her students, who are currently learning guitar and ukulele.

Committed to her school community, Penelope also organises an annual Christmas picnic concert for the entire school community. Every second year she arranges a pantomime at the school, ensuring every child is included and has the opportunity to shine.

Position	Other responsibilities	Category	Subjects/level taught	Years teaching
Performing Arts Teacher		Primary		10
	School type	Nominated by	Town/suburb	State and postcode
4	Private	Parent	Mitcham	VIC, 3132

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#### Contact details:

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**Principal/Director:** Jacqui Marshal

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