

Tuesday 21 June, 2016

Invercargill teachers receive national awards

Two outstanding teachers from Invercargill will be honoured with ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) for making an impact in their local communities.

Katie Pennicott and Rebecca Hansen are among 20 regional recipients to be awarded the prestigious honour, selected from just under 300 nominations throughout New Zealand.

Celebrating 20 years of rewarding excellent teaching, ASG NEiTA gives parents, grandparents, school councils and board committees the opportunity to formally recognise hard working and innovative teachers who inspire a passion for lifelong learning in young people by accommodating different needs and nurturing their talents.

Ms Pennicott from Invercargill Middle School loves nothing more than sitting on the mat surrounded by maths equipment and working on numeracy strategies with her students. She also enjoys developing best practice in her colleagues, and mentors her entire staff through observations, feedback, and professional development.

Ms Hansen from Otatara Pre School believes getting to know the whole child is important and has a holistic approach to teaching, including concentrating on positive behaviours and coaching techniques to help children understand their emotions. She regularly dresses up as Aunty Lollie and shares her Samoan culture through stories, songs and artefacts about everyday life with the children.

ASG NEiTA Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says community recognition is very powerful and they should be proud of the impact they're making at the grassroots level and beyond.

"Communities love being engaged in education and in some cases, they can be the richest educational resources. So I congratulate Ms Pennicott and Ms Hansen for really making a difference in their Invercargill communities through education. We say that education is one of the most critical investments that parents, families and communities can make, but we need teachers like our ASG NEiTA recipients to drive this education and really invest in nation building through our young people.

We also know from the ASG Parents Report Card that 89 per cent or nine out of 10 New Zealand parents believe their children's teachers are very capable. This support for teachers doesn't surprise us and further validates the value of teachers in our society."

The awards comprise of early childhood, primary and secondary categories.

ASG NEiTA chairman, Allen Blewitt says the awards also highlight the positive relationships which have been built.



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“ASG NEiTA is one of the only channels where the community gets to express their gratitude through nominating an inspirational teacher, educator, principal or centre director. We are also celebrating 20 years of ASG NEiTA and these awards go from strength-to-strength because of the influential community-teacher-pupil relationships which can last a lifetime.”

In September 2016, ASG NEiTA will announce the national award recipients. Professional development and project grants are available at the national award level.

View the profiles of the 20 regional [ASG NEiTA recipients](#) and find out what makes them exceptional teachers.

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Editors notes:

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 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.3 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 30,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries.

For more information visit: www.asg.co.nz



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