



Friday 13 March 2015

Victorian educators receive national teaching awards

Three Victorian teachers will receive national awards at the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) today at a ceremony in Melbourne.

Alyce Cleary from Parkville College, Brianna Loves from Hampton Park Primary School and Ariel Wadick from Annie Dennis Children's Centre (Northcote), join nine other outstanding educators from across Australia in receiving the top awards.

Selected from more than 1000 nominations in 2014, the 12 national award recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching.

Ms Alyce Cleary was nominated by the Board of Parkville College for her commitment and passion in educating youth in juvenile detention across Victoria and will receive a Leadership and Development Award. The award is for achieving outstanding learning outcomes for students and showing outstanding leadership qualities as a teacher.

Inspired by the UN Declaration of Rights of the Child which states every child has a right to education, Ms Cleary challenged systems, demanded access for students and continually moulds her teaching practice to suit the unique needs of sentenced and remanded young men.

ASG NEiTA Chairman, Allen Blewitt says Ms Cleary's dedication and initiative is a true reflection of what NEiTA represents, celebrating quality educators in Australia

"I congratulate Ms Cleary for creating a safe space for her students of whom many have been excluded from education for a long time. What is even more remarkable is that she has been able to help them catch up on three years of reading levels within three months. This is a phenomenal result. This sort of approach adds to the quality of education that children can access in schools and is a credit to the value-add our ASG NEiTA teachers bring to education."

Ms Brianna Loves from Hampton Park Primary School was nominated by parents for her desire to improve inclusiveness across all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds in school programs. She will receive a Community Engagement Award which is for linking a school or centre with the community and providing opportunities for the local community to support and participate in the school or centre.

The school also has a specialist science program, which Ms Loves developed through her love of science, sustainability and the environment. She incorporates drama, rhyme and song into everyday science themes, which is specifically designed to help her students who come from varying cohorts to stay engaged and involved in the learning process through laughing and having fun.

Mr Blewitt says Ms Loves' innovation in connecting the wider community into school learning and collaboration is exceptional.

"Ms Loves demonstrates that she is able to break down some of the cultural and communication barriers that exist between school, home and the community. By celebrating cultural diversity within the school community and working with parents, this creates a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere which is conducive to learning and fosters a sense of belonging where students feel relaxed and comfortable."

Ms Ariel Wadick was nominated for her commitment and outstanding contribution to early learning. She will also receive a Community Engagement Award.

Ms Wadick works collaboratively with children making meaning out of seemingly everyday moments, sharing unique experiences with pre-school students. She designs and implements her programs largely through the creative arts to allow children to engage, express themselves, and learn and gain confidence at their own pace and stage of development.

Mr Blewitt says Ms Wadick had created a learning environment where each child is encouraged to participate and develop their sense of identity and inter-connectedness through a variety of techniques.

"Each year Ms Wadick hosts an art exhibition with the children, which takes place in the local community. This is a great way of celebrating children's efforts and achievements and gives parents and the community a real insight into how children think and their learning journeys through art. It also raises the profile of children as active citizens, autonomous in their own lives and as part of society."

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

Chief Executive Officer of ASG NEiTA, John Velegrinis, says he is humbled by the teaching calibre and the depth of experience of the award recipients.

"I congratulate Ms Cleary, Ms Loves and Ms Wadick along with the other NEiTA recipients. Their dedication, leadership and initiative is a true reflection of what NEiTA represents, celebrating quality educators in Australia. There is compelling evidence linking teacher quality to student achievement, and accomplished teachers demonstrate inspiration and enthusiasm for teaching and student learning. This is why NEiTA has thrived for the last 21 years, because the community think these teachers deserve recognition.

"All of our national award recipients are passionate about the need for greater quality pre-service teaching programs, and they are teachers who also continually strive to better themselves, pushing the status quo and learning and adapting with their students."

The national awards are divided into three categories: leadership and development, innovation and community engagement. For more information on the 12 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.

For further information please contact:

Nicole Gundi
0448 167 578
ngundi@asg.com.au
@ASGEducation

Abderazzaq Noor
0402 837 758
anoor@asg.com.au
@ASGEducation