



World Teachers' Day QLD

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Teachers make a difference

Moulding practice and pedagogy to engage with students

From a young age, Jayden Ruska was told he would make a good teacher. This year he followed that advice and took up his first teaching position at Doomadgee State School.

Jayden said his posting to the remote location came after visiting the school through a connection he made at the Teach Rural Career Fair.

"I'm currently teaching K-10 Physical Education and feel lucky I was able to find a degree and profession that really focused on my passions," he said.

"Growing up I had always engaged in sport – my parents raised me to always try my best at everything that I do, and not focus on the result or outcome.

"I have moulded much of my practice and pedagogy around this way of teaching and engaging with students.

"I want to use my career to engage and inspire the next generation to attend school, engage in learning, reach milestones through sporting opportunities, and learn about the importance of physical activity, education, and engagement."

Jayden takes pride in seeing his students understand how to execute a skill, make connections between theory and practice, and have fun while exercising.

"The smile from students is the real reward, and is credit enough for all of the hard work that is completed behind the scenes," he said.

This year Jayden took students selected in the district team to the regional athletics trials.

"Due to being in such a remote location, we had to travel 11 hours and 1,000 km to attend the carnival," he said.

"However, this was not a negative. Singing along to songs on the bus, playing classic car games, sharing stories, and being able to display talent was such a rewarding experience.

"It was amazing seeing the joy on our students' faces, as we were able to go on an adventure to see new country and places. We got to experience new facilities, and make connections with friends and family that hadn't been seen in a long time.

"Being able to provide our students with the opportunity to strive and thrive was incredible. I cannot wait for next year to do it all again."

When asked what advice Jayden would give to someone thinking of starting a career in teaching, he said the potential pathways within teaching were expansive.

"You will have the opportunity to inspire the next generation to learn, pursue passions and interests, and be themselves," he said.

"If you ever have the chance to experience rural or remote teaching, take it.

"You will be able to make amazing connections that will last for years to come, experience a unique and different way of life, and see our beautiful country. The positives and potentials are endless."

Jayden Ruska

Doomadgee State School – Doomadgee QLD