



World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au



Teachers make a **difference**

Connecting with students beyond the classroom

Growing up, Stuart Ablitt wanted a career where he could help the community. Deciding on whether he wanted to go into paramedicine, Stuart ultimately chose primary teaching as his calling. Having taught all grades from Prep to Year 4, he said he loves teaching the early years the most.

"I did a degree in primary and middle schooling, but ultimately found that I loved teaching in the early years," he said.

"While I'm currently out of class as the Deputy Head of Primary and Head of IB Programs, I still have an opportunity to visit multiple year levels each week and interact with all grades.

"I love that each day is a new adventure; I get to make a difference in students' lives and be a positive role model for them."

Stuart's favourite moments are seeing students learning something they didn't know before.

"Those 'ah-ha' moments are truly magical," he said.

"I love building relationships with students and their families to truly understand who they are as individuals."

When asked what makes teaching a rewarding career, Stuart thought back to a Prep student he taught in 2017.

"This student is on the autistic spectrum and sometimes things got a little too much for him – that was okay," he said.

"I worked hard to build a relationship with him, to help and support him in his first year. The development he made, in not just his first year but the following years, was remarkable.

"He never stopped connecting with me, his family has told me that I am 'school dad' because he feels safe with me. This is something that hasn't changed even now he's in his first year of high school.

"That's an added advantage of working at a P-12 school, we don't truly lose our students as they're still on campus.

"We get to see them be the amazing humans that we knew they could be."

When giving advice for people who might be thinking about a career in teaching, Stuart said it is the most rewarding job in the world.

"Having the opportunity to be a part of the educational journey for a student is an amazing feeling," he said."

Stuart Ablitt

Deputy Head of Primary, Hills International College – Jimboomba QLD