



World Teachers' Day QLD

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Teaching – where the future begins

Strong relationships help inspire students

After 24 years with the Department of Education, North Shore State School Deputy Principal Amanda Budby has forged a career building relationships with students and their families, helping them to reach their potential.

"I have a quote that hangs in my office that encapsulates how I work," Amanda said.

Strong relationships are the key to every student succeeding. Every student has a story.

"It encourages you to sit down and talk with your students. You must build a mutual respect and that's where it starts," she said.

"Now that I'm a deputy principal, I am aware of the influence I have. If I can be a role model for students, to keep them on track and help them succeed, then it's worth it, particularly for First Nations kids.

"When I went through school, there were no First Nations staff; it's so valuable for them to see me as a deputy principal, and know that they can achieve whatever they want too."

Initially starting as a teacher aide, Amanda has always loved working with students.

"The teachers I was working with at the time encouraged me to consider teaching. Working with small groups and seeing their growth, not just academically but personally, made me believe I could do it. I enrolled at Central

Queensland University in Mackay and continued working while I studied."

She has since taught in classrooms and worked in the regional office as a principal advisor before her current position.

Amanda is excited about the opportunities for First Nations students.

"When I was at school the opportunities were limited but now there is so much more," she said.

"The Deadly Choices program teaches our First Nations students about living a healthy lifestyle, as well as connecting to their own families and identities.

"This has made a huge difference and they are proud to say 'I am First Nations'."

Amanda's school also embraces the Solid Pathways program and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program that encourages and enables First Nations students to engage in more rigorous academics.

"This is exciting because it provides more ways we can help students succeed and close the educational gap."

Amanda Budby
North Shore State School
Burdell