



Teaching through every moment

# World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 28th October 2022

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## Ngai Djanyum darin yigu – Together we are strong

Connecting with local families and the community is central to Preston Parter's leadership at Eidsvold State School.

"Our students are at the heart of our school, our families and our community. Together we look for ways to engage, guide and nurture our students," Preston said.

Through the school's Wakka Wakka language and Yumbin programs, learning about culture and language has strengthened community connections.

Preston said the program was developed to provide all students with a sense of belonging and connection to themselves, others and their community.

"I have spent a lot of time in this role working with the language team helping revive Wakka Wakka language," he said.

"Although a teaching load in a P-12 school is difficult to juggle along with the demands of the principal's role, I love teaching language two days a week.

"It has helped build a strong relationship with members of our local community, further enhancing our student wellbeing and learning experiences.

"It has also allowed Aboriginal community members and Elder groups the opportunity to offer their unique knowledge, expertise and perspectives to our students and staff."

To further embed an understanding of culture and language, Preston recently completed a Masters of Indigenous Languages in Education.

"I think that leading the work around cultural capacity with our staff, community and region is exciting," he said.

"It is hard to explain the outcomes of enhancing our curriculum with Indigenous ways of working, but it is so relevant to our evolving world.

"Learning culture and language is important to me as a First Nations educator, Ngai Djanyum, Ngingan gura yangge – together we create a dreaming."

### Preston Parter

Principal, Eidsvold State School