



World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

Supporting students' futures

Taking his inspiration from the Dalai Lama, who identifies teaching “as a most noble path”, Paul Neilsen was drawn to the profession after studying marine biology.

Paul has been a teacher for 15 years, and currently teaches mathematics and science at Sophia College, Plainland.

“After receiving a degree in environmental science majoring in marine biology, I decided to follow my dream of helping others and chose teaching as a career,” he said.

“Every day I am brought significant joy through my interactions with students.”

Paul’s main goal as an educator is to help each student strive to be their best.

“Through kind words, difficult conversations and lots of laughs, I endeavour to help young people become good humans,” he said.

“Knowing a child has grown and developed during our time together is the reward.

“I do believe that as teachers, we need to nurture their innocence and allow them to find happiness in the moment, rather than continually apply pressure to them.

“The world is tough enough, so our role as teachers is to minimise this and allow the human spirit to develop so that they are able to deal with their journey in life.”

Paul realised early on in his career how bright his students were and that he was not “the keeper of knowledge” but rather a facilitator who incites a passion to learn.

“I have taught students who now explore the realms of quantum mechanics or design stem cells to cure human disease,” he said.

“However, it is greater still to see students choose to become educators. When they tell me they chose the profession because of me I feel my life has purpose.

“When you are able to accept your own limitations and view your students as having limitless potential, every day is thrilling.

“I am excited about the future of education because the paradigm shift is happening, whereby students are encouraged to innovate and make real change in the world.

“I truly believe that the solutions to our world’s problems are in the minds and hearts of the youth today.”

Paul Neilsen
Sophia College
Plainland