



World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching through every moment

Community in the classroom

Lachlan Libke has always wanted to be a teacher. Inspired by his Year 5 teacher's passion and dedication, Lachlan made it his goal to go to university and become a teacher as soon as he finished school.

Almost 10 years into the profession, Lachlan has built a career he is proud of.

"In a primary school class, you develop a family-like community feel. You ride the highs and lows together," he said.

"Seeing students grow academically and socially across the year is a very rewarding experience.

"Becoming a teacher has been everything I expected."

Lachlan uses innovative techniques such as sign language to engage students with learning.

"I started using sign language a couple of years ago to get the students attention," he said.

"Non-verbal cues are important and effective in any classroom and sign language is a novel way of giving instructions that promotes attention.

"If I stop the class, wait for all eyes to be on me and then provide short AUSLAN signs, this is very effective. Also, the shortened nature of sign helps students with auditory processing difficulties because the instruction is not based on verbal cues and sign only focuses on the key words.

"Please make sure you have your pencil and book ready' turns into the sign for 'Pencil. Book', which supports students who require shorter, more direct instructions."

Lachlan believes that while every student might have a different relationship with school and learning, they can all have success.

"Sometimes during the year after countless attempts to motivate, inspire and encourage students to give things a go, you wonder what more you can do for the student," he said.

"I find these students, who provide the biggest challenge, are the first people to say good morning to you in the playground or come up and shake your hand when they have left school.

"These moments have taught me there is no child that is too difficult and doesn't deserve your time. Every student comes to school to feel a sense of accomplishment and they will remember the teachers who never give up on them."

Lachlan believes that even though it's hard work, teaching is a great career for many.

"The most enjoyable thing about teaching is the students. Their unpredictable nature keeps each day fresh, exciting and unpredictable," he said.

"Creating lessons to engage, inspire and motivate a class is a sensational challenge and when you reach that moment of engagement where students are learning as well as having fun, it is quite special. A classroom can be a messy, loud, tiring, but always an extremely rewarding 'office'."

Lachlan Libke

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