



Teaching through every moment

World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 28th October 2022
worldteachersday.com.au

My classroom is my happy place

It is all the little moments of every working day that continually reaffirms Thea Cowdroy-Ling's goal to make a positive difference in her students' lives.

Thea is a Year 3 teacher at St Agatha's Primary School on Brisbane's northside. During her 9 years at the school, she has taught Years 1, 3 and 5 as well as stepping into the Acting Assistant Principal (Religious Education) role.

"Teaching is a profession where every day is different and opportunities for fun, joy and laughter happen daily," Thea said.

"It is a privilege to witness and share in the joy a student feels when they begin to understand a concept that they once found challenging.

"Every day there are little moments when my students reaffirm my passion for teaching. It might be a kind word, a smile, laughter, and the buzz that happens when students are engaged in learning."

Thea became a teacher after a 10-year career in the finance and administrative sectors.

Teaching primary school was a vocation Thea had always wanted to pursue and she was thrilled to have the opportunity to follow her dream when she started her family.

She was drawn to teaching because she loved the vibrancy and uniqueness of school life.

"Teaching is unlike any other job because you have the responsibility and the privilege of shaping the minds of young people.

"I've always had a passion for learning and wanted to share that love of learning with others. My classroom is not just my workplace; it is my happy place."

A memorable moment was when Mrs Cowdroy-Ling bumped into a parent of a past student from many years before, who told her that the student kept a photo of her beside their bed and would often talk about Mrs Cowdroy-Ling as being their favourite teacher.

"When you teach a child, you leave a lasting impression," she said.

She completed her teaching degree at Australian Catholic University and has recently completed her Master of Educational Leadership (Catholic Education).

Growing up, Mrs Cowdroy-Ling remembers her principal at Mt Alvernia College in Brisbane, Dr Lee-Anne Perry, being an inspiration to her and making her feel important, valued, motivated and capable of doing anything she put her mind to.

"When I decided to become a teacher, I reflected on the lifetime of inspiring teachers I have had, and I realised I wanted to be just as inspiring for my students as they had been for me."

Thea Cowdroy-Ling

St Agatha's Catholic Primary School Clayfield
Grade 3 Teacher