



Media Statement

22 October 2009

Canning Vale teacher receives online thank you for World Teachers' Day

A Bletchley Park Primary School student was one of the first in WA to post an online 'thank you' message to his teacher as part of World Teachers' Day celebrations on 30 October 2009.

"You are one of the best teachers I've ever had," Year 7 student Callum wrote to his teacher Mrs Santaromita.

"You are really great to new people in the class and you are very 'real'.

"I like your sense of humour, it's sarcastic just like mine. We laugh everyday."

This is one of many messages being left by students, parents and community members who want to celebrate the work of teachers who have made a difference to their lives.

The Department of Education has set up an online blog so people can post messages for public school teachers.

Deputy Director General Schools, Margery Evans, said World Teachers' Day was the perfect occasion to say thank you to an outstanding teacher.

"Many students and parents want to show their appreciation to teachers, and the blog is a convenient, simple way to do this," Ms Evans said.

"Teachers play a central role in nurturing and guiding children and young people through the lifelong learning process.

"Not only do they educate our children, they support them in their everyday lives."

Callum's mother, Jacqueline, said it was great that students and parents could post messages for teachers like Mr Hanna.

"Callum and his twin brother have really enjoyed having Mrs Santaromita as their teacher and it is fantastic that their final year of primary schooling will be one of the best years of their schooling life so far," Jacqueline said.

"She really has the gift of being able to relate to her students and I have a feeling she will be fondly remembered by my boys for the rest of their lives."

Ms Evans said former students and members of the community could also post messages to their teachers.

"Many of us can look back and recognise how a favourite teacher helped shape who we are today," she said.

"Some people do not realise until several years later how much support they received from their teachers and how they made a positive contribution in their lives.

"I would also encourage those people to post an online message."

To post a message visit det.wa.edu.au/teachingwa or Google Teaching WA.

(ENDS)

Note: A photo opportunity is available at Bletchley Park Primary School with Mrs Santaromita and her student Callum.

Media contact: (08) 9264 5723