Introducing Induction and Mentoring at ASV – Betty Lakovic

My responsibility as Schools Development officer is for the Induction and Mentoring of our new and early career teachers. I have the privilege of warmly welcoming them into a very noble and great profession of ministry and to encourage aspiring leaders to mentor our beginning teachers. My predecessor, Margaret Fox gently hung up her pencils to gently journey into retirement at the end of 2012. My thanks to you and your leadership over the years Marg. So we honour you and thank you for your contribution.

With a 10% reduction of face-to-face teaching time in their first year, the Provisionally Registered Teachers complete an Action Plan of Inquiry showing evidence of their best practice. They give attention and evidence to the Proficient Teacher Standards, given by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AISTL). Along with that, we also have our Adventist Distinctive ‘Special Character’ standards to assist with their induction into our system.

Mentors are key to the support given to the new and early career teachers. New and early career teachers are partnered with a mentor from their school for the term of their induction.

Today... a beginning teacher is encouraged to be an active participant, inquirer, and critical thinker. The mentor’s role has also changed, from that of advice-giver and problem-solver to questioner, listener, and a model for reflective thinking.” [Farlough and Maynard 1995]

The importance of mentoring in our schools

“Teaching is the only profession where first year teachers are expected to do the same things as experienced teachers on the first day. [Terry Brown, DE&T, VIT Seminar November 2006]

Two teachers from NCC share their experience of the Mentoring program.

Inductee Kylie Rowe

“Having Helen Jakupe and Jenny Kavur as Mentors during my first two years of teaching was an invaluable experience. Just like new students approaching our Peer Support Group and our Buddy programs at NCC, having Jenny there to discuss work, bouncing ideas and any challenges I faced was incredible in building my confidence as well as my knowledge for future years ahead. The Induction and Mentoring program is fantastic!”

Mentor Jenny Kavur

“Starting any new job can be nerve-racking but starting as a fresh faced, first year out teacher, and in some cases only a few years older than the students, can be anything from exciting to overwhelming. Mentoring Kylie was a privilege. I was thrilled to have an opportunity to help someone else through the process of registration. I was excited to help her in igniting a spark, creating a legacy, building confidence, leadership and management skills. I enjoyed watching her grow both personally and professionally. Sharing clinical knowledge and skills, helping a colleague succeed, and supporting the profession is only part of a mentor’s reward. Cultivating a life-long connection was well worth the effort. What pleasure it has been to have Kylie as my inductee.”

Are you interested in our schools?

We continue to work with excited people who build up a future of hope, motivate and share Jesus with students. We serve our community, in a collaborative, reflective, innovative and caring way. Contact us online: http://www.asv.adventist.edu.au

‘A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.’ James Keller

Teachers “Flourish” at ASVAC

“But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God – I trust in God’s unfailing love for ever and ever.” Psalm 52:8 (NIV)

‘I thought the program was one of the best ASVAC’s we have had – it was the right mix of practical ideas, a touch of theory, spiritual highlights and humour’, and, ‘The spiritual tone could not be bettered and set the tone for everything else. Bravo!’, were prevalent survey comments from the Adventist Schools Victoria Annual Conference (ASVAC) held on January 21-22. Over 220 teachers attended this conference themed ‘Flourish’ which focused on our teachers, students and school community flourishing spiritually, physically, socially and academically.

ASVAC was privileged to have outstanding keynote speakers, including Dr Darren Morton, Senior Lecturer at Avondale College and life style expert presenting on such topics as, ‘What it takes to Flourish’ and “Seven Secrets to Feeling Fantastic”. These themes were further explored by Paul Bogacs, the Head of Counselling at Avondale College who spoke on “How to be a teacher and not go crazy – although it may help a little” and Russell Fox, a Department of Education consultant with the Student Behaviour Unit, who presented on ways Adventist school teachers allow Christ to shine through our redemptive discipline methodology and thus encourage our students to develop internalised Christian values.

This year, for the first time, significant choice was given to teachers to choose four of the twenty-eight seminars on offer for afternoon sessions. What made this even more exciting was that the majority of these were presented by teachers based on their significant expertise in learning and teaching. What became very evident is ASV has a workforce committed to best practice and who are excited to be teachers in our schools.

The “Flourish” theme was strengthened by the $13000 donated by teachers to assist ADRA build water tanks for Mou Mou Adventist School in Vanuatu. This generous donation by our teachers will also benefit local communities to flourish, with clean water, rather than the polluted well which is currently in use.

Teachers also had the opportunity to honour the “Graduate Teacher of the Year” and “Teacher of the Year”. This year two recipients were chosen from each category, Kristelle Holman (Henderson College) and Ashleigh Knight (Edinburgh College – Secondary), and Lepeta Tuaoi (Glison College) and Hannah Stekla (Nunawading Christian College – Secondary).

This year will be an exciting year for ASV with the addition of Edinburgh College and the continued growth of our schools. Please pray for our teachers as they commence the new school year so that our students, parents and teacher will all flourish in 2014.

From the desk of Brian Mercer, Director of Education