



EDITION 8: PODCAST WITH A GRADUATE

HOW CAN MY STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES HELP ME BE A GREAT TEACHER?

Transcript

Ben Pisani & Nicole Williams

Kate:	Hi, welcome to the graduate teacher learning series podcast channel. I'm Ben and I will be hosting this session. In this podcast series. We will be talking to graduate teachers, mentors and experts about a variety of different topics that relate to each editions framing question. We will also get the graduates and mentors to share some reflections on their practices that may assist you in yours. In each podcast, the graduates and mentors will be asked the same questions so you can hear the different perspectives on each topic. Okay, so sit back, relax, and let's get into this edition of the graduate teacher learning series podcast, talking to a graduate teacher.
Ben:	Hi, thanks for being part of this podcast. Can you please introduce yourself and tell us a little about where you were working in some of your experiences?
Nicole:	My name is Nicole Williams and I'm a Grade 2 teacher here at Berwick Fields Primary School.
Ben:	In this first section of the podcast, our discussion will focus on the framing questions for this edition. What do you think makes a great teacher?
Nicole:	I think a great teacher is someone who makes it a priority to get to know their students. For me, it was very important to form these relationships from the start so I can make sure my students feel comfortable, and it's all about creating that safe and communal environment. A great teacher also works to their students' strengths and challenges their students. I think it's important to always be inviting and enthusiastic about your job.

	If the students can see that you're excited to be there and teach them, they enjoy school more and see value their own work.
Ben:	How do students inspire you to improve your teaching practice?
Nicole:	I'm a very reflective person and I feel that my students inspire me by their curiosity and questions that they ask. When I see my students truly interested and engaged in a lesson, I just want to keep it up and it motivates me to create more exciting lessons that they can all connect with.
Ben:	How do your colleagues inspire you to improve your teaching practice?
Nicole:	The grade 2 team are so encouraging and always give me feedback on my lessons and my ideas that I contribute. As a graduate, they always give me advice and let me know that it's ok to make mistakes and to not get everything done that I had planned. We all plan together in PLC's and share resources and I think that's what makes the community here at Berwick Fields so welcoming, that everyone is willing to help each other and give advice, they inspire me to be the best teacher that I can be.
Ben:	What difference does a great teacher make?
Nicole:	So, for this question I remember my primary school days and the differences that I had in different teachers I had growing up. I remember one teacher that was really traditional and didn't really engage me in class, and then the following year I had the most amazing and inspiring teacher, and I just wanted to come to school to see what we are learning. I remember having a great relationship with her and she really helped me see the value in my work. I think teachers who take the time to know their students and work toward achieving their learning goals with them makes all the difference.
Ben:	What advice do you have?
Nicole:	So my advice would be that, it's ok if you don't finish everything you had planned for the day. When I first started I think I was over planning for the time I allocated to different sessions, and I know this is totally unpredictable because you are unaware of how engaged the students might be, or the questions they will

	<p>ask, or how long it will take for them to complete an activity. However, being the organized person that I am, this used to really get to me. Now I realise that I can always come back to activities, there will always be finishing off days, and not to stress the small stuff. If I see the students are actively engaged, at least I know they got something out of the lesson.</p>
Ben:	<p>What are your time management tips?</p>
Nicole:	<p>I've finally found a weekly routine where I include some 'me' time. I used to feel like I was swamped with planning, grading and creating resources. Now, I ensure I'm taking a break for myself. My mentor and other grade 2 teachers always remind me to make sure I'm not staying late or working overtime to get everything done. I work by prioritizing my workload and making a lot of lists. I group tasks by importance and chip away at them over the week.</p>
Ben:	<p>What resources have you found to be particularly useful in your classroom practice as a graduate teacher?</p>
Nicole:	<p>In my first few weeks of teaching I would become so familiar with the High Impact Teaching Strategies and try to include them in all my lessons. After getting to know my students and their learning needs, I can create lessons incorporating these strategies which best suit them and how they learn. Here at Berwick Fields I have so many people and so many mentors looking after me and making sure I'm ok. The support I receive from other teachers just keeps me going.</p> <p>Another resource I used was the Graduate Teacher Induction Guide which was also a good resource that helped me keep on track of my focus for each term, set goals, and become familiar with the different types of support offered to graduate teachers.</p>
Ben:	<p>In a new career. It can sometimes be tricky asking for help. Who should graduates turn to?</p>
Nicole:	<p>The staff team at Berwick Fields are so helpful. They let me know that no question is a silly question and are always willing to go out of their way to help me. My first person I always go to is my mentor, she's amazing. We get along really well and she's always up for a chat. Everyone else in the grade 2 team check</p>

on me also, and it feels good to have all these people looking out for you making sure that my experience is a good one.

I also have a graduate group coordinator who takes care of me and the other graduates at the school. This is just another person I can go to who'll help me for extra advice, extra things for my planning and just make sure I'm on track as well. So, also here at Berwick Fields we also have Leading Learners who we can go and observe and pull different things from, that we like and they can also give us advice on ways that we can teach our own classroom. Aside from them, we can also speak to the principals here who are our "looker-afterers" and make sure we're on track.

Ben:

And finally, Give us your words of wisdom.

Nicole:

So my words of wisdom would be, take each day as it comes and don't be hard on yourself. As well as taking advantage of every opportunity of a new experience, you never know what you'll learn.

Ben:

And that's it for the graduate teacher learning series podcast. Thank you to our guests for sharing their experiences. And thank you for listening. We'll see you next time. Bye for now.