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Learning Empowerment - a key aspect of inspirational teaching

A teaching and learning goal stated in the board's strategic plan requires our teachers to enhance student achievement through programme designs that truly inspire our young learners to learn. The board's vision for this centres on the notion that the children ought to be inspired and inquisitive learners, celebrating ethnic diversity and individual excellence within their potential.

Taking up the challenge to achieve this expectation, our teachers involve themselves in a range of professional development initiatives that this school has in place. These initiatives involve a considerable amount of professional development where our teachers receive coaching and guidance from their senior managers, curriculum leaders and external facilitators as well as attend a range of training sessions offered by our training partners in education.

Inspirational education is delivered by teachers who have the ability to empower the children to be the best they can be. They are teachers who bring the learning environment alive with their own creative flair and passion towards making a difference. These teachers truly believe in the uniqueness of every child, hear the child's voice and value the learning conversations they share with the children.

The approach being promoted by senior management is to help teachers focus on design programmes for the children that increase thinking and problem solving opportunities. Critical to this is the level of mental stimulation created within the teaching and learning processes. We believe this aspect will facilitate the motivation needed for learning empowerment that leads to active learning.

Empowering the children to think for themselves, question, challenge and put to the test their learning ideas brings learning alive. This learning empowerment encourages the development of ownership by the child for their learning. At Elmwood we believe this to be pivotal to developing the children's confidence in themselves and the ability to make soundly evaluated decisions even from an early age.

At this time teachers are implementing the Elmwood Normal School Curriculum Framework. The focus is on exploring creative interpretations for teaching key competencies and values, and for your children this is resulting in more progressive, creative and interactive programme designs. There is tremendous scope within our Curriculum Framework for teachers to align their own passion for teaching to the learning experiences they offer within their own classrooms. We believe the children's inspiration for learning ultimately is triggered by the inspiration they see and feel within their teacher.

Development of 'the children's voice' is as simple as it is complex. The simplicity is in the 'listening process', the complexity is in developing thought processes that encourages indepth inquiry learning to help the children make well thought out decisions. The result is confidence in taking the next step.

So thank you to our inspiring teachers – the difference you are making at Elmwood is what is making the difference for our children.
Kevin Gooch, Principal