



Mabel Park SHS leads the way in Maths

Mabel Park State High School teacher Stacey King has received national recognition for her exceptional work mentoring students who previously struggled with maths.

At a ceremony in Melbourne in September, Ms King won a \$20,000 Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute Award for her ground-breaking work.

With Stacey's help, Mabel Park State High School has overcome an issue other schools around the country are struggling with – attracting more young women to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.

Stacey said her success came partially from her own experiences as a student when she was filled with fear and anxiety, too scared to ask a question.

"At school I realised the teaching style was the issue for me," Stacey said.

"I liked school and I liked maths and science but I really felt like I struggled because the teachers would stand up at the front and do this 'talk and chalk' thing while we sat quietly, too embarrassed to ask for help."

Six months ago Stacey set up a Maths and Science Academy at Mabel Park High where students use a creative, hands-on approach to learn about maths, science and technology.

The academy's classroom is filled with robots, gadgets and machines built by the students who, in the process, are learning a multitude of skills – educational and personal.

"Some people say it's weird to have kids flying rockets but they don't understand the trigonometry behind it," Stacey said.

"My students come to class excited about what we'll be doing that day, they want to be in class, and they want to learn."

Principal Michael Hornby said Stacey was playing a key role in mapping the future for many students.

"Students are fortunate to have great teachers here at Mabel Park State High School and work with some of the most technologically advanced and cutting edge resources," he said.

Councillor Steve Swenson said Stacey had proven that a dedicated teacher could make a huge difference in many young lives.

"The importance of teachers' influence in shaping lives is often underrated in the community," he said.

"An effective teacher, who can communicate difficult concepts to students and help them achieve their full potential, can be life changing."

Photo: Mabel Park State High School maths and science students with teacher Stacey King (centre) holds her trophy awarded by Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute Awards



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Division 3: Slacks Creek and part of Underwood, Springwood, Kingston, Tanah Merah, Loganholme and Daisy Refer to map on page 2 for divisional boundaries.

SEQ Father of the Year

I would like to congratulate South East Queensland's Father of the year, Bob Engwicht.

Bob has been recognised within our community as a model father and grandfather, but he also has a long history of caring for others.

Father of three and foster father to many more, Bob has supported community programs by providing driving lessons for underprivileged teens and assisting at-risk youth with work-for-the-dole projects in his spare time.