

Ms Teena Cahill
Gladstone Central State School
74 Auckland St
Gladstone Qld 4680

3 December 2010

Ms Kerry Whitaker
CEO
Gladstone Area Group Apprentices Ltd
26 Beckinsale St
Gladstone Qld 4680

Dear Kerry

I would like to say a huge thank you to you and your staff, in particular Mr Bill Hermann and Mr Mike Young, for making a valuable contribution to the learning of a group of year 4 students from Gladstone Central State School.

For seven weeks of this term, the highlight has been the Thursday visits to the GAGAL workshop to construct a tow truck, planter box, trinket box and the clock. On those days, we usually had 100% class attendance and the students were enthusiastic and ready to learn.

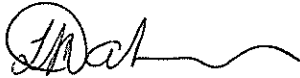
As you are aware, as teachers we are held accountable for the students' learning and this learning is often measured through assessments or diagnostic tests. The students were assessed on their mathematical knowledge prior to embarking on the GAGAL experience, and then again on the completion of the project. I was astonished to see the marked improvement in most of the students' results with some students making remarkable progress particularly in the area of measurement and number. I don't believe that this result would have been achieved without the visits to the GAGAL workshop and the hands on constructing experience that the students participated in.

What is not able to be measured through traditional tests is the improvement in other areas such as confidence, team-work and leadership. A few students don't perform particularly well in the classroom setting but these students were equals with their peers in the workshop environment. Their new found self-confidence enabled them to take risks that they would have been hesitant to take in the classroom. Other students, previously reluctant to take on any leadership role, particularly if it involved public speaking, found their niche. Additionally, the students had to work with others, to trust that their fingers would not be injured as they held the project while their partner hammered in the nails.

Children today come from various family situations. Often the first time that they encounter routine and discipline is in the school environment and as these students get older they start to question the necessity for following rules. Going to the GAGAL workshop and having to following the GAGAL rules for safety, as well as having other adults, Bill and Mike, who were not 'teachers' expecting respect and obedience gave these students a view of life outside home and school.

It is my hope that every class in every school gets to participate in the GAGAL experience. With people such as yourself taking the initiative and generous sponsors helping financially, this could be the reality.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teena', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Teena Cahill
Project Liaison Officer/Year 4 support teacher
Gladstone Central State School