



# World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 27th October 2023  
worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

“This college has the most amazing individuals”. Cathryn Vandenberg – Mrs Waterhouse

## What subjects/ages do you teach?

I am a Year 5 Generalist Teacher and have been teaching at Chancellor State College for Nine years.

## What do you like about teaching at CSC?

The people; collegially this college has the most amazing individuals who respect and appreciate the roles each play collectively, to create the environment we love to work in.

## What inspired you to become a teacher, and how has your journey in education evolved over the years?

I have always loved school. Everything from Maths; quadratic equations are my 'thing'. English; critical literacy and debating, Art; graphics and manual arts and Sport; there isn't a sport I wouldn't watch or 'have a go' at participating in. However, I came from an era where education for females wasn't a priority. I started my first job (Check-out Chick) at fifteen. I vowed to myself that I would return to study and after I had my family I did.

My daughters had the most amazing teachers (Mr Paul Cobham was one of them) who inspired and supported me to select education as a career.

## Do you have any memorable teaching moments or experience that had a significant impact on your teaching career?

Starting my teaching career in Mt. Isa, then travelling to England, teaching in county and private schools and then returning to the Isa was truly life changing. I learnt along the way the importance of being adaptable, innovative and creative.

Trust, early success and creating positive partnerships with families / carers was critical.

We have these children for five hours a day, so plan ahead and know your impact, make it count!

## How do you stay motivated and maintain your passion for teaching?

Taking advice from my mentor: *Every child needs a champion.* (Rita Pierson)

Some days are harder than others, but as teacher we are also the best actors. Don't be afraid to show emotion and vulnerability. Positive relationships with my students, their families and carers. Work and play in an environment, where you share and learn from others.

## Do you have any advice, quotes or words of wisdom to share with prospective teachers about becoming a teacher or for students about school life?

Love what you do and then call it a job. Be kind to yourself and take the time for you to be the best you can be. Find your 'thing' and do it often.