



EDITION 10: PODCAST WITH A GRADUATE WHAT AM I LEARNING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Transcript

Ben Pisani & Yana Torres

Ben:	00:03	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 and relax and let's get into this edition of the graduate teacher learning series podcast, talking to a graduate teacher.
Ben:	01:00	Hi, thanks for being part of this podcast. Can you please introduce yourself and tell us a little about where you are working and some of your experiences?
Yana:	01:08	I'm Yana Torre. I work at Broadmeadows special developmental school teaching foundation and grade one and Emma Bourke is my mentor
Ben:	01:25	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?
Yana:	01:33	I think a great teacher needs to be caring, respectful of their students and focus on building positive relationships between parents and students. And I think that a positive teacher really needs to learn, loves their job. I think it's really important that teachers love their job and reflect that through their practice
Ben:	01:59	Feedback. Is it important and who should we collect it from?

Yana:	02:03	<p>Yes, it's definitely important and I think that you need to collect it from all of your peers, including your mentor, your peer teachers, and even the parents and from your practice as well, from your own practice and give yourself a little bit of feedback and then really reflect on that afterwards. I also collect feedback through my students, through seeing if they're engaged in my lessons and on task and through their positive facial expressions if they do enjoy your task, I think it's really important to collect feedback so then you can always work on your teaching practice. I really think that teachers need to be learners and they need to be open to feedback in order to improve their teaching practice.</p>
Speaker 2:	02:57	<p>Feedback is an important element of the professional practice. How have you used it to inform your professional development?</p>
Yana:	03:03	<p>Alright, so my mentor, Emma comes in every week or so to come and observe my practice. During that time, she'll be writing notes and give me some feedback after the lessons and then I will go and reflect on that, on those observations in that feedback. And I will then use them to inform my new teaching practices to help my students learn. So, in terms of student feedback, I would then incorporate that into my lessons by seeing if the lessons have worked and if they have worked well then, I will see that my children are interested in them and maybe reproduce them in another way. If they haven't worked so well then, I can reflect on that and build better lessons through seeing what my students' interests are and working from that aspect. After feedback from, after I've received feedback from my mentor, I have learnt a lot of teaching strategies and classroom management strategies in particular. For example, I was finding it a little bit tricky to engage my students and get them to sit in their seats. Uh, after a few strategies such as movement breaks from my mentor, I was then able to use movement breaks in my lessons in order to help my students better engage in the programs that I was providing for them. And it did work and now my students can sit it for a prolonged period of time and I'm really happy with this success.</p>
Ben:	04:41	<p>Reflecting upon your year, what have you learned about yourself as a teacher and how will this prepare you for the future?</p>

Yana:	04:47	Reflecting upon this year, I think I've learned that there are some lessons that will work better than others and you really need to use those unsuccessful lessons to inform your teaching practice in order to provide better learning outcomes for your students. What I've also learnt about myself is that I really do have a passion for children with special needs and helping them grow as individuals. So, I completed a Bachelor of Education primary degree, which is a mainstream school degree and I did a placement at this school and it really revealed that I did really want to teach in special needs. And I'm so grateful that I am teaching in this environment and teaching these students as it is really rewarding and makes me really happy to teach in this sort of environment. So, moving forward I have now realized that I do have a passion for teaching children with special needs and I would love to continue exploring this field of teaching.
Ben:	05:53	What advice do you have for graduate teachers?
Yana:	05:55	I think you should programs that are new and be open minded towards these programs and also to, how students will react to the learning experiences. I think it's also important to ask for help when needed and to get to know staff outside of your team.
Ben:	06:19	What are your time management tips?
Yana:	06:22	When it comes to time management? I think that you really need to plan your time effectively. An example of this is to stay back at school and complete all of the schoolwork that you have so then you can enjoy your time outside of school and do things that you want to do outside of school. I also use checklists to tick off what I have completed on my to do list. I also have a diary so that I can put in important events and things that I need to plan and pre-plan. I put in things that are coming up. For example, if I have report writing or if I have a PD that I have to attend, I'll put that in my diary so then I'm informed that I need to prepare for those things in advance.
Ben:	07:17	What department resources have you found to be particularly useful in your classroom practice as a teacher?
Yana:	07:21	We have a school wide positive behavior support program that we use at the school and I think it really helps to inform my

teaching as it helps me to maintain positive relationships with my students, especially when it becomes to behavior management and keeping that really nice bond and relationship with your students, while helping to engage them. It's about approaching students' behaviors in a positive manner and always making sure that we don't reinforce behaviors and that we redirect them. I think this is really important because it helps you to maintain that strong connection between you and your students and that they can always see you in a positive light and that they're always feeling good about their self, like their self-esteem is always great and that they're connected to the school environment. So, this program aims to diminish negative behavior management in the school, for example, we don't use things like time out and we always point out positive behaviors in the class to inform the child's next move. So, for example, if a child wasn't sitting in their chair, I would then praise another students were sitting in their chair in hopes that that first student will then go and sit in their chair. And then once they're in their chair, we use a lot of positive praise and that reflects the practice principles, especially in the positive climate for learning document.

Ben:	08:59	In a new career it can be difficult to ask for help. You should graduate to turn to?
Speaker 3:	09:04	I think graduates should ask for help from their mentors, from their peer teaches and from leadership. I really think everyone that you ask for help is always going to be open to giving you that help in a good school environment. And you would do this whenever needed. You should be able to approach anybody at any time and receive the help that you need in a good school environment. So, it should be at any time and no one should be afraid to ask for help.
Speaker 4:	09:33	And finally give us your words of wisdom.
Yana:	09:44	Be Yourself. Be Open to new learning opportunities. Get to know the staff, get to know the students and really put forward a great teaching practice for them and reflect on your practice. Make sure that you are keeping reflections of what's going well in your teaching practice and what you need to improve on to better inform. I also think it's important to take time for yourself. And you can also make yourself a better teacher through taking time for yourself and doing things that you love

outside of school. So, then you're nice and refreshed when you come in and teach every single day.

Speaker 1:

[10:19](#)

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.