

Partnerships with community so vital



CONNECTING: Tatchilla College assistant head of the junior school Alison Thacker with students Jasper and Mia.

Q How do you spend your weekends?

A I love gardening, attending poetry evenings, reading and watching my daughters play basketball live-streamed from the US, where they are both studying and playing basketball on scholarships. I try to keep Saturdays free for many of these, with Sunday devoted to my church and school preparation.

Q What was the teaching role you had before the leadership role?

A I studied a Bachelor of Special Education and a Masters of Gifted Education so I could find pathways for all students to engage with a curriculum that is rigorous and challenging. Previous roles have included literacy specialist in learning enhancement for Years 4-7 and curriculum co-ordinator

MEET THE TEACHER

ALISON THACKER

School: Tatchilla Lutheran College

Role: Assistant head of junior school

Number of years in education sector: 20



and primary years program co-ordinator in another school.

Q Describe what an assistant head does.

A The role includes supporting teachers to provide a personalised, innovative and challenging curriculum that is contemporary, well planned, creatively and effectively taught and acknowledges students' achievements and challenges through careful assessment and feedback. Forming partnerships with parents and the wider community is also important.

Q How do you engage with students in this role?

A My role enables me to collaboratively plan and support innovative approaches to teaching and learning across the school with regular student contact in four year levels.

Other connections include being a basketball coach and connecting with students on yard duties. Being a part of students' learning journeys is a real privilege.

Q Describe a hobby you like to do?

A I love writing poetry. It has opened up new ways of

expressing my thoughts, beliefs, feelings, narratives etc.

A few weeks ago, I competed in the Summer Poetry Slam SA.

I found it very rewarding and it has opened up a whole world of new friends and experiences.

Q What is something in the job that you really enjoy?

A I love the opportunity to connect with students along their learning journey from Reception.

There is great joy in assisting our students to develop as learners as they engage with innovative approaches and our exceptional outdoor learning and play spaces.

Q Finish this sentence: When students go home ...

A ... I reflect on the joys and successes of the day and challenges for the next day.