Memories

Today I sit in a classroom in Guildford England with 27 American teachers of English and Technology it is a far cry from where I have come. My journey to this point has been full of tears and laughter, pain and fun.

I left a marriage of 18 years with 3 children to begin a new journey in life. I packed up the house and moved from a small rural town on the east coast of New Zealand and moved to the city of Hamilton to begin my studies at Waikato University. My two sons came with me beginning their education at Hamilton East School and the prestigious Hamilton Boys High School. My daughter would not come, it broke my heart but there was no turning back and there was still a long way to go.

I had decided to go to teachers training college and realise a dream. I had been working as the teacher aide and school secretary at my children’s local school where I did the administration, taught music in the classrooms and played piano for whole school singing. I loved what I did and thought if I could get a qualification I could support myself and my children and offer a better life for each of us and that’s exactly what I did.

Six years of study gave me a diploma of teaching, Bachelor of Education/Music and a Master of Special Education. My first teaching position was at St Andrews Middle School in a year 7 class. The following year I became the Music Specialist for the next four years. I enjoyed my time at Saint Andrews but I missed mainstream education covering all the curriculum areas with the students. I love music but for me it is a part of life not life itself. I at the end of that year and I took up at position at a small Catholic school and the children were just delightful and this gave me the opportunity I needed to develop my cross curricular teaching skills rather than focus on behaviour management. I was only nine months at this school and I moved on. A teacher was going on maternity leave and this school invited me to apply for her position. Here I found I was managing behaviour along with creating classroom programmes, a great opportunity to add needed experiences to my teaching portfolio. Then one evening browsing the net I came across what appeared to be my dream job.

This position wanted an educator to teach fulltime in a mainstream classroom, years 5 and 6, lead the music in the school; conduct the school orchestra and choirs. I immediately phoned for an interview and within 24 hours I had the position. I have now been with this school for three years. I have been privileged to work with children who value education and work hard to achieve at their level. The school has always offered and provided opportunities for professional development and me being me, always take an opportunity.

Today I sit in an English classroom with 27 American educators discussing historical authors Dickens, Shakespeare, Eliot and Austen, our many adventures to cities and towns, castles and cathedrals. Who would have thought?.