Story 6: Teacher story

Well I think mine’s a bit similar to some that have all ready been said. Mine I guess is a parallel journey of my own journey as a leader in our school, and the school’s journey along the values work that we’ve been doing.

I’ve been at our school for about seven years and I’m taking on more and more leadership sort of tasks, and this values project has given me the chance to try and run a program that’s going to effect whole school change. So for me, my journey has coincided with the school’s journey to do with getting engagement from large sectors of our school community. So that for me is the ‘Wow!’, the fact that we made that happen. And I’m thinking of teachers who would come up to me in the staffroom and they’d say excited things about what they were about to do in their class to do with values. They’d say ‘I’ve got this great resource you might be interested in, cause it’s about values’, and so I could feel the rising teacher enthusiasm for what we were starting with our values research. I can feel student excitement. Kids come up and they are thrilled to be part of our student representative body.

This is the first year that we’ve trialled this in the school and it’s been the values project that has been the task that we’ve set them. Even this very morning when we were getting ready to come to this meeting today, one of the two students I was bringing with me, he’s not a student from my class, he’s just one of the students who’s been on the student council. So I don’t know him very well and I was showing some of the information we’d been putting in our newsletter and we were talking about a lot of quotes that I’d put together, of the vast amounts of information we’d been given from our families, who’d got totally engaged with this project and had sent back the most intimate, thoughtful, deep, reflective thoughts about what they value. And for me, this morning, I got goose bumps. The student who I was bringing this morning said ‘Yeah, my mum really liked those when you put them in the newsletter, those quotes from other people, she stuck them up all round the house’ and I thought that sums it up. It’s something that’s grabbed people and that’s happened throughout every layer of our school and it’s something I’ve been very honoured to be part of, and very proud of.