



Standard 1 : Educators value and care for all students and act in their best interests

1. The chosen evidence is a Pecha-Kucha Presentation that I created as part of a project called Sparks. Sparks aims at increasing student's self-esteem and reduce the risk of drug use and other dangerous behaviour. My presentation teaches children about the importance of being themselves and not trying to be like others. It has a positive focus and aims at inspiring students to listen to their heart because it is through embodying their uniqueness that they can radiate their brightest light into the world. The next step of the Sparks project is to get the students to explore their own spark and to create an esthetic presentation to share their spark with the rest of the class.

2. I chose this evidence in relation to Standard 1 because the Sparks project fosters the emotional, esthetic, social and vocational development of students. Celebrating all students for their uniqueness helps to create a strong community of learners where respect and dignity reign. The project promotes diversity within the classroom and helps students build their self-esteem and confidence. It also gives a chance to students to work on something that they are truly passionate about and to share their enthusiasm with their group. As a teacher, it helps me to get to know my students better so I can connect with them easier. Knowing my students' interests helps me find ways to better engage them in their learning, which ultimately serves their best interests.

3. This learning standard is important to me as a new teacher because it connects with values that are very important to me. I was brought up in a society that valued uniformity and conformity. It was often more important to try to meet other people's expectations than to learn to follow my heart. As a child, I quickly learned how to please my parents and my teachers but it took me a very long time to develop my own passions and to embrace my path. Even though I had always known that teaching was my path, I was swayed from this path because I tried to please others. It took me a lot of self-work to shed these self-negating patterns and to develop the confidence to live my own truth.

A lot of the quotes and pictures that I chose for this Sparks presentation come from a dear teacher of mine, Asha Croggon ([wholeheartedbeing](#)). Asha has been instrumental in guiding me towards living a wholehearted life. Now that I am walking my own unique path, I stand firm in my belief that celebrating diversity and valuing what make each student unique is one of the most important roles of a teacher. It shows them that they are respected for who they are and creates the foundations on which a relationship based on trust can be built. This creates the necessary conditions for learning to happen. As

I move forward, I ask myself what practices I must implement and what attitudes I must adopt in order to allow this relationship of trust to develop with each student in my class.