



Ms Agapitos, where did you do obtain your tertiary education and in which schools did you work in Sydney?

Dimitri, I did a Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Sydney. In terms of my teaching career, my first appointment was at Maroubra Bay High School in the TAS (Technology and Applied Studies) faculty back in 1979. Then in 1981, I moved to Matraville High School. In 1988, I received a promotion as Head Teacher TAS at Randwick Girls High School. In 2013, I became the Deputy Principal at Wiley Park Girls High School and I have been the Deputy there since 2013 until my retirement this year. At regular intervals over the years, I took up the role as Principal at the same school, that is Wiley Park High School as well as Principal at Kingsgrove North High School for a short length of time. As a Deputy Principal though, I was highly involved in building relationships with people, leading programs in Literacy, Numeracy and the STEM subjects and seeing my students succeed in their own goals. As an educational leader, I have always looked for the strength in staff and students to bring out their personal best. Over the years, I created opportunities for students to build their full potential, making time, being visible, being approachable and by building the necessary platforms for ongoing learning.

You have been involved in education for 40 whole years and probably even more. What was your main aim and why did you remain in the public education?

Yes, I have been involved in education for 40 years, as you say, Dimitri. I remained in public education because I felt very strong about contributing to public education, to serve the community, to support my students and families in need, to assist

with their well-being, offering educational programs to the disadvantaged and to low-social economic groups. My main aim was to tap into my students' needs and talents and to link people from Non-English-Speaking Backgrounds to the community. I understand this need, as I, myself, do come from a migrant background being Greek of course!

What were the changes you have seen in education over the years and how did you manage these, Ms Agapitos?

Dear Dimitri, my goal was to make sure that education as a value of our society was inclusive of culture and religion and social status to ensure that all students achieve their personal best. I wanted to ensure I knew my schools' parent communities well so I could address their needs. Over my career, I took parents and students on a tour to regional NSW which included Menindee and Broken Hill so that we could share educational programs and resources, eventually connecting parents to education. Students from regional areas had Sydney experiences through a cultural exchange program called "City-Country Alliance" which I was an Executive member of, representing the Secondary Schools in NSW and connecting schools in educational programs and of course providing intercultural understanding equity for all. For this service across the years as well as in recognition of the services to the "City-Country Alliance", I was given a gift or a token of thanks. This was an Aboriginal artefact presented to me by Golgol High School Principal Glen Walker at the State Leadership Conference in November 2022. That was a humble moment for me.

That is incredible and we mean your paradigmatic work on building relationships to benefit your school

