

Kylie/Rural Area/Primary

Pre-Commencement

After four years at university, the thought of actually finishing and finding a job was quite a daunting one! Being from the country myself, I was willing to teach in rural areas. There was a lot of talk about how desperate rural areas were for primary school teachers, so I thought that if I did not get a permanent job, I would move home, and pick up some casual teaching.

There is no guarantee that you will get a permanent job in the state system straight away. I knew that if a permanent job did not come up, I would be guaranteed casual work around home but I did not like the thought of not getting enough work. Therefore I began to look more into the private schooling system to see which schools were advertising jobs for 2008. I wanted to move away from the metropolitan area, after living there for five years, so I was hoping to be able to apply for schools in rural cities or towns.

In October last year, I applied for a job at a P-12 private school, and was asked to come in for an interview. The interview went well and I was offered a job which I accepted.

The thought of moving to a new location is an exciting one. I know a few people in the area, and from looking at the school it appears to be very friendly and interacts a lot with the wider community. I am also looking forward to being back in the country again. I have been told the school is employing three other new staff members in the primary school which will be extremely helpful as I will not be the only new one.

I expect it to be a very challenging and full-on first year. Although I have had some fabulous practicum experiences and learnt so much from my cooperating teachers during these practicums, I know that having my own class is going to be a lot harder. I still do

not know what year I will be teaching, but the principal has indicated that it will most likely be years 3 or 4, so I am hoping for year 3!

I am looking forward to having my own class and being able to program for the needs of students within my class. I expect that it will take time to get to know the students and what level they are all at, but this is one of the challenges about starting.

All the practicums I have completed have been in metropolitan areas, with students who have very diverse multicultural backgrounds, whereas this school is predominantly Anglo-Saxon and most of the students come from rural backgrounds, so this will also be a different experience once again for me. I think I will be learning a lot of things along the way!

All schools operate differently, from timetabling to co-curricular activities to programming to the computer systems, and I know that it is also going to take time to adjust to the way the school operates in these different ways. I am very keen to become involved in the extra-curricular activities the school provides, especially coaching some of the sporting teams; however, I doubt I will be able to take on too much, especially in term 1 as I will be trying to get my head around starting the new job and having my own class!

Overall, I am extremely pleased to have secured a full-time job this year. I am very excited about the prospect of moving to a new place, meeting new people and having my own class and although the thought of it all is overwhelming, I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.