

# Passionate Pedagogical Wisdom

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**"Passion is energy.  
Feel the power that  
comes from focusing  
on what excites you."**

- Oprah Winfrey

What does Passion look like to you?













CLUB



Aug 29, 2014

[A Passionate Teacher Pays It Forward](http://blog.roomtoread.org/room-to-read/teacher/)

<http://blog.roomtoread.org/room-to-read/teacher/>

$$a^2 - 2ab + b^2 = (a-b)(a-b)$$

BUT:

$$a^2 - b^2 = (a-b)(a+b)$$

EXAMPLE:

$$\begin{array}{l} a=9 \\ b=8 \end{array}$$

$$11 - 01$$

$$= 17$$

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**EDUCATION**

IS NOT  
THE **FILLING**  
**OF A BUCKET,**

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BUT  
THE **LIGHTING**  
**OF A FIRE.**

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---W.B. YEATS

**Flame is a common metaphor for Passion.**

## **Passionate Pedagogy**

**illuminates**

**kindles**

**nurtures**

**sustains**



**the flames of learning and holistic growth**

Great teachers are passionate about subject



and they want to share that passion with students

# Great teachers are passionate about learning



(their own as well as that of their students)

# Great teachers are passionate about the teaching & learning process



They consider the journey > the destination

Great teachers are passionate about empowering learners



PROGRESS PRIDE INTEGRITY SUPPORT  
ACCOUNTABILITY TEAMWORK TRUST  
RESPECT COURAGE LEADERSHIP DIVERSITY  
HONESTY PASSION COMMUNICATION  
PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE  
EFFICIENCY INNOVATION  
EMERGING TALENTS  
QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE RELIABILITY  
PERFECTION VISION PROGRESS CAPABILITY  
POTENTIAL EXCELLENCE OPENNESS  
SUPPORTED CONFIDENCE SIMPLICITY

# PASSION

*The reality for contemporary teachers is that as the professional context of teaching is becoming increasingly outcomes oriented, it threatens to quench both nascent and established flames of passionate teaching and learning.*

(Fogelgarn, 2013)

# Retaining passion for teaching...

- The difficulties classroom teachers face in attempting to fulfil the aims of public education whilst simultaneously keeping their **passion** intact are confounding.
- Teachers must be mindful of the educational needs and pastoral care of each and every student. Teachers are expected to equip students with the necessary skills to participate meaningfully in future work and community life.
- This herculean task must be accomplished in a political context which inclines towards a culture of **performativity** and consequently undervalues teachers' creativity, individuality and professional autonomy.

# What Drains Us...

Teaching in the 21st Century seems overwhelming to many teachers, resulting in

- stress
- burnout
- alarming rates of attrition
- a raft of issues negatively impact teachers' energy and attitudes towards their work, including:
  - salary, intense emotional drain, challenging student behaviour, planning demands, restricted avenues for promotion, extra-curricular duties, clashes with experienced staff and work-life balance

# Factors which impede passionate practice

- Greater societal expectations and lower societal recognition;
- Greater accountability to parents and policy-makers;
- Pedagogical and curriculum changes being implemented at an increasing rate;
- Increased need for technological competence;
- Increased demands beyond the pedagogical task;
- Increasing diversity among students;
- More administrative work...

# What sustains Us...

[Handout](#)

- Students
- Pedagogically wise, affirming, transformational leadership
- Co-operative and collaborative collegial contexts
- Courage; intensity of belief in our mission (moral purpose); intrinsic, passionate motivation; our passionate, humble perseverance to do more and make it better for our students; determination to prevail over adversity
- Volitional fortitude to resist negative people
- Opportunities for: autonomy, change, growth (professional learning), making a meaningful difference
- Optimistic outlook, hopefulness, creativity, joy in learning
- Authentic mentoring
- Nurturance of holistic wellbeing

*"My kind of a 'how-to' book."*

*—From the foreword by Deborah Meier, author of The Power of Their Ideas*



*The*  
**Passionate  
Teacher**

*A Practical Guide*

**ROBERT L. FRIED**

*With a New Chapter for First-Year Teachers*

a **Passion**  
for **Teaching**

Christopher Day

Two bright red apples with short brown stems are positioned on a white surface. The apple in the foreground is slightly to the left and more in focus than the one behind it.

**Classroom  
Management Tip #1  
Share Your Passion**



# References

- Google Images 2015, 2016
- Day, C. (2007). *A Passion for Teaching*. Paper presented at the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland, Ireland.  
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- Fried, R. L. (2001). *The Passionate Teacher: A Practical Guide*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.
- Fogelgarn. (2013). *Sustaining Passionate Pedagogy*. (Doctor of Education), La Trobe University, Melbourne. Retrieved from  
<http://library.latrobe.edu.au/record=b3349160~S5>
- Citations throughout slides are listed in the bibliography of *Sustaining Passionate Pedagogy* (Fogelgarn, 2013)