"Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher." This quote from *The Courage to Teach* by Parker J. Palmer reveals a truth about teaching that I hold as a part of my teaching philosophy. It points to the requirement for a teacher to act ethically and to prioritize the needs of the student. This concept would be proven by a teacher who is technically proficient at teaching a lesson but disregards the needs of their students. For example, if they were able explain long division in an eloquent and engaging lesson, but they did not care to understand how a child dealing with issues at home was not able to effectively partake in the lesson, then they would clearly not be an effective educator. By viewing teaching as a way of copying and pasting content into a student’s brain, you are ignoring their needs, which might be better met by a lesson or activity that is social-emotional in purpose.

Identity and integrity are ways of not just measuring how you teach, but why you teach. In my personal experience of working at BGC Kamloops, I have worked with children with difficulties at home and at school. While it is sometimes difficult to work with kids with behavioural issues, but I have found it personally much more rewarding when they succeed in activities or in socialization. This is because it gives you a feeling that you are making a life changing impact on the children you work with, and in some small way a positive impact on the world. I don’t believe that I am a paragon of virtue in any sense, but I do strongly believe in self-improvement as a mantra. Therefore, I will strive to be the best teacher that I can be by prioritizing the needs of my students and constantly re-evaluating whether my classroom is doing that. By doing this, I will be able to impact the lives of my students positively, whether I am helping them learn social skills, scholastic content, or simply ways to find happiness.