



Retirees' Dinner

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
3811 Point Grey Road
Vancouver, BC



Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association

Retirees' Dinner

- 6:00 Reception
- 7:00 Welcome & Dinner
- 8:00 Retirees' Group Photo
- 8:15 Greetings from VSTA & BCTF
- Introductions and presentations

Byng
Windermere
Children's Hospital
Britannia
Vancouver Technical
Hamber
GF Strong
Kitsilano
Magee
Thompson
Templeton
Killarney
Killarney-Spectrum
Churchill
Tupper
John Oliver
Point Grey
King George
District Learning Services
University Hill
University Hill-Trans Program
Prince of Wales

n behalf of the Executive of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association, I'd like to welcome you to the dinner celebrating the members of the Association retiring from teaching in 2017. From bells and crowded halls of teenagers, to report card deadlines and early morning staff meetings, there are certain things that no doubt our retirees are looking forward to leaving behind. The joy of teaching and the hopeful idealism of making a difference in the lives of students have been the fuel of their endeavours and they can now rest easy in the remembrance of the thousands of children that they have taught and nurtured through their years in the public school system.

Tonight we are commemorating over a millennium of teaching experience. Thousands of students have benefitted from the passion and commitment of our retiring teachers. Hundreds of colleagues have enjoyed coffee breaks, lunch breaks, year-end festivities, picket line strolls and photocopy chats with our retiring colleagues. Their influence and effect may be obvious or subtle and perhaps unknown to them, but all of these teachers have contributed to what has made Vancouver the vibrant school system it is.

We hear from retired colleagues that there is much to enjoy come September - no bells, no marking and the opportunity to catch up on reading, to visit with friends and family on off peak travel fares and to indulge in that passion that has been waiting in the wings. The Retired Teachers' Association is always welcoming new members and we know that some of you will stay involved in education in one form or another. Your colleagues in schools will miss you and your words of wisdom and experience. Your students will have lifelong memories of their experiences with you. Being a teacher is like no other profession - one of the hardest jobs there is, but also one of the most rewarding. Congratulations on a job well done and on your adventures ahead.

Please join me in celebrating and congratulating the retiring class of 2017. Bonne Chance and Happy Trails!

Rory Brown
President

Retiring Vancouver Secondary Teachers

James B Campbell

Donald Chang

Geoffrey Clay-Smith

David Coopersmith

Randy Coutts

Jan Crawford

Judy Dabideen-Sonachansingh

Nancy Derpak

Marian Dill-Jones

Eileen Edwards

Moira Ekdahl

Mary Filleul

Lisa Ford

Patricia Gordy

Valerie Grimes

Lynda Hall

Denise Isomura

Aurelia Jacob

William Jajic

Leslie Johnstone

Laurie Kidd

Stephanie Koropatnick

Patti Koyanagi

Robyn Littleford

Karen Lowe

Mary Lukacs

Marney Maretic

Perry Mathias

Jo-Anne McCluskie

Diana Mogensen

Rodica Munteanu

Janet Nicol

Lee Nipp

Daniel O'Gorman

Elizabeth Peterson

Don Phillips

Fernanda Pires

Jo-Anne Roberts

Paula Saar

Stephen Scherf

James Scoten

Ashley Sellick

Jacqueline Siller

Paul Sinclair

Kristina Tanner

Kathleen Thompson

Sophia Thomson

Shirley Turner

Xiaohui Wang

Shirley Woo



James B Campbell

37 yrs 4 mos experience
Tupper, Kitsilano

Highlight: Teaching so many successful students.
Plans: Travel. Will miss: Camaraderie
Won't miss: Christy Clark's lawbreaking
"If you think you can or you think you can't,
you're probably right!"



Donald Chang

17 yrs experience
Killarney, King George,
Gladstone, Total Ed,
Templeton

It's been a short career; I was a late starter.
Surprisingly, when I quit lawyering, things didn't
change much; lawyers can be quite juvenile as
well! I'll miss coaching and Model UN, not grading
papers. Next fall, I won't have gone far, as I'll TOC
to supplement my pension, but will have much
more family time.



Dave Coopersmith

16 yrs experience
UBC Transitions (UHS),
Osler Elementary

I spent 6 months at Osler, but if I had been given
the opportunity, I would have never left. However,
when that first year finished, I was offered a
position at UBC Transitions, my home ever since.
The 15 years that I have spent at UBC have been
wonderful. I am so thankful that this program
welcomed me as an educator.



Randy Coutts

24 yrs experience
Kitsilano

Highlight: Coaching 4 Provincial Championships Sr.
Boys Basketball. Plans to golf, travel, spend time
with my grandchildren. Will miss the students and
athletes. Won't miss the paperwork. I believe
teaching/coaching contributes more to the future
of our society than any other single profession.



Jan Crawford

26 yrs experience
Point Grey,
Total Education,
TTOC, Churchill

Highlight: Growing and developing the "art
careers" program at PG and blending my skills as
an artist with my teaching. This connection
brought me many proud moments as I mentored
my art careers groups. Plan: becoming a
professional artist and teaching for the FCA.



**Judy Dabideen-
Sonachansingh**

35 yrs experience
Thompson, Byng,
Trinidad & Tobago

My favourite thing about teaching Chemistry has
been seeing my students' eyes light up with
understanding. If I have made my over 6,000
students feel recognized, understood and valued,
then my career was spent well.



Marian Dill-Jones

35 yrs experience
Prince of Wales,
Crofton House, Bishop's
Castle High School, UK

Highlights: Returning to Canada after many years away and having the opportunity to teach my favourite subject: Geography! Also, all those days when the kids just got it and you knew they learned a lesson for life. Looking forward to travelling and kayaking.



Eileen Edwards

18 yrs experience
Magee, Hudson,
Quilchena, Jamieson

One thing I will miss — as Emily Dickinson once penned, “Children’s faces looking up, holding wonder like a cup” and one thing I won’t miss... Christy’s messes.



Moira Ekdahl

46.5 yrs experience
University Hill,
John Oliver, Gladstone,
Kitsilano, New Westminster,
Williams Lake

After 46.5 years of being a teacher, it’s hard to imagine life without teaching. So I will carry on—teaching for the UBC Faculty of Education Language & Literacy Education Teacher-Librarian Diploma program!



Mary Filleul

24 yrs experience
Transition Teacher, Peer-to-Peer, Literacy Mentor, Learning & Development Consultant (DLS); VT, WRE, BRIT, KITS

I anticipate time! Time to be in the moment, to paint the deck, to do daily yoga, to run, to walk, to cycle, to read, to cook healthy, to intrude on my children’s lives. And time to be me, on a beach, dreaming of places I can now go at discount prices.



Lisa Ford

16 yrs experience
King George

Thank you colleagues. You have inspired me to be a better teacher and a better person.



Valerie Grimes

16.5 yrs experience
Vancouver Technical,
Churchill, John Oliver,
Byng, Britannia,
Thompson, Killarney

Highlights: Annual PSA conference/reunions! Getting to know amazing colleagues while walking at sunrise. Pro-D day workshop interrupted when a teacher, phone in hand, blurted out, “We won.” Wonderful co-workers, students, administrators at six Vancouver high schools (including practicum).



Lynda Hall
28 yrs experience
DRT at Point Grey,
Prince of Wales, Magee,
Britannia, Thompson

It has been an honour to work with students, families and colleagues over these years. I will miss these connections but look forward to exploring new vistas, travel and all things Italian!



Denise Isomura
34 yrs experience
Britannia, Hamber,
Burnaby, Pemberton,
Prince George,
Armstrong, Vernon

Being a Home Economics teacher has been incredibly rewarding. It was a pleasure to teach lifeskills and I will continue to sew and cook in my retirement. Looking forward to my next chapter: playing bridge, golf, travelling and spending time with family and friends. "When the going gets tough, the tough make cookies." - Erma Bombeck



Aurelia Jacob
22 yrs experience
Hamber, John Oliver,
Thompson

Teaching Physics is not easy. But when I went to UBC cafeteria to have lunch on a Pro-D day and more than 15 former students swarmed around me proud to tell me about their success in Engineering or Sciences, I felt it was all worth it.



Leslie Johnstone
29 yrs experience
Point Grey

I've enjoyed teaching Science at Point Grey Secondary for the past 29 years. My students, teaching colleagues, and fellow Science department heads will be greatly missed. The future holds more writing, travel, and leisure.



Laurie Kidd
23 yrs experience
Prince of Wales, Pender
Harbour, Templeton,
TTOC, Nisga'a

Going to NYC for the National Art Education Conference was one of my career highlights. Future plans include sleeping in, making art, designing cat toys and sunglasses, making gluten-free beer, becoming an Art Therapist, having fun! Favourite anecdote is "Could you please just pretend you're in Art Class!"



Stephanie Koropatnick
28 yrs experience
Learning Services,
Gladstone, Thompson,
University Hill, Hamber

Highlight: As a District Resource Teacher, having the opportunity to observe in classrooms and watch fellow teachers do the magic that they do. Will miss the kids and colleagues. Won't miss 1-ply toilet paper.



Patti Koyanagi
28 yrs experience
Templeton, Alpha (BBY)

I am leaving my “home” of 27 years and it is sad but exciting. I will miss all the comforts, especially my Templeton family, but I look forward to many new adventures!



Robyn Littleford
31 yrs experience
GF Strong School Program

I will miss the spirit and determination of the students I have worked with: they have all faced such adversity so early in their lives. It has been an honour to be part of their journey through rehabilitation and their return to school.



Karen Lowe
34 yrs experience
Windermere, Magee,
Vancouver Technical,
John Oliver,
Burnaby South, Comox

I taught Home Economics, PE, Cafeteria and then began Counselling. I enjoyed collegiality and mentorship in all schools, plus administrative support. Times are changing however, and it’s time to go!



Marney Maretic
10 yrs experience
Tupper



Jo-Anne McCluskie
39 yrs experience
Kitsilano, John Oliver,
Johnston Heights

I have met some wonderful lifelong friends over the years, and have many fond memories of JO Mini School trips. One of my favourite stories... In 2010, one of the grandmothers of a Kitsilano student offered to obtain MJ for me to help with side effects of chemo.



Diana Mogensen
37 yrs experience
BC Children’s Hospital,
McCorkindale, Dickens,
McDonald, Windermere,
Unity School

Highlights: Teaching in the Provincial Eating Disorders Program at BC Children’s Hospital and partnering with hospital, BCTF and teaching staffs throughout BC promoting child and youth mental health in schools. I won’t miss my alarm clock!



Janet Nicol

29 yrs experience
Killarney

Teaching history, EAL and Social Justice courses has been rewarding. Future plans include writing and travel. I'll miss my energetic students and inspiring teacher colleagues.



Lee Nipp

29 yrs experience
Britannia, Kitsilano,
Vancouver Technical

Career highlight was receiving the Junior Achievement Outstanding Teacher award. I will miss the daily interactions with my students and colleagues, but I am grateful for the friendships I have made in my teaching career.



Dan O'Gorman

25 yrs experience
King George

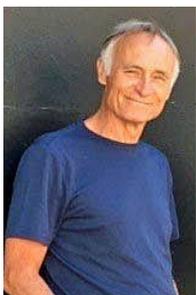
It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have taught along side my downtown family of friends at King George. While this long and wonderful chapter in my book of life has concluded, there are still many adventures still to be experienced.



Elizabeth Peterson

42 yrs experience
Churchill

I have enjoyed my time at Churchill. The changes in technology have been amazing—I started when report cards were completed by filling out a computer card and now we are online! I will miss my students and colleagues, but I won't miss the marking, especially IB Math internal assessments.



Don Phillips

33 yrs experience
Magee, Hamber,
Churchill, Britannia

Good news: we're going to be in very good hands when the next generation steps up. Many thanks to all the students and my colleagues who were with me on this teaching adventure.



Jo-Anne Roberts

22 yrs experience
Vancouver Technical

I have had a wonderful 22 years as teacher-librarian at Tech. A special thank you to all my teacher-librarian partners—Margaret, Katharine and Frances—for making these years so professionally and personally rewarding. A big thank you as well to the amazing staff and students at Tech.



Paula Saar
 27 yrs experience
 John Oliver, Trudeau,
 DRPC, Oakridge, Cavell,
 McBride, Delta Senior

One of my career highlights has been teaching every grade except for Grade 1. Immediate future plans: transition to TTCing along with more travel, more dogs and more time with friends. I'll miss it all. I won't miss long drives from White Rock, the cold school mornings or the strikes.



James Scoten
 35 yrs experience
 Templeton, Tupper,
 Abbotsford, Prince
 George, Kitimat

Today I exchange teaching
 For taking my dinghy beaching;
 Swap Pavlovian bells
 For the smell of sea shells;
 And, God willing
 Pedagogy for preaching.



Jacqueline Siller
 27 yrs experience
 Prince of Wales,
 Begbie, Van Horne

I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching for the past 27 years. I will miss the students and chatting with my colleagues. I liked it when I got students interested in a topic in History class. I won't miss marking and report cards. I hope to travel and golf more in the future.



Kristina Tanner
 25+ yrs experience
 Byng, Templeton,
 Gladstone

Highlight: Grads coming back and being really appreciative. Plan to travel, time with grandkids, volunteering, yoga. Will miss my students, seeing them from Grade 8 to 12, and colleagues. Won't miss the bells or timetabling.



Kathy Thompson
 30 yrs experience
 Spectrum Alternative
 (Killarney and Vancouver
 Technical)

Teaching in an alternative school for students at risk has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I will miss the unique students and great staff. Plans include spending more time with family and friends, as well as travelling, cycling and improving my tennis game.



Sophia Thomson
 38 yrs experience
 Vancouver Technical,
 Rosedale (Chilliwack)

Having spent most of my career at Tech, I will miss everything that is good about teaching there. However, going after students for missing classes, incomplete assignments and their electronics is something I won't miss! Wishing all health, wealth (yes! Pension cheques!), and adventures!



Shirley Turner
 21 yrs experience
 Spectrum Alternative,
 Vancouver Technical,
 Prince of Wales,
 King George (YWCA
 Teen Mums Program)



Xiaohui Wang
 20 yrs experience
 King George

Some of my most rewarding/learning moments have involved sharing my love of gardening, yoga and outdoors with my students and colleagues. I thank you all for your support and encouragement to be myself.

I won't miss waking up at 6am, but I sure will miss all the students and staff I've bonded with through music. The music program was my pride and now my treasured memory.

Special Guests

Teri Mooring, 1st VP, BCTF
 Gerry Kent, VESTA Past Pres
 Andy Hattrick, SIF

Members of Executive

Michael-Don Borason
 Rory Brown
 Ryan Fullerton
 Brett Gabelman
 Treena Goolieff
 Leanne Hagglund
 Peter Halim
 Phil Lee
 Natalia Mayor
 Sara McGarry
 Scott McKeen
 Peter McLennan
 Sylvia Metzner
 Trish Mugford
 Nancy Palejko
 Katharine Shipley
 John Silver
 Terry Stanway

Staff & Standing Committee Reps

Rick Appel	Anna MacRae
Vanessa Babajee	Jillian Maguire
Cecil Baird	Janet McCarron
Carole Birks	Susan McIntosh
Rob Bordon	Jacquie Moon
Margaret Brooks	Hamish Morrison
Shelby Calman	Sarah Ng
Greg Chan-Henry	John Nicks
Melanie Clay-Smith	Tanya Noble
Henny Coates	Lisa Pacheco
Brenda Dowle	Bal Panesar
Cindy Dudra	Eleanor Pang
Adele Esnault-Oka	Sherry Preston
Sara Forsey	Tina Quan
Elizabeth Greer	Nigel Reedman
Deenu Haji	Heidi Rogers
Heather Jensen	Valerie Roland
Randolph Jung	Stefan Schmitt
Colin Kam	Shirlene Shelfontiuk
Kate King	Helen Sinclair
Alita Krickan	Shamsher Singh
Herb Lachelt	Karla Smedley
Fred Lackmance	Paula Violi
Virginia Lam	Brad White
Kim Leary	Roger Willan
Joe Lee	Sally Wong
Tony Lee	Dan Wyper
Shannon Less	Stacey Yip
Ian MacLeod	

Vice Commodore's Dinner Buffet

Mixed Greens, Caesar Salad, Quinoa Salad,
Roasted Vegetables, Greek Salad, Beet Salad,
Pasta Salad, Marinated Mushrooms

Smoked Salmon Platter, Baby Shrimp, King Prawns,
European Charcuterie Platter

Chicken Breast with Hunter Sauce
BC Salmon with Beurre Blanc
Cheese Tortellini, Fresh Cream and Herb Sauce
Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes, Rice of the Day

CARVING STATION

Roasted Top Sirloin with Red Wine Sauce and Dijon Mustard

Imported and Domestic Cheeses
Fresh Fruit
Cakes, Pies, Cheesecakes, Tortes and Pastries
Coffee and Tea

