



VANCOUVER SECONDARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Retirees' Dinner

June 20th, 2023

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Retirees Dinner

6:00 RECEPTION

7:00 WELCOME & DINNER

8:00 RETIREES' GROUP PHOTO

8:15 GREETINGS FROM VSTA AND BCTF

8:20 INTRODUCTIONS & PRESENTATIONS



Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023

The Annual VSTA Retirees' Dinner is the Union's opportunity to thank our retiring colleagues for your years in the classroom and for your commitment to public education in Vancouver. The decision to retire from teaching is not taken lightly; we hope that tonight's celebration will afford you the opportunity to reflect on the best moments of your career.

As a member of the Class of 2023, much of your career was impacted by the gulf between our, and society as a whole's, vision for public education in this district and province and successive governments unwillingness to fund schools and programs at levels sufficient to achieve that vision. You have been on strike, participated in job action and fought hard in other ways for the benefits we have achieved. You have also spent countless hours prepping courses, marking, coaching, attending meetings, chairing meetings, mentoring, organizing field trips, and talking to parents and caregivers. In the latter stage of your career, you maintained this, in one form or another, while teaching through a pandemic. Your contributions as advocates for public education through the VSTA and BCTF and your contributions at the school, classroom, and individual student levels define the lasting impact of your career.

This dinner is also our opportunity to thank the School Union Team representatives for the leadership and support they have provided throughout the year to all of our colleagues. Our Staff Reps, Pro-D Chairs, WLC/B Reps, Health & Safety Reps, Technology Reps, and Social & Environmental Justice Reps keep our members informed and engaged in the work of the VSTA and BCTF. They offer professional and personal support to our colleagues in our schools and programs and keep the In-House Table Officers informed of the matters of concern to teachers on a day-to-day basis.

The other group that we want to recognize tonight is our Executive Committee, including our Standing Committee Chairs. Throughout the year, they spend hours in meetings advising the IHTOs and helping to keep site-based reps informed and motivated.

When September comes and those of us returning to our schools and programs are experiencing anxiety-induced dreams about not being able to find our lesson plans or classrooms, you, the members of the VSTA Class of 2023, will be sleeping in, enjoying coffee and the newspaper, and doing whatever you feel like doing. We wish you the best in all your future endeavours and hope that you will stay in touch with us. Congratulations on a career well-served!

Terry, Carmen, and Carl
VSTA IHTOs



Retiring Vancouver Secondary Teachers

NAOMI BIRD
CRAIG BRUMWELL
STEVEN BRYK
JUDY CHAN
RUSSELL EVANS
DONALD JAMES DAVIES
OSCAR GONCALVES
JANICE LAM
GABRIELLA LAPPANO
LYNOOR LARDEIN
BRIAN LATIMER
CATHERINE MACMILLAN
ANDREA MAY
AMANDA MILLER
JOHN MUELLER
NICK PETHERIOTIS
GARY REGAN
KIM TAYLOR
CAROL THORNTON
DAVID TOLSDORFF
BRAD WHITE
JENNY WONG





*Congrats
Class of
2023!*



Naomi Bird

30 yrs experience
Prince of Wales, King George,
TTOC, Templeton

Feeling grateful for a fulfilling career surrounded and supported by colleagues who became friends through some sad, a few absurd but mostly wonderful shared experiences

Craig Brumwell

35 yrs experience
Kitsilano

I'm going to miss everything about Kits from the people to the sunny atrium in the morning. Mostly, I will miss the energy of this place. It is alive. A memorable moment was marching up to Ryan Reynolds and berating him for having a cigarette tucked above his ear only to discover it was a paper note, which he reached-up and unrolled with a smile. Future plans are life on Salt Spring, studio time and family life.



Steven Bryk

37 yrs experience

While I never made it to a secondary assignment (due to disability), I thoroughly enjoyed my roles as gifted education teacher, inner city project teacher and area counsellor in the elementary sector. Best wishes to everyone. Enjoy your journey ahead!





Judy Chan

47 yrs experience
Eric Hamber

I had wonderful experiences working with colleagues and students over the decades. Seeing students be their best is rewarding – whether in baking or culinary competitions, dragon boating or to combat racism. Other highlights include leading teachers on a Pacific Rim Initiative trip to Thailand, getting the VSB Teacher Recognition Award and presenting an anti-racism paper in NY. Now I am ready to travel and eat my way around the world. Thank you to all who have been part of this amazing journey.



Janice Lam

35 yrs experience
Elementary, ELL, Churchill

I taught for 20 years in elementary as resource teacher, then moved to Learning Services as ELL consultant and finally taught ELL in secondary. I will miss the ELL students, and the many colleagues who have become close friends. I will not miss the 1701 ELL files and file collection duties. I am looking forward to relaxing and travelling.





Lynne Lardein

31 yrs experience

Point Grey, Vancouver Tech, Kelowna,
Argentina



At Peace...
I see that I have been the architect
of my own destiny,
that if I obtained honey
or bitterness from things
it was because I put bitterness
or sweet honey in them.
When I planted rosebushes
I always harvested roses.
Amado Nervo 1870-1919
(My translation -
Traddutora, traditora)

Brian Latimer

43 yrs experience

Magee

Coaching soccer and taking
kids on field trips to Latin
America have been the
highlights. I will miss the
kids and my colleagues.



Andrea May

31.5 yrs experience

Sir Winston Churchill



I spent my entire career at Sir
Winston Churchill following the
path of late great father Gordon
May who also spent his career
working for the VSB. Career
highlights would certainly be 32
seasons of coaching Senior Girls
Field Hockey with numerous
championships and representation
in the B.C. Championships. I will
greatly miss my colleagues and
student connections.





Amanda Miller

36 yrs experience

Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Wilfred Laurier Annex, Dr H.N. MacCorkindall Elementary


I have loved teaching for 36 years. Mostly at Sir Charles Tupper Secondary where I learned high school can be the most caring place in a number of students lives. Now I am off to travel and learn new things - not related to school.



John Mueller

32 yrs experience

Van Tech, Hamber, Churchill, King George



I will miss my inquisitive students and their stories. In addition, I will miss being a mentor for future teachers (26 in total). What I won't miss is all that endless marking and those pesky school meetings. My plans are simple: sleep, decompress, travel, and adopt a cat. It has been an honor being a high school teacher for all these years.



Nick Pettheriotis

Eric Hamber, Point Grey
35 yrs experience

Fellow colleagues!
Well, well . . . the moment has finally arrived for me after 35 years of challenging but rewarding work. I started my career very briefly at Eric Hamber in spring 1988 . . . and the following September accepted a position at Point Grey . . . little did I know at the time that it would end up being my “career school” 35 years later! It was a good run full of fond memories and great colleagues . . . and I’m now looking forward to changing gears in this new chapter. Cheers!



Kim Taylor

23 yrs experience
Kitsilano



I retired in August 2022. Since that time, I do admit to miss the organized chaos and cheerful chatter that is typical of a high school classroom; I do not miss rush hour traffic and preparing for report cards. Since my retirement, I have enjoyed my freedom to train with my Golden Retriever. To each of my colleagues, may this next chapter of life bring you endless time to do the things you love.





Carol Thornton

28 yrs experience

Sunnyhill

Career Highlight: As a Case Manager and Behaviour Consultant securing ongoing release time and funding to facilitate a Secondary Mental Health Learning Cohort and Kindergarten Learning Cohort for school teams at the same time. Future Plans are whatever comes... I'll miss my colleagues and students but won't miss poser and politics. I remember A student from Kamloops told me they were going to wear a tuxedo on the last day of school. He came dressed in a jean jacket, plaid shirt, jeans and cowboy hat. He relayed to me in BC ranch country this was called "A Redneck Tuxedo"! I have since learned Canadian Tuxedo is the more current term.



David Talksdruff

Killarney, Tupper, TOC
33 yrs experience



Half my life at Killarney - wow! Now it is time to dance around the world - literally. Attend dance events on every continent. West Coast Swing in Japan, Two Step in Holland, Salsa in Puerto Rico and Lindy Hop in Australia.





Brad White

37 yrs experience
Windermere, Lord Byng, Collingwood

Career Highlights: making a large contribution to the health & fitness of Windermere students and surrounding community members, first by creating over time a fantastic fitness centre overlooking the Windermere gymnasium, then by raising \$200,000 for an outdoor community fitness park and table tennis court at the edge of the Windermere campus.

I'll miss providing a 2nd home and an opportunity for leadership and personal growth each year to over 100 students who sign up for

Weight Room Club to train most days after school and their visits after graduation to express appreciation. I won't miss the constant sound of basketballs bouncing, every...single...day

Favourite anecdote: Filling in for a colleague at the private school who had left some seatwork and noticing that one student was a little off-task, standing staring out the window, I said, "Um, Evan, what are waiting for?" Sharp as a tack, he replied, "My inheritance."



Jenny Wong

35 yrs experience

Churchill

Not going to miss 7:30 staff meetings, pandemic teaching, reporting, etc.

Will enjoy TTOC'ing when I get bored. Will miss my lunch support crew. Thanks for all the laughs!



Members of Executive

Nigel Amenu-Tekaa
Michael Don Borason
Jelana Bighorn
Russell Cripps
Nicole Duy
Paul Falardeau
Talya Florian
Cynthia Ganatra
Treena Goolieff
Carl Janze
Omar Kassis
Scott McKeen
Christine McKinnon
Blair Miller
Rod Ofreneo
Ryan Peters
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Katheryn Walks

Staff & Standing Committee Reps

Seema Ali
Jonathan Au
Matthew Barski
Rob Bordon
Lorraine Breton
Shirley Burdon
Amanda Cantelon
Curtis Collier
Romy Cooper
Erin Cullingworth
Caitlin Davie
Lindsay Donaldson
Sam Ferguson
Jody Findlay
Jaspreet Gill
Joshua Baker
Elizabeth Greer
Peter Gustainis
Mike Hengeveld
Anita Hollands
Elena Hutchinson
Lawrence Jakoy
Mark Johnston
George Kanavos
Alison Koyanagi
Antonia Kuiper
Helen Kuk
Irving Lau
Joseph Lee
Phil Lee
Wesley Lefsrud
Connor Levesque
Jillian Maguire
Andrea Maley
Jason Mark
Raymond Moy
Trish Mugford
Balbinder Panesar
Tina Quan
Adam Rattray
Mark Reid
Joey Ritchie
Stefan Schmitt
Stefanie
Schoenfelder
Jacqueline Sheppet
Matthew Sinclair
Karla Smedley
Julianne Smith
Douglas Smith
Alexander Stevens
Shaun Stewart
Damon Stoelting
Shelley Sullivan
John Thomson
Maxwell Todd
Nicholas Townley
Christopher Tse
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts
Ashley Williams
Stacey Yip



A decorative border of green leaves and gold-colored floral sprigs frames the central text. The sprigs feature small, stylized flowers and buds.

*Thank
you*