



VANCOUVER SECONDARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Retirees' Dinner

June 17, 2024



VANCOUVER SECONDARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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 2024

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 2024, you have 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 and its unsteady aftermath. 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. Your colleagues joining you this evening, and your colleagues across the district, express their gratitude, respect, and admiration for your years of dedicated service.

This dinner is also our opportunity to thank our School Union Team representatives for the leadership and support they have provided throughout the year. 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 make the In-House Table Officers aware of emerging 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 provide Staff Reps and site-based committee reps with the information they need to support teachers throughout the district.

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 2024, will be sleeping in, enjoying coffee and the newspaper, and proceeding to do whatever you feel like doing. Or perhaps you will already be off on a long-anticipated adventure. 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

LORRAINE BRETON
GLENN CAMERON
CHRIS CORDONI
FREDERIC DELAFENETRE
TIM DOW
MIKE ENNS
MASOUD HABIBIAN
SATOKO HASHIGASAKO
DIANE HEINE
JANET HOLM
MARGARET HOWELL
FRANCO IUELE
JASMINE JEEVA
PAUL JONES
HANIF KARMALI
CATHERINE KOOL
ANDRE LECHNER
C. JAY LEVEILLE
CHRISTINA MAKRIS
COLLEEN MARSHALL
CYNTHIA MILLER
DUANE MUGFORD
TRISH MUGFORD
BODO NIEK
NICOLE PARIS
CYNTHIA PETRAKIS
LYNN PRICE
JEAN QUON
CAROLLYNE RAMSEY
GIANFRANCO ROSELLI
PAUL SKARSGARD
MONICE SEWERIN
MARY SMITH
XUE WU
CATHY ZHANG



*Congrats
Class of
2024!*



Lorraine Breton

32 yrs experience
Windermere, Van Tech, Moscop

I will miss my colleagues most of all and the many laughs we shared over the years. That laughter got me through many days, weeks and months.



Tim Dow

10 yrs experience
Prince of Wales, Lord Byng

Teaching physics was a second career for me after working as an engineer for 15 years. I enjoyed every day with the students, especially if the lessons were able to spark an interest in a career in science or engineering for them. My wife, Sylvia, and I plan on traveling around Canada for 18 months before retiring to Madrid.

Mike Enns

24 yrs experience
Templeton, Point Grey

In general, teaching has been a blessing in the sense that I have spent the last twenty years of my life surrounded by children who are often inspired and full of hope and optimism and adults who want to inspire hope and optimism. I feel privileged to have been part of a system that also takes care of the people within it. I'm not retiring early because I don't enjoy the work anymore so much as just want to do some of my own growth and find out what the private sector grumbles about. So many stories, great memories and exceptional people.



Satoko Hashigasago

34 yrs experience
Eric Hamber





Diane Heine

48yrs experience

University Hill, Myrtle Philip,
Tupper, John Oliver,
Oakridge School,
a couple of independent schools

What can be more memorable than a career in teaching?

There are so many stories which bring a smile to my face! I will forever miss my extended family life at University Hill Secondary - the multitude of students &

colleagues who made teaching worthwhile and fun.

I won't miss the paperwork 😊. Yes, it was always necessary – the reports, audit files, the IEP's and on and on. Most of all, I am sort of anxious to leave a career that I so highly recommend to others, but it's time to get out, re-explore everything Canada has to offer and beyond, and spend time, with friends and family, during non-traffic hours (which is a dream come true). Pickleball, paddleboarding and E-biking are high on the list too – just have fun!

Janet Holm

Windermere, University Hill,
Van Tech, Kistilano

I was first hired by the VSB in September 1974. I worked until 1980 when I “retired” to travel and have a family.

Hired again to TOC only on Mondays and Fridays.

But Home Economics teachers are always in demand so that did not last long. But that turned into part time work at Kitsilano secondary doing

Foods and Textiles, and the rest is history. I always believed that I didn't have to work. I always looked forward to going to work. Career highlights is having taught a student who currently lives in NYC and designs for Donna Karan. Career highlight is meeting young adults on the street who are former Foods students. What do I miss?

The students. The colleagues. The fun, the laughter.

Margaret Howell

31yrs experience
Templeton

A fond farewell to my friends at Templeton and the French teachers across the District. Highlights include student exchanges to France and daily interactions with the school community. I look forward to outdoor pursuits.



Franco Tuele

39 yrs experience
TOC, WEST Alternative Program

Working at The WEST Alternative Program for the past 36 of 39 years has been one of the greatest honours of my life. The amazing students and caring and dedicated staff I was fortunate enough to work with made my time at WEST and with the VSB a dream come true.

I will not miss the paperwork and the paperwork but I will certainly miss all the wonderful connections with staff and students. I plan to TOC to keep me busy and hopefully useful within the alt programs. I also hope to travel more, have more time with friends and make more time to keep a little fit. Best wishes and congrats to all the retirees! And as I always said to the students at the end of each day, "Be kind to someone today and especially, be kind to yourself!"



Paul Jones

34 yrs experience
Japan, Templeton and Killarney

A year in Japan, another year as a TOC with a long term assignment at Templeton and 32 years at Killarney. I am going to miss being a part of the teaching profession, the wonderful Killarney staff and the amazing Killarney PE department. I will miss the sights and sounds of students learning, practicing, playing and competing in our gym.

My career highlights were connecting with all the Killarney students everyday. Not sure exactly what my future looks like, but I am sure I will figure out new routines, ways to contribute and enjoy life. It was a dream job and I thank all of the students and colleagues who helped make it a wonderful career.



Hanif Karamali

32 yrs experience
King George

I spent my entire 32 year career at King George Secondary. I've had nothing but fond memories.

My career highlights include coaching various sports teams and going on numerous outdoor education field trips.

I'm very much going to miss the daily interactions with my colleagues and students.

I will definitely not miss the politics. Future plans include lots of travel around the world.



Cathy Keel

37 yrs experience
LA Matheson,
Sir Charles Tupper Secondary

I enjoyed teaching in two departments that celebrate diversity: Special Education and Fine Arts. When I taught LAC I kept the same students for 5 years and taught them all subjects. They still keep in touch and visit, reminiscing about the good old days.

I started integrating students into regular classes in '89, which wasn't always popular, but it sure has come a long way. When I moved to Visual Art, I had very capable and talented students & often taught the same students over & over, so I started writing a new curriculum every year, which was a lot of work but very fun. Art students still visit and keep in touch too, which is lovely.

I always tell my classes 'If you want to live a long and happy life, work with teenagers!'



Colleen Marshall

32yrs experience
Gladstone

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 32 years teaching Art and Ceramics at Gladstone. I will miss seeing the amazing Art the students create, hearing the music in the morning, and my wonderful colleagues. However, I will not miss my long daily commute from Langley.

I am looking forward to more travelling adventures, lot of painting, and of course running.





Cynthia Miller

33yrs experience
Gladstone

Cynthia starting teaching French in Salmo BC in 1991 where she also started a small dance program when the first BC dance curriculum was developed.

After 4 years in the Kootneys, she moved back to Vancouver to pursue a masters degree in dance

education. In 1997 she was hired to teach French at Gladstone, where she developed a full time dance program for grade 8-12 students. In retirement she plans to continue with aerial circus arts, painting, travelling, hiking with her new dog and spending more time with her family.



Duane Mugford

33yrs experience
Hamber, Gladstone, Lillooet
Secondary School

Highlights have to be the relationships formed over the years with students and colleagues many of whom have become my dearest friends.

I'm planning to spend time with my grown up kids, travel and get to all the

myriad of things that tend to get put on the back burner while teaching full time. I will miss teaching

PHE and English but I will not miss the semester system which played a big part in my decision to retire. I have fond memories of many BCTF AGMs attended, too many stories to share.

Congratulations to Trish as we retire together!



Trish Mugford

34 yrs experience

District Mentoring Support 6 yrs,
District Transition teacher-Tech 1
yr,
VSTA VP-1 yr,
Magee Secondary-26 years

I've been missing students and having my own classroom in the past few years but have been so fortunate to meet and work with so many incredible colleagues.

It has been humbling and inspirational! Early career teachers are up against so much more than those of us who started out pre-millennium shift and they are rising to the challenges with grace, gumption and grit. Future plans include more time with my grown up kids, hanging out with friends, travel (of course) and possibly working as an FA, supporting Teacher Candidates. A big thank you to my mentors: Debbie Pawluk, Chris Stewart and Barb McColl - you all had a hand in shaping me.



Boda Neik

29 yrs experience

Magee, Vancouver Technical,
Tupper, Britannia, Gladstone,
Kitsilano, John Oliver, Coquitlam,
TTOC West Vancouver & New
Westminster

Teaching, and counselling (for the last 23 years with diverse student populations, and 4 graduation classes), has been a good career.

I appreciated working and learning from so many generous colleagues over the years, who took the time to share their valuable experience, vast knowledge, resources, and keen insights. I'm looking forward to much more rest and relaxation, taking additional time for all the other things in life, and more travel (and also no rush hour commutes, early weekday mornings, and the "endless summers").

Carollyne Ramsey

27 yrs experience
Templeton, Kitsilano, TOC

I've enjoyed teaching at Templeton Secondary for 20 years. Temp became my forever school and second home after a satisfying year at Kitsilano. I feel fortunate to have sparked students' curiosity in Social Studies, English, and Photography, and it's never been boring. My colleagues have brought me joy, warmth, and laughs and I'll miss them. Now, I look forward to traveling in the shoulder seasons, learning new things, and getting more sleep. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this fascinating journey.



Mary Smith

38 yrs experience
Lord Byng, U.Hill, Tupper,
Prince of Wales,
Bayview Elementary, King George

I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with my students during my 30-year Secondary Counselling career. Some of my most memorable moments include the student volunteer trips I led and organized to Kenya, Ecuador, Peru, & Cuba. The volunteer work my students and I did there was extremely gratifying and gave students perspective on what really matters in life. I retired at the end of September. Adjusting to retired life was initially a challenge, but my recent 2-month trip to Europe proved to be a quick cure. I miss my students and some former colleagues, but do not miss difficult parents. My future plans include travelling, exercising, reading, and spending more time with family and friends.





Members of The Executive

Nigel Amenu-Tekaa
Jelana Bighorn
Madeline Brewster
Christa Duttchen
Nicole Duy
Paul Falardeau
Gregory Henderson
Carl Janze
Omar Kassis
Scott McKeen
Christine McKinnon

Rod Ofreneo
Nancy Palejko
Ryan Peters
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Doug Smith
Terry Stanway
Shelley Sullivan
Jesse Taylor
Katheryn Walks
Jonathan Wynn

Staff & Standing Committee Reps

Seema Ali
Ruth Anderson
Jonathon Au
Daisy Barker
Matt Barski
Jelana Bighorn
Rob Borden
Lorraine Breton
Shirley Burdon
Meghan Byrne
Curtis Collier
Cameron Cook
Cole Crawford
Erin Cullingworth
Caitlin Davie
Lindsay Donaldson
Sam Ferguson
Talya Florian
Brett Gabelman
Jas Gill
Beth Greer

Amandeep Grewal
Gregory Henderson
Mike Hengeveld
Graham Hooton
Mark Johnston
Alison Koyanagi
Antonia Kuiper
Irving Lau
Tony Lee
Joseph Lee
Phil Lee
Connor Levesque
Jillian Maguire
Andrea Maley
Lukas Morel
Raymond Moy
Trish Mugford
Les Nerling
Abby Palmer
Bal Panesar
Brian Pascual
Ginaya Peters

Tina Quan
Mark Reid
Alyssa Reid
Maria Romanelli
Stefan Schmitt
Joanne Sharples
John Silver
Matt Sinclair
Karla Smedley
Juli Smith
Doug Smith
Shaun Stewart
Damon Stoelting
Jesse Taylor
Erika Thompson
Max Todd
Nick Townley
Matthew Vatta
Ashley Williams
Jonathon Wynn
Stacey Yip

In Memoriam



Andy Faltrick



*Thank
you*