

Vernon Teachers' Association VOICES

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Have a wonderful summer everyone! Enjoy your time with family and friends, and most of all, we hope you enjoy some much deserved R & R. See you at the BBQ!!

Speaking for Teachers in the North Okanagan



Reflections.....

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Teacher Retirement issue! I congratulate all the teachers who have reached such a significant point in their careers. You can take pride in being a teacher and having been a part in building the excellence for which B.C. teachers are world-renowned.

I wish I could dwell on the happier parts of the job, but again about 120 colleagues are not certain of where they will be working next year. I put the blame for this squarely at the feet of the Government. On top of perpetuating the funding crisis, they are now proposing to 'restructure' education by fixing the 'underperforming teacher'. Their vision seems to be "find a concept somewhere in the world that has failed and import it into B.C." The lack of consultation with teachers starts at the Government level and permeates its way to the local. Trickle-down consultation works as well as trickle-down economics, in my opinion.

The VTA Bargaining Committee: Craig Leverman, Robyn Ladner, Kevin Bader, Dave Hobbs, Janet Townsend, Katie Oakes, Nancy Ingersoll, Bryan McDougall, Glen Stiven, Lisa LaBoucane, Heather Malcolm and me. I can't say enough about this group of dedicated professionals. This spring we worked every Tuesday from 4 to 8 PM for many Tuesdays, sometimes forgetting to stop for a meal. We put in long hours working on improving language for our 20+ year old collective agreement. We are determined to make improvements to our working conditions which are also our students' learning conditions. However, local trustees directed the management team to bargain items of little consequence. This has overshadowed our efforts to solve local issues. It is a shame that we are not in the same bargaining relationship that many of us experienced 20 years ago when Vernon was a leader in the province.

The provincial strike vote results will be announced by BCTF on the 29th of June. It will be our collective voice emphasizing our right to free collective bargaining and upholding our profession.

I want to thank a number of people on behalf of Vernon teachers. First, thanks to all the school-based union representatives who offered their time, energy and emotional support to their colleagues. Staff reps, PD chairs, Staff Committee Chairs, Social Justice Chairs, and OH&S Chairs are our main connections to the union. Thank you once again for the work you do. Alana Pethick, our Office Manager is a major reason I am able to do my job! Thanks as well to the members of the VTA executive. You give up countless hours on behalf of your colleagues without complaint or compensation. I hope you know how much you are appreciated. A special thanks goes out to the executive members who will not be back at the table next year: Dave Hobbs, Pauline Kereluk, Katie Oakes, and Jason Anderson.

Have a great summer and do your best to avoid worry about the next school year: it will be what it will be.

It is a privilege to work for this 'union of professionals'.

Cheers,

Bruce

Your PD Funds

PLEASE BE REMINDED that if you are changing schools you **MUST** contact your current PD Rep and ensure that the balance of your available PD funds are transferred to your new school in September. It is your responsibility to ensure that your funds 'travel' with you.

RENTALS, FOR SALE AND OTHER STUFF

FOR RENT:

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE IN VICTORIA. Are you attending classes at the University of Victoria this summer? Rooms available in fully furnished house 10 minute walk to UVic campus. Fully equipped kitchen with dishwasher and microwave, washer and dryer, lots of parking space. Quiet residential neighbourhood walking distance to UVic, shopping and downtown bus routes. Rent is \$500/month including utilities and Internet. E-mail Joanna, jrhh@shawca for more information.



FOR SALE:

OYE! OYE!! Don't miss this opportunity - Hard-to-Find invaluable Teaching/Learning Resources available for Teachers/Learners. Starting in a new grades? tired of the same novel study? Need to replenish/starting a new Integrated theme?



- Lot of resources: books (theme-based), educational games, posters, study units in all subjects: Science, Soc. St., Math in English, Language Arts in English & French, etc, etc. ... the list is too long to detail: you need to come & check them out.
- Mainly Late Primary & Intermediate levels, but also lots of French Sec.Lang and Immersion (Early & Late) .
- Most material are to give away and some pricy material will be let go at super bargain prices!

Contact Andrée in Vernon: at 250-542-2342 250-260-8676
agirouard@shaw.ca Preferably before July 8 or after August 18.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SD# 22

As another year comes to a close, I would like to thank the District PD Committee and school PD chairs and committees for their work. A huge thank you goes to Alana Pethick, our office manager, who makes my work possible (she does the math, people)!

On Tuesday, June 21st, I gave my annual report to the Board of Education. In addition to giving a year in review, I also gave some recommendations on behalf of the membership.

ADEQUATELY FUND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The professional development funding formula has not changed in this district for over 20 years. Most teachers receive, on average, about \$160.00 per year. We are well below the amounts that other locals in our area receive. Here is an exchange that happened during question period:

Bruce Cummings: If you had \$160 to use for professional development, what would you do with it Mr. Turanski?

Bill Turanski: Do you want me to answer that?... Well, how much do you think is adequate?

Bruce Cummings: \$1000

Bill Turanski: (No response)

RESPECT AND PROTECT TEACHER AUTONOMY

Teachers are experts in their field. I made the point that we have undergone a level of training which qualifies us to make intelligent, competent decisions about methods of instructions, assessment and evaluation, and learning resources in the areas in which we work. Trusted as professionals, teachers can adapt and implement curriculum in a variety of ways that meet the diverse needs of students. Our students need us to exercise our professional autonomy.

The changes unfolding in curriculum and programs will require a high degree of autonomy. Such tasks also demand that a teacher's autonomy be respected in assessing methods of instruction and presentation of course materials to the students to which they are assigned.

Professional Development and autonomy are at the forefront of bargaining this time around, both provincially and locally. This is the heart of our profession and you can be sure that we will need a strong, united voice to protect and uphold it.

Sincerely,

Robyn Ladner
Professional Development Chair

VTA RETIREES

2010 - 2011



GUIDA ATKINSON

Guida's teaching career has spanned 33 years and of those years, 22 have been in the Vernon School District. She has taught at Bert Bowes Jr. H., Upper Pine, & Finch in Fort St. John and Lavington, J.W. Inglis, Silver Star and Hillview in Vernon.

Starting out in Fort St. John with housing provided (a teacherage), Northern Living Allowance, a community of teachers from many different places, and a time when there was money for education was ideal. We shared a lot of northern living experiences; boating on the Peace, relaxing at Laird, skiing in the Pine Pass, tanning moose hides and hunting with locals, hosting the Northern Winter Games, to mention a few. Vernon seems so civilized in comparison. Each school has it's own unique culture. I appreciated the outdoor learning sites around the area and all the professional development through the Learning Assistance, HPL and Primary Associations. I've enjoyed all my students. They are a talented bunch and have taught me so much. Finishing with grade one's has been a privilege. There is no group quite as honest as a class of 5 and 6 year olds and I've learned interesting things about myself from their perspective.

Retirement looks appealing! We will be spending time with family and friends and doing those fun things we used to fit into weekends and holidays on a day-to-day basis will be wonderful. Laurie sets a wicked pace and I'll strive to keep up on the ski slopes, lakes, and mountains. I do plan to spend more reading and gardening. I look forward to taking some lessons in painting, golf and bridge.

After retirement I plan to spend more time with our granddaughters as I reflect on life to date and explore possibilities for the future. I look forward to traveling and volunteering but it's all rather wonderfully vague at the moment.

I will miss Septembers - the fresh starts and new faces. I won't miss cleaning up and dealing with good byes in June. All the best to my colleagues and future teachers. May your careers be as rewarding as mine.



ROSA BEHUNIAK

Rosa started teaching at V.S.S. in 1988 and then moved to Seaton where she taught for 22 years. Most of her career was teaching F.S.L. and French Immersion at the Secondary level. She is enjoying doing occasional "subbing" since her retirement in February, 2011.

Rosa began teaching in 1977 in Fort Nelson, B.C. She set up a French Programme (F.S.L.) Grades 8 - 9 and became a travelling French teacher and coordinator for 4 schools. She taught numerous students and worked with many unforgettable teachers and administrators for almost 10 years.

One of the highlights of Rosa's career was taking high school students from Fort Nelson and Vernon on several field trips to Europe and Quebec. What a learning experience for everyone! Teaching in a foreign language, and especially in the French Immersion Program was a tremendous challenge and she doesn't regret it at all. She is very proud to be a teacher of such remarkable students in this district.

What she won't miss is marking, especially at night, report card prep & deadlines, endless meetings, rushed lunches or late lunch after 3:00 pm. Her immediate plans include wellness, working out at her gym, on her own schedule and enjoying more leisurely mornings and also being more of an urban tourist in foreign countries and volunteering in the District's One to One Literacy program. Most of all Rosa is looking forward to family time including lots of travelling and camping, particularly outside of the busy tourist season.

Right now Rosa is busy planning her daughter's wedding for Jan. 2012 in the Dominican Republic. She is proud of being married to Dan for almost 35 years, and their two children Teri-Lyn, (27) and Logan (24) and is looking forward to all her favorite activities - biking, dancing, walking, hiking, kay-aking, swimming, sun-bathing, camping, reading, knitting, and anything to do with health and fitness!

RETIREMENT - Many Things to Many People

Retirement of life begins when the kids move out and the cat gets run over. - Author Unknown

My only retirement advice is to lay off alcohol, tobacco, and wild women. Any can kill you. - James Biggs (104 year-old resident in a Dallas retirement community).

When a man retires and time is no longer a matter of urgent importance, his colleagues generally present him with a watch. - R.C. Sherriff

Retirement: It's nice to get out of the rat race, but you have to learn to get along with less cheese. - Gene Perret

Viva la retirement, grab it by the horns and go for it. - Cheryl Marland at the Retirement Blog 'But What Now'

The money is no better in retirement but the hours are! - Author Unknown



FRANCINE BERGERON

Francine's teaching career has spanned 29 years and of those years, 21 have been in SD#22 at Beirsto in the French Immersion Program. She also taught in Kamloops, Prince George and Richmond.

Francine moved to BC in the summer of 1982 after completing her Bachelor of Education at Laval University in Ste-Foy, Québec. She started teaching in Kamloops at Lloyd George Elementary in the fall. Two years later, she moved to Prince George and taught there for 5 years in the Programme-Cadre as well as in French Immersion at King George V. During that period of time, she became a member of the APPIPC executive Committee for 2 years and also started the P.G. chapter of the local APPIPC Association.

During retirement, Francine plans to continue living in Coldstream, undertake some home renovation and visit her family in Quebec more often. She also plans to do horseback riding, yoga, swimming, volunteer work and become friendlier with her computer.

Francine would like to thank her colleagues at Beirsto. Those years spent there were equally enriching and rewarding. "Vous êtes les meilleurs."

VERNON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Year End/Retirement BBQ

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29th

3:30 TO 7:00 PM at PADDLEWHEEL PARK HALL



Hosts: W.L Seaton Secondary Staff

Hamburgers ~ Refreshments ~ Snacks ~ Drinks \$3

Cab Service Provided from the Event

ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT #22 EMPLOYEES WELCOME!
(Teachers, CUPE, Trustees, Administration)



LOIS CAMPBELL

Lois's teaching career has spanned 38 years and of those years, 35 have been in SD#22. She has taught at Philip Sheffield in Abbotsford, Bridgeport in Richmond and in Vernon the schools have been; Okanagan Landing, West Vernon and Mission Hill.

Lois has always loved teaching, through good times and hard times, strikes and contract negotiations. This job has never been boring to her! She fondly remembers the outdoor education 5-day camps to Saturna and Quadra Island, Camp Elphinstone and Scotch Creek. Lois has especially loved the collaborating and team teaching with colleagues over the years, many of whom are life long friends. She has attended student weddings and taught the grandkids of earlier students. Best of all, Lois has loved hearing each child's stories - especially the funny ones. Like the kid who the V.P. had write Mrs. C a letter of apology for his behavior, "I'm sorry Mrs. C. I know now only you can be the class clown".

Lois joins her husband, Don, who retired a few years ago from teaching. Raising a family with someone in the profession has always been a huge bonus.

After retirement Lois plans to travel in September to Australia and New Zealand with her husband. Later, she looks forward to getting back into painting and joining the Canadian Federation of Artists as well as going on quilting retreats and exploring fiber art.

Lois extends her gratitude and thanks again to SD#22, especially in the year Don & Lois lost their son, Arran. How luck to have lived and worked in Vernon with such caring people!



KRISTINA CHARLTON

Kristina has been a teacher for 30 years and was hired as a LAT at Beirsto Elementary in 1981, and was lucky to begin her career with the dynamic and caring staff that became the "Beirsto Broads". As her children arrived, she shared classroom positions with other teachers, which enabled her to balance work and family. Her last 15 or more years have been at Alexis Park.

Kristina is looking forward to the freedom that retirement can offer. She may look for other work, but in the meantime will do some coursework in silversmithing, practice Spanish and remain physically active in the outdoors. Long range plans include learning to ride a motorcycle when I'm "older" and hopes to spend time with her children who are busy finding their niche in the world.

She has worked with a dedicated and caring staff that has created a nurturing environment where all students can learn and be successful and would like to thank School District #22 for all the great jobs she has had which have enabled her to make all these plans!



BONNIE DAVIDSON

Bonnie's teaching career has spanned 33 years and all of those years have been in the Vernon School District. Schools she has taught at have been: Whitevale (she feels it's somewhat disconcerting to see she's outlasted her first school), Alexis Park and Harwood.

Bonnie has been very fortunate to teach on exchange to England twice with one year in Maidstone, Kent and another year in Harrogate, N. Yorkshire. She also took a long term TOC position in Lahr, Germany while her husband, Bob, taught there with D.N.D. for two years. Her career has ranged from kindergarten to grade three, although she was privileged to teach French and Creative Writing up to grade seven.

Bonnie and Bob met through SD#22's Teachers' Curling League about 30 years ago. They have raised two wonderful children, Heather who is articling to become a C.G.A. and Scott who is a Commerce Student at U. Vic.

After retirement Bonnie and Bob plan to travel across Canada, throughout the US. Mexico... and Beyond. They are also looking forward to spending more time golfing, gardening and generally enjoying life!

Bonnie has thoroughly enjoyed her teaching career with SD#22. Is there anything more satisfying than watching children development and helping them to grow!? :)




MARLAINE GRAZIER

Teaching career has spanned 36 years (took one year off, so 35 years of teaching) and those years have been spent at VSS.

Looking back over my 35 years of teaching at Vernon Secondary School, I wonder how time has gone so quickly. I began my teaching at Vernon Secondary School Sept of 1975, fresh out of University of British Columbia. At that time, Vernon Secondary was a Senior Secondary with grade 11 and 12 students. At just 22 years old, I spent the first year or two being mistaken for a student rather than a teacher.

I began my career as a Home Economics teacher and taught Foods, Textiles, and Housing and Interior Design. In those days we had 5 full time Home Economics teachers and I even taught a class through the lunch hour to accommodate the demand. Vernon Secondary was also on a linear system rather than the present semester system. That meant teaching 7 courses for the full year. Sometimes it meant several different preps. (Continued on page 10)



In my first year of teaching, I had the pleasure of teaching a Foods class of 24 grade 11 and 12 boys. It was a bit of a challenge at times, but at the end of the year they told me that since I had made it through teaching them, I would make it through anything !

Throughout my career, there have been many changes. That just seems to be what this job is about. When the Home Economics numbers dropped and I was the one with the least seniority, I was moved to teaching Science 8 for a year. I am very thankful that I had John Baumbrough as a mentor. I learned so much from him and his enthusiasm and sense of fun were infectious.

For the last 25 years or so I have been privileged to be a Counsellor at Vernon Secondary. When I began counselling, I worked along with two wonderful men, Sam Banducci and Henry Haak. They were terrific mentors and were always ready with kind words of encouragement. In 1997, I completed my Masters degree in Counselling from Gonzaga University.

It has been a wonderful experience to work with students at VSS. For several years now, I have worked with the senior students and dealt with a variety of issues. It seems like I just finally know the job thoroughly and now I am finished.

I wish my replacement person the very best. They will enjoy the students and of course they will get to move to a new school very soon.

What are my plans? This summer my 20 year old son and I will travel to Montreal where my 21 year old daughter goes to Mc Gill University. She loves Montreal and wants to show us all the sights there. That should be a fun time.

My son will continue to live with me, as he completes the last 2 years of Okanagan College Business degree. He thinks I will spend my free time cooking for him - he is in for a big surprise!

My other plans include more time for Tai Chi and other exercise programs (maybe I can finally lose the pounds I have put on after all the goodie days etc). I will continue to knit and crochet and will hopefully find some new crafts as well.

My house and yard probably need a little work, which I have tended to put off until I have time. No more excuses, I will now have the time.

I plan to find some ways to give back to the community through volunteer work and find some organizations to get involved in. And of course a little travel is in the plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the School District and all the wonderful people I have worked with over the years. Although I have remained at VSS the whole time, I have worked under 5 principals, many vice-principals and of course quite a large number of other staff. I will miss all you great people !



DIANE KATZ

I started my career in this district teaching Enrichment K-7 at Mission Hill and then moved to Hillview for a grade 4 classroom. I was so excited not only to finally have 'my own kids', but also to do the planning, the marking, and the report cards! Oh how sweet it was to be fresh, energetic and full of enthusiasm about *everything!*

It didn't take long to stop being excited about doing report cards, but building bonds with children has continued to be a joy and a privilege. Over the past 24 years, I have been an enrichment teacher, a classroom teacher, a primary music teacher and a teacher-librarian. Planning and presenting musical performances, working on many, many committees, and teaching whole families of children and even their children's children have been amazing experiences. I have loved my career!

For me, retirement is bittersweet; bitter because I'll miss everything (except the politics) and sweet because I'll be free to go to Vancouver, whenever the mood strikes, to play with our little grandbaby, Grayson. I also plan on doing a lot more hiking trips and travelling with friends, my husband, Dan, and our kids - Chris, Greg, Josee and little Grayson. Singing, gardening, reading, scrapbooking, curling, skiing, practising yoga, remembering to go to the gym and catching up with 'lunches out' will all find their way into my unscheduled schedule.

Thanks to SD #22 for an awesome career and best wishes to everyone for a wonderful life!



LYNN KERMODE

Lynn's teaching career has spanned 39 years and of those years, 18 have been in SD#22. She has taught in Hope, Campbell River, New Westminster and St. George's private boys' school in Vancouver. Within SD#22 Lynn has taught at Lavington, Whitevale, West Vernon and Okanagan Landing.

One of Lynn's fondest memories is about something that happened a few years ago. A young student asked her if she was Ms. Graves' mother. What a highlight! She would be very proud if she was her mother.

In her retirement Lynn plans to enjoy each day as it comes.

SHARON MacKENZIE

Sharon began her teaching career with our District in 1987 and is best remembered for all her work on the Meadow's project while working at Kidston Elementary. After a leave of absence to pursue her work in this field, Sharon officially retired from our District at the end of this school year.



GEORGINA KERR

Georgina taught for 10 years in Port Alice, on Vancouver Island, before coming to live in Lumby. Her first assignment was Whitevale, and then she moved to J.W. Inglis for a Grade 2 class, then on to kindergarten, her passion, for 18 years. Her next move was to Vernon, where she spent time at Silver Star, BX, Mission Hill, finishing at Ellison Elementary.

Highlights have included: 18 years of kindergarten in Lumby - with the added bonus of teaching her own children kindergarten! Doing home visits, school barbeques and field trips and most of all, working with dedicated, caring colleagues.

What Georgina won't miss are report cards and getting up at 6:30 a.m.

Georgina has lots of plans for next year and some interesting long-range plans. She is planning to travel to Ontario to see the fall colors, upgrading her home, getting in some golf and has family events to attend this summer.

She hopes to teach kindergarten at an international school in Luxembourg or Belgium, to work with Oxfam (world hunger issues) and to write historical books. Her interests include: painting, aquafit, theatre, concerts, gourmet cooking, and hoping to become a Grandma soon!

Georgina would like to thank the dedicated, caring colleagues who have made her career so rewarding and worthwhile!

LYNNE MADISON

Lynne has been a teacher - 37 years and retired from teaching at Ellison Elementary January 31, 2011 after a teaching career that began in 1974. All the best to you in your retirement Lynne!



KIRK MALLETTE

Kirk's teaching career has spanned 33 years and of those years 22 have been in the Vernon School District. Kirk began teaching in SD#13 - Kettle Valley and taught in 6-7 different schools within the District. In Vernon Kirk's teaching has been in Beirsto and Harwood.

Kirk started in Language Arts in Kettle Valley, then taught grades 6/7, 2/3 4/5, K and high school. He also did a short stint as VP of six schools and 6 years as a local President. At Beirsto Kirk taught in French and English Language Arts. He moved to Harwood with Peter Lavington and taught grade 2/3 and lots of years of grade 7 students.

Kirk is looking forward to week day skiing with Jan, Laurie and Guida. After retirement he and Jan plan to travel to Baffin Island and other cool spots. Best wishes colleagues and friends!



MARLENE NICKEL

Marlene has been teaching for 34 years and began her career in 1976 at W.L. Seaton, teaching PE 8 - 12. Years later, she added English 8 & 9, as well as German and Keyboarding 8 & 9. She also taught at Mission Hill, came back to Seaton, then transferred to Alexis Park in 2000 to teach elementary, finishing up with Grade 3 at Hillview Elementary.

Highlights for Marlene have included: coaching gymnastics with Bob Davidson at Seaton and winning 9 provincial championships!, moving to the Park for 3 years while Seaton was being renovated and most definitely, working with such excellent staff.

She's also enjoyed being able to do a 3-4-5 year and travel and has taken 2 trips with Seaton's drama department to London and New York. What she won't miss are 'Reporting' periods and supervision!

Marlene has immediate plans to pursue watercolor and acrylic painting, as well as golf, tennis and skiing. She plans to take yearly trips and once she settles into retirement she'd like to volunteer in the community - Performing Arts Center, etc. And travel!!

All her family, Mom, 2 brothers and their children, all live in Vernon. She intends to spend more time with family, especially with her grand-niece, Hailee, and her brother due to arrive in August.



JEANNE O'BRIEN

After receiving her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1974 Jeanne's began her teaching career in the Open Area at Alvin Buckwold Elementary school in Saskatoon. The following year she moved to Nakusp, BC to teach French and Physical Education (8-12) at Nakusp Secondary until 1978. She met and married Leo who was also teaching Nakusp

Secondary. Conor, Liam, Gaven and Byron were born in Nakusp and she returned to teaching French at the high school in 1984.

Two years later the family moved to Abbotsford where Jeanne started teaching in the French Immersion program. After 3 years of teaching at the coast they moved to Vernon where Jeanne has taught in the French Immersion program at Beirsto Elementary to the present day.

In between teaching Jeanne has enjoyed coaching school sports, playing soccer, and living at the arena as the boys were involved in minor hockey. She loves cooking, gardening, knitting, crocheting, sewing, walking/hiking, downhill and x-country skiing, and most of all her family with her children and grandchildren. In retirement Jeanne and her husband Leo plan to move to Christina Lake and enjoy life to the fullest.



Lorraine O'Keefe

Lorraine has been a teacher for 35 years and is a 'born and raised' Vernonite who stayed on to give the gift of learning to her many students. She started her career at Beirsto for a stay of 3 days before moving on to schools including Silver Star, Whitevale, Hillview, Alexis Park and finally to Mission Hill for the past 12 years.

Lorraine has enjoyed her students and the staff she has worked with and looks forward to relaxing, reading, gardening, travelling and joining volunteer groups.



SHARON PAGE

Sharon's teaching career has spanned 33 years and of those years, 17 have been in SD#22. She has taught/worked in Kamloops as a Special Ed teacher at Fitzwater Elementary then as a teacher/speech therapist at the Regional Education Centre (for students with severe learning disabilities); in Surrey and

Vancouver as a speech therapist; then in Vernon - first as a SET-BC consultant and then as a District Speech Therapist.

Most of her teaching/therapy career has been spent with students with pretty severe disabilities. It has been all the 'antics' and surprising successes of the kids that have proved to be the highlights through the years.

Sharon and her husband Jay have one daughter, Sara, who is studying music & creative writing at university. They look forward to having time to keep with her performances.

Sharon's passions include x-country skiing, good books and good movies. She also enjoys gardening, hiking, 'the arts', and travel to almost anywhere. After retirement she plans to take time for herself, family and friends; skin and hike on all the 'good days' and read and pursue artistic projects whenever the urge arises. More travel is also high on her list of 'things to do'.

Sharon would like to thank all the teaching assistants, teachers and administrators who have helped support her 'speech' and 'special' kids over the years.

BARRIE AND MAUREEN REID

It has been hard for Barrie and Moe to let go of the career they love, so they are transitioning to retirement by climbing a few more mountains and making a few more connections to students over this next year.

All the best in your partial retirement, Barrie and Moe!!!!



KELLY SMITH

I began my teaching career as a TOC in the lower mainland in 1976. During the school year, I got a long term TOC position at Burnaby South, teaching Socials 11, Geog 12 and Law 12. At the end of June, I moved to Prince George and was delighted to get a job at a junior high school teaching Home Economics. As the superintendent said to me, "You're a woman, you can teach Home Ec". I loved the job but hated the winter weather in PG. I arrived in Vernon on the fall of 1979 and started with School district 22 as a TOC. I got a long term TOC position at Charles Bloom secondary School and I was able to keep that position until 1985. The district had to lay off many teachers that year and during the rounds of rehiring, I got a job at Seaton Secondary where I taught until I retired at the end of January, 2011.

I started in the district as a Foods teacher and as years passed, I picked up other subjects such as Socials Studies, French and English. I took courses in Special Education so that I could be a Learning Assistance teacher and I ended my career as a Special Education teacher.

When I graduated from high school and went to UBC to become a teacher, I don't think I realized that I was about to embark on the best career in the world. A teacher becomes a master of accommodating change. We help our students learn in an ever changing world and this presents a teacher with opportunities for continual growth. Being a teacher was an honour and a privilege. I am thankful for the time I spent in classrooms with the most precious resource this province has - our youth!

Anything I won't miss? I won't miss the constant struggle for funding that public schools endure. I won't miss watching our bright young teachers being given pink slips each year as cut backs continue to slice deeper into the district's funding.

For now my plans include continuing to work! There are a few other jobs I'd like to try out before I really retire. I am sure I'll do some travelling but I am looking forward to being home to work in my garden in the summer and go skiing and snow shoeing in the winter. I am fortunate that my daughters, Mairin (Tim) and Meghan (Brett) have both settled down in the North Okanagan so I will enjoy their company and patiently wait for the arrival of my first grandchild!

If you see me out trekking with my GPS in hand, you'll know I'm on the hunt for another geocache! I have one bit of advice for everyone - remember to have fun every day!

Retirees that we don't have pictures and bios for but to whom we'd like to say, 'thanks', enjoy the retirement you so richly deserve!

Sharon Robinson and Janie Szesztopalow

JACK SMITH

Jack began working at VSS in 1979, constructing a 600 sq. ft. log house as his first class project! Imagine Grade 11/12 boys handling chainsaws and moving 2 ton logs around! Jack then moved to Seaton where he taught electronics/electricity/metalwork for 3 years. Jack's next school was Fulton, teaching half time wood program, half time auto mechanics for 8 years. He remembers that moving into the new Fulton school was like a breath of fresh air for the entire staff! He moved to Kalamalka Secondary for the remainder of this career, which was close to his small farm in Coldstream. What a great school to finish a career!

Jack enjoyed teaching a subject that most students were excited about. Each student had some success and most students experienced many successes! He enjoyed being involved with the Career Prep program since its inception, working with some exceptional people.

One of the highlights of Jack's career was his 31 years of coaching basketball and soccer. Getting to know staff members outside of the classroom and meeting other coaches from around the province was a big part of his experience. He also took two Senior girls basketball teams to provincials and co-hosted the Provincial tournament with PVSS, what a great experience! Jack also enjoyed playing "Fat Mans" basketball on Fridays after the season - not great basketball, but a lot of fun!!!

Most importantly, Jack would like to acknowledge the incredible, dedicated, hardworking and caring people working for SD#22. In retirement, Jack plans to get his farm organized so it is easier to leave, so that he can travel and continue to have as much fun as possible while he can!



CHERYL TURNER

Cheryl's teaching career has spanned 25 years and of those years 10 have been in the Vernon School District. Schools she has taught at in SD#22 have been: Hillview, Silver Star, Kal, Bloom, Inglis, Mission Hill, Kidston, Coldstream and VSS (whew! That covers most of them).

One of Cheryl's funniest memories from these years is of a boy who, when asked to repeat digits backwards, turned around backwards in his chair and said the same thing!

Cheryl enjoys pottery, painting and has become involved with counseling in 'issues in anxiety'. After retirement she plans to have a bustling counseling practice for kids/adults with anxiety, using hypnosis, EMDR, anything that helps! Also, she will be offering workshops and consulting around the Province on helping children develop self regulation.

Cheryl would like to say 'thank you' to all her colleagues for great relationships, many happy stories, all your commitment and especially, working with so many wonderful, caring people!!



DALE TOUSIGNANT

Dale started at Charles Bloom Secondary in 1979, teaching French, Grades 8 - 12. He then moved to Alexis Park Elementary, teaching French Immersion in 1981-82. His next move was to Harwood, where he remained for the rest of his career.

The highlight of Dale's career was working with a variety of awesome kids, parents, staff and administration at Harwood Elementary over the years. The Harwood staff made his career endlessly interesting and a lot of fun. There was always a deep feeling of camaraderie and everyone had a good sense of humor, like a family with all its disfunctionality, support and jokes, tricks on each other and sometimes just too much fun!!

Dale won't miss the usual - marking, disciplining and staff meetings. Also, the long-suffering Canucks fans; I sincerely hope they win the Cup this year (sorry Dale, didn't happen) - they finally need a dose of credibility!

Dale's immediate plans include enjoying living life with no fixed schedule, travel, cycling, motorcycling and Nordic skiing. Also, time to catch up on reading and a backlog of film viewing! Long-range plans are arranged — to be at the top of Pyramid IV of the Mayan ruins of Tikal, Guatemala on December 21, 2012 at dawn!!!

Dale will continue to enjoy spending time with Melanie, his spouse, and children Cody, Carson and Brenna whenever they can get together!!!

YOUR VTA EXECUTIVE FOR THE 2011—2012 YEAR

President:	Bruce Cummings
1st Vice President:	Kevin Bader
2nd Vice President:	Heather Malcolm
Secretary:	Diane Bennet
Treasurer:	Cathy Elstone
Local Association Rep:	Richard Santos
Bargaining Chair:	Craig Leverman
Professional Development Chair:	Robyn Ladner
Social Justice Reps:	Nancy Ingersoll
	Moira Manthorne
Occupational Health & Safety Chair:	Eli Silver
Local Aboriginal Education Contact:	Vicky Raphael
Members at Large:	Darryl Wiebe
	Janet Townsend
	Jane Wright
OCTAV:	Sarah Kwantes

Please check the VTA website: www.vernonta.com for contact information.

Congratulations Retiring Teachers

The Vernon Retired Teachers' Association offers sincere congratulations to this year's retiring teachers. We hope that, after a long and dedicated career, you find the transition to retirement everything you hope it to be.

For most teachers, retirement brings the freedom of choice to pursue some of those lifelong interests for which there just wasn't enough time during our working years. Other retirees, however, have a harder time making the transition from work into retirement and find it difficult to adjust. Whatever your situation may be, the Vernon Retired Teachers' Association is here to welcome you and support you in your retired life.

How does our organization operate? At the provincial level the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) is a strong organization which looks after our interests as older adults. The BCRTA represents us on the Pension Board and liaises with other organizations that are working to protect us in matters of economic, health, and social concerns. The BCRTA also produces a highly rated magazine called *Postscript* (four issues a year) and maintains an easy to navigate website (www.bcrta.ca) which keeps members informed on all matters of interest.

At the local level, the Vernon Retired Teachers' Association (VRTA) is more personal and hands-on. We gather five times a year for a short business agenda, an interesting speaker or entertainer, lunch, and time to socialize with all those former colleagues we may not see as often in retirement. Our local association also donates close to \$4000 in scholarships to local secondary schools each year and supports the local food bank with twice yearly collections.

The strength of the BCRTA lies in numbers. Membership is voluntary and open to all retired teachers, administrators, and college instructors. Currently there are about 15,000 members in the province and the more members enrolled, the more influence the BCRTA has negotiating with the powers-that-be in matters of importance to us all, especially pensions.

So, if you are retiring this year, look for your invitation and membership application arriving soon in the school mail, and join us. You will be glad you did!

Connie DeLeenheer
Past President
Vernon Retired Teachers' Association



*The V.T.A. extends warmest congratulations to all
of our retirees. We wish each of you a long,
healthy retirement that is all that you wish it to be.*

Enjoy!!