



Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

11771 Fraser Street Maple Ridge BC V2X 6C6 604-467-2111

TTOC TIMES

Early Career Teacher Committee Chair: Krystyna Doran-Eddy

October 11, 2018 Issue 1

Introducing our MRTA ECT Committee Members!

Krystyna Doran-Eddy - Hi there! I'm Krystyna, your Early Career Teacher Committee Chair for the 2018/2019 School Year! I am currently teaching grade 8 English and Socials, and grade 9-12 Leadership courses, at Westview Secondary and loving it! September was a bit of a blur but we all made it out on the other side - welcome to October! This is my 3rd year on the Committee and 2nd year as Chair. I look forward to once again supporting this local's TTOCs and ECTs. This is going to be a great year filled with workshops and socials - keep your eyes out for those dates as they pop up - and please don't hesitate to contact me or the MRTA office with any questions you may have this year. We are here to help!

Carissa Coyle - My name is Carissa Coyle. I'm a fourth year teacher teaching at Albion Elementary teaching grade 3/4. I've had many different positions in the district from teaching ADST to Kindergarten Music. I've been a TTOC and I am still an early career teacher, with lots of fun exciting ideas for our year to support many of you in similar boats!

Kelly Harris - My name is Kelly Harris and I am in my second year in Maple Ridge after 9 years in Vancouver and 3 years teaching abroad. In my previous life I was a high school music teacher, but I am happy in my new role as a support teacher at Blue Mountain Elementary. I felt compelled to volunteer for the ECT committee because I have found so much support and genuine care in this district, and I'm keen to pay it forward! I still have a lot to learn about how things work in this district, but the memories of TTOC-ing are fresh and I'm happy to share what I've learned

Jasmeen Josan - Hi, my name is Jasmeen Josan and I am a grade 2/3 teacher at Glenwood Elementary. I am still very much an Early Career Teacher and really enjoy my role being involved with the Early Career Teachers Committee with the MRTA. If you're ever at Glenwood, come say hi!

Jennifer MacDonald - My name is Jen MacDonald and I am the District Helping Teacher for Mentoring. I am in my nineteenth year of being a teacher in Maple Ridge. I have taught primary, intermediate, FSL, tech and computers in my career across six schools and I TTOCed for four years.

Richard McGraw - Hi, my name is Richard McGraw, and I teach PE and Science in the French Immersion program at PMSS.

Lisa Neumann - My name is Lisa Neumann. I have been teaching for 13 years and have been involved with the ECT committee for 8. I teach 4/5 at Webster's and am loving it. Feel free to come chat with me if you are TTOCing at my school!

Hilaire Ford - Hi! I'm Hilaire Ford, and I'm not an OFFICIAL member of the ECT Committee, but I have a position on the BCTF TTOC Advisory Committee, so sometimes I have important information for TTOCs. I work at Westview Secondary School teaching English Language Learning to international, immigrant, and refugee students. In addition to teaching English, we do a lot of work around equity, cultural sensitivity, and gender neutral language. If those things interest you OR you are looking for someone to have lunch with, feel free to drop by room 1069.

MRTA Early Career Teacher Committee

Krystyna Doran-Eddy, Chair
Carissa Coyle
Kelly Harris
Jasmeen Josan
Jennifer MacDonald
Richard McGraw
Lisa Neumann

MRTA Staff Reps & Alternates 2018/19

Each school in our district has one or more staff rep(s) that represent and support the teachers in that school. They are there as liaisons between the MRTA and schools, and to support teachers with their questions and

concerns. Staff reps also act as a representative in formal meetings with administrators. When you are TTOCing, school staff reps are also there to assist you with any questions and concerns you may have.

Please do not hesitate to locate a staff rep in any school and introduce yourself. Most teachers, secretaries and administrators will know who the staff reps are in their school.

Elementary Schools

Albion - Lillian Harrington & ALT Dayna Gold

Alexander Robinson - Maclean Low & Pam Sohi

Alouette - Monica Aareskjold & Deanna Dyer

Blue Mountain - Kelly Harris & Kara-Lynn Rideout

Davie Jones - Lindsay Limber

Eric Langton - Valerie Rankin & Stephanie Schroeder

Edith McDermott - Cezann Deveaux & Deidre Torrence

Environmental School - Sue Woods

Fairview - No Rep

Golden Ears - Brian Geary & Liesa Maxwell

Glenwood - Leanne Dunbar & Jessica Grant

Hammond - Patricia Patrick

Harry Hooge - Cheryl Baydo & Lorna Harmston

Highland Park - Joel Olson

Kanaka Creek - Andrea MacInnes & Shawna Thirkell
Alt: Wendy Bishop

Laity View - Halia Hirniak & Michelle Gill

Maple Ridge - Todd Hetherington & Katie Waddell

Pitt Meadows - Aimee Lemmen & Alethea Smith

Webster's Corners - Nicole Qually

Whonnock - Sherry Aust

Yennadon - Shawna Loutet & Betty Rosenau

Secondary Schools

Garibialdi - Jemsher Gill, Jeff Pinck

Maple Ridge - Drew Parkinson & Eileen Stover

Pitt Meadows - Alexander Bain, Mark Girard, Kiel Lemmen, & Tony Peruggia

Samuel Robertson Technical - Steve Demos, Gord Webb, & Kaelen Nelson

Thomas Haney - Martin Dmitrieff, Scott McCafferty & Trevor Takasaki

Westview - Linda Jensen, & Andy Strothotte

Other

Aboriginal Education - Paula Howarth

CONNEX - Mel Harris

Continuing Education - Kim Henneberry-Glover

Helping Teachers - Janet Smith

Learning Services - Bev Brigham & Emily McGreevy

Maple Ridge Teachers' Association Invitation

**To: All Early Career Teachers (ECTs), TTOCs
and Teachers New to SD42**

**You are invited by the MRTA Early Career Teacher Committee
to our first 2018/19 "Good To Know" Workshop**

**"Surviving All Things Tech"
Monday, October 15, 2018
3:45-5:00 pm, MRTA Office
11771 Fraser St., Maple Ridge**

**MRTA ECT Committee presenters (joined by 1st VP Penny Morgan) will lead an
informative conversation about technology in SD42 (*re MyEd Basics, Printer FAQ,
Parent Portal, and Q & A*) for ECTs, TTOCs and Teachers New to SD42.**

Coffee & Refreshments!

**Please consider staying after the presentation for an informal gathering with
a directed purpose - support with prep, or simply as a venue designed to help
ECTs to listen to each other, sharing/bouncing around ideas and resources
and more!**

Bring your *laptop or device* and any prep work you need to do.

**Please RSVP to Elaine: (<elaine@mrtaooffice.ca> or 604-467-2111) by Friday,
October 12.**



Gaining Ground at Summer Conference 2018

The BCTF Summer Conference this year was, as usual, held in Kamloops at the Thompson River University Campus. The TRU campus is gorgeous and typically has spectacular views which were, this year, unfortunately masked by a wall of smoke due to the many wildfires that ravaged our province this summer.

Despite the smoke, however, I was able to attend a number of informative workshops and one discrete day with the other TTOC Representatives from around the province, facilitated by the BCTF TTOC Advisory Committee (one of the members of which is our own local's Hilaire Ford).

The first session I attended was a workshop entitled "Knowing Your Restored Collective Language," during which we had a brief period of instruction about the BCTF's Split of Issues (the split between elements of bargaining as they pertain to Provincial or Local issues), followed by periods of conversation and reporting out from other locals across BC about their local contract language. While we have a long year ahead of us, I was pleased to learn, through these conversations, that a number of pieces of our local language have been well bargained over the years.

During the discrete day with the TTOC Advisory Committee, I was able to gain some valuable understanding of province-wide issues pertaining to TTOC's/ECT's - for example: some micro aggressions that TTOC's face and uniquely specific aspects of a TTOC's job that likely are not experienced by teachers currently in classroom contracts (particularly during the current provincial teacher shortage). Again, however, while TTOC's and Early Career Teachers are often underrepresented in various locals provincially, I was proud to be able to report out that our local has had a well established and active TTOC/ECT Committee for a number of years.

Finally, I would like to remind all TTOC's and ECT's of Local 42 MRTA, that we on the ECT Committee are here for you and want to represent you the best way we can. Please let us know if there are any workshops you may wish to have, or questions or concerns that come up. Glen Hansman, the BCTF President, chose the theme for Summer Conference; our goal too is always to be "Gaining Ground," as a Local, as a Committee, and as teachers. Have a great year everyone!

- Krystyna Doran-Eddy, ECT Committee Chair



A Friendly Reminder: to keep your eye on the District Postings - new positions become available all the time!

Tips for New Teachers and TTOC's! From our Chair Krystyna Doran-Eddy!

1. Have the courage to learn from mistakes

Don't be afraid to try new things! The easiest way to learn and reflect is to try alternatives to the typical learning environment. If you are open to alternative ways of teaching and learning, it will keep you and the students engaged. If it isn't 100% perfect, you'll learn how to make it better the next time, or you can scrap it entirely! It's all part of the process!

2. Seek guidance and advice

One of the best things you can learn as a new teacher is to seek help from veteran teachers who have been in the profession for a number of years. Guidance and resources are invaluable, particularly toward the beginning of a school year!

3. Set aside enough time for preparation

Organization is key to peace of mind in teaching. Having a whole year planned out is lovely but is not exactly realistic - particularly considering the flexibility that teaching demands. Try to figure out a way to plan that works for your personality, and if you are unsure of how to begin, reach out to a friend or colleague. Veteran teachers often have templates of week plans that they are more than willing to share!

4. Don't take behaviour personally

Learning to look at students' behaviours as separate from you and your practice can be difficult, but keep in mind that, exactly like yourself, students come to school with their own stresses, nerves, and "stuff" in general. If you have questions or concerns regarding behaviours, seek out a colleague for suggestions and support!

5. Set rules and enforce them

Flexibility is important in the profession but stability is also fundamental for many students. The book "The First Days of School" by Harry Wong comes highly recommended! I have used it the past 2 years to set up procedures from the outset of the school year. Once a rule or procedure is in place, enforce that rule so that you and the students know what to expect. Follow through is so important.

6. Remember to do what works best for you and your class

If the above tips seem overwhelming, pick one and try it out, or completely ignore them all if they don't make sense for you! Above all else, be yourself - it sounds hokey but it is true - you will stay calmer, saner, and your students will appreciate that you are authentic.

More Start up tips from our MRTA Committee members!

Penny Morgan - First Vice-President of the MRTA. I have been a classroom teacher for 25 years. The most important beginning of the year tip I can share from my years of experience is to remember that every day is a fresh start. No matter how badly the day before might have gone, you have the ability to create a brand new experience the next day.

Carissa Coyle - Don't be afraid to start over if things aren't working the way you want them to. Be genuine, be enthusiastic and be present. Everything else will fall into place with a little work.

Hilaire Ford - As someone whose first name is constantly misspelled and mispronounced, I know it goes a LONG way with a student if you make an effort to learn their preferred name. That means asking the student what they want to be called, and telling them to correct you every time you get it wrong. As adults, we have the ability to forgive people when they get our names wrong, but for students (especially students whose birth name doesn't match who they are, or whose name is representative of their First Nations or immigrant heritage) it can make them feel invisible. Names MATTER.

Richard McGraw - My self care tip for new teachers is to dedicate at least one night per week to yourself, for whatever works for you. Wine, fitness, naps, any of the above, or whatever lets you rest and recover.

Lisa Neumann - A good way to learn a student's name you don't know well is to scan their assignments for their name and address them by it when you speak to them. If their name isn't on it first ask, "Did you remember to put your name on your assignment?", then address them by name.

Jasmeen Josan - As an Early Career Teacher I struggle with finding a balance between work and my personal life, and often find myself still at Glenwood late into the evening and hours after dismissal. Near the end of last school year I decided enough is enough. I now set a 4pm alarm in my phone. At 4pm I try to finish up whatever I am doing and go home. Although I am not going to deny that with the beginning of the school year I am often snoozing that alarm or making a to-do list for home, but I promise as the school year goes on you eventually get your groove! I'm just not there yet!

Kelly Harris - One of my back to school sanity savers this year has actually been my commute home - I really appreciate the time on my own to process the day and switch gears before I go home to my family. If commuting isn't your thing (!!!), try finding something you can do to get yourself out of school mode before you go home. Walk in the woods, coffee with a friend, yoga, whatever!

Jen MacDonald - Always have a pair of rain boots and a good whistle with you!





Save the Date! - November 5th
MRTA Early Career Teacher Committee

**To: All Early Career Teachers (ECTs), TTOCs
and Teachers New to SD42**

**You are invited by the MRTA Early Career Teacher Committee
to our Second 2018/19 "Good to know" Workshop
Reporting**

**Monday, November 5, 2018
3:45-5:00 pm, MRTA Office
11771 Fraser St., Maple Ridge**

Coffee & Refreshments!

**Please RSVP to the MRTA office at elaine@mrtaoffice.ca or call 604-467-2111 Before
Friday November 2.**

**Check out our Instagram
page! @mrta_ect**

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: **A Friendly Reminder:** Always lock up your belongings while TTOCing to avoid theft. :
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