

# TTOC TIMES

## Maple Ridge Teachers' Association

11771 Fraser Street Maple Ridge BC V2X 6C6

Early Career Teacher Committee Chair: Kara-Lynn Lund

October 8, 2021

Issue 1

### Say Hello to our ECT Committee Members!

#### Say Hello to our New Chair!

#### Kara-Lynn Lund Chair & Social Justice:

Email: [kara-lynn\\_lund@sd42.ca](mailto:kara-lynn_lund@sd42.ca)



Hello Everyone! My name is **Kara-Lynn Lund**, and I am your Early Career Teachers Committee Chair. I teach Kindergarten at Blue Mountain Elementary. I have been teaching at BME since 2017 and was hired with the district in 2015. When I first started teaching, I trained as a High School Teacher, and I loved it but as I TTOC'D I began to realize I had a passion for early learning and made the switch down to early primary! I started getting more involved with our union by becoming a Staff Rep for my school in 2018 and have taken on a more active role by joining several committees over the last few years. This is my third year on the ECT Committee, and I am so thrilled to be its chair this year. My goal would be to make all TTOC's and New Teachers in the district comfortable reaching out to committee members for any union related questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or any other committee members if you have questions or need advice.

#### Words of Wisdom:

It is so easy as a new (and not so new) teacher to compare ourselves to other teachers. As teachers we tend to be so hard on ourselves – constantly seeing how other people “do it better.” The more you focus on others, the more you will lose yourself, and the more defeated you will feel. Celebrate your strengths, be open to learning from others, and be proud of who you are as an educator. As Laurie McIntosh says in *Kids These Days*, “Instead of being all things to all people, what if our only job is to be the best we can be this year for these students?”

#### Jennifer MacDonald Pro-D Chair:

Email: [jennifer\\_macdonald@sd42.ca](mailto:jennifer_macdonald@sd42.ca)



Hello, my name is **Jennifer MacDonald** and I am currently the District Helping Teacher for Mentorship. I have been a teacher for 21 years, all in SD42. I have been a TTOC, prep teacher and classroom teacher, Gr 1-7. I am also past chair of the ECT Committee and I am in my second year as the Pro-D Chair.

**Words of Wisdom:** Find your circle of people, this job is too hard to be done alone.

facebook



Please Check out our  
MRTA Union Facebook page and  
the Early Career Teachers  
Facebook page!!!

## Jennifer Dinh Health and Safety Rep:

Email: [jennifer\\_dinh@sd42.ca](mailto:jennifer_dinh@sd42.ca)



Hello! I'm **Jennifer Dinh** and I currently teach 4/5 at Fairview. I joined the ECT Committee as a curious first year teacher in 2019 and have been here since! Navigating a new workplace can be a little confusing, especially as a TTOC when you are floating around, not really having a "home." Since joining ECT, I've learned about the important "behind the scenes" work of MRTA, along with meeting some pretty awesome people! Outside of work, I enjoy camping, exploring new places and eating good food with friends and family.

**Words of Wisdom:** Always have a picture book handy!

## Michelle Hiebert:

Email: [michelle\\_hiebert@sd42.ca](mailto:michelle_hiebert@sd42.ca)



This is my 8th year as a teacher in SD42 and my 5th with my own class. I teach grade 4 at Golden Ears Elementary. I have a passion for reading and love to share this interest with my students. I attended many ECT committee events and socials during my first few years of teaching. I also took advantage of some of the many great programs put on by our mentorship group such as the bookclub and joining the mentorship program as both a mentee and a mentor. All of these activities and programs helped me to feel supported and connected in the district. I decided to join the ECT this year as an opportunity to help other new teachers feel supported and connected as they start their careers as well.

**Words of Wisdom:** Don't be afraid to say "No". As a new teacher I often felt obligated to take on many roles and volunteer everywhere that was needed. It is better for everyone if you do a few things well rather than many things half-heartedly. Always leave time and space for yourself and your well-being!

## Richard McGraw Staff Rep:

Email: [richard\\_mcgraw@sd42.ca](mailto:richard_mcgraw@sd42.ca)



Hello TTOCs and Early Career Teachers,

My name is **Richard McGraw**, and I am a past chair of the ECT Committee and a current Local Rep for the MRTA. I teach French Immersion at PMSS, and I am passionate about learning new things, baking tasty things, and getting outside. I am involved in the district mentorship program working closely with my French Immersion colleagues, and I am currently mentoring a student teacher. I look forward to meeting folks at some of our upcoming workshops.

**Words of Wisdom:** Have a snack drawer for yourself. It saves you from being hangry, and it can be a nice pick me up if you have secret treats.

### MRTA an Invitation to: All Early Career Teachers (ECTs TTOCs and Teachers New to SD42)



Please come to the MRTA Early Career Teacher Committee Workshop

**“How to Handle Difficult Situations: Understanding the Supports Available for TTOCs and New Teachers”**

**Topics:** *When to Seek Help SD42 & MRTA Contacts Important Forms Understanding Your Rights District Programs*

**When: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 4:00 pm**  
**Where: Via Zoom**

We welcome all participants to stay on zoom after the workshop for an informal conversation with the ECT members and MRTA President. It is a great opportunity for TTOC's and New Teachers to ask any questions they may have, and get to know your union.

Please RSVP to Elaine [elaine@mrtaooffice.ca](mailto:elaine@mrtaooffice.ca) or 604-467-2111 by Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, so that we may send you any info, documents, and the Zoom link to join.