



## École Secondaire Esquimalt High School

### Challenge Program Faculty



#### Jennifer Wignall, Challenge Coordinator

In 2003, Mrs. Wignall graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts in English and went on to complete a successful teaching practicum at Esquimalt High School. Feeling the need to travel, she then taught English as a Second Language in a small school in South Korea. A year later, upon her return to Victoria, she happily accepted a teaching position at Esquimalt High and truly feels privileged to be able to work within such a dynamic school.

Mrs. Wignall has taught a wide variety of courses, including English within the 4C Challenge Program. As she enjoys travel, she continues to facilitate and participate in school trips to Europe and Russia. Mrs. Wignall has recently completed a Masters degree in Education from the University of Victoria.



#### Dana Bjornson, Science and Math

Mrs. Bjornson was a grade 8 4C Challenge student at Esquimalt High School in 1985. Studies at the University of British Columbia, Royal Roads Military College, and the University of Victoria led her to a degree in Physics and Mathematics. In 1997, during her teaching practicum at Esquimalt High School, she taught in both the Regular and 4C Challenge Program. After a year teaching outside of BC, she returned to Esquimalt High School to teach Mathematics and Physics.

As a teacher in the 4C Challenge program for Math, Mrs. Bjornson differentiates the curriculum in a variety of ways. Why should anyone take 4C Challenge Math over Regular? In Mrs. B's class you will gain a deeper understanding of concepts, take part in a cooperative learning environment, experience content compacting (i.e. less busy work!) which allows for "fun math" exploration, and have better math contest preparation. There is also a lot less "micro-management" as students for the most part, are extremely self-motivated.

Mrs. Bjornson continues to professionally develop not only in Math and Physics, but in the world of Social Media, Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship. She can be found on Twitter and Instagram using @physicsfuntime. Having two young children at home has somewhat clipped her wings extra-curricularly, however Mrs. B continues to give many hours of tutoring support at lunch and after-school, participates with the annual Grad Ski Trip and is an active member of the school's Technology Committee.

#### Bruce Ferguson, Science

Inspired by the rewards of tutoring while a student at the University of Victoria Mr. Ferguson went on to complete a Bachelor of Science (Biochemistry major, Mathematics minor). He has since completed a Master of

Education in Administration and Leadership through Gonzaga University. Mr. Ferguson enjoys helping people to better understand tricky but interesting topics and values the lasting impressions that several outstanding teachers made upon him.

Mr. Ferguson has enjoyed teaching science and mathematics at Esquimalt since 1998. He strives to help students both to challenge themselves and to learn in a rigorous but fun environment. Wherever possible, he tries to make connections between seemingly disparate disciplines of study using humour, analogy and anecdote. Mr. Ferguson uses field trips, when feasible, to give students a glimpse into science being done in the real world. Such trips have included the Institute of Ocean Sciences, the Proteomics Centre, the BC Cancer Agency and the Chemistry Departments at Camosun College and University of Victoria. Mr. Ferguson considers his work with interested and interesting young people an awesome pleasure and privilege noting that they are a constant source of enjoyment and inspiration.



### **Ken Henderson, Modern Languages**

Mr. Henderson studied English and French, with an unofficial minor in Journalism. In his English studies he focused on Canadian fiction. After completing a teaching degree in Outdoor and Experiential Education at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, he returned to his hometown of Victoria to teach.

Mr. Henderson discovered his love for the Spanish language on a six-month trip through Central America in 1999. Since then he has had the pleasure of further developing his fluency on trips through Mexico, Nicaragua and Baja California and recently completed a Masters degree in the Spanish Language at the prestigious University of Salamanca, Spain.

At Esquimalt, Mr. Henderson teaches Spanish and English. He also coaches the Rowing Team, and has organized a student trip to Mexico to immerse them in language and culture.

### **Anita Roberts, Language Arts**

Ms. Roberts hails from England and is a grateful settler on Lekwammen Territory. She has been a university student since 1989 and holds a number of qualifications from various institutions. She looks forward to turning 65 when her tuition will be free! Ms. Roberts' areas of scholarship include English literature and humanities, political science, creative writing and publishing, history in art, literacy instruction, and music. Her current academic focus is indigenous governance.

Ms. Roberts began teaching at Vancouver's Point Grey Mini School Gifted Education Program in 1997. In 2000 she began teaching at Esquimalt High School's 4C Challenge Program and was the Program Coordinator from 2003 until 2009.

At Esquimalt High, Ms. Roberts teaches "all the fun courses" including: Women's Studies, Social Justice, Philosophy, Creative Writing, English Literature, Advanced Placement English, and English (with a twist). Ms. Roberts operates the Center for Latin Studies at Esquimalt High School and supports students pursuing a variety of Directed Studies courses which have, over the past few years, included courses in String Theory, Russian literature, postmodernism, film making, architecture, and contemporary choreography. Ms. Roberts is also thrilled to be the teacher sponsor of the Esquimalt SLAM Poetry Collective.

Ms. Roberts enjoys exposing students to the expansive education afforded by international travel and has chaperoned trips to Russia, Spain, Greece, Peru, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Ms. Roberts welcomes all students to drop in to her classroom at any time and join the conversation!



## **Clark Schwab, Science and Math**

Clark Schwab grew up in Montreal where he attended a private boys school. Early experiences as a sailing instructor and camp counselor may have lead him to take up teaching later in life. Along the way Mr. Schwab completed a Life Sciences diploma at John Abbott College and a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Biology at Queen's University, spent two years at the Montreal General Hospital performing Multiple Sclerosis research and another two years as a trace organic analyst for a diagnostic chemicals lab.

Mr. Schwab earned his teaching diploma at the University of Victoria and began teaching in 1993 in Special Education. He later worked as a Resource Support teacher for special needs and behavioral students in Oak Bay High School's Resource Room and received a Special Needs teaching qualification from School District 61 in 1999. Mr. Schwab holds a Master of Education in Administration and Leadership from Gonzaga University.

Within Esquimalt High School's 4C Challenge Program Mr. Schwab teaches Mathematics 9, Science 9 & 10 and Biology 11. He says, "I am grateful for the positive energy and enthusiasm of the students I teach, and the wonderfully supportive staff at Esquimalt that have allowed me to explore my passion for teaching over these many years."