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- **BE SURE TO TAKE A BREAK!** Please take the time to become a rested, re-set and whole you.

WE MADE IT!

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: SUNNY DAYS AHEAD

A Look Back...

What Interlake teachers have accomplished this year is nothing short of extraordinary. If you sit down to list the hurdles scaled, the wins scored and the losses learned from, my guess is the list would impress anyone. This can be said for so many facets of society during this pandemic, as professional groups from all areas pivoted, adapted and innovated their crafts. And you did it all while not breaking stride in your pursuit of quality instruction, mentorship and genuine care for your students and colleagues.

What Lies Ahead...

A rest. Please embrace your passions or hobbies this summer; rest and relax the days away; or try something new you’ve always meant to, but never had time for. Rediscover the people-part of the equation as rules start to ease; explore new places as borders reopen; or just be still, if that’s what you need.

Thank You...

From the full-page **ITA THANK YOU in today’s Tribune** (check it out!); *“To the principals, teachers, substitutes and clinicians of the ITA; There was no clear path so you made one; there were no answer keys for Covid, so you wrote them; there were lessons that wouldn’t work this year so you created new ones; there were colleagues who needed support so you listened; and there were lots of reasons to give up, but you didn’t. Your students, peers and the Interlake will be forever grateful.”*

To our colleagues closing the door to their classrooms for the final time; we wish you good luck and time for new things, people, and adventures as the world reopens for you to enjoy. You have given so much of yourself to your students and school families, and they will always be mindful of you in the many things you’ve taught them. Best wishes!

For the million nights you’ve dedicated to your careers...

P!nk: “A Million Dreams” [LINK](#), *The Greatest Showman Reimagined* (versions with the [Ndlovu Youth Choir](#) for UNICEF or her [daughter](#))

2020-2021 Long Serving Members and Retirees

We dedicate this year's final edition to those members who are leaving us this year. Some are moving on to new opportunities after working in the ISD for more than 10 years, and others are closing out their careers and retiring. Please join us in congratulating all of them!

Heather Janzen-Tetrault – Concord Colony School

Heather has enjoyed her years in ISD where she spent her whole teaching career. She is admired by co-workers for her knowledge, creativity and kindness. Heather would like to pass on her appreciation to the many talented and dedicated colleagues she worked with over the years. Heather's first position was at Brant Argyle School teaching grades 6-8. She then moved to Centennial School for two years, teaching grades 7 & 8 Math and Science. The last 21 years of her career were spent at Concord Colony School in Middle Years and High School. Here she gained many unique experiences from life on a colony which will always be treasured. The community of Concord will forever hold a special place in her heart as will she in theirs. Heather looks forward to gardening and travelling in her retirement. We wish Heather health and happiness in all her adventures!



Harold Enns – Ecole RW Bobby Bend School



Harold began his teaching career in 1992, in the North West Territories. The next year, he moved to Quebec to develop his French speaking skills. In 1994, Harold accepted a job at Balmoral School in the Interlake School Division. Looking for adventure, Harold moved south to Arizona where he taught for two years with the Hopi Indians. After a few years in the USA, Harold moved back to the Interlake where he began his career as a music teacher. For 7 years he taught music and Grade 3 at Teulon Elementary. One of the most challenging events that occurred during Harold's teaching career was when a sound system stopped working during a Christmas concert. A loud "Kaboom" stopped the show but Harold continued on and completed the show acoustically. It was a success, despite the setback that night. He moved to Woodlands School for the next 7 years where he taught Music and Grade 4/5. Harold completed his teaching career at Ecole RW Bobby Bend school where he did a fantastic job teaching music, Grade 1, and physical education.

Harold worked hard at developing relationships and creating positive interactions with students. As a result, students were captivated and loved participating in his engaging music lessons. Harold will always be remembered for introducing the Ecole RW Bobby Bend classic "My Voice Alone" which we sing annually at our Remembrance Day Service. The students and staff at Ecole RW Bobby Bend School will miss Harold dearly. We all wish Harold the best in his future career at Beyond Bread, and look forward to stopping in for some coffee and sweets!

Christine Peters – Ecole Stonewall Centennial School

Christine grew up in the small town of Manitou, MB and attended Brandon University where she graduated in 1987. She got her first job that fall at Stony Mountain Elementary School. She was a gr. 7&8 homeroom teacher and taught gr 1-6 music. After 9 years, she became a grade 5 teacher. During her time there she organized concerts, directed choirs, coached track & field, soccer and volleyball as well-organized science fairs.

Christine moved her employment west and arrived at Stonewall Centennial School in 1999. She continued to teach grade 5...but just for 1 year. She spent the following 6 years in grade 6 and finally finished her career back in grade 5. Her time as ESCS was equally busy with her expertise in choirs/ musical productions, volleyball, Environmental Club, an annual grade 5 trip to Camp Arnes and 16 years of coaching curling and bringing home the gold! Christine has a terrific sense of humor, an incredible work ethic and the remarkable ability to read animal novels while tears stream down her face, year after year. (yes...same novels – same endings!)

Her students adored her compassion and the staff appreciated her many contributions and professionalism. She will be greatly missed as she spends her retirement years at her stunning cottage with her husband who has patiently waited for this new chapter to begin. Congratulations!



Kyle Nixon – Stonewall Collegiate



Kyle leaves Stonewall Collegiate after thirteen years of teaching and coaching. Kyle joined the Stonewall Collegiate staff immediately after student teaching at SCI in 2008. During his time at Stonewall Collegiate, Kyle taught Physical Education and Essentials Math. Kyle also was very active in extracurricular activities during his tenure.

Kyle was actively involved with the Link Leader Program and was a valuable part of the SCI sports program. Over his time at Stonewall Collegiate, Kyle has coached hockey, baseball, volleyball and badminton. His countless hours spent with SCI athletes will be missed greatly.

The staff and students wish Kyle all the best in his new position as Head Coach of the 15U team at Pilot Mound Hockey Academy and teacher at Pilot Mound School. Congratulations and best of luck in Pilot Mound, Kyle!

Terry Osnach – Stonewall Collegiate

Terry has been a mainstay in the Wood Shop at Stonewall Collegiate since 2005. Terry brought with him the experience and expertise that soon made the Woodworking program a favorite of the students at Stonewall Collegiate. His enthusiasm for the subject inspired and challenged his students to attempt a variety of projects. His talents were not limited to the shop, as he himself took on the challenge of teaching senior level Physics at the school one year.

Terry's friendship, wit and humour, and dedication to his craft will be greatly missed by the students and staff at Stonewall Collegiate, and the community of Stonewall. We express our gratitude to Terry for his tireless service, and wish he and his family all the best, in all of their future endeavors.



Helen Balderstone – Stony Mountain School



Helen Balderstone has chosen to wipe the board clean, pack up her pencil case, and retire from her 21-year teaching career. She began her career in 1975, taught some, dabbled in some other career directions, and returned to spend the last handful of years with ISD. Helen came highly recommended through our beloved superintendent Christine Penner where they met while both teaching in Winnipeg 1. Helen's career has taken her from Nelson House, to Tadouli Lake, Cross Lake, Cranberry Portage, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. Helen has made many lasting and valued friendships in staff and students along this path. Congratulations, best wishes and the very best of health and happiness for your next adventure, Helen!

Jennifer Studler – Stony Mountain School

Just like the richest cream, Jennifer Studler has made it to the top! Having accomplished a fulfilling and successful teaching career, Jennifer has decided to redirect her focus to her other interest, saskatoon farming and spend more time with her first love, her family.

Jen began her teaching career in 1983. Between her teaching assignments, love of changing schools, and building her beautiful family, Jen may have taught in more schools in the Interlake School Division than not, gathering rich and meaningful relationships at every stop.

As a colleague shared, *“The one thing I have always felt about Jen is that she was one of the most approachable teachers no matter where she went. Every kid trusted her and they knew she would always make time for them. Truly wonderful that way. People had deep connections with her....”*

We at Interlake School Division hope that Jen takes her much-deserved retirement and spends the time in good health and dream fulfillment. Congratulations, Jenn!



Lesley Philpott – Teulon Collegiate

To quote from a colleague directly, *“A nicer, more caring teacher, you’ll never find. I don’t know how I’ll ever be able to fill her shoes.”* Lesley has taught French at Teulon Collegiate for over 20 years, as well as many other courses over her TCI tenure. She has stepped up as school councilor on a number of occasions – with a great balance of empathy and knowing when a student is trying to “snow” her with lies. Leslie can always be counted on for her philanthropy work in the TCI school community, encouraging students to give back when and how they can. Her departure will have staff and students missing her alike, and they thank her from the bottom of their hearts for all she’s done. Congratulations on your retirement, and best of luck, Lesley!

John Kooning – Teulon Collegiate

John Kooning is as “laid back” as they come – he doesn’t sweat the small stuff. The students like his sense of humour, and report that he can easily get off track, talking about grass, cake and any current event. John can always be counted on for humour during our long staff meetings! A former student teacher who has now been a long-time TCI staffer says, “I learned a lot from John; he’d say”, ‘Start slow and taper off . . .but look busy. You don’t need to make answer keys for tests, just use the test of the smartest student. Never stop learning. Tell stories. The thing about common sense is . . . it’s not that common.’

John was once driving some students home after a sporting event. On the way home to Teulon, John struck a deer. No one was hurt and the deer ran off into the woods. The next day John brought the kids out to look at his vehicle. The deer’s tail was still stuck in the grill. John was then tagged with the nickname “John Deere”!

Thank you, John for your dedication these last many years in your role as Benefits Chair on the ITA executive. Your expertise will be missed. We wish John a well-deserved retirement full of golf, health and happiness.



Laverne Kiel – Teulon Elementary School

“Dedicated, hardworking, innovative, creative, and loves to get into it up to her elbows” is the perfect way a long-time former colleague and friend describes Mrs. Kiel. Students, parents, and fellow staff have all felt privileged to work alongside such a firecracker.

Laverne began her career in the Interlake School Division in 1988, working at Woodlands Elementary, Teulon Collegiate, and then finding her home at Teulon Elementary. Mrs. Kiel was motivated by the wonder and joy in a child’s eyes when they were deep into discovering something new; she took a lot of delight in teaching. As a teacher, she represents all things sensory, good, and wholesome: gardener, bread maker, explorer, life-long learner. Her mathematical and scientific strengths made for an exciting hands-on classroom. When it was time for calm, reading aloud to her class took children right inside the story (Mrs. Kiel’s classes always prefer the book over the movie version).



Laverne's hospitable nature and *roll-up your sleeves and get-it-done* attitude meant she was always organizing something memorable: Celebration Dinners, Agriculture in the Classroom, Little Green Thumbs, and Skating Days just to name a few. Laverne even hosted colleagues when the winter roads were too bad to make it home from their evening post-bac classes. Her great sense of humour, which is a must in our profession, makes us all want to be around her (and we love to hear that laugh).

Mrs. Kiel's experience in almost every grade from Kindergarten through 8 naturally made her a collaborative and trusted leader: Laverne became Vice Principal of Teulon Elementary in 2014. This increase in responsibility never strayed her from her most beloved: her family. Her dedication to, and love of, parenthood continues to make her a mother we look up to, going to her for safe, caring, and down-to-earth advice. Happy Retirement, dear Laverne!

John Blackwood – Teulon Elementary School

In 1981, when John started his career at Teulon Elementary, the north playground had an open field and no equipment. By the next year, he was part of a visionary group that worked on greatly improving the playground. John was the idea person, on the fundraising committee, the bookkeeper, grant writer and some of the time a labourer. For TWO summers, July and August were used to build a playground that we are still thoroughly enjoying today.

Mr. Blackwood is an enthusiastic supporter of all activities which promote a healthy lifestyle. Most memorably, he introduced Teulon Elementary to cross country skiing. Again, through writing grants, and wheeling and dealing, he outfitted the school with enough skis for each classroom to share. He used his time, after hours to maintain each set of skis and hot wax them at the start of each season, or set the ski track before most staff members were out of bed! He introduced his students to rocks and rings, archery, snowshoeing, golf, and bicycle safety. Mr. Blackwood also spent many a Terry Fox Run marshalling on his tandem bicycle, he peddling while Mr. Borkowsky was waving from behind to the well-wishers on the sidewalk. A sight for sore eyes!



His school Halloween costumes are legendary. He once dressed as a bag of leaves and of course made regular appearances as a sport and NHL superstar. John has a great sense of humour, mischievously rearranging colleagues bulletin boards, for example. He is often thinking of others and the big picture. He is selfless in his volunteerism and does it for the betterment of society. His steady, consistent, and confident approach in the classroom made him a teacher the students and co-workers look up to. Mr. Blackwood's students were consistently engaged in a task, whether it be in a difficult math problem, learning about government, or the probability fair, one could always count on something interesting happening in and outside-of the classroom walls.

Mr. Blackwood will be greatly missed here at Teulon Elementary, as he is the wise knowledge-keeper of all things TES. We hope we will bump into him on the trails at Ross Creek this winter or on his bicycle come spring. Can't miss that fluorescent green flying down the highway!

BEST WISHES from all your IIA colleagues!