



# ITA NEWS

June 2022, Volume 12 Issue 8

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- President’s Message - p 1
- MTS EDI survey – p 1
- HumanaCare info – p 1
- Mental Health Guide – p 1
- Inclusive Language Resources/Guide– p 1
- Retiree write-ups – p 2 - 6

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## PRESIDENT MESSAGE: THANK YOU & GOOD LUCK!

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. 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! This final edition of the ITA News is dedicated to you.

## FINAL REMINDERS:

1. Please do the MTS EDI Survey. You received the link in the MTS all-member email you received recently called the SUB. This is very valuable work, but can only be truly effective if members participate. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.
2. HumanaCare is available to you over the summer months. Please remember that as an MTS member, you can access all that HumanaCare has to offer for FREE! Click [HERE](#).

HumanaCare Access Code

24 HOURS A DAY ANYWHERE IN NORTH AMERICA  
 1-800-661-8193  
[www.humanacare.com/mts](http://www.humanacare.com/mts)  
 Access Code: MTSMFAP

3. **MTS Mental Health Resource Guide for Educators:** Give your mental health the same attention as your physical health. Click [HERE](#) for a list of resources to access.

4. **Inclusive Language: A Guide for Inclusive Schools and Workplaces in Manitoba:** in both English and French. This guide is intended to support respectful schools and workplaces by paying attention to how language is used to ensure safe and caring spaces. Click [HERE](#) to access.

**Rest, recharge & regroup!** Have a safe & enjoyable summer.

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## Thank You & Best Wishes to our Retiring Colleagues

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### **Susan George – Teulon Elementary School**

Susan is celebrating her retirement from Interlake School Division after 32 years. The journey started with a term position at Warren Elementary which became permanent in August of 1990. She spent 16 years at Warren Elementary School, first as a Physical Education teacher, and then transitioned into the classroom as a junior high teacher. Susan transferred to Woodlands School in September of 2007 for ten more years. While at Woodlands, she was a recipient of the Manitoba Teacher of the Year in 2010-2011. Susan spent the last six years teaching as a Grade 5 classroom teacher at Teulon Elementary School.

Susan will be remembered for her many years of coaching as a dedicated mentor to young athletes in cross country running, volleyball, basketball, badminton, as well as, track and field. Countless nights and weekends were passionately spent volunteering her time, helping students acquire the life skills of team play. She believed strongly in developing and strengthening student relationships through coaching and intramural activities. Not only would she offer extra time to her students, she was always willing to assist colleagues. She was creative, hardworking, and a diligent teacher in all that she pursued as an educator. Susan takes much pride and joy in seeing past students pursue and achieve a career in education, especially with Interlake School Division.

### **Lorraine Murray – Teulon Elementary School**

Lorraine moved from St. John's, Newfoundland to Cross Lake, Manitoba to begin her teaching career in 1987 at Otter Nelson River School. In 1990, she accepted a teaching position at Teulon Collegiate where she worked as a full-time Grade 7 – 12 Physical Education teacher until 1996. She also dedicated a lot of her time to coaching sports. She taught in Grosse Isle School from 1996-1997.

Finally, in 1999 she decided to settle in at Teulon Elementary School and has remained at the school for the last 23 years!

Lorraine has been a devoted teacher, colleague and friend. It is evident that she has put her heart and soul into her teaching career. She has had a huge impact on hundreds of students and was always focused on creating well-rounded, respectful citizens with her boundless energy. Lorraine is an avid outdoor enthusiast and particularly enjoyed teaching her classes techniques for cross country skiing. She would frequently take classes on long snowshoe treks through Green Acres Park to enjoy nature.

Now that she will have more time, Lorraine is looking forward to travelling, spending time with family and enjoying outdoor sports and activities. Although she will be missed by staff and students at Teulon Elementary School, we are excited for Lorraine to begin pouring her enthusiasm into her own life, and we wish her all the best in her retirement.





## **Donna Loochuk – Ecole RX Bobby Bend School**

Donna began her teaching career in 1997 at Brant-Argyle School. She taught there for nine years teaching both Junior High and Early Years. In 2006 Donna transferred to R.W. Bobby Bend School where she taught Grade 2, 3, Reading Recovery and many years teaching Grade 1.

Donna enjoyed teaching Grade 1 and had many engaging games and lessons prepared for her students. Often, she would take students ideas and changes her plan on a whim to create fun and memorable experiences for her students. Math was something she had fun with and teaching reading and writing came naturally for her. Quite often she shared a laugh over misspelled words and questionable drawings with her colleagues at the end of a long day. In the winter these conversations often lead to predictions and excitement for potential upcoming snow days. Too bad you won't be getting any more of the early morning phone calls, but I'm sure if you ask nicely Margaret will keep you on the phone list.

Donna has a positive, happy go lucky demeanor and she always greets staff and students with a smile. Her positive attitude is contagious, and she is often found at bus dismissal getting the kids all geared up to leave with a countdown, quiet contest, sorting rule, or cheering on the Jets or Bombers.

Donna is a huge sports fan and takes any opportunity to talk to her students about the previous night's hockey or football game. She has even been known to turn a non-sports fan into a fan through her discussions, crafts and her contagious love for sports. She loves to wear her Jets and Bomber hoodies on game day to support her favourite teams and has a closet full of the latest merch. Over the years, the entire school has celebrated Jets and Bomber days at school assemblies as Donna leads the cheer "Go Jets, Go!"

Donna served as a life member of the I Love to Read Committee helping to come up with fantastic, engaging ideas to promote reading at R.W. Bobby Bend School. She is also part of the gift and Card committee. Whatever the occasion, Donna was always prepared with a card and a bouquet of flowers.

R.W. Bobby Bend will not be the same without you, nor will our Christmas parties. You will be missed dearly, but we know you will enjoy your retirement. Your teaching will forever be treasured, your contribution in our lives can never be measured. Happy Retirement!



## John Loochuk – Stonewall Collegiate Institute

John Loochuk joined the Interlake School Division in 1990 and started his career at Teulon Collegiate. John then began his Interlake School Division tour. He taught in Argyle and then back to Teulon. After Teulon John worked in Woodlands for a short period of time and then became Principal. Continuing on his tour, he moved up highway 6 to become the Principal at Warren Elementary. John then moved over to highway 7 where he taught at Stony Mountain School where he eventually became the Vice-Principal for a number of years. He defected from Stony Mountain and ventured over to Stonewall Collegiate where he has been a Vice-Principal since 2016.



John is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. He always has time to talk and visit with anyone that sees him. Not only is he a great person, he is an amazing leader and is well respected by his colleagues and students. His way of building relationships with people is top notch. When you see his former students come back to say hello, you can see the huge smiles on their faces and can see what a huge impact he has made in the student's life. Wherever he has gone he has left a lasting impact.

When you talk to students about John, they all say he was a great teacher and one of their favorites. He never turned down an opportunity to make punny jokes at students and staff expense, all in good taste of course. Every morning and at the end of the day you can always see John greeting students and staff in the hallways or wishing them a good night. The students and staff usually have something to say to him as well which results in a back and forth conversation filled with laughter.

John was also passionate about sports and extra-curricular activities and loved to be involved in a variety of activities at the schools he was at. He was a great coach and players loved playing for him. John was a motivator and an amazing teacher. He was always trying to get better as a coach and expected the same from his players.

As an administrative colleague, he mentored many administrators in a variety of areas, even how to travel to educational conferences. Other administrators often go to John with questions. He is that calming leader that does a great job of putting everything into perspective.

However, above everything, he loved to spend time with his wife Donna and his family and friends. He loved travelling, spending time at his lake and going to Minnesota Vikings games or Foo Fighter concerts anywhere in the world. Even if he had to **PRE-ORDER** his tickets ahead of time.

Congratulations John on an amazing teaching career! We wish you all the best in retirement.





## Laurie Oughton – Lightly School

Laurie Oughton is one of the rare teachers that has spent almost her entire career teaching Hutterite children. Laurie started out by substitute teaching for a couple years after graduation and then accepted a permanent contract in the ISD. She has taught at Clearwater Colony, Lightly School for 27 years!

She has been a wonderful colleague and mentor for many. She has always been willing to guide and mentor staff that have joined us throughout the years. She willingly shares her ideas, resources, and wisdom. She led the way for other staff in sharing ideas, projects, and encouraging words.

Her commitment to the colony and its community has been exemplary. She has pushed the students to do their best and then try even harder. She has planned field trips and outings for the students that will be remembered forever! She has worked with the community to make important social justice projects that the community has shared to help others in need such as Pumpkins for Poverty.

Laurie has always been described as trustworthy, honest, and has the most wonderful sense of humor.

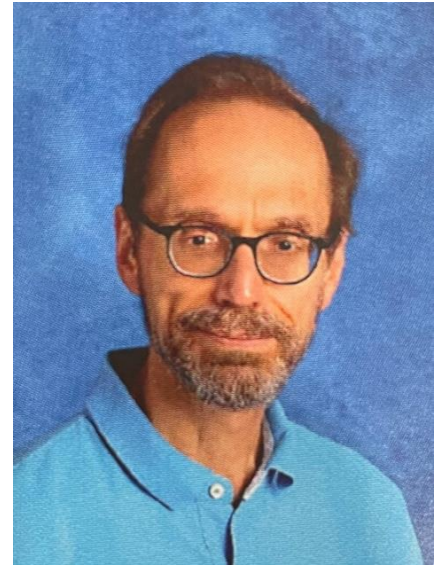
She leaves behind very large shoes to fill and the halls of Lightly School will never sound the same without her there.

Laurie's retirement plans include subbing for other colonies, and a lot of travel in the winter months to much warmer and sunnier places! We wish you all the best in your retirement! We will miss you!



## **Richard Trotter – Stonewall Collegiate Institute**

Richard joined the SCI staff in 2004 from British Columbia as a Science teacher. Immediately we could all see his passion for teaching, especially in the science field. He really enjoyed infusing technology into his classes and was always using the latest cutting-edge technology to make his classes more engaging. He prepared his students extremely well for post-secondary education and life after high school. He was very much of a perfectionist and his lessons were very detailed. He was one of the first teachers to start recording lessons and posting them on Edmodo prior to the use of Brightspace.



After seeing his daughter succeed in university, Richard also realized the importance of Computer Science for those students interested in Engineering, Sciences, Computer Programming, etc., so he proposed a Computer Science class and was successful in growing the numbers. One of Richard's favorite parts of the programming was the robotics competitions and he even had a robotics club running during the lunch hours.

Outside of the classroom, he really enjoyed coaching and talking basketball. He was a basketball guru and other coaches enjoyed picking his brain for drills, plays, and other coaching tips. Players loved playing for him and learned a lot from his knowledge of the game. If you wanted to talk basketball, he would always let you know that the Syracuse Orange were the best team in the NCAA and the Raptors were the best team in the NBA.

On his spare time, Richard also enjoyed golfing and walking around town. You could always see him walking to and from school, it didn't matter what the weather was like.

However, the most important thing in the world to Richard was his family. He always had time to talk about his daughter Katie and wife Sylvie. He was so proud of both of them and we know that he was looking forward to spending more time with them in retirement.

Congratulations Richard, on a great teaching career! We wish you all the best in retirement.

