



## Teacher Profile of Cam Miller

By Gerry Brach, Brooks Secondary Counsellor

Brooks P.E. teacher Cam Miller, had what only could be described as an idyllic childhood growing up on Texada Island. There were plenty of sports and outdoor activities to occupy a young boys' time. Friends were in abundance and the days went by quickly whether it was on a lake, in the forest or on a soccer field. Cam started playing soccer at the age of 5, tennis at age of 10 and when he wasn't on the field or court, there was always ball and road hockey. The sports were all in addition to other outdoor activities like fishing, hunting and motor bike riding. Back then, like today, sports and the outdoors were a big part of his life.

When Cam graduated from Max Cameron Secondary School he worked at a fly-in logging camp at Phillips Arm for two years to earn money for university. Originally Cam was interested in sports medicine but very few spaces were available at U.B.C. in the mid 1980's, so he ended up enrolling at Trinity Western University. There he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in P.E. and Geography. Upon completing his degree, he transferred to U.B.C. for a one-year Professional Development Program in Education.

While at Trinity Western University he played varsity soccer for four years, and competed in the Nationals in Calgary during his second year. Another university soccer highlight for Cam was playing against current colleague, Tony Rice who was on the Malaspina College squad.

Since 1994, Cam has taught at several schools in our district including J.P. Dallos, Oceanview, Max Cameron and Brooks. The bulk of his career has been at Brooks where he has taught P.E., Social Studies and Math. If he had to pick a favourite course to teach, it would be senior P.E. because of the skill level of the students and the opportunity to get out into the community to play different sports like, curling, golfing and tennis. Cam has been on two teacher exchanges to Australia which both he and his family enjoyed a great deal. "There are incredible different styles of teaching in Australia. The experience has taught me different teaching techniques, which ultimately have made me a better teacher by being creative with the resources you are given." Highlights of his teaching career so far include winning the Senior Girls soccer Provincial Championships in 2014 in Burnaby, B.C. "We almost didn't qualify for the Islands that year, but just jelled as a team at the right time. Every time you make the provincials in any sport you have created a shared memorable experience between a coach and his team."

Cam credits his father, Warren for being a big influence in his life by always being there to coach and mentor him. "In some ways it was more difficult to have a parent as your coach, as I had a stubborn competitive streak that needed some gentle guiding." Cam is also grateful to his Trinity Western soccer coach for his patience and guidance.

Family is huge to Cam and his wife Deb. They have four lovely daughters. Cam still keeps active by playing tennis, golf, and is hoping to continue playing a bit of soccer as he still loves the social side of the game. An old soccer injury (ACL) will require a knee replacement at some point in the future, but for now he is not letting that slow him down.

Aside from sports, Cam considers himself a decent carpenter and has done a lot of renovations on his current home. He likes building things and enjoys working with his hands.

His advice to students is: "Don't be afraid of hard work if you love your sport. Try and give back to the game. Cam Miller epitomizes someone who through his love of sports has given much to his school and community.