

Always Learning- A Teacher Profile of Kim Leach

By Gerry Brach, Brooks Secondary School Counsellor



Brooks English and PE Teacher, Kim Leach, always tries to do her very best in everything she takes on. She likes to challenge herself in learning new things and is passionate about living life to its fullest. Whether it is participating in the Youth Ambassador Miss Canada Pageant or touring Europe while in high-school with the American Music Ambassador Band, Kim has not been shy about stepping out of her comfort zone. Every few years she tries to learn something new. As an adult, Kim has run a marathon, learned how to curl, surf, play hockey, golf and soccer. "I love the challenge of learning and mastering something new."

Fitness is a big part of Kim's life. She belongs to a mountain biking group that rides five times a week and she does CrossFit before school with her two sons. "I love CrossFit because it is a different workout every day and you strive to improve your personal best."

Kim graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science. She later earned her Bachelor of Education and Masters in Education degrees. During her time at university, Kim spent a year in Japan and six months in Germany as part of a Co-Op Program. As a student, Kim always loved school so it was a natural progression for her to become a teacher. "Teaching is a career that is always morphing and changing. We are so lucky to be working with a fun segment of society." When Kim attended Max Cameron Secondary School in the mid 1980's, she was inspired by her English teacher, Mr. Kinahan who made English exciting and vibrant. "He encouraged me to

have a life-long passion and appreciation for literature." Kim also credits her parents for encouraging her athletic and musical pursuits. "My father taught us from a young age to do your very best and to have fun while doing it. He spent many summers coaching me in tennis and teaching me how to ski in the winter. My mother encouraged my musical side. When I was in Grade 12 my mom took me to Vancouver once a week so I could participate in the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra."

When asked about what it has been like teaching during COVID, Kim replied, "It has been going great. I enjoy teaching two classes each term as you really get to know your students and make connections with them. For me smaller class sizes have been a real bonus."

Future plans for Kim include more travel with her family and school groups. She would like to visit Africa and go on a safari. Also, on her future list of challenges is to rekindle her musical skills so she can join the Community Band.

Her advice to students who want to do well in life is, "Work hard, be prepared to fail but learn from your mistakes and persevere. Be resilient." Kim radiates joy and her enthusiasm for life is contagious to all those who know her.