



G. MONIKA SMITH

I spent my first 18 years in Edmonton, Alberta. Graduated from Jasper Place Composite High School with a degree in Business Ed. I also loved typing, I was the fastest typist in class at 80 w.p.m. in grade 10. After graduating I went on to work in the newspaper business, where I earned a Journeyman degree in printing. I used to type the columns in the newspaper on a justiperf. After your copy was completed a pink 1 inch tape came out of the justiperf. You would then take it to developing and get your final copy. We've come along way since the good olde days. My family consists of 4 kids: Amber, Amanda, Austin, Andy, and one Schitzu named Schutzee (means 'sweetheart' in German) Around my desk you may see pictures of my daughter Amber

who was married last summer to Tim Woods, they now live in Vancouver! My husband Don and I purchased a fifth wheel last year, and plan to do lots of fishing and camping in the future.



LESLEY LESIUK

I have been the Learning Assistance Teacher at Rose Valley for 3 years and am currently in my 12th year of teaching! I have also taught in the elementary classroom, middle school, as well as French as a Second Language. I come from a long line of teachers including my Mom, Grandma, brother in law and my husband who teaches Biology at KSS.

I have two daughters, McKenna, 5, who just started Kindergarten this year, and Quinn, 4, who is anxiously awaiting to start school next fall. On December 9th we had our third child, a boy named Grayson.

I enjoy spending time with my family doing whatever allows us to have fun together!!!



BEV MEAKES

In the fall of 2004, I will have been involved with Rose Valley Elementary for 20 years. I started as a parent and have been a noon hour supervisor for 11 years. In the tax season I work as a tax preparer for H & R Block in Westbank. I enjoy water skiing and swimming in summer, snow skiing in winter and hiking all year round. Volunteering has always been a part of my life and now I am a school volunteer for the 1 to 1 reading program as well as a volunteer with the health unit. I challenge myself with different projects. Right now I am learning to master a digital camera and the several programs that go with it. I am also laying a patio with paving stones, sewing baker sheets, and cooking Thai food. Variety keeps life interesting. I share my life with my husband and adult children, Aura and Braun and our cat Suki. Life is good.



MARY POWER

I was born in Kyoto Japan and have made Canada my home. I grew up in Kamloops and then attended the University of Victoria. I have taught in Vernon, McBride, Prince George and now here, in the sunny Okanagan.

My daughter Jennifer and son Jared, were both recognized as the Ambassadors of Peachland, and have traveled extensively representing the Municipality of Peachland. Jennifer has recently left for Japan to take on a teaching position. Jared is pursuing his electrical engineering through the B.C.I.T. program.

With our daughter gone and our son soon to leave, my husband and I have filled the empty nest with a new addition, a yellow lab named Charlie. He gives us lots of slobbery kisses, laughs and unconditional love. We love him to bits too.



JIM BRADSHAW

Mr. Bradshaw grew up in Revelstoke before spending time on Vancouver Island and then finally ending up in Kelowna.

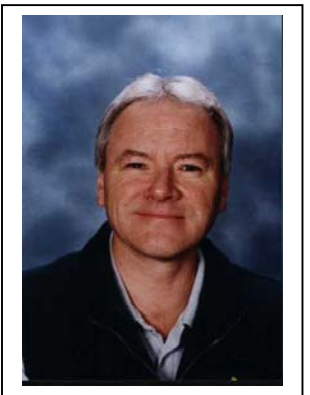
He is not married which allows time for the only passion greater than teaching, golf. A self proclaimed golfaholic he would golf all year if possible. A dream vacation would be to a golf resort somewhere real warm. He has only been a teacher for 7 years, 5 here at Rose Valley. Before teaching he experienced several other professions such as surveying, computer sales and managing restaurants and pubs. He feels he has finally found complete enjoyment in his job and really likes getting up in the morning to come to work.



ELVERA CESCONE

I was born and raised in Kelowna. I am the youngest, and only girl, of 4 children in my family. Having grown up with three older brothers, it is of no surprise that I am an avid sports fan. After graduating from Kelowna Secondary School, I played two years of basketball at Okanagan University College and in my third year I played soccer. I continue to enjoy playing soccer in the Kelowna Women's League. In 1998 I moved to Victoria and graduated with an Education degree from UVIC. I enjoyed my time there a great deal, but I was happy to move back home close to my family. This past summer was an exciting one, as I was married and busy moving into our first home. This is my third year teaching and I am thrilled to have received this position at Rose Valley. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here thus far, and

I am looking forward to a wonderful year!



BOB CUSTODIE DUDE

Born in Victoria, B.C. I grew up on the Lower Mainland. My first job was camp cook for Bethlaham Cooper. I spent three seasons at Hastings Paril, in Vancouver, working towards my thoroughbred trainers license. Wanting to be a family man, I went to a more secure job in the paper industry where I worked for 20 years.

We moved to the Okanagan in 1992 and I eventually got work with S.D. #23. I am now into my sixth year.

I have two sons, Garet and Michael, who attend Kelowna Senior Secondary. Besides enjoying watching my boys grow into young men, I enjoy golf, walks along Okanagan Lake and of course horse racing.



BOBBY NICOLL

I have been a teacher in Burnaby and Kelowna for many years. I am very proud of the fact that 34 years ago I "pioneered" one of the first kindergarten classes in the Burnaby School District. Each class I teach is always special to me and I have enjoyed following their progress throughout the years. His year it was exciting to have a former Kindergarten student's daughter enroll in my Kindergarten class. Abby is just as sweet as her mom was, many years ago. I was absolutely ecstatic when a former K student came to teach at Rose Valley. Welcome to our school Mrs. Cescon! All of my schools, staffs and students have been special to me, but Rose Valley has been VERY special! Thank you to all the parents that have shared their wonderful

children with me over my teaching career.



SANDRA MENDES

I was born and raised in West Vancouver, the eldest of five children. After working in my father's law office, I decided that law wasn't for me, even though my mother wanted me to be a lawyer. She ended up taking law at UBC while I took education, and we both graduated in 1978. I started my teaching career in Kelowna in 1978, after spending a month in Kitimat doing my final student teaching. I have taught Kindergarten to grade three from Winfield to Westbank. When my first child was born in 1985 I transferred to Rose Valley to be close to my home. I have been here ever since! I have two sons, Matthew (18) and Daniel (15), and one daughter, Ashley (12). They all attended Rose Valley and now, for the first time in ten years, I have no

children of my own at this school. When I'm not driving my kids to football, soccer or basketball practices and games, I like walking. I also enjoy reading, writing, and the visual and performing arts. Three years ago I completed a fifth year in Education. I took courses while teaching full-time and raising three kids, which left little time to do anything else! My favourite place to visit is "the Sunshine Coast" where my parents have a summer cottage on the ocean at Mission Point/Davis Bay. Some day I'd like to go to Portugal with my husband to see where he was born.



ROBERT CHEATER

I feel very fortunate to have joined the excellent teaching staff at Rose Valley this year. The move has enabled me to fulfill my dream of teaching my own children. My wife Beverley and five children – Kiawna (9), Danika (8), Curtis (6), Alyssa (3) and Lucas (7 months) love having dad work so close to home. We moved to Kelowna just over 3 years ago. I taught at Hudson Road for the past 2 years and K.L.O. prior to that. We moved from Kemano, a small, isolated town in northwest B.C., where we spent 3 wonderful years. It was a very scenic area and a safe place to raise a family. I was named the Citizen of the Year in the year 2000 – the final year that the town operated.

Prior to our experience in Kemano, I taught for 7 years in Coquitlam where I grew up. I attended Centennial Sr. High and went on to graduate from Simon Fraser University with a B.A., P.D.P., and P.B.D.

Growing up I enjoyed playing and coaching a wide variety of sports. I remain actively involved in coaching and I am a member of the Mr. Boucherie Figure Skating Club executive.

I collect sports memorabilia including a modest collection of about 80 game-worn hockey jerseys. I also enjoy writing, photography, watching my Canucks and time spent with my family. My family is one goalie short of a full hockey line. Who knows? Maybe one day!!



SANDRA TURNER

I have to say that I love teaching and this passion started when I was a young student. My dad who was a principal brought home left over "stuff" from his school and I would pretend to be the teacher with the neighbourhood kids. I absolutely loved it! My family has lived in Kelowna for over 20 years and we think it is the best place to be. My husband Bill teaches mechanics at OUC, my son Jon is taking an electrical engineering degree at University of VIC and my daughter Jennine is in her last year of nursing at B.C.I.T. My hobbies include golfing, scrapbooking, playing bridge and Scottish Country Dancing. My family loves camping and Bill and I usually spend a month or more travelling around in our 5th wheel during the summer.



Hi There! My name is **Sandy Fenton**. This is my second year here at R.V.E. as a C.E.A., my fourth with the district.

My husband Robert and I have three very wonderful, busy boys. We all enjoy many sports such as water skiing, baseball, fishing and skiing. (Don't laugh if you see me learning to board at Big White this year!)

We share our home with a petite, brindle boxer named Cleo and a beautiful hairy tarantula named Rose.

I'm looking forward to another great year at Rose Valley.



Mrs. Brenda Catherall
Teacher-Librarian

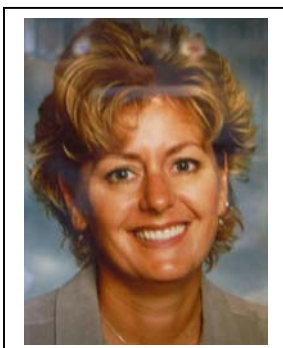
I graduated from the University of British Columbia more years ago than I'd care to admit! Armed with my degree and my teaching certificate I landed my first teaching assignment in the small town of Golden nestled between the beautiful Rocky and Purcell Mountains. Three years later, my husband and I moved to the Okanagan Valley settling in Westbank. I taught in several schools, first in Penticton and later in Kelowna. After my 2 sons were born I took specialty training in library education and I have been the teacher-librarian at Rose Valley ever since. My oldest son is now going to school and living in Vancouver, his younger brother is in Grade 12 at MBSS. My husband and I like to walk every day and we go out to listen to live jazz whenever we can. When I have time to relax I can usually be found with my nose in a good book!

CHARMAINE BRADE NIXON

Bonjour, I am one of the new teachers at Rose Valley. I work part-time, doing prep relief for full-time teachers. I enjoy teaching 8 different classes because I get a chance to see so many student daily, as well as having a lot of variety in what I teach. The downfall is trying to learn over 200 students names!!! I am married and I have 2 adorable children. Braden, named after my maiden name, is 19 months and enjoys jumping, climbing, and is a "typical" boy. Danica, my 4 ½ year old loves books, dancing, skating, swimming, and playing with her dolls. Both my children are learning French at home, in hopes of being bilingual.

My childhood was spent in Northern Alberta in a small farm community, where I listened to lots of country music, learned how to 2-step, butchered chickens and picked rocks. The last 2 tasks were NOT among my favourites, but they had to be done!

As a young adult, I left home at 17 to go to the University of Alberta to become a teacher. One of the reasons I decided to be a teacher was because my interest test in high school indicated that I would do well as a recreation director, a teacher, or a drill sergeant. By being an elementary teacher, I get to be all three! During and after university I did a lot of international traveling, including a safari in the African jungle. I love to travel and I hope that I will have more opportunities to do so in the future.



My name is **Roxane Kerr** and I am a CEA at Rose Valley. I am in my 10th year as a CEA and my 3rd year here, and I love it.

I have 3 children Jordan 20, Brady 17, and Shalane 16. I also have 2 dogs and a cat. I moved here from Edmonton 13 years ago and think it is heaven.

I love to take my dogs for long walks, golf and play racquetball with a friend. My friends and family are great.



BARBARA HARLOS

I was born and raised in Vancouver and graduated with my teaching degree as a charter student at Simon Fraser University. After marrying my husband, Henry, I taught grades 2 and 3 in Coquitlam for six years. Then our family arrived – three boys: Andrew, Peter, and Geoffrey. Shortly after birth of the youngest my husband took a job as industrial engineer at Western Star Trucks and we moved to Kelowna. When the boys were all safely into school I returned to teaching and have taught primary classes at six district schools. Our family have enjoyed hiking, camping, skiing, golfing and sailing together in this valley and throughout southern B.C. Now the boys are grown, (and some married) my husband and I continue to camp, hike, sail, and golf and look

forward to frequent family visits.



ED STUERLE

I grew up in the greatest city on earth, Kelowna, B.C. My upbringing is reflected in my interests. I love to snow ski, waterski, play volleyball, hike, create videos, and golf (and love golf certificates at the end of the year)

After I graduated from UBC I started teaching in Peachland. In 1990 I transferred to Rose Valley where I have enjoyed working with a great staff and community.

Our family consists of my wife Gabriela, my two sons: Kevin and Cameron and our two cats: Garfield and Oreo. We have lived in this community since 1983 and we don't plan on moving any time soon. We love it here."



WENDY MARSICH

It's hard to believe that at one time I used to "play" school (. . . sheer horror for my brother and two sisters who had to be my students!) And here I am now, a teacher. All the practice I had as a kid has been put to good use. I was born and raised in Summerland, where my parents still reside.

After completing high school, I moved to Kelowna to begin my education study at OUC. Five years later, I received my Bachelor of Education degree. I have now been teaching in the district for 7 years.

Last year, my spouse Holger and I bought our first home in Shannon Lake. We enjoy traveling, especially when we pack up the car to go on a big road trip. In my spare time, I enjoy being active outdoors. I like walking, hiking cross-country skiing and golf. One of my future plans is to travel and

golf some of the beautiful courses that the world has to offer.



JANET SLANEY

It is hard to believe that I am beginning my fifth here at Rose Valley. My eldest child, Kelty, was just two years old when I began, and now she is in grade one. My youngest child, Jaxon, is now 2 years old... Wasn't it just yesterday that I was sporting the big belly? My husband is the Director of the Big White Kid's Centre therefore, a great deal of our lives revolve around the mountain. Kelty actually goes to school up there. We are avid skiers, and outdoor enthusiasts, and love living out of the city in Joe Riche. My drive to work allows me time to gear up for the day, or revert back to just being a Mom by the time I reach home. Tragically, we lost our Siberian Huskies, so we are now officially dog-less, but if Kelty has her way, soon our walks in the woods will include a 4 legged friend as well.



JENNY WRIGHT

It is with great pride that I can now call myself a Rose Valley School teacher. (I really, really, really wanted to work here!) I began teaching in Vancouver during the 70s at the age of 21, having already been married for 3 years! A few years later, Amy was born, and a year and a half after that, Amanda arrived. During the child rearing years I taught at a Parent Participation Pre-School and coached gymnastics. After returning to the public school system, I taught my way through all of the grades from one to seven before moving to Kelowna. I got onto the sublist immediately and, shortly thereafter, secured a permanent position at Peachland School teaching library, music, and literacy. My "house" husband Rob (who took very early retirement) and I just celebrated 30 wonderful years of marriage. Both of our girls are now

married with children! We have been blessed with two wonderful son-in-laws and three beautiful grandsons (there are two more grandbabies on the way!) To "veg-out" I enjoy playing Scrabble, reading, gardening and sewing. My husband and I enjoy golfing in the warm weather and cross-country skiing in the cold weather. We love entertaining! Our home is regularly filled with a myriad of family, friends and food. My greatest joys in life are teaching, my family, and my church.



GERALDINE MUELLER

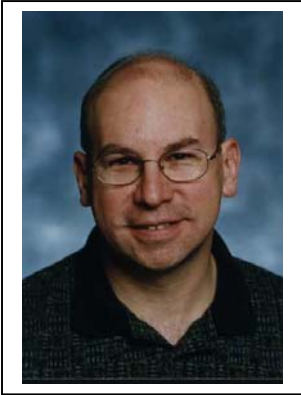
I grew up in Germany near Frankfurt. Graduated from High School and then completed an apprenticeship in banking. I got married to my husband Robert in 1975 and some years later we had our two children, Frank and Sabrina. I stopped working and have been a stay at home mom ever since. In 1987 we decided to move to Canada, where my husband was born. Good luck had us buy a house here in West Kelowna Estates. Frank and Sabrina enrolled in Rose Valley School where teachers and parents gave us such a warm welcome and tremendous support. Not long after I became a noon hour supervisor. My children are all grown up now, they finished college and started their careers. I am very proud of them. In the last years my husband and I started to travel more often. Our most spectacular trips were to Thailand

and to Peru, where we hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. But the rest of the year we enjoy the great Okanagan Valley. We love the outdoors and we play a lot of volleyball.



ETHEL LAIDLAW

I grew up in Edmonton and North Delta. After graduating from UBC my husband and I lived and taught highschool in Terrace and Hazelton. We arrived in the Okanagan in the mid 70's where we raised our three children. I enjoy sports and have participated at various times during my life in volleyball, basketball, badminton and curling. At the present time my interests also include reading, cooking, house renovating, golfing which I am slowly mastering and Scottish dancing. I have visited most of the countries in Europe and Peru. Our latest trips to the U.S. included stays with 'Serva' families; an organization that promotes peace and understanding between countries. One highlight of many during our trip to Washington D.C. was a private tour by the Secret Service of the White House, only a month before 9-



MR. DAVID BUCKNA'S BIO (with apologies to Dr. Seuss)

My name's David Buckna. Say, isn't it so?
I've taught at Rose Valley more years than I know.
Grades two through five, but mostly grade three
Yet not once have I ever skinning my left knee.

I grew up (not down) in the West Koot-en-ee
And helped make a drink called Kok-an-ee
Then to U-Bee-See for a Bee-Edd-DaGree
But also have training in counseling U-See.

I've been school COTA rep for many a year
And quite active on strata councils, oh dear!
I like music from Bach to the Bar-ba-loots,
And Bono and The Boss, who don't sing in suits.

For fun I strum my dad's old guitar (I will!)
And watch movies like The Day The Earth Stood Still.
In summer I ride my Snimm-speed bike
Or walk on trails when Zummings say, "Take a hike!"

I help the kids to write stories and speeches
In case they ever meet up with some Sneetches.
I help the kids to compute and work neat
And spell really hard words like "Mulberry Street".

I help the kids to learn about this and that
In case they ever meet The Cat in the Hat.
I've never met the Lorax or a Zax or a Who
But enjoy teaching at Rose Valley, I do!

MIRANDA BERISOFF

I was born and raised in Penticton and have been living in Kelowna for the last eight years. Last year I was on maternity leave and having fun with my daughter, Sydney, who is 17 months old. My husband's name is Paul and we also have 3 cats and a dog. We love playing volleyball and spending time with Sydney.



SUE PENDRAY

I grew up in Merritt and attended the University of British Columbia. After teaching for several years in rainy North Vancouver I returned to my Interior roots and moved to the Okanagan. I am married to a teacher, John so we are able to enjoy holidaying together! Our three children are somewhat grown and are presently attending university, however manage to get home for Mom's cooking every break. My husband, our dog Roscoe, and I love the outdoors. I enjoy skiing, golfing, hiking and camping.



VIVIAN URLACHER

I was born in North Vancouver, and had a wonderful childhood growing up on the Seymour River. I remember Mrs. Hennings at Maplewood Elementary School. She was a noon hour supervisor there. I always wanted to do her job.

After high school I attended Vancouver Vocational Institute Certified Dental Assisting Program. I got married and have two wonderful children. We moved to Kelowna in 1991 and Danielle and Trevor attended Rose Valley. That was when I started supervising here.

I currently work in a dental office 4 days a week and I supervise here for one. My children have since graduated from Mount Boucherie Secondary and I am still supervising at Rose Valley.

I enjoy the kids and the staff here a lot, and I am very proud to be a part of this great school. When I'm not at work, I enjoy skiing, boating, friends and family . . . and so it goes



MONDY CHALLMIE

I was born in Vancouver at Grace hospital at 12:45 in the morning. I was a crying baby, but turned into a very nice, calm person. I went to Eric Hamber Secondary School in Vancouver, made some good friends and generally worked hard.

I went on to UBC and received a Bachelor of Education, then a Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction, and finally a M.A.

I taught 12 years in French Immersion classes; grades 2-7, mainly Grade 7. Three of those years were in Merritt and the other 9 at Dorothea Walker here in Kelowna.

The last five years I have been an elementary counselor. I find my job very interesting.

I am a recent daddy. My beautiful girl's name is Adarah, and she'll become a perfect student. However with a mom, and dad who are teachers, we'll have to see about that one.



LORRAINE SIMPSON

I was 13 when I moved from Edmonton to the Okanagan and have lived on the Westside ever since.

I graduated from Mount Boucherie as did my husband and my 2 girls.

I have been with the school district for 11 years, working as a CEA and in the library here and at Shannon Lake Elementary.

My husband and I enjoy camping and now with a grandson in Calgary . . . that's where we'll be spending part of our summer.

SUE RAMPONE

Hi. My name is **Sue Rampone** and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist. I have been working at Rose Valley Elementary School for the past 5 years and over 20 years in School District #23. When I am not at school, I am at home with my husband and 2 boys, aged 11 and 14. I also live with a huge black Bouvier dog named Mocha. Some people mistake Mocha for a bear. We live in an orchard in East Kelowna with many apple, cherry and pears trees. During the winter, I'm off skiing and during the summer, I'm in the lake.



MARY ANN ROSBERG

I grew up in Abbotsford as a P.K. (preachers kid). While in my teens my family of 7 moved to Calgary. There I receive my B.A., later moving to Toronto for my B.Ed. I began my teaching career in Abbotsford (3 yrs.) and Kelowna (4 hrs. at Belgo), not to mention a year as a B.C. Tel operator! My teaching career went on hold while I raised my 3 children, Jennifer, Kirsten and Bryan (all R.V. graduates). We've called West Kelowna Estates home for 26 years and somehow I never did return to teaching. I loved my years at home with the family. Now I get my "fix" of students by being counselor, enforcer and surrogate mom to the children of R.V.E.

I volunteer at church, school and community and I love to exercise, read and take long walks. When John retires we hope to catch up to our children and do some traveling of our own.



DEBBIE SIMMONS

I am a Kelowna girl. Growing up here has been a wonderful experience. Swimming, biking, skiing and beaching. I always seem to know someone wherever I go. I met my husband Brian at K.S.S. and we married in 19981. I have two children who both went through Rose Valley. Mitch is in grade 11 at M.B.S.S. and Kyla is in Grade 7 at C.N.B.

Brian and I have our own business from home so we have managed to always be around for the important things as our kids are very involved with their activities. Mitch's hockey and Kyla's horse keep us very busy. I have been a very active volunteer at Rose Valley and then progressed onto Noon Hour Supervisor 5 years ago. I love the connection I have with the children and staff of our wonderful neighbourhood community.



HELEN REDDIN

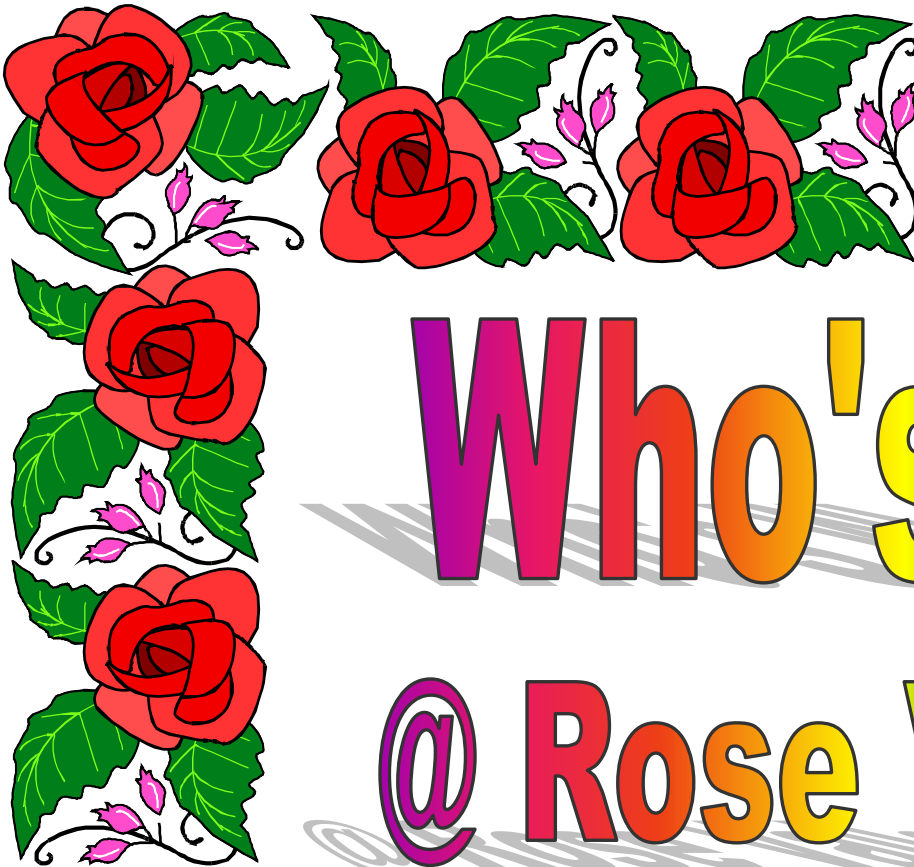
First of all I'd like to say a big thank you to all of the students, staff and parents who have made my initiation to Rose Valley so welcoming. I am enjoying my time as a Learning Assistance teacher while Lesley Lesiuk is on her maternity leave.

I was born in Comox, B.C. but grew up in Kelowna. After I completed my teacher training at OUC in 1993, I went to Victoria to get my Bachelor of Education. From there I spent some time teaching on Vancouver Island, in South Korea, and in northern B.C. with the Nisga'a people. From there I moved to Vancouver to complete my masters degree at UBC in 2002. Although I have really enjoyed my time teaching in other communities, it is nice to be back in my hometown! In my free time, I work with the Okanagan Young Authors' Conference committee to set up a workshop for grade five writers in our district. I also help out with the CIBC Run for the Cure event which is held annually in October. I enjoy working out at the gym, curling, jogging, yoga and baseball. I have a dog named Shyla, who is a husky-cross and lots of fun! I am also getting married this summer so my fiancé Mark Mariotto and I are busy with wedding plans!!!



JOANNA GURAKOWSKI

I have recently joined the staff and students of Rose Valley Elementary. I am a CEA and absolutely love my job. I grew up in Vancouver and moved to Kelowna two years ago. In the past three years I have been exploring the world visiting Mexico, Hawaii, Cuba and parts of the United States. My hobbies include snowboarding, cooking and camping. I am looking forward to the rest of the year here at Rose Valley.



Who's Who

@ Rose Valley?

NANCY AYMONT

I can't believe its been 12 years since my husband and I made the big move from the farm in Saskatchewan to Kelowna where the flowers almost never stop blooming! I never really get a chance to miss the farm because with 5 siblings, 7 nieces (5 under 6 years old) and one nephew, I'm in constant communication with life in rural Saskatchewan. I have two children and two grandchildren so my life is just as I love it – full! I just couldn't end this without mentioning the 4 legged friends in my family: 1 Boston Terrier named Oreo (can you guess what color she is?), "Kitty" a beautiful white cat and a hamster that is 4 years old! I am so lucky to be a Resource Teacher because it allows me to get to know so many great kids!



KEN PHILLIPS

Presently working at Rose Valley / Hudson Road with 16 years of service at School District #23 as a custodian. I have enjoyed working at Mount Boucherie, Rose Valley, Shannon Lake, Constable Neil Bruce and now back at Rose Valley. I am married to Jayna, a hair stylist for 15 years with no children, but two dogs Myka and Abby and two cats Kia and Kali. We have lived on the Westside for 15 years. My interests are many areas from health, exercise to total R & R. Hockey is my winter activity, golfing my summer interest but enjoy many other activities from playing guitar to photography.

