New Faculty - Wentworth Campus

Michaela DiFazio — Languages Department, Wentworth Campus
Michaela has just recently relocated to Vancouver from Thunder Bay, Ontario. She completed the Bachelor of Education program at Lakehead University and continued to teach with the Lakehead Public School Board for 3 years. Primarily teaching French and music, she was able to work with students of all ages and share her love for the French language. Michaela received her Bachelor of Arts degree, with a focus on French, at Niagara University in Buffalo, New York where she had the opportunity to play both soccer and hockey in the NCAA. Her passion remains in athletics as she continues to play a variety of sports and coach youth athletics. Michaela is extremely excited to join the staff, students and school community at Collingwood School this year!

New Faculty - Morven Campus

Stephanie Vande Kraats — Teacher Librarian, Morven Campus
Stephanie received her Bachelor of English from Dordt College in northwest Iowa where she took a semester abroad to study Shakespeare in London. She worked as a small town newspaper reporter before completing a Master of Arts in Teaching at George Fox University. Stephanie began her teaching career near her hometown of Portland, Oregon. She immigrated to Canada in 2003, teaching English at Surrey Christian School for 14 years and adding a Teacher Librarian role in 2009. She continued as a Teacher Librarian with Burnaby Schools and is now completing her Diploma in Teacher Librarianship at UBC. She enjoys graphic novels, podcasts, and other emerging media. Stephanie is thrilled to be joining the dynamic library team at Morven campus this September.
Mayren Arguelles — Languages Department, Morven Campus
Born and raised in Cuba, watching the Caribbean sea and eating rice and beans. Learnt to swim in the beach and cool water of rivers. Too many questions in live and decided to study journalism and ended up with an endless questionnaire. Had the opportunity to live in Japan, Canada and Australia and to motivate students through Spanish language to understand, appreciate and distinguished Spanish and Latin American Culture. Amazing people, traditions and places full arts, delicious food, stunning architecture and distinct season's colours and sceneries helped me to embrace my identity as the best way to be a citizen of this world. I'm looking forward to share my love of Spanish language with Collingwood Students and to built a meaningful communication.

Katelyn Jmaeff — English Department, Morven Campus
Ms. Jmaeff was born and raised in the Nelson, BC region. She studied Environmental Geography and International Studies at Simon Fraser University, and proceeded to work for several non-profit organizations in roles of Volunteer Management, Community Development, and Youth Engagement. Ms. Jmaeff’s passion for experiential learning, place-based education, and service learning encouraged her to complete the Bachelor of Education program at the University of British Columbia, where she achieved an Outstanding Practicum Award. Ms. Jmaeff also enjoys spending time outdoors in the mountains and on fresh lakes and rivers, and travelling abroad. She is thrilled to join the Collingwood community and is looking forward to collaborating with students, parents, and staff.

Shaina Gleicher — STEM department, Morven Campus
Shaina originally hails from south of the border, from sunny Southern California. She attended the University of Pennsylvania to study Computer Science and obtain a Master's in Education. She then traveled internationally, teaching math, until settling in Vancouver. She earned a Diploma in Special Education at the University of British Columbia and has since been teaching with the Delta School District. When Shaina is not teaching, she is either travelling, partner dancing, or rock climbing. She is excited to join the Collingwood team and looks forward to an exciting year with the students of STEM and Robotics.
Birgit Breuer — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
Birgit has graduated from Munich University with a degree in English, PE and a BA in Marketing. She has since lived in Europe, the US, Caribbean and Canada. Birgit has been an avid athlete all her life and enjoys live music, skiing, flying, travelling and scuba diving. She loves to empower youth to reach their full potential and embrace a multi-cultural lifestyle.

Samantha Desrosiers — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
Samantha Desrosiers is a concurrent education graduate from Trent and Queens University. She has been involved in camp since she was 14 and has just finished directing her own kindergarten camp at Trent University for the past couple of summers. This past school year, Samantha was the junior school intern at Trinity College school and is very excited to continue her education journey at Collingwood school.

Montana Ivancoe — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
One major accomplishment in Montana’s life is completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at UBC Okanagan. She believes that in order to achieve positive learning outcomes in a classroom, there needs to be a focus on not only the content being taught, but the psychological and emotional needs of the students as well. Throughout her practicum, Montana discovered that it is essential to deal with children’s personal needs first in order for them to learn to the best of their ability. Montana’s Psychology degree in combination with her Education degree, has given her the tools necessary to discover and deal with children’s psychological and emotional needs in a constructive way to enhance their overall learning experience. Outside of the classroom, Montana is passionate about travelling and exploring new places in the world. She recently embarked on a trip throughout South East Asia that opened her eyes to a new perspective of the world. This passion for travelling then led Montana to participate in a Go Global program through her university, where she moved to Australia for a semester to learn abroad. Throughout her travels, Montana learned that she is capable of adapting to any environment and making the best of every situation. She is very excited to start her teaching career at Collingwood this year.
Shadan Afham — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
My name is Shadan Afham. I was born and raised in West Vancouver, BC. My biggest passion in life has always been working with children and watching them grow into unique individuals. I love spending time with my family and friends, traveling, good food, reading, and listening to music.

Looking forward to meet each and every one of you in the weeks ahead!!

Kalisa Young — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
I was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. A few years ago I felt the need to be adventurous, and that took me to the beautiful countryside of Japan. My intentions were to be there for one year, which, turned into almost five years. I gained a lot from the Japanese culture, people and their history, after that experience I moved to British Columbia where, I have now been for a little over 1 year.
I have been working with children ever since, I was a young child, from doing private tutoring to then becoming a full time Kindergarten teacher at an International school in Japan for almost 4 years. I thoroughly enjoy this field, it is my passion, it is ever changing and evolving. I believe in nurturing of the child and in building relationships of trust and security.
I have a Masters in Early Childhood attained from University of Walden and an Assistant ECE license. I look forward to working with families, and will always strive to find some common ground.

Graham Shaw — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
Graham completed his degree in History and Music at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo Ontario then attended Nipissing University to complete his teaching degree. After a year of teaching History in England he has returned to Canada. Graham enjoys being active and spending time outdoors, whether it’s skiing, rock climbing or five day canoe trips he will be out there with a smile on his face, and at times with his guitar. Graham comes to us from Ottawa Ontario and is very excited to join the Collingwood team.
Katherine Hadley — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
Katherine graduated from Bishop's University with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Educational Studies and then went on to receive her Bachelor of Education from UBC. Her main areas of study in the field of education have been connected to teaching second language learners as well as teaching primary children. Katherine has always been passionate about dance and has danced competitively throughout her high school and university years. She is really looking forward to joining Collingwood’s Associate Faculty this year.

Vanessa Simonetta — Associate Faculty, Wentworth Campus
She graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto, where she received her Bachelors in Fine Arts. At the time she was also teaching visual arts with children in an after-school program from all ages and backgrounds. After a few years of working with this program she decided to move to Vancouver in order to start her career in Art Therapy. She obtained her Art Therapy Diploma from the Vancouver Art Therapy Institute, which lead her into working with children in an elementary school within the public sector. She has also taken on many opportunities with her work including volunteering at Ronald MacDonal House in Vancouver. Vanessa is excited to start working within a new community at Collingwood and continue her career with working children and youth.

Yan Feng — Daycare, Wentworth Campus
Graduated from Langara College Early Childhood Education program. She has been working with children at preschools and after school care program since 2005. Yan enjoys art, crafts, cooking, and travel.
New Teacher Intern Coach - Morven Campus

Jeremy Lewis — Teacher Intern Coach, Morven Campus
After graduating from Collingwood School in 2011, Jeremy completed his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. During his summers, Jeremy worked with adults who had a variety of developmental disabilities. Upon completion of his degree, Jeremy pursued some of his personal interests, which included tutoring at Collingwood, working on the 2015 federal election, and especially, ski patrolling at Silver Star. Jeremy has recently completed his Bachelor of Education at the University of British Columbia Okanagan this past year, and is thrilled to be coming back to Collingwood to work and learn with the other teachers and students.

Bethan Haston/ Ms Haston — Teacher Intern Coach, Morven Campus
Born in Scotland, Bethan completed her Bachelor of Geography at the University of Edinburgh and soon after moved out to British Columbia where she spent four years working as an Outdoor Instructor on Vancouver Island and in the Howe Sound. Returning home in 2012, Bethan spent three years working for an environmental charity before completing her Professional Graduate Diploma in Education. She has since spent a fun and rewarding year working as a Geography Teacher in a public school in Scotland whilst continuing her Masters studies with a focus on Learning for Sustainability. Now back in Squamish, Bethan is thrilled to have the opportunity to join the Collingwood team as a Teacher Intern and is greatly looking forward to getting to know the students and sharing her skills and experience with the school community.

New Staff Admissions

Laura Peña — Admissions Coordinator
Laura comes from Mexico, where she completed her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology, worked as a schoolteacher in an International Baccalaureate (IB) school, and volunteered as a therapist assistant helping kids with speech and learning disabilities. In 2014, she moved to Vancouver where she completed her M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Leadership at the University of British Columbia and went on to teach English as a second language and further on, worked as international educational advisor and recruiter. Laura enjoys travelling, cooking, hanging out with her friends and practising yoga. She is excited to join the Collingwood family as part of the admissions team and support the demands of the admissions and enrolment process at the school.