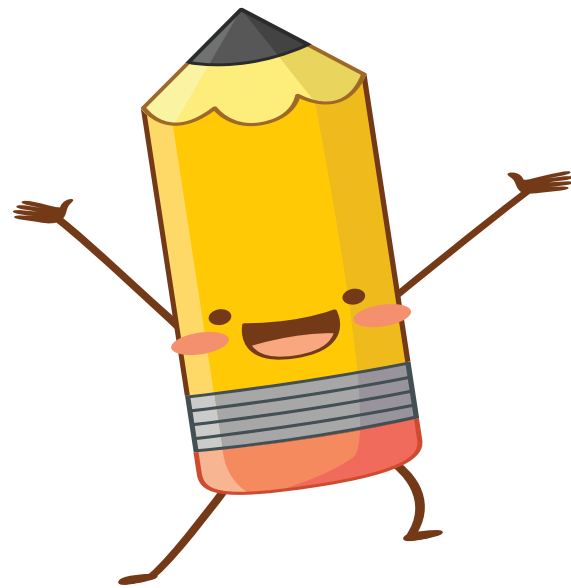
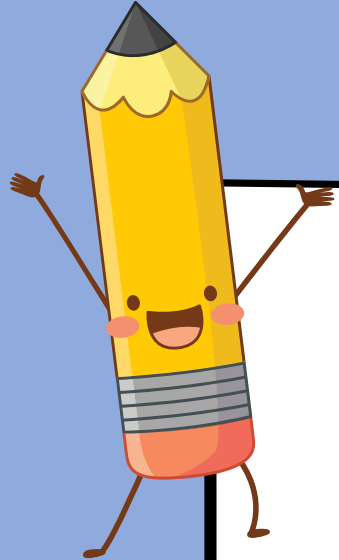


My Educational Influences

- By Stephanie Selman
-

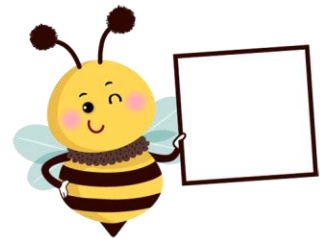




2004 - 2006
Mr. Mazzorollo

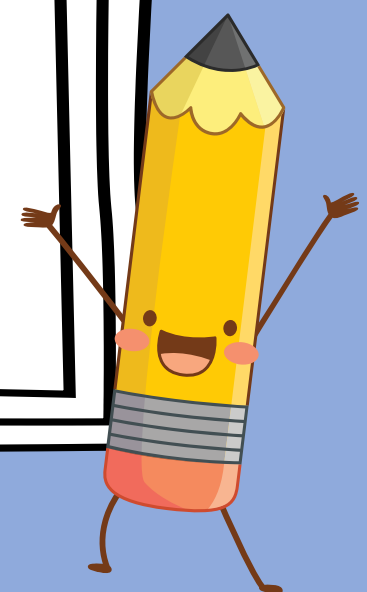
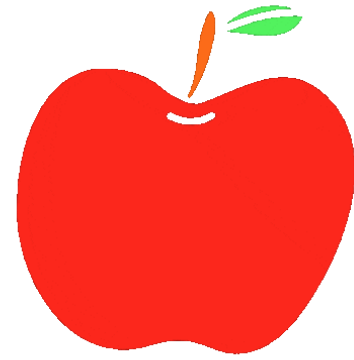
2008 - 2011
Ms. Tsui

2009 - 2014
Ms. Morrison



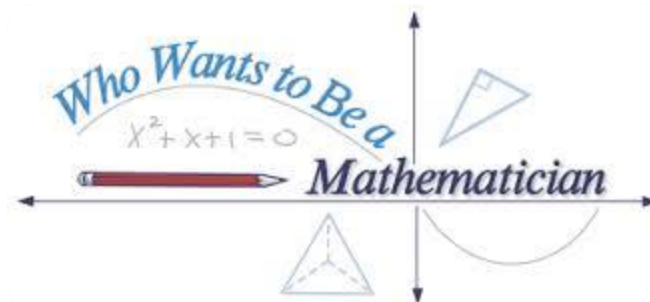
2008 - 2011
Mr. L'Heureux

2008 - 2011
Harold Bakke



Mr. Mazzorollo

Mr. Mazz was my principle in elementary school between grades 4-6, and he was influential because he placed a lot of importance on fostering a sense of community within the school. He made it his business to know the names of each student, their siblings, and their parents, and in doing this he made everyone feel welcomed and respected.

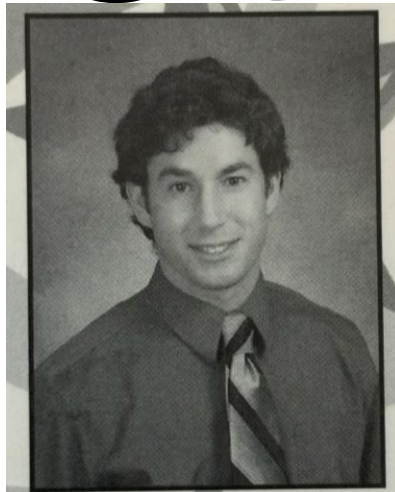


2004 -
2006

He hosted events at the school specifically for the community to come together and have fun. He would host movie nights, he would have mini carnivals at the school, he would broadcast the Canucks games in the gymnasium, and he did all of this with no cost associated so that everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status, could be included.

Doing this allowed him to make connections and build trust with students and their families, and it made the school a positive environment that kids looked forward to going to every day rather than dreading. Through him I learned the value of community connection, and I experienced firsthand how it made people feel valued and seen.





Mr. L'Heureux

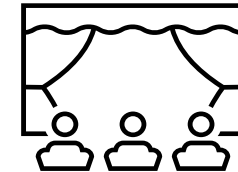
Drama
B.A.

Mr. L'Heureux

2008 - 2011



Mr. L'Heureux was a first-year teacher when I was in grade 8, and my drama class was his very first class. Mr. L'Heureux was a good teacher because he made it very clear to his students that he cared about them and wanted them to succeed. Like Mr. Mazz, Mr. L'Heureux took an interest in his students' lives, and supported them in any way he could. His actions made him a teacher that students felt safe going to if ever there was a crisis, and we all listened to and respected his advice.

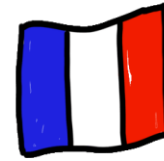


His classroom was a place where we could make mistakes, adapt, laugh, and learn together, and his impact was so strong that after his first year, whenever he would come in as a TOC, we would be ecstatic. I ran into him a couple of years ago, probably 10 years after he was my drama teacher, and he knew my full name, he knew what year he taught me, and he wanted a complete update on my life. Mr. L'Heureux was that cheerleader teacher, and because this is something I found great comfort in, I hope to embody his attitude so that my future students will feel that lifelong sense of support and encouragement.





Ms. Tsui was my French teacher for most of high school. She was not someone I had a positive experience with, because she made me feel irresponsible and foolish for making my sports a priority. Sports have always been important in my family, and while I had rules about how to appropriately balance my school and ringette, Ms. Tsui disagreed with schedule. She berated my mother on more than one occasion and complained to my boyfriend's mom (a teacher at the school) about how irresponsible it was to be missing school for ringette, because French was going to help me in life and ringette wasn't.



2008 - 2011
Ms. Tsui



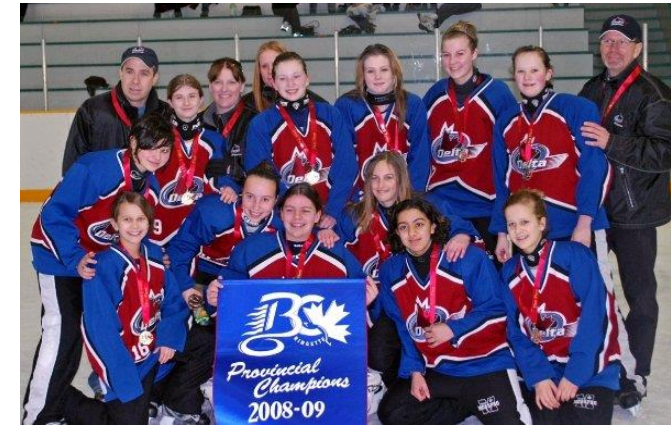
Her attitude made French class a place I dreaded going because she made me feel bad about something that brought me enjoyment and life skills. My sports were essential to my mental and physical health in high school, and I never would have been able to get grades deemed acceptable had I not had that outlet. I never want my students to feel bad for engaging in activities that better themselves in some way, even if it means time spent away from the classroom. We have discussed how learning comes in all kinds of environments, and because of Ms. Tsui's impact I will be sure to promote that mindset in my classroom.



Adversity – difficulties or misfortune

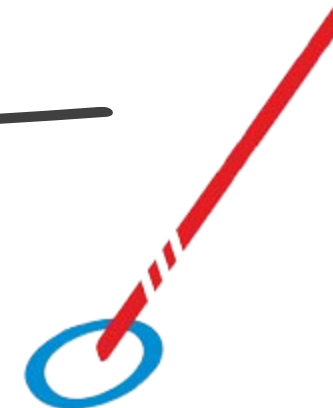
Tenacity – persistence; the quality or fact of being very determined

Harold was not one of my teachers, but he was my ringette coach from the time I was 12 to 16, and he was an incredible role model to myself and the group of young women on my team for those several years. Harold's favourite words were tenacity and adversity – he taught us the value of tenacity in the face of adversity, how things may be hard but not to give up, and he continued to encourage us even if we were unsuccessful in achieving our goals.



Harold Bakke

2008 - 2011



Harold taught us how to be leaders, and how everyone deserves to be treated with the same level of respect. I played on a very competitive, high-level team, and it would have been easy to feel superior about it, but Harold made sure that never went to our heads. Where I had other coaches encourage arrogance and ruthlessness in the face of competition, Harold stood for nothing short of sportsmanship and integrity and would be the first to make someone right their wrongs if he found they were being a brat. As with many others I admire, Harold was big on respect and making sure that we were not only good athletes, but good teammates and community members. Harold taught me how to believe in myself, how to support others, and how to embrace failure and pain but move forward. I gained so much by having someone like Harold in my life, I wouldn't be who I am without him, and he has made me want to be that person for my students.

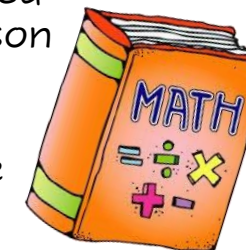
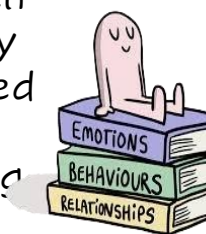
Ms. Morrison was one of my high school teachers, I had several blocks with her in grade 11 & 12, but she was also my boyfriend at the times mom. When she was my teacher, I thought she was great, she played games and engaged in interesting activities, but she was also always the teacher to complain about how hard her job was. She would complain in class to the students how burdened she was, and she would continue that attitude in her personal life. I was still dating her son when I graduated high school, and I had floated the idea of becoming a teacher after my first plan didn't work out, but she completely turned me off from the profession.

Ms. Morrison

2009 - 2014



Any time I mentioned teaching, she would go on about how extremely stressful the job was, how it left you with no free time, how the pay was garbage, how the students and their parents can be awful, and how my life would just generally suck if I became a teacher. My parents, as many do, wanted me to be successful and get a high paying job, so that, in combination with Ms. Morrison's attitude, left me doubting what I wanted, and I went a different route. I became a paralegal, and I learned lots of great life skills, but the job was not fulfilling. Ultimately she steered me into a career I didn't want, but it did bring me to the realization that my happiness isn't centered around money. This job led me to find that I wanted to be a teacher for no other reason than I love working with kids and want nothing but the best for them. In a roundabout way I'm grateful for my experience, and I believe I will be a better teacher because of it.





THE END

