

# VIS Teacher and Staff Profiles

## Marie Lardino

### Founder and Director

B.A., B.Ed., Ed. Admin.,  
M.Ed., Ed.D. Candidate



Marie Lardino is the Founder and Director of Voice Integrative School. Please click [here](#) to visit our Founder Page.

## Jamie Milroy

### Principal

B.A. Hons. English and Theatre,  
B.Ed., Special Education  
Specialist



### Teaching Assignment:

Gr. 3,4 & 5 Life Skills, Gr. 6 & 7  
Circle, and Gr. 8 Global  
Studies

Mr. Milroy is Principal at VIS, receiving his administration qualifications from the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools (OFIS). Through the leadership and mentoring of Director/Founder Marie Lardino, Mr. Milroy continues to inspire and guide both teachers and students through his commitment to infuse the Integrative Education philosophy in every aspect of the school. He completed a Specialized Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in English and Theatre from the University of Guelph, a Bachelor of Education from OISE/UT, and attended the Toronto Institute for Relational Psychotherapy. He is also a Special Education Specialist (OISE/UT), and co-facilitated the “Alternative to Suspension Program” at the TDSB. Using the Ontario Curriculum as context, Mr. Milroy has a strong commitment to creating spaces for students to have a voice. He believes it is essential that students are active in their learning, engaged in the material, and feel involved in their education. With this approach, Mr. Milroy hopes to lead students to become responsible citizens, leaders, and academics who nurture the planet and each other.

## Cathie Webb-Gillespie

**Vice Principal**

**Grade 8 Homeroom Teacher**

B.A. Hons. Theatre, Founding  
Teacher, Ed. Admin.



**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 6-8 Theatre and Gr. 7 & 8 History

As a founding teacher at VIS, Ms. Webb has acquired 18 years experience in teaching/leadership under Marie Lardino's mentorship. She has helped to coordinate integrative education programming and staff development. She works to support the daily implementation of the VIS philosophy and its operations. She also serves as the VIS Event Coordinator as well as facilitates the Student Leadership Program with Mr. Milroy. Ms. Webb received a Specialized Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre from University of Guelph and is the Director and Founder of the Children's Theatre Company- Theatricks Theatre Co. 4 Kids (1994-2018). She has participated in on-going professional development including "Raising Peacemakers" with Esther Fine at the University of York, and a workshop series by renowned author Barbara Coloroso on the topics of "The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander" and "How to Teach Children to Think and Act Ethically". Ms. Webb has been maintaining a safe, encouraging and inspiring classroom environment at Voice Integrative School since 2000. Well known for her Theatre and "Living History" programs, Cathie has won the Oxford "Educator of the Year" award. It is not unusual to walk into her History classroom and come face to face with Jacques Cartier or to feel as if one is interrupting the famous Conferences of Confederation. Ms. Webb not only makes a point of teaching in role, she also turns kids into historians by integrating role-play and engagement with historical events. Her strength is her ability to blend the traditional and creative approaches to teaching and learning, thereby making her programs in history and theatre come alive! All of this reflects a perspective-driven approach in a integrative education.

## Kristin McCullough-Sawh

**School-Wide Lead Teacher**

**Grade 7 Homeroom Teacher**

B.A. History and English, B.Ed.



**Leadership Role:** School-Wide  
Lead Teacher and Schedule Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

English Gr. 7-8. Debate, Gr. 7-8  
Life Skills, and Gr. 8 Philosophy, Grade  
1&2 Debate

Ms. McCullough pursued a Bachelor of Education and an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and English at York University. She has received her administration qualifications from the Ontario Federation of Independent Schools (OFIS) and has participated in ongoing professional development including Reading for the Love of It, "Raising Peacemakers" with Esther Fine at York University, and a workshop series by renowned author Barbara Coloroso on the topics of "The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander" and "How to Teach Children to Think and Act Ethically". Her passion for life-long learning has always been the driving force behind her desire to be a teacher. She feels it is imperative that students be given opportunities to evaluate and clarify their own value systems through perspective-driven inquiry and the use of critical thinking skills. Her goal is to establish a safe and nurturing environment where students feel confident to develop their own personal voice, and learn to be responsible global citizens who meet the world with their own sense of compassion, empathy and accountability.

## **Maria Andrade**

### **Grade 6A Homeroom Teacher**

B.A. Hons., Master of Teaching (MT) OISE, Special Education AQ Part 1, Integration of Information and Technology Part 1 & 2, Intermediate Mathematics



**Leadership Role:**

Local 2 Global Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 6, 7 & 8 Mathematics

Ms. Andrade completed her Bachelor of Arts Honours in Nutrition and Food Science and a Master of Teaching degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT). She has also completed Additional Qualification courses in Special Education Part 1, Integration of Information and Technology Part 1 and Intermediate Math Part 1. In addition to her qualifications, she brings 18 years of teaching experience in both elementary and intermediate schools. Ms. Andrade loves challenging students to think critically and see things from different perspectives. She believes in creating active and engaging lessons that will guide her students in reaching their full potential. She truly believes a warm, safe, and caring environment is essential to create a love for learning among her students. Ms. Andrade is so excited to be part of the VIS family and to work together with parents to guide their children to succeed academically, and become active members of the community.

## **Nicole Atkins**

### **Grade 6B Homeroom Teacher**

B.Sc. Hons., Master of Teaching (M.T.) OISE



**Leadership Role:** Co-trip Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

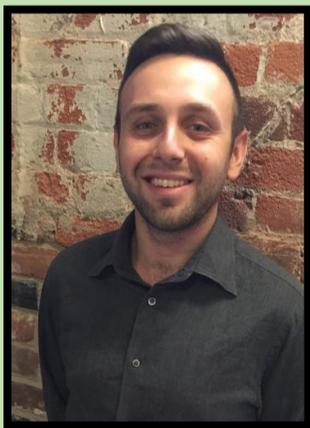
Gr. 3 and 6 English; Gr. 4-5 Mathematics

Ms. Atkins is passionate about bringing integrative education into the classroom and fostering students to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She loves to teach with exciting, creative and relevant lessons. Ms. Atkins holds a Master of Teaching degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT) and a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Psychology from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Previously, she was an English teacher in Thailand and a Grade 1 teacher at a Canadian International school in South Korea. Ms. Atkins strives to be a life-long learner and has participated in professional development opportunities and completed the Additional Qualifications Special Education Part 1. She is very excited to be joining the VIS community and to be supporting students to make their positive impact in the world!

## **Jonathan Newman**

### **Grade 5A Homeroom Teacher**

B.A. Hons. Master of Teaching (M.T.) OISE



**Leadership Role:** Co-Trip Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 3 Mathematics, Gr. 4-5 English, and Gr. 1-8 Music

Jonathan Newman is an exceptional, energetic, and compassionate educator with a Master of Teaching from OISE/UT, and has completed a B.A. Honours in Political Studies from Queen's University. With years of camp leadership experience, including the role of Program Director at Camp Arowhon, Mr. Newman is the co-leader of our urban and outdoor education excursions. He continues to teach the Grade 1-8 music program hands-on ukulele and vocal instruction. He is formally trained in classical violin, percussion and drums, and plays the guitar, piano, ukulele and tuba. Mr. Newman consistently brings his creativity and student-centered approach to his teaching practice. He is looking forward to inspiring our students with a program that is participatory, engaging and encourages self-reflection and strong academics.

## Patricia Daigneault

### Grade 5B Homeroom/ French Teacher

B.A. Hons., B.A.A., M.A.



**Leadership Role:** Yearbook

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 1-8 French

Patricia Daigneault is originally from Paris, France and she has been teaching French for more than 25 years in Toronto. She has a BA, BAA, a Master's degrees in English and American Literacy from Cambridge University in the UK. She loves Art and she acquired an Art and Architecture Degree from L'ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-arts, in Paris, France. For the last 25 years, Patricia has been teaching French from JK to grade 12. Three years ago, she obtained her certification for the International Baccalaureat (IB)/MYP Program. Patricia has a passion for her language and loves to integrate current events in the units she's created. She loves to share her love of French with her students who explore the many wonderful places where Francophonie is a way of life for many people. French is a global language, which is spoken in around thirty countries across the five continents. Patricia's goal is to teach her students the love for one of our two official languages in Canada, by sharing with them the many advantages one gets by becoming bilingual. Patricia understands that learning French does not come easily for many, but her approaches to learning are unique and she is determined to make everyone comfortable in her class, no matter their experience or their knowledge. Patricia's philosophy is to help students have fun while developing a genuine love for the French language. Patricia also loves to integrate culture and Art into her teaching by sharing with her students her knowledge from the art and architecture in Paris.

## Lesley Marino

### Grade 3 & 4 Homeroom

BES Hons., MES, Master of Teaching (MT) OISE



**Leadership Role:** Local 2 Global Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 6-8 Science, Gr. 6 Social Studies, Gr. 3 Life Skills, Gr. 3 & 4 Spelling and Grammar, Gr. 5A Debate

Ms. Marino completed her Master of Teaching degree at OISE/UT in a cohort focused on environmental and social justice education. She understands the importance of creating real-world, hands-on learning experiences that are relevant to students' lives, that draw on their own experiences, and incorporate their unique identities. She is also strongly committed to creating an equitable, welcoming, and inclusive learning environment where all students can thrive academically. Her on-going professional development has included a workshop series on Social Justice and Equity Leadership in Schools, the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity Ontario Educators' Conference, and achieving an OISE Environmental Leadership Award. Ms. Marino also has a Bachelor and a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo. She believes in having students connect to the environment and community around them to equip them to become critical thinkers and agents of change in their classroom, their community, and, ultimately, their world.

## Sloan Crawford

### Grade 1&2 Homeroom

B.A. Hons., M.Sc. Childhood Education, Environmental Education Specialist, Geography Gr.7&8 AQ



**Leadership Role:** Co-Trip Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 1&2 Core subjects and Gr. 7 Global Studies

Mr. Crawford holds a B.B.A. certificate from the College of William & Mary and received a Master of Science degree in Childhood Education from D'Youville College. He fueled his deep passion for education while teaching ESL to students of all ages in Tokyo and Seoul for several years, before enthusiastically joining the VIS educational team in 2016. He strives to infuse the knowledge and skills acquired from certification courses including Mindfulness in Schools, Environmental Education, Geography, and National Level Competitive Gymnastics into the educational experiences offered in his classes. Known for his positive, dynamic teaching style, Mr. Crawford delights in providing opportunities for all students to succeed and flourish. Striving to continually improve and tailor learning activities through differentiated instruction, he incorporates evidence-based methodology into fun, meaningful contexts. He is dedicated to creating a cooperative community that fosters confidence, respect, resilience and high self-esteem for our burgeoning life-long learners. Mr. Crawford is thrilled to contribute to the development of engaged, critical change-makers and environmental stewards at VIS!

## Amanda Chalmers

B.A. Hons. Master of Teaching  
(M.T.) OISE



**Leadership Role:** Co-Trip  
Coordinator

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 1-5 Theatre, Gr. 3-5 Social  
Studies, Gr. 3-5 Science, Gr.  
3/4 and 6 Debate, Gr. 5 Phys.  
Ed., Gr. 6 Life Skills, and Gr.  
1&2 Cursive

Ms. Chalmers' theatre background and love of the environment help to foster a sense of curiosity in her students and provides them with windows of possibilities for future learning experiences. Place-based and inquiry-led education, considering Indigenous perspectives, drives her teaching; both in helping students make connections and to further their understanding of the world in which we live. Ms. Chalmers uses integrative learning in order to assist students to make connections. Her empathy and experience with exceptional students helps further promote inclusivity in the classroom and provide confidence in her students. Ms. Chalmers completed her Honours Degree with Distinction from the University of Toronto with a specialist in Classical Civilization and a minor in Drama and English in 2004. She has several years of theatre experience and spent eight years in Mexico working in tourism in the Yucatan Peninsula where she learned Spanish and started her own business. Ms. Chalmers currently lives on Toronto Island with her two school-aged children. She has had the privilege of teaching the students and collaborating with the teachers at Voice for two of her practicums. Ms. Chalmers has recently completed her Master of Teaching at OISE and is excited to be returning to Voice to help continue to create a positive environment where students can learn, develop a sense of themselves, and find their own unique voices.

## Jeff Gillespie

**Coach & HPE Teacher**

B.A. Hons.



**Leadership Role:**

Extracurricular Sports

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 6-8 Health and Physical  
Education

Jeff Gillespie, otherwise known as Coach Jeff, provides an inclusive and healthy environment in which kids can learn to play cooperatively while engaging in vigorous physical activity that addresses the curriculum in dynamic and challenging ways. As a member of the SSAF, Small School Athletic Federation, Coach Jeff runs a dynamic and inclusive extra-curricular sports program at VIS that provides students with opportunities to represent their school in a wide variety of individual and team sports. Coach Jeff believes that every student is an athlete and actively strives to provide opportunities for all the kids at VIS to achieve their best and to learn skills for life by focusing on physical, social, and emotional awareness.

## Rebeka Ly

### Visual Arts Teacher

B.A. Hons., Master of Teaching (MT) OISE, Environmental Education AQ Part 1&2



Mrs. Ly is passionate about creating meaningful opportunities for students to connect with, care for and learn about our world through hands-on experiences, stories and thoughtful discussions. Some of Mrs. Ly's teaching experiences before VIS include: Kindergarten Teacher, Adult ESL teacher and Children's Program Director in places like, Thailand, Philippines and Quebec. Mrs. Ly completed a B.A Honours at the University of Toronto with majors in English and IEE (Intersections, Encounters and Exchanges) and a Master of Teaching degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. She is a lifelong learner and some of her most recent Certificates and Qualifications include: Environmental Education AQ Part 1&2 (OISE), Art and Activity: Interactive Strategies for Engaging with Art (Museum of Modern Art), Modern Art and Ideas (Museum of Modern Art) and Art of the MOOC: Activism and Social Movement (Duke University).

**Leadership Role:** Yearbook

**Teaching Assignment:**

Gr. 3-8 Visual Arts

## Kiana Smith

### Dance Teacher



Miss Smith is a dancer, singer and actress who has had the pleasure of both performing and teaching in many cities around the world. She has danced on tour, in music videos and movies, on live stages and has taken home many awards from competitions across the globe. Along with dancing, teaching has always been a huge passion of Miss Smith's. She enjoys sharing her love of the arts with the youth of today, as well as giving them an outlet to find, express and better themselves as they grow into young adults.

**Teaching Assignment:**

Dance Gr. 1-8

## Juli Day

### Office Manager



Juli Day has been a part of the VIS community for the past 9 years. Her daughter is a graduate of VIS and she appreciates the impact it had on her life. She started working at VIS in 2006 as a Lunchroom and Study Supervisor. As the years went by, she began working in the office part-time and has been working as the school's full-time Office Manager for the past 4 years. Her work to keep the office running smoothly is much appreciated!

**Dianne Maulsseed**  
**Administrative Assistant**



Dianne Maulsseed is an experienced community worker who has a great deal of experience with children. She is in charge of keeping track of files that are directly related to students as well as handling most financial transactions.

**Allan Ellis**  
**Occasional Bus Driver**



Mr. Ellis is known for his reliability and commitment to VIS. This is his eleventh year with our school and has loved every minute of it. He took early retirement from his job as a weight scale technician for twenty two years with The City of Toronto and drove a bus for Stock Transportation for three years. He takes pride in providing a safe and healthy bus experience.