



Announcing the Retirement of Vice Principal Ms. Valda Harris



The Calgary Girls' School congratulates Ms. Valda Harris on the occasion of her retirement at the end of this school year. Ms. Valda Harris is a long-serving staff member who joined the faculty in 2008 as an Art and generalist teacher. Valda is the first school-based staff member to retire from CGS, a sure sign the school is getting older, but not Ms. Harris, of course!

Valda was soon appointed to the role of Vice Principal because it was noticed that she “puts people, students and staff at the centre of her thoughtful and respectful leadership. She reflects deeply on her decisions and seeks the input of others to help her make decisions.”

This is as true today as when she was appointed in 2012. Her most significant strength is her ability to foster relationships. In fact, many parents have commented that it was her welcoming kindness that first influenced them to choose the Calgary Girls' School.

Her interest in helping girls achieve high academic goals while also developing confidence will leave a lasting impression in both her own and her school family. Her daughter is an alumna. Valda clearly wants all girls to feel valued, develop strong ideas about their place in the world, and advocate for themselves as learners.

Valda is a wonderful role model who is strongly committed to the vision of the Calgary Girls' School. She has been gracious and hard working in sharing her skills and talents from the time she completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Calgary. Her passion for meeting the needs of all learners led her to achieve her Master of Education (Gifted Education) at the University of Oregon.

Valda has influenced and shaped the school over the past several years. As she makes plans for her retirement, her colleagues, students past and present as well as their parents and other significant partners in this learning endeavour will want to send her best wishes and celebrate with her.

The staff will recognize Ms. Harris at their Annual Recognition Event. However, a school community celebration is also being planned so watch for the announcement. We hope many families will take time to thank Valda for her years of service to the education community and specifically to the Calgary Girls' School

Vice Principal Appointment



The Calgary Girls' School is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Shannon Nichols to the position of Vice Principal. Shannon assumes her duties effective school opening this fall 2018. She will continue to serve at the Lakeview campus.

Shannon is a veteran teacher with a deep understanding of the unique, all-girls and all-for-girls learning environment at the Calgary Girls' School. She is a strong advocate for girls and an excellent role model.

For the past several years she has supported students, teachers, and parents in her role as Learning Strategist. This work further developed her comprehensive understanding of the scope and sequence of curriculum across all grades.

Recently Shannon assumed a lead role in revising the school's approach to the development of Individual Program Plans for learners with special needs. She enjoys working collaboratively with parents, students and teachers to better understand and support all learners.

She also spearheaded the design process for the new report card that launches this fall. As a consensus-builder, Shannon gathers feedback, connects with experts, considers the professional development needed to support change, and works alongside others to achieve common goals. She fosters positive relationships through her willingness to listen and understand differing perspectives.

Shannon brings fifteen years of teaching internationally and in Alberta. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Teaching from the University of Calgary and a Master of Educational Studies from the University of Alberta.