

the family balance



BCPVPA members are educators and leaders, and many add 'parent' to that profile. In years past, school leaders often moved into their administrative roles when their kids were older. We now have many leaders in the system who have not yet started families, or who have younger children when they take on their Vice-Principal or Principal role. Their busy and complex work lives just became even busier with the addition of family time, childcare, pick ups, drop offs, playdates, activities, and scheduling, scheduling, scheduling!

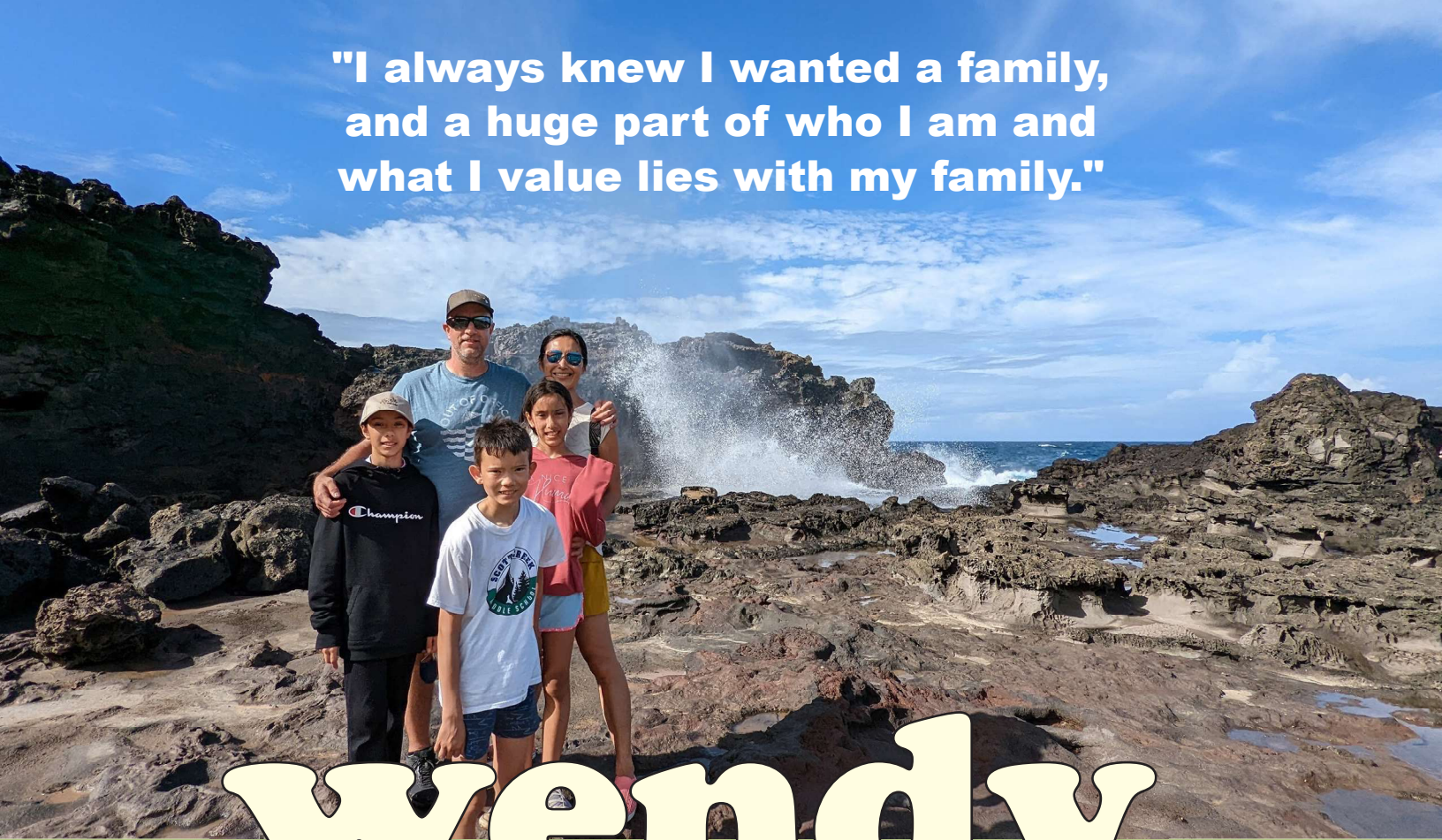
In this second installment of the **Leader Life Stories** series, we hear from six BCPVPA members from across the province, from Vancouver Island to Metro Vancouver, and northern and southeastern BC. The family circumstances, roles, and schools are all very different; some of our authors with children who are now older reflect on the experience and the learning, and those with younger children relate their process and how they are making it all work.

There are some common threads in their experiences and strategies. There is acknowledgement that work-life balance is slippery, and may need a rebrand. There is a recognition of the experiences that may be missed, and how to make that whole for families. There is a realization of the value of the common experience of parenting with the teachers and families at the school. And, there is an appreciation that family and community can play a pivotal role in achieving the delicate symmetry of a family plan.

Our heartfelt thanks to the members who shared their family lives with us, and who gave such deep consideration to the intricate architecture of what they are living each day.

We want to hear from our members and friends about what resonated with you in this article, and the ideas that you can add to the conversation. Tweet your comments and tag @bcpvpa!

**"I always knew I wanted a family,
and a huge part of who I am and
what I value lies with my family."**



wendy

Wendy Yu is the Principal of Gleneagle Secondary School
SD43 (Coquitlam)



Leaving this job at the end of the day, and going to my *other* job of being a mom, can be exhausting.

I always knew I wanted a family, and a huge part of who I am and what I value lies with my family. I have a supportive husband, a son in Grade 7, and twin daughters in Grade 5. As you can imagine, our household is a busy one. We have activities almost every night of the week, and I remember days when the only 'alone' time I had was when I was in the shower.

I didn't have my first child until I was already a Principal. Shifting gears at work became a necessity. Instead of staying at work as late as I wanted, I had to rush off to pick my son up from daycare, take a day when he was sick, and do whatever else came up. Thankfully, I had my parents in Vancouver and in-laws on Vancouver Island, and they were all more than willing to help and support us. Two years later, we had twin girls and decided to get a nanny. She became so much more than a childcare provider: she helped prepare meals, did the laundry and ironing, tidied the house, and so much more. She really was more of a nanny to me and my husband than to our children!

Even with help, some days hurt. Mama guilt is a real thing. I don't like it when my kids say, "Oh, do you have to work late again?" There are times that I think I am not being the best mom I can be, and other times that I think I'm not being the best Principal I can be – I can never win. But these four tips help me through on most days (and, there are still some days that I can't win, no matter what!)

1. Don't be afraid to ask for help. I had my parents, my in-laws, my nanny, and even my neighbours at times. It truly 'takes a village', and I'm so grateful that I have so many people in my life. I even had my kids come to hang out at the school when my husband was out of town, or couldn't find help. Everyone at school is always welcoming of them!

2. Have a supportive partner. At the beginning of each week, we go through our calendar for the week ahead and plan our parenting schedule. His schedule is often busier than mine, so it takes some juggling, but he is so amazing and supportive.

3. Realize that there is no such thing as 'balance'. In Sheryl Sandberg's book, *Lean In*, she talks about how there is no such thing as balance. There's work. There's life. You need to learn how to prioritize and decide what's important at the time. You make choices, and then deal with the consequences of those choices.

At the end of the day, I have a career that is purposeful and fulfilling and I have a family that is my legacy and true joy. I feel a tug from each at different times but it's worth it and I would do it all again with no hesitation! Now...to figure out what to make for dinner!

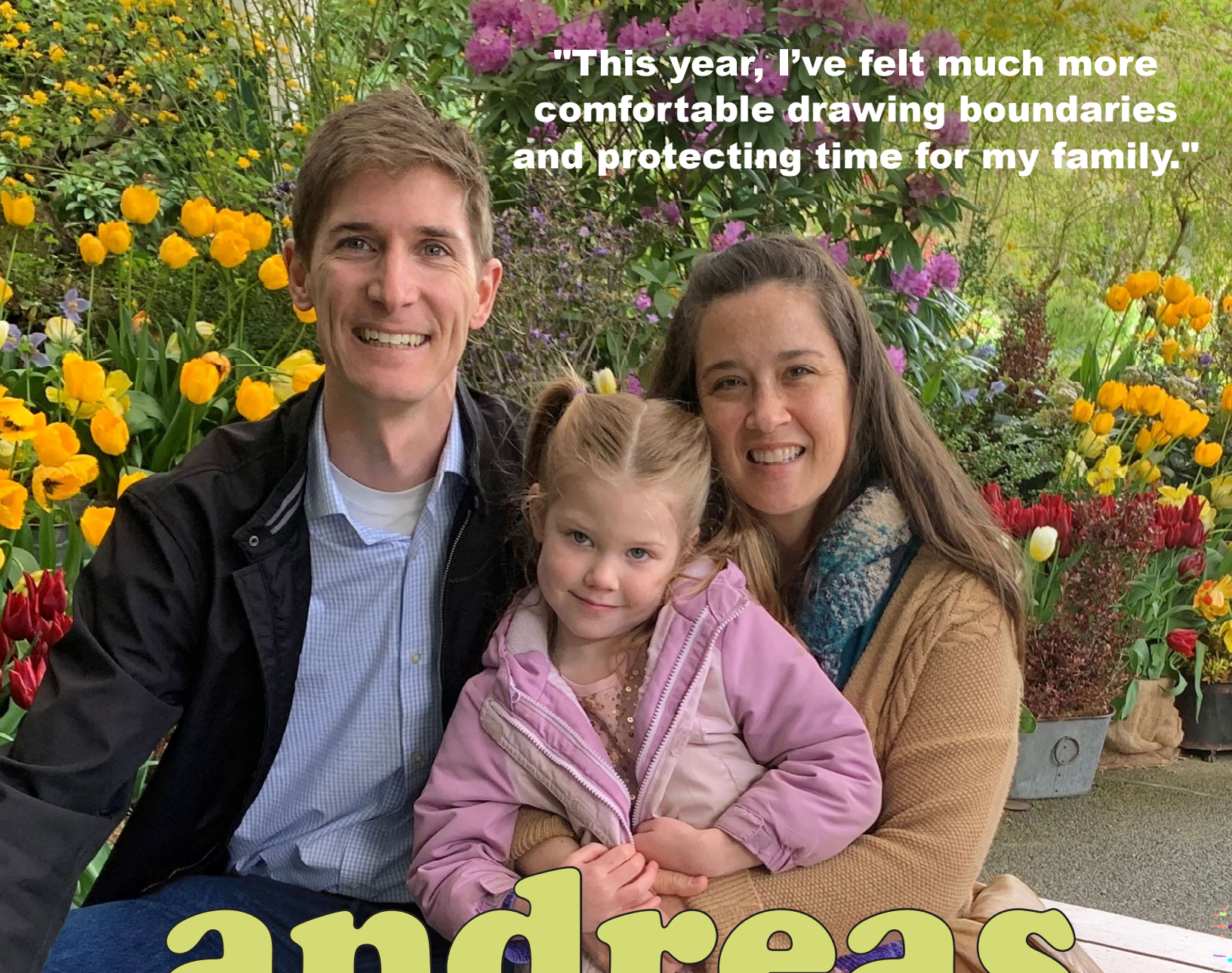
4. Be okay with walking away. Use the Eisenhower Decision Matrix to get things done. Deal with what's important and urgent. The rest can be done later, delegated, or deleted.

The Eisenhower Decision Matrix

	Urgent	Not Urgent
Important	Do <i>Do it now.</i>	Decide <i>Schedule a time to do it.</i>
Not Important	Delegate <i>Who can do it for you?</i>	Delete <i>Eliminate it.</i>



"This year, I've felt much more comfortable drawing boundaries and protecting time for my family."



andreas

Andreas Clesle is the Vice-Principal of Sidney Elementary School
SD63 (Saanich)



"I think you should apply."

"Are we sure? Is this the right time for our family?"

"Yes! You'll do great. You just have to promise me one thing."

"Sure, what is it?"

"If you get the job, we are hiring someone to help clean our house every two weeks."

"Deal."

This was how the conversation went between myself and my wife, Tracy, when I learned my district was opening applications for an elementary Vice-Principal position.

It was the spring of 2021, and we had a lot going on. We were still in the 'yo-yo' stage of pandemic restrictions. We had our hands full with our strong-willed daughter who was almost four years old. We were still establishing our roots here in Victoria, BC, having only moved here in 2018. We had recently figured out it was unlikely we would have another biological child, and we were thinking about becoming foster parents. To top it off, I felt sick all the time from watching my beloved Maple Leafs once again flame out of the playoffs.

Though I had my eye on entering administration for several years, when the opportunity came it wasn't an automatic assumption that I would apply. While the role would be extremely rewarding and challenging for me, it also meant reorganizing the carefully assembled division of responsibilities my wife and I had worked so hard to develop.

Sure enough, the first few months were a tough adjustment. But, over time, we got into a groove as a family. We began using a family schedule with extreme precision to keep track of our planned activities, and the days I would be coming home later than usual. I began a meticulous Sunday ritual of meal planning and grocery shopping for the week, and my wife and I established a system of taking turns to make dinner and drop off and pick up my daughter from pre-school.

Looking back, I recognize that the biggest challenges in navigating my new role came from my attempts to satisfy the idea many of us have, of a Principal being the first one at school and the last one to leave. I couldn't deliver my daughter to pre-school before 7:30 am, and needed to pick her up by 5:00 pm, and this severely limited my ability to live up to this ideal of 'first in, last out'. I am lucky to have an incredible admin partner who immediately let me know how important it is to find good work-life balance, and how to prioritize aspects of the job. Over time, I felt less and less pressure to meet this self-imposed ideal, but it can still be difficult to shake.

I remember last spring when I would take my daughter to swim lessons on Wednesdays. On the first Wednesday, I said to my admin partner:

"While being an administrator with a young family can be a challenge, for me it is overshadowed by the benefits."

"I'm so sorry, I have to leave at 3:30pm to get to swimming on time."

And she responded:

"Why are you apologizing?"

Good point, Jen! It's funny now, the idea of apologizing for only staying 40 minutes after the bell, but it's a good example of the pressures we place on ourselves. This year, I've felt much more comfortable drawing boundaries and protecting time for my family. For the most part, I try to leave school by 4:30 pm, and this gives me several hours of quality time with my family. After my daughter goes to bed, and my wife and I are on the couch re-watching *Game of Thrones*, I'll often pull out my work laptop for a short session to get caught up and organized for the next day.

While being an administrator with a young family can be a challenge, for me it is overshadowed by the benefits. Having a child who is starting kindergarten this year has really opened my eyes, and allowed me to empathize and connect with my school's families in a significant way. It has been extremely powerful to experience the same challenges that many of our staff with young children are navigating. Plus, nothing is cuter than a five-year-old showing off to kids at the playground by proudly exclaiming, "WELL, MY DAD IS A VICE-PRINCIPAL!"

Reflecting after two years as an administrator, my family and I have found a great balance. My daughter is still as strong-willed as ever, my wife and I have found a good rhythm with our jobs, family, and friends, we've begun fostering, and I've come to accept the fact that, despite a stellar season, the Leafs will disappoint me once again.



stina

Stina Morissette Martinez is the Vice-Principal of Westcot Elementary School
SD45 (West Vancouver)

"I appreciate the common language and shared experience of school that I can share with my family."

My days are incredibly full, and I wouldn't have it any other way. When people ask me why I choose to have a complex and busy career, in addition to a complex and busy family life, my answer is always that I love the work I do at school and at home. Every single day is a different adventure, and I am a creature of change and challenge.

Since I was 10 years old, I have dreamt of becoming a Vice-Principal of an elementary school. The pursuit of my dream began early in my teaching career when I completed a diploma during my first maternity leave that, two years later, bridged to my Master's in Educational Practice degree. After five years with the Richmond School District, I began my career with West Vancouver Schools and was appointed Head Teacher. The leadership opportunities that accompanied the Head Teacher role were diverse and rewarding. Upon the arrival of my second son, I decided to take a step back from my leadership goals and focus on more time with family, which resulted in a job share position followed by a third maternity leave. Stepping back from leadership during this period of my life was, without a doubt, the right thing for me at that time; however, the interest and motivation to continue my path as an educational leader never dwindled.

In 2022, after several years of refocusing on my career goals, I began my position on Halloween day in West Vancouver School District as Vice-Principal at Westcot Elementary School. I teach Grade 2 four days a week, and have one day a week of admin time. The other hat I wear is as a mom to three busy boys ages three, five, and 11. My eldest lives part-time with his father, and part-time with my husband and me. My husband currently works remotely from home, and manages a great deal of the before-school and after-school logistics and activities. This has been a

huge part of my successful transition into my new role, and may present an increased challenge should his current work context change.

Managing the schedules of our family of five can be an intricate puzzle. Sunday mornings are typically the time that my husband and I sit down with a cup of coffee and our calendars to plan for the week ahead. I am fortunate to also have the support of my mom, who often steps in to drive one of the boys to their multitude of sports and afterschool programs. On days where I have an early morning meeting, in addition to an after-school meeting, we often require support from colleague and friends whose children attend the same daycare, and who can drop off or pick up my youngest. My Principal is very supportive of both my career and my family. She mentors me daily on strategies to find balance both at work and at home, and is understanding of the complexities that I face daily. I am incredibly appreciative of the community of people that make up my support network, and I strive to reciprocate in many ways.

At times when I haven't been able to organize coverage for my work, it has felt challenging to miss the experiences that happen within the school day at my children's school. When my five-year-old asks me to attend field trips, and I cannot, it does break my heart to see his disappointment. When my 11-year-old is playing his final basketball game, and I have a meeting, I ask friends to send me photos and then we look at them and debrief his games over dinner. I appreciate the common language and shared experience of school that I can share with my family. I remind myself and my family that I am so incredibly fortunate to spend all school holidays and summer breaks with my children. I also make an effort to attend evening PAC meetings at my children's school, and evening events like the Back to School BBQ.

Generally, the most difficult part of balancing my career and personal life is finding moments for myself. I began getting up at 5:00 am last year, and I am now in the routine of waking up early with a hot cup of tea or coffee, exercising for at least 30 minutes, and going over my emails and the shape of the day before

my family wakes up. Because I do not live in my school community, I commute 30-60 minutes both to and from work. I often use this commute time to catch up on the phone with friends, colleagues, and family, listen to professional podcasts or books for work, and – when my toddler requests – we rock out to Ed Sheeran or Encanto.

West Vancouver School District is a small and community-oriented district that values family. Having opportunities to blend family and work helps to create a sense of balance. My children love coming to my school on weekends to help me prepare for the week ahead, or for a special event. My mom volunteers at my school, and my husband often helps out on

evenings or weekends when we have an upcoming special event. Our district considers and includes our families in events which build and extend our work community, such as the Beach Clean-Ups, the Holiday Admin Family Movie, and the West Van Run.

The balancing act is real, and there are days it can feel overwhelming, yet it is always worth it. I have had the privilege of working with many talented mentors over the last 16 years of my teaching career, and have learned a variety of work-life strategies from each of them. I am continuing to learn every day, and I am full of gratitude for the network of support I have received – and continue to receive – both for myself as a professional and for my family.



**"As often happens,
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scott



Scott Holt is the Principal of Amy Woodland Elementary School
SD05 (Southeast Kootenay)

Early in my career, my family relocated to Cranbrook from Prince George, where I had been a full-time teacher. We were expecting our second child, and had a toddler in tow. I became a Teacher Teaching On Call (TTOC) and my wife started her own forestry company working throughout BC and Alberta, which took her away from home for weeks at a time. I decided to pursue a distance master's degree in Special Education, something that would open up employment opportunities and allow me to study over the summer months and in the evenings after the kids went to bed. I spent many nights reading and typing frantically, before the next day of single-parenting my

way through TTOC and part-time work, preschool, and half-day kindergarten.

As often happens, sometimes opportunity sneaks up on us, and other times it bombards. Our experience was the latter when, one week apart, I was awarded a Vice-Principal role and my wife was awarded both a high level management role – Provincial Entomologist with the Ministry of Forests – and an historic Mountain Pine Beetle management contract in northern BC that would eat up most of the next three or four years of her time working away from home. It was impossible to pursue all three paths, so

we faced a very difficult decision for our young family. After much debate and sacrifice on my wife's part, we chose to stay in the Kootenays, accept the Vice-Principal appointment, and turn down the Ministry job. My wife returned to her consulting role around the province, and we had two young children, a new stressful and time-demanding administration role, a taxing master's program, significant travel for my wife, and everything else that life brings.

My appointment was announced to school staff the next day and not everyone was pleased. Teachers knew our family situation, and some doubted my ability to manage the demands of my new role. They were not alone; doubts crept into my head as well. Could I manage the demands of this new role, and the responsibilities of home, and still maintain a healthy life balance?

Fast forward 17 years: I have been a Vice-Principal at all levels, and a Principal for more than a decade at middle and elementary levels. I have found my niche, I love my job, my children are flourishing in post-secondary, and I am still happily married to the same amazing person! It has been an interesting journey with lots of learning along the way, mostly through difficult situations where the lessons that came along were often deeply personal and challenging. One night I could sleep for seven hours thinking I had it all figured out, only to find myself the next night sitting in a snowbank at 3:00 am wondering where everything went wrong. The demands of our schools are not just hard work: the complexities and judgement that we face on a day-to-day basis can eat right into the core of our being. That damage is what we bring home to our loved ones every day. I remember being so upset with myself because I realized that I had spent all of my energy being kind and patient with my students – other people's children – only to return home irritable and impatient with my own. Cellphones, smart watches, and school Facebook group notifications only provided unlimited and unfettered access to my family time, taking away my children's father and my wife's husband even more. These things create a life imbalance that steals from your ability to be your best in either your school or family role.

It took a fair bit of reflection to realize what strategies fell into place to allow my journey to continue. In writing this article, I have been able to pinpoint a few things that I think made all the difference:

1. An accountability partner. By far the most important and integral piece of a balanced lifestyle is an accountability partner to keep you on your game. If I'm eating dinner by myself and my cellphone rings or an email chimes, I pick up the phone. If I'm eating dinner with my wife and my cellphone rings, one look from her is all I need to remind me that life will be much better if I let the call go to voicemail! It takes partnership to maintain a healthy time to come home from work, and to keep our family life and relationships paramount on weekends and in the evenings.

2. Improve efficiency. A great strategy in running our schools is also wise for our home life. Time is one of the most important things you can give your loved ones, so we found activities that we could all enjoy doing together. We discovered that a family season's pass to the local ski hill costs about the same amount as for one of our children to play minor hockey; instead of one person having fun, and three being cold in the stands, we all reap the benefits. We got our family into horses, bought a hot tub, and enjoy boating and camping in the outdoors. These are things we do together as a family – and being out of cell service range helps too!

3. Know your body. I've learned through the years that my body has been giving me warning signals when I need to rediscover balance. That annoying eye twitch, increasing anxieties, the inability to sleep, the craving for a nice cold hoppy IPA the moment I arrive home, the heartbeat that decides to create its own rhythm—these are all signals I've learned to recognize. The latest one makes me laugh the most: I've noticed that when my toenails get long, it's a sign that I have neglected some of the most basic things in my life. Time to rebalance.

4. Create boundaries. Establish a set of guidelines that works for both school and home lives. Keep in mind that emergencies arise, and there are good

reasons to be flexible. Set a time to leave for home each day. No cellphones at the dinner table, NEVER check your email right before bed (avoid checking emails when doing dishes as well), and turn off the notifications on your smartwatch when you get home. Set a time to talk to your partner about your day to allow yourself to decompress, but keep limits. Carve out time in your schedule that is strictly for your kids.

5. Letting go of guilt. If we permit it to happen, your school community and your professional conscience will take everything you have. As a young administrator, I was shamed by staff if I left the parking lot while

other cars were still present. If I had an early morning meeting at the board office and arrived at the school late, I received dirty looks and raised eyebrows, and felt the need to defend what looked like an obvious lack of dedication and professionalism on my part. I've learned not to reply to emails at night unless it's an emergency. Expectations that are not sustainable include not taking a personal day for a family event, and not taking a sick day when you feel horrible, but could probably suffer through day if you really tried. Let go of the guilt – you know your own leadership values, and the guilt is not deserved.





jien

Jen Nixon is the Principal of Spencer Middle School
SD62 (Sooke)

There's a saying that I love. It speaks to my heart and aligns with my beliefs:

It takes a village to raise a child.

This statement can feel clichéd, perhaps overused, but at the centre is the notion of **community**. Raising, educating, and inspiring youth is a herculean task. As an educational leader, I know huge tasks are less daunting with the support of an amazing team or community. Individually, we can do many things, but together with like-minded people we can achieve

greatness. The power of community is a mantra for me, both as an educational leader and as a parent.

This is what stands out for me the most when I reflect on what it has been like to be an educational leader for the past eight years, while also being a mother to two children. My interconnected and supportive community has been a central post in my life, and provides me with the strength and enthusiasm to do what I love most – be a mom to Logan, age 13, and Mila, age 10, and be the Principal at Spencer Middle School in Sooke School District.

"The power of community is a mantra for me, both as an educational leader and as a parent."

I first became a Vice-Principal in 2015 when my kids were young. My daughter, Mila, was an independent, active, and strong-minded three-year-old. The traits she had then – and still has now – bode well for her as a young adult, but sometimes make the journey challenging. My son, Logan, was five at the time and only a few months into kindergarten; he was proud to go to school every day, just like his mom. My kids quickly adjusted to me regularly rushing in or out of the door, working on my laptop after dinner or – I'm embarrassed to admit – frequently checking my phone to deal with the many emails received throughout the day.

I find the concept of a work-life balance one that causes undue angst, so instead I strive for harmony in my life. Over the years, there have been days where I have both failed and succeeded in maintaining harmony as a parent, as partner to my husband, and as an educational leader. One strategy I have used is exercise - and of course, I am drawn to activities where community is present. When my children were young and I was fuelled only by adrenaline and coffee, I found a community of Cross Fitters who braved 5:00 am alarm clocks to jump into a hardcore fitness workout. These early morning workouts helped keep me mentally and physically healthy when my children were young. Since the pandemic, and now that my kids are a little older, I have taken a slightly less intense, gentler approach to health and wellness, and embark on activities at the local yoga studio, power walks with my husband on weekends, or an occasional ride with my 'Shred Moms' mountain biking crew.

My husband and family have been a huge part of the community that has supported me to be both a Principal and a mom. I am fortunate that my children have two sets of grandparents in town, and another

that comes to the west coast for several months every year. There have been countless times when they have stepped up to look after a virus-ridden child, transport another to an activity, or even bring a pot of soup and fresh bread when I had nothing planned for dinner and things felt unmanageable. I am lucky to have found an incredible partner in my husband, who shares the load of household and childcare duties with me. He knows how important my community and my health are to me, so he has always encouraged me to attend conferences or professional development getaways with my work community, and to go on summer adventures and family vacations. I surround myself with a community of wonderful women – some I know through work, others I have known for decades, and some I have met more recently through my children. We take vacations together, go on walks and hikes or do yoga, sign our kids up for activities together, have multi-family gatherings, and take each other's kids with no explanations required.

While years of sleepless nights and stressful days have left foggy details in their wake, the key for finding harmony in life as a mom and educational leader has been the people I surround myself with, and the memories and moments I share with these interconnected communities. While I have missed some things, such as afterschool playdates, or helping with hot lunches for my own kids, my experiences as a parent and a Principal have been rich and forced me to take care of myself, enjoy time with my community of family and friends, and play hard when I'm not working hard.

In my first year as a Vice-Principal, I took the BCPVPA's Leading a Culture of Learning Level 1 course where I was asked to name what I valued most in life, and to write it on a tennis ball. The idea was that when you falter or have a tough day, you can throw the tennis ball against a wall and your core value comes back. It is no surprise that the word I wrote then was COMMUNITY. My strong and grounding community helps support me as both a parent and a Principal today. It is my village that enables me to raise my own children, and support the development and education of others.

"Being a parent of young children is
the most challenging yet rewarding
experience of my life."



andrew

Andrew Lee is currently the Vice-Principal of College Heights Secondary School
SD57 (Prince George)
Fall 2023, Andrew will be the Vice-Principal, Ballenas Secondary School
SD69 (Qualicum)

My wife and I are both in the education field, and we moved to Prince George from Thunder Bay, Ontario, in 2012. I started as a Vice-Principal at a medium-sized elementary school of 400 students in 2018 before we had any children. At that time, my wife and I had been married for four years and while we had always talked about starting a family, both of our careers were blossoming in Prince George, and we simply did not make it a priority. After a year and a half of working as a Vice-Principal, we decided that it was time to dive into family life. Fast forward to 2023, and we have two beautiful children – Avery who is four, and Autumn who is two – and we have just endured some of the most challenging social times in recent history during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the limitations on gatherings, and the absence of in-person events that are so important for young people and young families, we have been able to make things work, but have still experienced the mental and physical strain that comes with working full time, having sleepless nights that sometimes (or often) come with young children at home, and the exceptional effort that goes into balancing the priorities of both work and home life.

Living in the northern half of the province comes with its own set of unique challenges, in addition to those that may be more universal for working parents across the province. One of these challenges is enduring the extended time that young children are required to stay indoors when the winter weather stays between -20 and -40 for weeks at a time, or when the wildfire smoke of recent summers is so thick that it is unsafe to go outdoors for a long period of time.

One of the more universal challenges experienced by working parents has been childcare. While not isolated to the northern part of the province, nor an issue that is specific to the roles of educators, finding, securing, and managing the day-to-day responsibilities of having two children in two different daycares has been exceptionally difficult at times.

With my wife planning her return to work at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, we did some pre-work early in 2022 to get daycare organized for our youngest. Through online and social media searches, we found a place with an opening for August 2022.

We interviewed, and were the successful candidates to secure the spot. We paid our deposit in March. *Perfect!* Or, so we thought... Fast forward to mid-May when I received a message that there was no longer a spot for our youngest, and that our deposit would be returned. We were lucky to find another location for our child, but not without many sleepless nights wondering what we would do if we couldn't find a spot. With no family in British Columbia to potentially lean on, we were feeling the pressures and the impending challenges of a work-life balance.

On a more personal level, one of the difficulties I find is achieving that sense of grounding at home when, during the workday, emotions can run high and energy levels can run low. After a challenging day of leading the learning, and setting and maintaining high standards for students, any constraints and expectations waiting at home are front and centre as soon as you leave the school. When you have young children who do not yet have a lot of independence, it can be difficult to feel the pull of those many needs when you arrive at home with your energy and patience already exhausted. Prioritizing your own wellness and finding balance becomes a challenge when combined with the ever-increasing demands of being a school leader, educator, and father.

Balance for me comes from the integration of domains for holistic wellness and from *Ishi: Simple Tips from a Solid Friend* by Akiko Yabuki (2016), while considering qualities that resilient people often possess.

Physical

"When I feel bottled up, I move my body. Run, swim, climb a tree!"

Intellectual

"When I feel like a failure, I remind myself that every experience makes me grow"

Spiritual

"When nothing makes me feel better, I go outside. Nature has magic"

Social Emotional

"When I feel lost, I lean on my friends"

Rather than a specific strategy or set of strategies to create a sense of balance between work and family, I like to consider the opportunities for integration between the two. There are so many parallels between being a parent and being an educator, and I feel that if you can integrate the roles, there is more allowance for seeking a sense of balance. The ability to create innovative opportunities for integration is a characteristic of resilient people.

Resilient people possess three unique characteristics that allow them to navigate difficult situations:

1. They coolly accept the realities in front of them
2. They find meaning in difficult times
3. They have an uncanny ability to improvise, making do with whatever's at hand

I believe that these three characteristics embody qualities that both parents and educators need. An example of integration was when, at the end of the semester, I needed to review and sign the student learning reports. I brought my son to school with

me for some special 'daddy time', where we got a 10-pack of Timbits®, and he played with some modeling clay and coloured in my office while I read and reviewed the reports. My son felt great about this special excursion, and I completed my required tasks while integrating the social emotional needs of both myself and my child.

Being a parent of young children is the most challenging yet rewarding experience of my life. Taking the good with the bad, and managing expectations of myself, are constant opportunities for creating a sense of balance between work and family life. It has also given me so much more respect, empathy, and understanding towards the parents of the children that we serve. I believe that I am a better educator and leader because of my experiences as a parent of young children.

Our family will face a new challenge this summer as we transition between communities. We will make the move to Vancouver Island and although we moved across the country in 2012, we sense that our reference points will be very different when we make this next move with young children onboard. *Stay tuned!*

Leader Life Stories

Every leader has a story: what's yours?

The Leader Life Stories series in *Princip(ed)* magazine brings together member voices from across the province on a variety of topics.

We want to hear from you!

Do you have an idea for a theme for an upcoming article?

Contact sandra@bcpvpa.bc.ca

**Read the November 2022 Leader Life Story
"Diverse Women in Leadership"**

