

STAM

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STAM Executive 2018



Greg Johnson - President

Greg graduated with a B.Sc. from the University of Manitoba in 2001 and a B.Ed. in 2003. He has taught in rural Manitoba, New Zealand, and in the Saint James School division. He has been at Westwood Collegiate for the past 12 years as a teacher and department head. He specializes in physics, and teaches grade 11 and 12 physics as well as IB physics. He has also taught IB chemistry, general science and math. Greg has been a board member since 2008, holding member-at-large and vice president positions in the past. He is interested in technology and the Maker movement and has built a maker space and maker club at Westwood Collegiate. Greg has been a contributor to several department of education initiatives and is currently part of the Literacy with ICT coding infusion team. Greg has 3 children and spends what spare time he has coaching hockey, baseball, and driving his kids places.



George Valentim - Past-President

George has been the principal George Waters Middle School for the last three years. Prior to that, he was the vice principal and International Baccalaureate Coordinator at Westwood Collegiate from 2012-2016. Since 2000 he has been a Science/Math Teacher and Science Department Head in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division at both Westwood Collegiate and Sturgeon Creek Collegiate. He has taught everything from Grade 9 Math/Science, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and IB Biology. George has served on the STAM board since 2009 where he served as President from 2010-2017 and now serves as a Member-at-Large and past president. George's involvement with the board is rooted in a belief that we all need to play a part helping students value scientific enquiry.



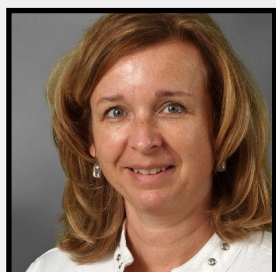
Leslie Eyjolfson - Secretary

Leslie has been teaching in the science department at Westwood Collegiate since 2009 and one year at Bruce Middle School as a generalist. She currently teaches Biology, Chemistry and IB Biology. Prior to her teaching career, Leslie worked as a lab analyst at Enviro-Test Laboratories and ALS Laboratories working in the Inorganic Chemistry Department. She has been a member of the STAM board since 2010 serving as Secretary. Leslie has had the opportunity to take part on several science based trips with her students traveling to Costa Rica, The Galapagos Islands and Iceland.



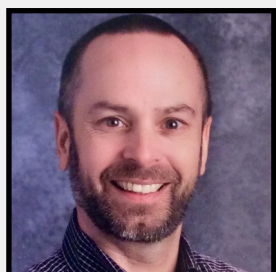
Dave Shoosmith - Treasurer

Dave has been teaching biology and chemistry at Westwood Collegiate since 2004. Before Westwood, he was at Lincoln Middle School for one year of grade 7 & 8 science. He has volunteered on the STAM board for 16 years, serving as treasurer for the majority of that time. He has learned a lot about bookkeeping with this position and would like to see other science teachers challenge themselves in this role for the future. Dave is also involved with the Envirothon program, YiP, student council, and runs the Aquatic Science course at Westwood. Outside of school, Dave works as an assistant instructor with Diver City SCUBA and enjoys volunteering with the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. He also enjoys hiking, canoeing, and traveling. Dave promotes experiential learning and makes field trips an important part of his classes.



Heidi Holst - SAGE Conference Chair

Heidi obtained a B.Sc. (zoology) and a B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba. She is currently the principal of Centennial School, a K-6 school in the Lord Selkirk School Division. Teaching for 25 years, Heidi has taught grades 7-12 science, math, French, biology and chemistry. She was also a divisional lead teacher for math and science K-12 for 10 years. She has been a principal for the last 7 years. Heidi loves science and is especially interested in biology. Her passion is teaching children, who she finds are naturally curious and interested in science. Her goal is to engage children as confident and curious learners. Heidi has three children of her own, who study in a variety of science-related areas at the University of Manitoba. Heidi joined the STAM Board 18 years ago, and her time on the board has included time as the president and the conference chair. Heidi believes in supporting fellow teachers and spends time each year helping to organize the STAM MTS PD Day. Heidi encourages teachers and future teachers of science to join the STAM board to support professional learning for science teachers in Manitoba.



Grant Fisher-Smith - Web-manager

Grant is starting his 18th year at Bruce Middle School teaching Grades 7 & 8 Science. He has been on the STAM board for 8 years and is currently the web-manager for STAM. Grant has 15 years of experience on the St. James Assiniboia Science Fair Committee and has volunteered for the past 12 years as a delegate (chaperone) at the Canada Wide Science Fair for the St. James Assiniboia Region. When not in class or science fairs, he enjoys fly fishing and has been a member of the Manitoba Fly Fishers' Association (MFFA) for nearly 20 years.



Tina Hellmuth—Director Awards

Tina has a passion for science since she was a child. She has taught in French Immersion schools for over 30 years. She has been a Grade 3-6 classroom teacher, has been a Resource and Special education teacher and has been a support teacher for Science and Innovation in the Winnipeg School division. She has been a member of the STAM board since 2001 and is also on the executive of Manitoba Schools' Science Symposium and the WSD science Fair committee. She is chairperson of the provincial MSSS Invent an Alien competition. She loves learning and attending the interesting speakers at each year's STAM conferences.



Jeff Baty - Director At Large

Jeff teaches Gr. 8 to 12 students at St. Paul's Collegiate in Elie, MB, including general science, as well as chemistry, physics and interdisciplinary science. He is in the midst of his 5th glorious year at the venerable institution. Jeff is actively involved with varsity boys basketball and Envirothon, among other things. Sustainability as a broad-based concept is a big educational passion of his. Outside of school, he is a huge basketball and tennis fan and tries to camp and paddle as often as opportunities will allow.



Debra Morrissey - Director At Large

Debra has been teaching in the Assiniboine South/Pembina Trails School Division for her whole career as a K-6 Classroom Teacher, Teacher Librarian and most recently Counselor and EAL teacher. She currently is teaching EAL at Whyte Ridge School and Ecole Tuxedo Park halftime. For the past four years Debra has served as Vice President of Professional Development for the Pembina Trails Teachers' Association. She is the Chair of the Pembina Trails Staff Development Centre and serves as a Metro PD Chair for MTS. She had been a Member - at -Large on the STAM Board since 2012. She is also a Board Member on the Manitoba School Improvement Program-The Peaceful Village since 2016. Debra loves to travel and see the world-hiking and biking whenever she can. Debra travels around the world participating in programs and volunteering in eco friendly programs such as whale and dolphin watching/counting, planting trees, cleaning beaches, fundraising, or caring for animals and birds in sanctuaries. Debra also enjoys geo-caching and spending time with her grand-child.