



A Profile

Alexandra McIntyre *in Excellence*

IB History and Humanities Teacher, museum junkie and aficionado of all things archaic

"History can be helpful; it can also be very dangerous. It is wiser to think of history not as a pile of dead leaves or a collection of dusty artifacts but as a pool, sometimes benign, often sulfurous, that lie under the present, silently shaping our institutions, our ways of thought, our likes and dislikes."

Margaret MacMillan

'The Past is a Foreign Country' is the title of Ms. McIntyre's humanities blog, and we would say that she is the right tour guide to help us explore it. She is passionate about history and a dedicated educator. We thought we'd get to know her a little better through some Q & A.

Q: What historical figure do you most identify with?

A: Eleanor Roosevelt. She had a very hard childhood. While she & FDR didn't have that happy a marriage, she spoke her mind & often influenced his policies. She pushed for more rights for women and civil rights in the US. As well, she oversaw the writing of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights...she was amazing & brilliant.

Q: Which living person do you most admire?

A: Malala. She voiced her opinions, knowing that it was dangerous. She continues to share her ideas so that we can all be aware of the challenges girls face in terms of education.

Q: Who is your favourite fictional hero?

A: Miss Havisham from *Great Expectations*.

Q: Who are your real-life heroes?

A: My parents. 100%

Q: What is your motto? A: It's not your words but actions that matter.



Painting of Queen Victoria just after her coronation in 1838. Photo taken in Ottawa just outside the Senate.



Alexandra McIntyre

The Past is a Foreign Country
www.pln.mulgrave.com/humanities/

Born and raised by her two educator parents on the North Shore of Vancouver, Ms. McIntyre grew up in an environment that emphasised learning and inquiry. She attended York House, an all-girls school where she was a 'lifer'. Her mother, a high school social studies and law teacher, her father, a high school physics and math teacher, and her York House history teachers all inspired her to follow in their footsteps. Ms. Mc first went to SFU where she earned a degree in History, followed by Bachelor's of Education at UBC. "I was in the social justice cohort, a nice fit for a history major," she shared. "The moment I stood up in front of the class for my first practicum, I knew that this was exactly what I wanted to do." She was hired at Mulgrave in 2003 to teach Latin and Socials and has been here happily ever after. She recently earned her Master's in Curriculum and Pedagogy with a focus on Social Studies education from UBC.



"She is absolutely willing to go above and beyond to help her students. Especially in finding essential sources for historical investigations." ~Liam Mitchell, G12 student and deputy head boy and future St. Andrew's archeology and ancient history student

What is excellence?

At Mulgrave, our mission statement reads 'Inspiring Excellence in Education and Life'. Our teachers challenge both the students and themselves to strive for personal best and as Ms. Mac puts it 'fail better'. Read below to hear about her thoughts on excellence in her own words:

What does excellence mean? I believe excellence is as much a state of mind as it is an actual achievement. Excellence is defined as being outstanding in quality. Quality, not quantity is what truly matters. You can know a myriad of facts, but if you're unable to articulate the why and the how of those facts, then you're not really excelling. When excellence is attained, it's attained through hard work, trial and error and above all else,

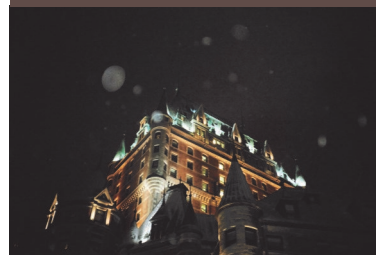
passion. You can be passionate about a subject and yet struggle to achieve academic success. Have you failed? No! To quote Samuel Beckett, "Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better". By failing better, you're learning and in my estimation if you're not learning you can never truly achieve excellence. Excellence shouldn't be seen as a mountaintop, an

end point, but rather as an ever inclining slope, one that you march up, step by step, learning as you go. To be excellent you must be willing to accept that you may not be, at first, but, if you place one foot on the path, and then the other, you've already begun your journey towards what I believe excellence entails.

~Alexandra McIntyre

LIFELONG LEARNER:

What does it mean to you?



"The teachers who made an impact on me and whose influence continues to resonate are the ones who did not give the stock answers. It was so much more inspiring when we searched for the answers together. Teaching is a constant process of learning, and being with these students allows me to learn something new each day."

#TwitterWisdomfromMsMc



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Jul 4

Whenever I teach about John Adams I only see Paul Giamatti.



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Aug 26

Ditch the laptop and pick up a pen, class. Researchers say it's better for note taking. zite.to/1p7QOCy



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Dec 2

Papineau vs Chateau Clique singing "One Day More..." & "I Dreamed a Dream" for a presentation [#myclassisamazing](#) isn't it @natassjaby!



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Dec 26

You know what can't be hacked? A book. A physical book. Just saying.



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Jan 13

I've never seen Star Wars [#FiveWordsToRuinADate](#)



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Jan 2

Tsars Wars [#MakeAMovieRussian](#)



Alexandra McIntyre @quidocetdiscet · Jan 20

Does the closing of Robson Chapters mean indie bookstores might have a chance again, or a sign that no one reads anymore & we're all doomed?



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