

# FRENCH IMMERSION ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## Jodi Latremouille

Graduated with bilingual diploma in 1996

### Where are you now (location/career/using your French, etc)?

Living in Tsawwassen BC. Professor in Faculty of Education, Vancouver Island University. Volleyball coach at South Delta Secondary School. Able to frequently use my French language to support teacher candidates in the VIU teacher preparation program who are specializing in French language teaching.

### A favourite memory from French Immersion:

Harmon Lake school campouts, directing and performing two original plays in grade 7 with our class, playing soccer games on the sidehill at Collettville, cross-country runs and track & field with Mr. Webster, concours d'art oratoire, French Immersion exchange trip to Québec.

### What are you most proud of from your French Immersion experience?

I feel like I gained an open-minded and creative view on the world through having been immersed in the French language and culture, which encouraged me to see everything from multiple perspectives and worldviews. I have always loved to travel the world and engage with different cultures in meaningful ways. My French language skills have also helped me to feel confident to try other languages while travelling, such as Spanish, Italian, and even Korean!

### How did French Immersion help you?

This program truly inspired my love for travel and lifelong learning, and the creative, interdisciplinary approach to the learning inspired my love of inquiry-based teaching in my own practice. I had a unique opportunity to come back to teach in

a collaborative way with Guy Dugas at MSS for two years, and it was a great reminder of how high school teaching can also be inquiry-based and interdisciplinary, when teachers find the space to step outside the box and get creative!

### A few accomplishments I have achieved:

1996-2000: TRU (UCC) Women's Varsity Volleyball Team.  
2013: Cynthia Chambers Masters Thesis Award.  
2014: University of Calgary Chancellor's Graduate Medal.  
2019: SSHRC Graduate Studies Award.  
2020: PHD in Educational Research, Curriculum & Learning. 2023: Published first book on curriculum and teaching, entitled "Ecological Pedagogy of Joy: On Relations, Aliveness, Love". 2024: Vancouver Island University Dean's Scholarship, Research and Creativity Award.  
2024-Present: Acquisitions Editor for Book Series with Peter Lang Publishing on Ecological Pedagogy & Scholarship. But truly, my greatest accomplishment is raising two beautiful and strong, athletic and brilliant daughters- who also are studying in French Immersion! I also love giving back to my community through volleyball coaching, collaborative creative writing and research that invites teachers to share their experiences with others, environmental and social justice advocacy, and mentoring young teachers coming up in the system to follow their passions and make a difference in our education system.

### What would be your advice to current French immersion students?

The benefits of studying a 2nd language and culture will not truly be understood until many years later, when you have a chance to look back on your experiences and recognize how unique and profound they were. Being in a French Immersion program provides a deep sense of community, and the connections you make with people, with the experiences, and with the world around you, will last a lifetime.