



THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF MONTREAL
EST. 1861



Where do you live? Since 2003, my husband Jason and I have lived in London, On, with our daughters Clara and Lucie. When our girls were old enough to go to school, I returned to teaching but at the elementary level this time. That was a big change for me, as well as working and teaching completely in French. Yes, fun fact, Ontario has quite a few French first-language schools, and a large, proud Franco-Ontarian community. I've been the drama-music-dance teacher at Ecole St-Jean -de Brebeuf in London for the past 10 years.

Favourite memories: the times that I could watch students perform in plays, or talent shows, or at public speaking competitions. To watch students either face and overcome their fears and build confidence in their abilities, or to watch the already-confident ones simply enjoy those moments in the spotlight and develop their talents, were always among my very favourite times. We were fortunate to attend the International Public Speaking competitions a few years in a row. That was fun and very rewarding for me. Another memory is when a class threw me a baby shower just before I left Sacred Heart and heading to China to adopt our older daughter Clara. I've never forgotten the kind wishes and lovely gifts that all those students gave me for our soon-to-arrive baby. That was really special!

What House were you affiliated with? I was the teacher in charge of Barat, because that was my house when I was a student. I'm very proud that Barat won the points plaque a few times while I was teaching. Barat bears all the way!!

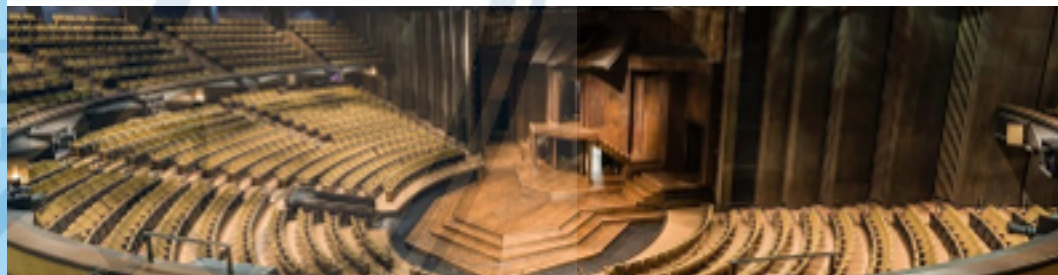


SANDY O'NEILL - CLASS OF '86 & FACULTY MEMBER FROM 1994 TO 2003



Funny experience: a funny teaching experience I can vividly remember is the very first day I walked into a classroom to teach. It was Sec II English, and all the students stood up to greet me. I had graduated from Sacred Heart just 8 years earlier, and was slightly overwhelmed to be back as a teacher! When the students stood up, I looked back to see which teacher had walked behind me, and then suddenly realized they had stood up for me. Well, that did it. I went from overwhelmed to officially freaked out at that moment! I tried to quickly get it together, but I'm not sure if I succeeded. It definitely took me a while to get used to the shift from student to teacher.

Hobbies, interests, activities: Life in London has kept me very busy. My daughters are now 18 and 15 and so over the years, I've been raising them, working, and building friendships. This year, like so many other students, they're doing their best with online learning. I was into triathlons for a while, although I've since dropped the cycling part and concentrate mainly on swimming and running just to stay in shape. And, of course, I still love to read and see as much theatre as possible! If any former students remember our trips to Stratford, I love that I now live only a one hour from there, and each year, I take the grade 4 to 6 students to see a play. I love that, especially when it's a student's very first time seeing live theatre. I love to see their excitement about what they're seeing on the stage. I'm sad that the pandemic has forced the theatres to close, but I know they'll be back one day, and I'll be one of the first in line for tickets!



From the Heart: Thank you for including me in this project. It's a pleasure to recall some of the good times from my teaching days at Sacred Heart. Sharing great literature with you (and even Wordly Wise lessons!), and reading the essays and projects you created, were true privileges that I haven't forgotten. And when I do hear or see any news regarding former students (your careers, families, accomplishments), I feel very proud, and happy to have been a part of your lives for a time. I sincerely hope that you are all healthy and happy.

