Hi students!

I am excited to be working with you this semester and I will do my best to make your experience in English class interesting and successful!

My name is Linda Hamilton and I am a mother, partner, sister, friend and teacher among a lot of other things. I love being outdoors and I spend my leisure time camping, canoeing, fishing, skiing, snowboarding, swimming, hiking and biking. Paddleboard fishing for pike is one of my favourite pastimes and I love fly fishing. I am also a bit of a health nut; eating well and exercising is important to me. My favourite indoor activities include experimenting with new recipes, reading, organizing, decorating, watching movies with my family and hanging with Floyd, the family pet dog.

I moved around a lot when I was a kid, living in Ontario, Alberta and Nova Scotia. We moved six times and I went to four different high schools. Frankly, it sucked and it’s a big reason why I have been living in the same house in Riverdale for the last 24 years. I moved to Whitehorse with my boyfriend, now husband, in May of 1996 after finishing a Bachelor of Arts and Teaching degree at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario. I lived at Robert Service Campground for my first two weeks in Whitehorse while working three jobs: TD bank teller, bartender, and receptionist at the Airport Chalet. Later, I worked as a TOC and the following year I got a temporary job at Elijah Smith Elementary School teaching grade 4. After two years of teaching elementary school, I worked at PCSS filling in for a teacher on maternity leave and then I was hired in a permanent position here teaching grade 8 humanities. I have taught grades 8-12 English and grades 8-10 Social Studies, a P.E. class, and I coached grade 8 girls basketball; I have been teaching at PCSS since 1998! In 2004 I worked full-time while completing a Masters degree in Education in curriculum and instruction from SFU. I don’t recommend that. It was a crazy year! Within the next couple years, I plan to begin a Doctorate degree in either literacy or creative writing.

My strengths as a teacher include being passionate about teaching and learning, caring about my students’ well-being and growth as individuals, as well as being creative, flexible, organized, hard-working and patient. Some things I need to improve include marking assignments and returning them to students more quickly, keeping better track of novels that I lend out, and stop procrastibaking!

I am a strong reader and writer in general, but I do not feel I am particularly good at writing poetry nor do I spend much time practicing. I love project-based work and I prefer to have choices in terms of topics and formats. As for reading, I enjoy all genres, but my favourites are historical fiction, dystopian or science fiction, and fantasy.

I do not have any particular challenges in English other than I tend to be a perfectionist, but I have learned to let it go; however, one motto I live by is “Anything worth doing is worth doing well.” Over the years I have found that I learn best through experiential and visual styles and by writing down key ideas. I also enjoy working collaboratively with a partner or in small groups. My position at the school is Innovations Commons/Digital Learning teacher that I share with Ms. Sidaway-Wolf; however, she is on maternity leave this school year. I will also continue to teach English courses and Creative Writing.

My goal is to help every student be successful in the course and achieve their goal mark. I plan to reach this goal by keeping my teacher page up-to-date, clearly communicating important information, providing updated marks reports once every few weeks, regularly checking in with students verbally or via email to make sure they are on track, and assisting students who experience difficulty with any of the coursework. You can help me by coming to class on time, asking for help when you need it, and completing your coursework in a timely manner!

My future plans include teaching for another 7 years and then volunteering in Whitehorse. I also would like to travel the world some more and live by the ocean at some point in my life. My strongest supporter is my husband, Jeff, who I met in university and married over twenty years ago. My colleagues at PCSS are also very supportive and I feel lucky to work with them.

Looking forward to a great semester!

Sincerely,

Ms. Hamilton