

Staff Spotlight: The Steady, Caring Presence Behind Every School Day

For nearly 19 years, Gina Brown, Administrative Assistant - School Reception, has been a caring and dependable presence at Foothills Academy Society. Whether she is greeting families at the front desk, helping a student through a tough moment, answering questions from parents, or managing the many unexpected challenges that arise throughout the day, Gina is always ready to help. Her warmth, compassion, and calming presence make a lasting impact on everyone she meets.

Gina's journey at Foothills began nearly 19 years ago when she started part-time as an Administrative Assistant in Community Services. From there, she spent eight years working directly in the classroom as an Educational Assistant before transitioning into her current role as an Administrative Assistant of School Reception. Her wide range of experience across the organization gives her a unique understanding of both the school community and the families Foothills serves.

One of the things Gina enjoys most about her role is the variety each day brings. No two days are ever quite the same, and her ability to adapt and support others wherever needed has made her an essential part of daily life at Foothills.

As one of the first faces families see when they walk through the doors, Gina plays an important role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment. Her days are filled with everything from answering questions from the public and helping coordinate student pick-ups to handing out bandaids, organizing school supplies, finding snacks for hungry students, and managing the many moving pieces that keep a busy school day running smoothly.

Beyond the front desk, Gina's impact is felt in the reassurance and encouragement she provides to families navigating unfamiliar challenges. She is often a source of reassurance for families who may be feeling overwhelmed or uncertain after receiving a Learning Disability diagnosis for their child. Her ability to listen, guide families toward support, and help normalize their experiences can make an enormous difference during difficult moments.

Some of the moments Gina values most are the relationships she has built with students over the years. Whether a student stops by to share exciting news, ask for help, or simply say hello, those connections reflect the caring and inclusive community that Foothills strives to create every day.

While many people recognize Gina as the friendly face at reception, one thing they may not realize is that she works full-time year-round, including throughout the summer months. Her dedication behind the scenes helps ensure Foothills continues to run smoothly in every season.

Just for Fun

- **Sweet or salty snacks?** Both, depending on the mood.

- **Current favourite show, podcast, or book?** Short History of...' podcast
- **Fun fact:** Gina is a farmer at heart, reflected in time spent nurturing her veggie patch, her love of animals, and recharging in nature.
- **If you could instantly learn any skill, what would it be?** Playing the banjo so she could be one of the cool kids and join in jam sessions.
- **What's your favourite season and why?** Summer is Gina's favourite season because sunshine brings her energy, positivity, and the feeling that she can take on anything.