

## Saul Jacobson, Volunteer Jazz Band Director, Broadview Avenue Public School

Many of you may recognize the name or the distinct radio voice of Saul Jacobson from Majic 100 and the Jewel where Saul was an on air celebrity for over 30 years. Or you may be one of the lucky students who studied jazz music under his direction as a volunteer music director at Broadview Avenue Public School. For the past 12 years, Saul has supported, directed, and mentored literally 100's of students who have participated in the Broadview Grade 8 Jazz Band.



Saul grew up in small town Saskatchewan in a school that had a tremendous music program. In grade 3, Saul played the drums and at the insistence of his mother, he studied piano completing RCM grade 8. His love of music followed him to university where he studied Music Education (a unique four-year teacher's college program) and volunteered at the radio station. Upon graduation, Saul taught school for several years before realizing what he really loved was radio. He left teaching (temporarily) for a 30 year career in broadcasting.

Saul's wife, music educator Ginger Jacobson, directs the instrumental music program at Broadview and oversees the award winning Broadview extra-curricular music program. Over half the students in grade 7 and 8 are in the extra-curricular music program, with 80 students in the grade 7 concert band, 65 students in the grade 8 concert band and 24 students in the jazz band. Needing help, Ginger recruited her husband Saul and he took over as volunteer music director of the Grade 8 Jazz Band. Twelve years later Saul is still as motivated and passionate about teaching jazz music as he was in university!

Saul is responsible for instilling the love of jazz music in hundreds of young souls; dozens of students went on to become professional musicians. "The kids succeed because of the wonderful philosophy of the music program. I see kids in the jazz band for just one year. It is my mission to ensure they love music beyond grade 8. Many go on to join the Ottawa Junior Jazz Band and the Nepean All City Jazz Band, directed by OCDSB superintendent Neil York-Slader. Many become professional musicians. Sylvie Cheng recently performed at Carnegie Hall," Saul proudly enthused.



When asked why he volunteers so much of his time he does not hesitate to answer passionately, “It’s about the kids,” Saul states, “I do it because I’m compelled to do it. The kids do the work. I just help them find their potential.”

When asked what his favourite flavour of ice cream is he immediately responds, “Chocolate! It should be its own food group on the Canada food guide!” Now that’s music to my ears.

*The Ottawa Volunteers in Education program, a program of the Ottawa Network for Education, safely screens community volunteers for schools in Ottawa. For more information about volunteering in schools, please visit our website [www.onfe-rope.ca/ovie](http://www.onfe-rope.ca/ovie)*

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