

## **Jana Diket Bio**

Jana has been a Middle School Teacher for 27 years, mostly at Windsor Elementary School, with a few years in the beginning of her career in her hometown of Winthrop. She has taught almost every core subject other than math. Her passion is Social Studies and in 2023, she started teaching both Social Studies and Science to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders (Maine Studies & US History).

She has taken educational courses at Burnt Island over about a dozen years. She also has served as “Chief Cook” for other educational programs on Burnt Island. She also volunteered for the restoration of the Burnt Island Keeper's House/Museum for the Bicentennial Celebration.

She has found it incredible to have a classroom and educational facility on the island, not only to educate adults, but also bring classes of students to the island. Not many people have had an opportunity to experience this and she feels lucky to have experienced it many times. She has also co-taught on several visits and was able to bring a group of students out for an overnight.

Last summer, she attended an educational workshop on Hurricane Island about the Scallop Farming industry that is growing in Maine. She also attended a workshop about Oyster Farming on the Damariscotta River, learning more about Maine's working waterfront and the Aquaculture Industry.

Through her experience on Hurricane Island, she met and is currently working with Keri Kaczor, through MaineSea Grant to bring Aquaculture to students who do not live near the coast. The plan is to grow seaweed and other ocean sea life in her classroom in a 40 gallon custom made tank.

She was asked to attend and present at the Seaweed Educator's Workshop by the Maine Aquaculture Education Center in November, 2023 in Belfast. The presentation was about working with students using the book, *With a Little Kelp from my Friends* from the World Wildlife Federation and introducing them to kelp and kelp products. Her school hosted a workshop about seaweed for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders along with tastings (miso soup, sushi, ‘seaweedish’ meatballs) for the children. She is part of the Farm & Sea to School program as well.

Lastly, she was asked by the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed to help develop and design a curriculum for Educators to bring their students to the State YMCA Camp to learn about Climate Change. They received a DOE Grant of almost \$50,000 to complete this project this spring/summer.

She brings to KBIL her enthusiasm for getting as many students and educators out on Burnt Island to enjoy and learn about Maine's Coast. She is extremely resourceful and dedicated to exposing students (especially those in rural areas) to the Coast of Maine. Burnt Island brings once in a lifetime opportunities for educators and students.