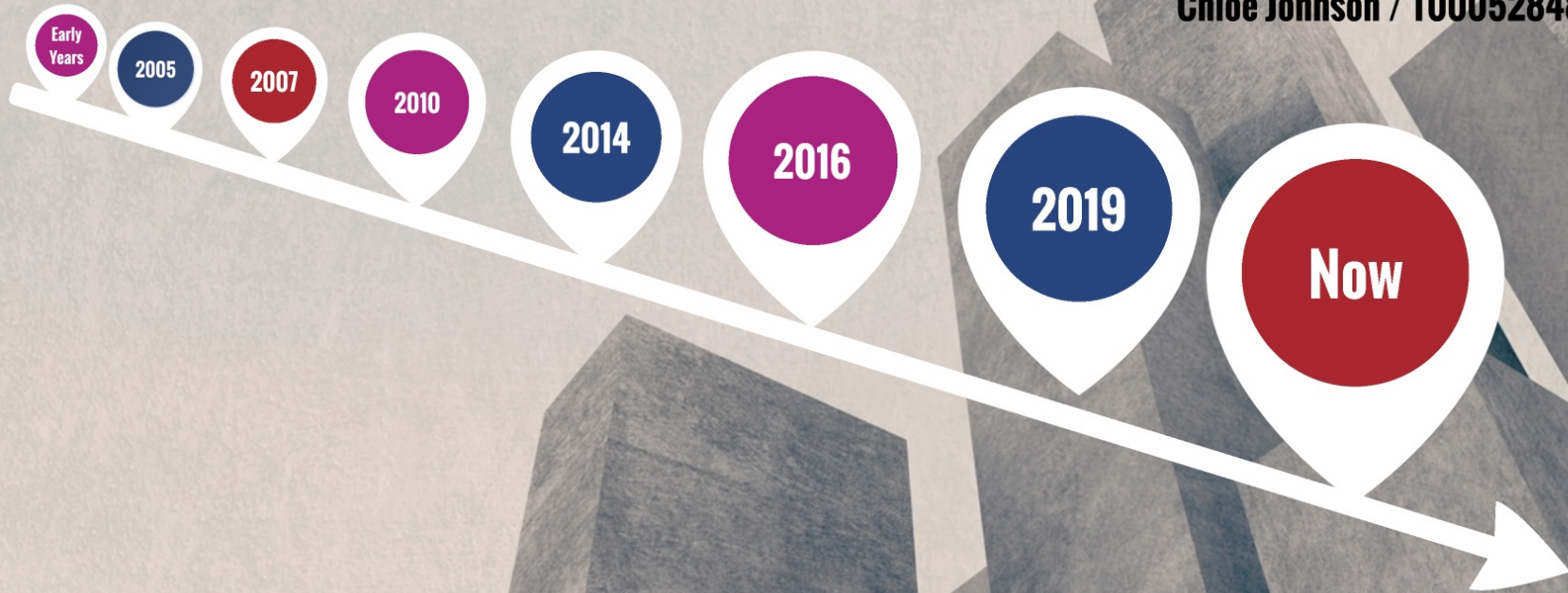


My Educational Timeline

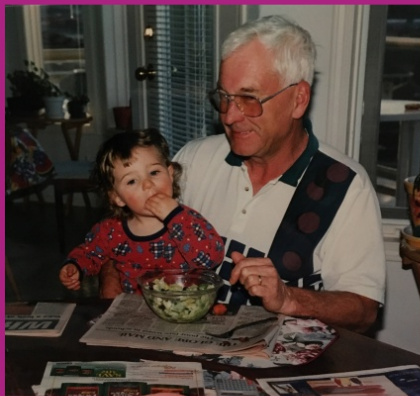
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My Grandpa

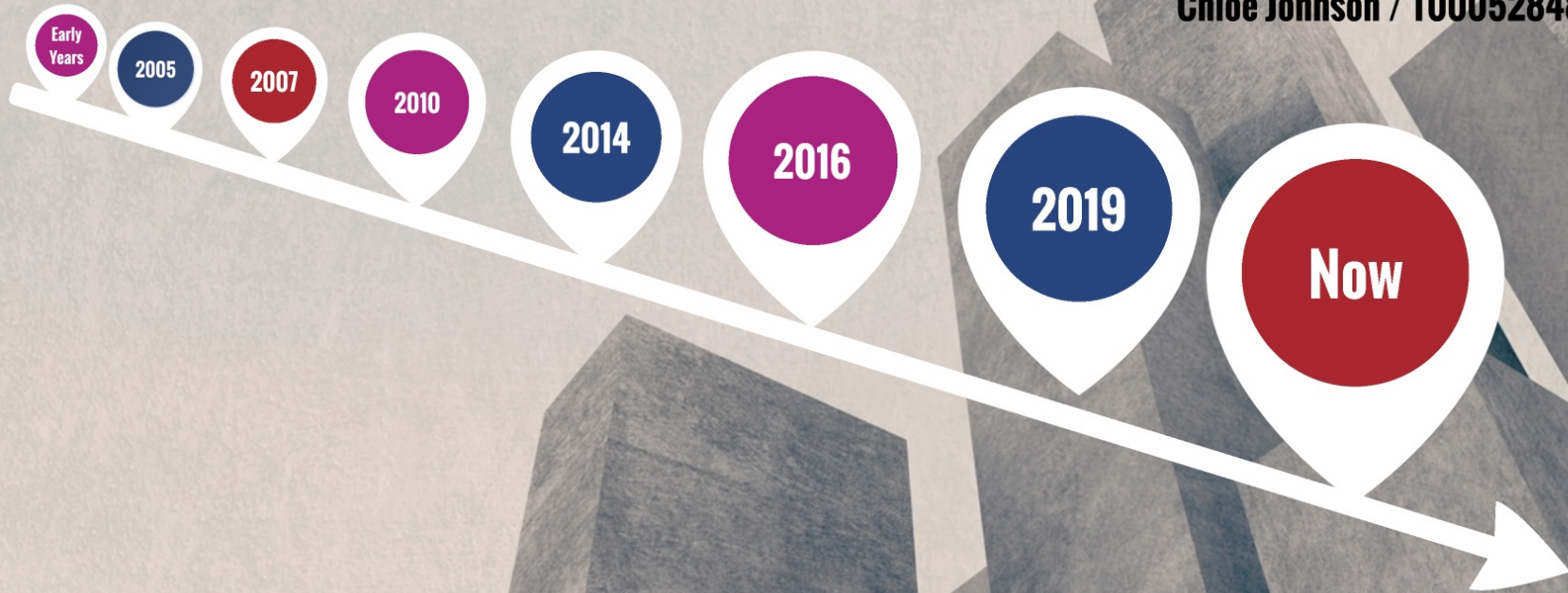
Growing up, my grandpa always had a large presence in my life. He spent hours with my sister and I, taking us to parks and showing us how to count money. He told me that I could be anything I wanted to be because I was smart and 'had good sense'.

When I think about the way that my grandpa cared for me when I was younger and the way that he encouraged me to try anything I wanted to has shown me how important it is for children to have someone like that in their lives. Someone who cares, who wants you to succeed, and who will help you along the way. I want to be that person for students.



My Educational Timeline

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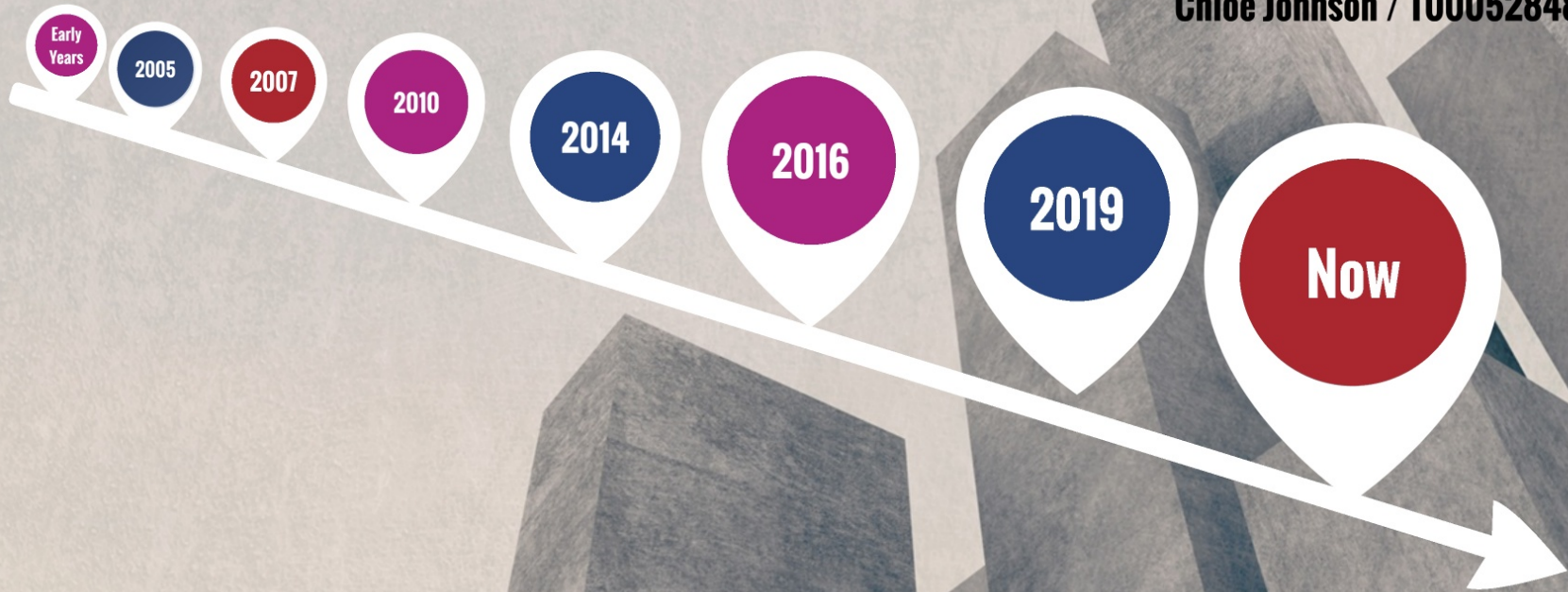


Mr. Bloom

When I was in grade 5, my teacher was late for our Christmas concert. He ran into the classroom at the last minute and was apologizing. He told us that he had been pulled over because he had been speeding to get there. This is something that has stuck with me because it felt that he had made sure that he admitted to his students that he had made a mistake and that he was accepting the consequences. It felt strange that a teacher would do that because teachers were supposed to be very disciplined and never make mistakes. It seemed like Mr. Bloom was showing us that he was human, and I thought that meant he must respect us enough to know that we would respect him no matter even if he made mistakes. This made me want to be a teacher because I understood that I wouldn't just be teaching, I would be building relationships with my students.

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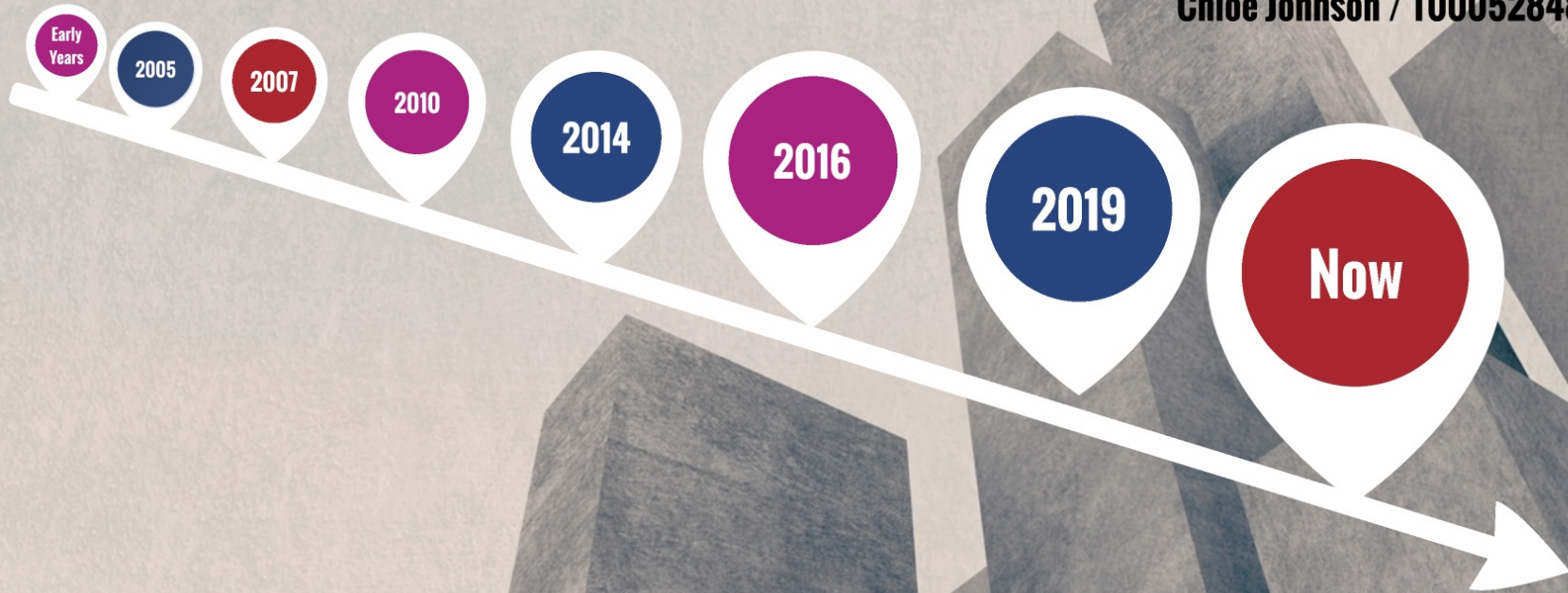


I had tried out for the Peeewe Rep hockey team. I was told that I could only be on the team if I agreed to play defense. I didn't know why, I thought it was weird because I had always played forward. I was told by the four coaches that it was because I was too big to play forward. In hindsight, those four middle-aged men weren't intentionally making me feel as though my body was wrong, they meant that I was tall and had a long reach. But to an eleven-year-old girl who had been struggling with her body image, those were the worst words I could imagine. Reflecting on that experience, I have tried to be mindful with my words to everyone I meet. Being a teacher means being an appropriate, caring, safe adult for your students.



My Educational Timeline

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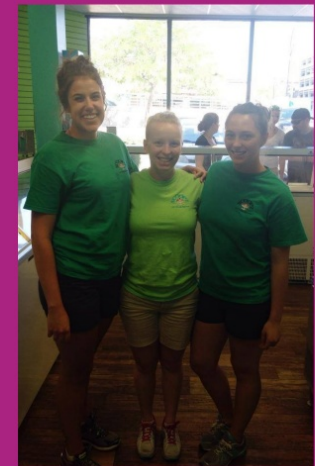




My mom owned Scoopz Ice Cream Parlour from 2000 until 2014. She was in the store every single day. When I turned 14, I was allowed to work there with her. I got to watch my mom be kind and compassionate to every single person who came into the store. There was one man who did not have a permanent home who came into the store every day – most of the time he couldn't afford an ice cream but my mom gave him something anyways. I think he mostly came in to talk to someone who would listen to him. Unfortunately, this man passed away a few years later and my mom attended his funeral. She was one of only two people there. The man's own daughter did not attend. I am in awe of my mom for her amazing work ethic but also for being there for someone who clearly needed it. She pushed aside any biases she had and became his friend. She is the perfect example of compassion.

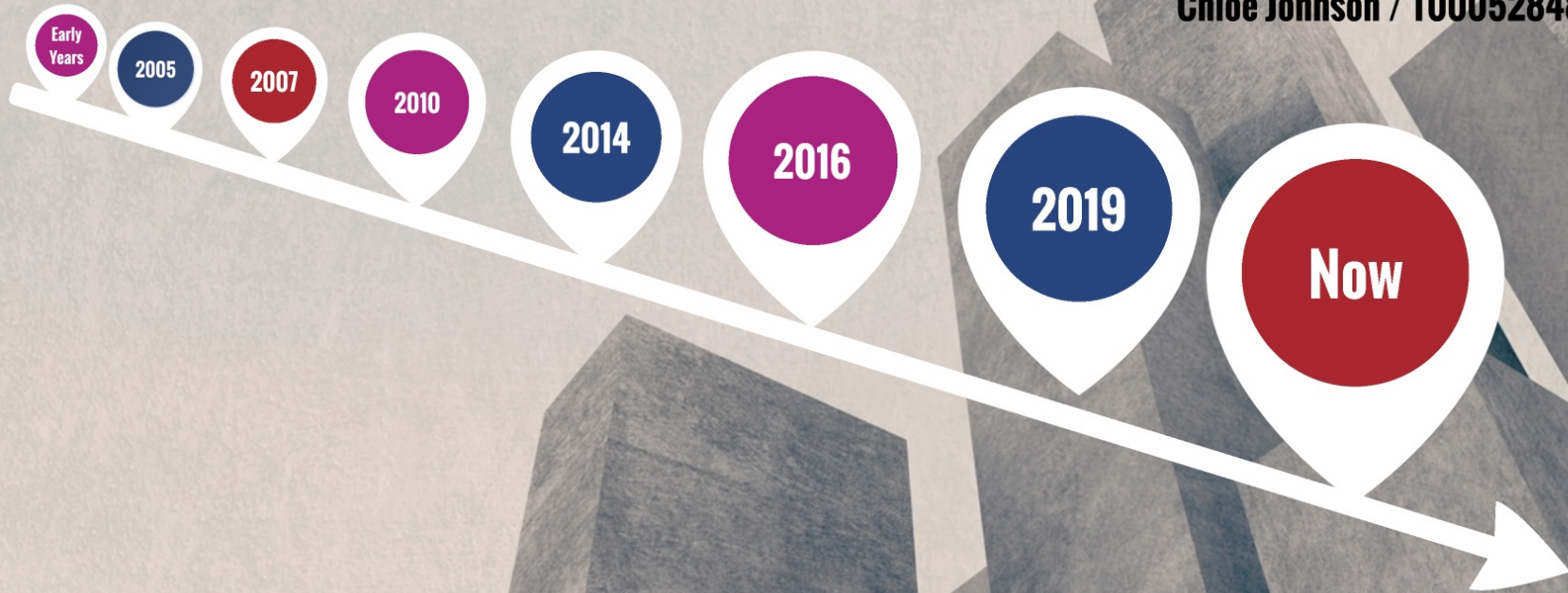
As a teacher, empathy and compassion are necessary to connect with your students. Seeing firsthand how beneficial it is to someone to have those connections is powerful and I hope to be a grounding presence in my student's lives.

Scoopz



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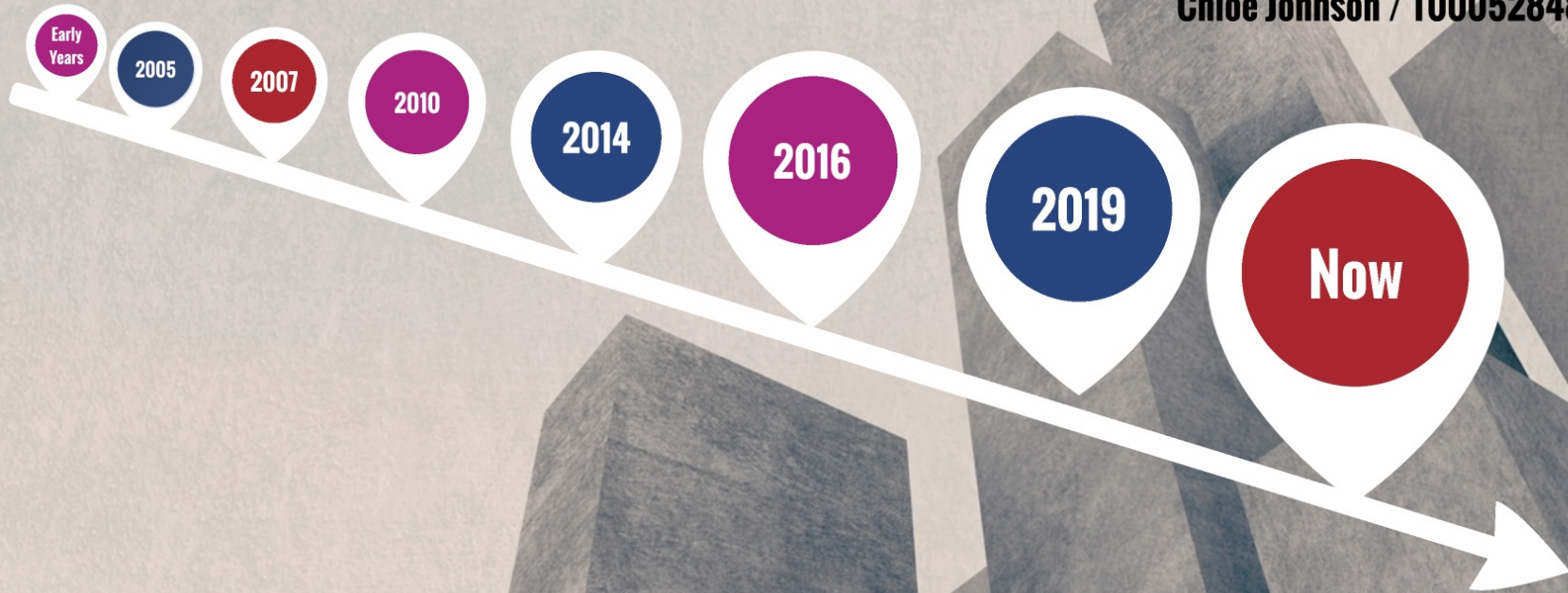
Peru



When I was 18, I decided to go to Peru with a group of strangers from across Canada. I was a kid who didn't like to go to sleepovers because it was too far from my parents (even just across the street), so this shocked everyone. I stepped majorly out of my comfort zone and spent a month in Lima, building an addition onto an existing school. We laid bricks and mixed and poured concrete for 4 weeks to build an arts building. The school was operational so every day there were students running around with us, wanting to hang out with us. None of us spoke much Spanish so we had to communicate with hand gestures and the few words we knew of each other's language. It was a very poor region in Lima with many houses having nothing more than 1 room and a dirt floor. It was a shock to me to see children live and play and be happy with the amount of poverty that surrounded them. I learned so many things during my month in Peru, but some of the most important ones involved stepping out of your comfort zone and recognizing that every child's needs are different in the classroom. I watched the teachers in this school adapt to meet the needs of every single student in their class. Children all come to us with different backgrounds, we can't use a cookie cutter method to teach. We need to form relationships with our students to be able to appropriately help them.

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Crohn's Disease

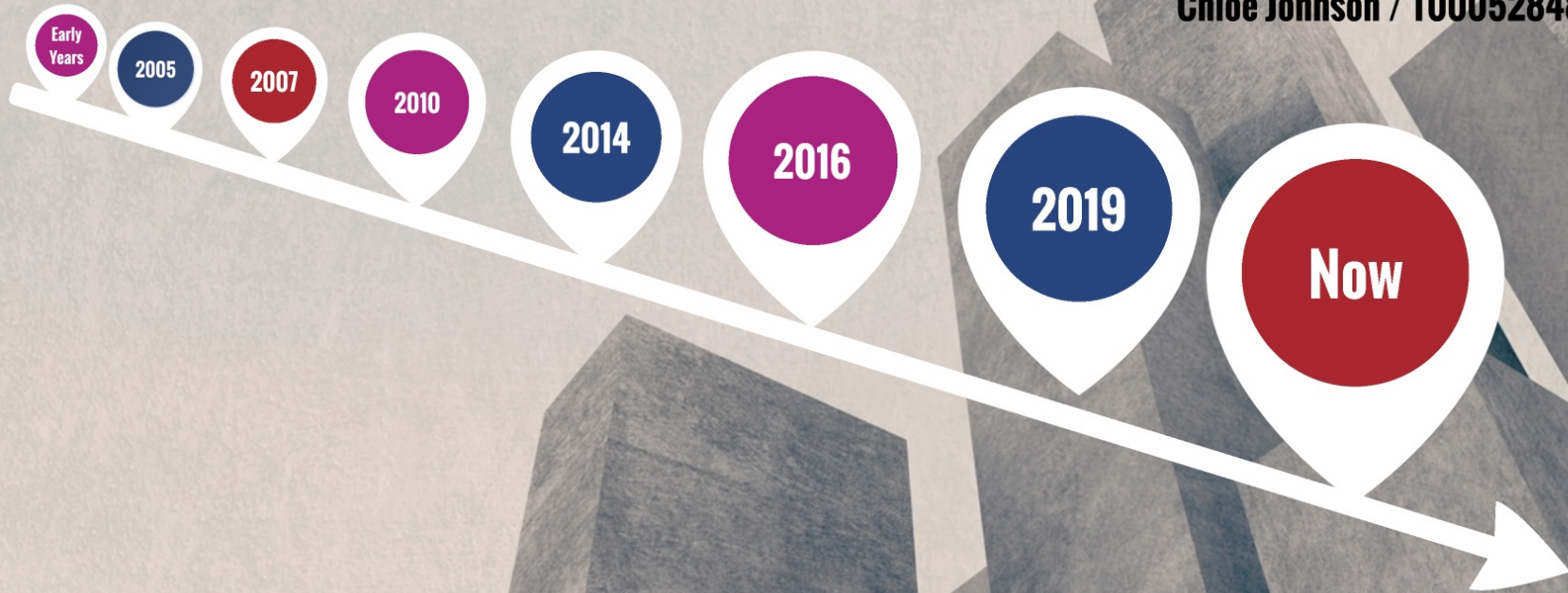
In June of 2016, I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. It explained so many things that I had struggled with since I was a child. My constant illnesses, food sensitivities, and mood swings were credited to 2.5 feet of my small intestine being extraordinarily inflamed. As soon as I was diagnosed, I was put onto prednisone before starting Adalimumab. This changed my life in so many ways. Not only could I eat more things, but I could also go out with my friends and enjoy myself. My mind wasn't constantly fogged with pain anymore. This has made me reflect on my experiences in school and how I may have not been at my best for all my teachers. Many were understanding – as it was clear I was sick, even though it would be years after I graduated that

I was formally diagnosed. But many others did not understand. I struggled with mental burnout, and I know that is something that many kids deal with. This experience solidified to me that everyone is dealing with something that others may know nothing about. As a teacher, I will strive to treat every student, parent, and colleague that I come across with kindness. I will give my students the compassion that I wish I had during school.



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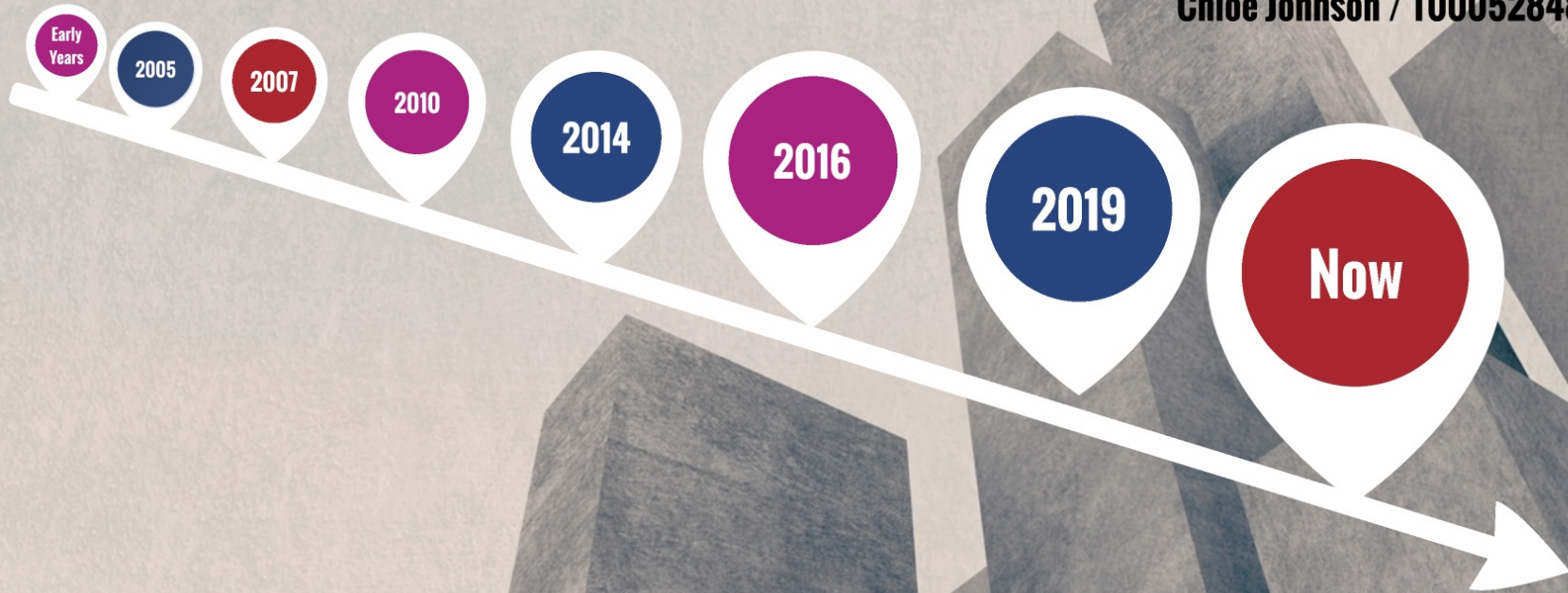
Diversity with Georgann

In 2019, I took a Diversity course with Georgann Cope-Watson. It was the first time that I had been asked to examine my own privilege. I had always known that I was privileged but being asked to confront that in myself and realizing that my privilege meant that others were oppressed made me uncomfortable. I experienced some serious cognitive dissonance. I learned about intersectionality and the myth of hard work. Since that course, I have made strides to ensure that I am educating myself on how I can use my privilege to help raise up those that are oppressed. Johnson (2017) said that “a trouble we cannot talk about is a trouble we cannot do anything about”, so I am talking. I have been talking to anyone who will listen about the injustices the people around us face and how we can help them. I am still working on being the best ally that I can and this allyship will serve me well in the classroom.

Johnson, A. G. (2017). Privilege, power and difference. (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw Hill Inc.

My Educational Timeline

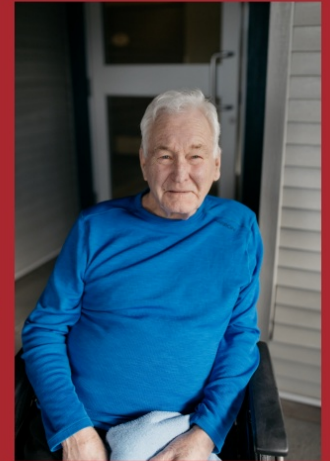
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My Grandpa

My grandpa started showing signs of dementia in 2014. Now he lives in a residential care home and many days, he doesn't know who I am when I go to visit. What he does know is that he is an important person in my life, just as I am in his.

Now that I am in the caregiver position in our relationship, I have realized how much we are all still little kids on the inside, looking for validation and for someone to listen to us. Nothing brightens my grandpa's day more than making someone smile, and I think that is a universal feeling. He has shown me that love, smiles, patience, and attention are needs that everyone has and I know that I can deliver those to people who need them in my classroom and outside of it.



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