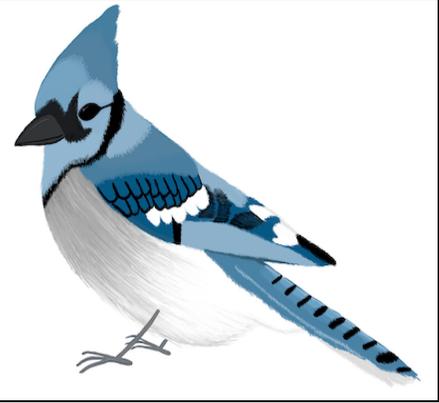


Brookside Elementary Principal's Message

6/18/2019



Greetings Brookside Families,

It has been my pleasure to serve the Brookside community as your school's principal for 2018-2019. The end of a school year always entails both fond farewells and the anticipation of new opportunities to come. The end of this school year is no different. In my last message, I noted some of our staff making transitions taking them to other places (even across the globe). In this message, I have one more farewell, plus I am pleased to welcome no less than five excellent certificated staff to our school. Some of these positions come from our School Board's decision to engage class-size reduction for grades K-3 in the coming year, which will benefit our students and staff in so many ways.

Christina Zittle

Along with being a recent Brookside parent, Mrs. Zittle has taken on several longer-term substitute assignments at our school. This winter, she stepped into our 3rd/4th combination class when their teacher was compelled to go on leave due to a family issue. Mrs. Zittle hit the ground running and worked hard with her team as she took on this assignment. Our staff and families appreciate the consistency that she has brought to Room 306 after their teacher's unexpected departure.

Cathy Lian

If your child currently receives services from our Resource Room staff, you know what wonderful support Cathy Lian has provided to our school and students. It has been my pleasure to have her on the team at Brookside for the past three years. She will be leaving us to join the Behavior Learning Supports program staff at Syre elementary. Although she has been doing great work here, Cathy was hoping to return to running a self-contained special education classroom as she did earlier in her career. Although we are sad to see her leave Brookside, we are happy she has this new opportunity that is aligned to her own personal professional goals and passions.

Emily Hazard

Families with a child who would have been working with Cathy in the coming year got a good-bye letter from her followed by an introduction letter from our new Resource Room teacher, Emily Hazard. Emily joins Brookside after working as the Resource Room teacher at Briarcrest. She earned her Master's in special education from Metropolitan University of Denver. As a special education teacher in Colorado, she gained experience in a wide range of settings including self-contained as well as serving medically fragile and homebound students. She loves working with students and learning each day *from* them. Outside of school she stays quite busy as parent of two kids under two!

Karen Drouhard

Karen joins Brookside as our general music teacher. She comes to us with 20 years experience working in the Salem, Oregon area. She specializes in creating a rigorous yet engaging atmosphere in which students learn to be budding musicians. Karen received her Master's in teaching from Oregon State University, recently completed her administration license, and is going into her second year of an education doctoral program through George Fox University. Along with teaching children in

different settings, she has also been a professional vocalists & musician, and taught college students in education programs. She noted to me that her educational superpowers are classroom management and nonverbal communication. Plus she has been known to accidentally sing instead of talk. :-)

Christine Marion

Our Kindergarten program will expand back to three classrooms in the coming year, and we were very glad to find Christine Marion to join the team. She comes our Kindergarten crew with 15 years experience teaching Kindergarten and first grade students in Bellevue and Bainbridge Island. She earned her Master's in teaching from the University of Puget Sound and attained National Board Certification in childhood literacy. Christine is energized by the growth that students make in Kindergarten and thinks of it as a sweet, joyful, and dynamic age. When she's not working with kids, she enjoys traveling, hiking, yoga, reading a good book, sipping coffee and spending time with family and friends.

Logen LaBlond

The Brookside Kindergarten team will be blessed with not one, but two outstanding additions to our staff. Logen joins us after 8 years teaching Kindergarten on the Lummi Reservation and in Seattle Public Schools. She was actually a grade-level partner of Mr. Thomas before he came Brookside three years ago. She is very excited to join our staff and noted to me there's nothing quite like the transformation that Kinders undergo, and she can't wait to watch another year of magic unfold. Logen grew up in Bellingham and completed her teaching coursework at Western Washington University. When she's not in the classroom, Logen is most often found chasing and cuddling her 1½ year-old son.

Chelsie Schlauderaff

Our upper-grade team will also be getting a great addition with Chelsie Schlauderaff teaching 6th grade in the coming year. Chelsie spent the past seven years teaching multiple grades in Olympia and Shelton. She received her Bachelor's degree in education from Central Washington University and then her Master's from Walden University. She absolutely loves teaching and is thrilled to join our staff. When she's not teaching, Chelsie enjoys traveling with her husband, riding & showing her horse, and spending time with family.

Thank you all so much for the ongoing support you provide your children, our staff, and school. We hope that your summer is filled with a good measure of adventurous fun & relaxed downtime.

See You in the Fall!
John Simard
Principal