

Sunny Hollow Montessori

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES 2011-2012

Lannette's Children's House

Lannette Peterson, Primary Guide:

Lannette earned her AMI certificate in May 2007 from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. She has been involved in the Sunny Hollow Community since 1997 as a parent, board member and classroom assistant. Lannette and her husband, Richard Gapinski, share a family life with their two children, LilyAnn (age 15) and Rudy (age 11). Lannette also enjoys sports, gardening, music and art.

Brooke Young, Assistant

Brooke joins Sunny Hollow this year as an Assistant in the Children's House working with Lannette Peterson. Brooke grew up in a small town just north of Brainerd, MN. She received an Associate in Arts degree from Central Lakes College and an AMI primary diploma from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota in May, 2011. Brooke lives in Mendota Heights with her husband and their two dogs. She enjoys spending time with her family, being outdoors, and cooking.

Katie's Children's House

Katie London, Primary Guide:

Katie is entering her fifth year with Children's House 3 and her first year as a head guide. Katie received her AMI Montessori diploma (primary level) from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota in 2005. Her hobbies include arts and crafts and enjoying lakes throughout Minnesota. She lives in St. Paul with her husband, Jeff, their dog, Rooster and their cat, Bill.

Mary Jacobson, Assistant:

After volunteering as a Sunny Hollow substitute, completing two years as a part-time Aide in Children's House, spending time in the Extended Day program and at Summer Camp, Mary now joins the Sunny Hollow family as a full-time Assistant in the classroom. This summer, Mary completed the Montessori Assistant training course at the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota under the guidance of Molly O'Shaughnessy. Mary has a BS in Textiles & Clothing, and is a certified Elfa closet designer. She finds joy in growing gardens, reading anything and everything, cooking for Clean Eating, creating beautiful spaces, knitting, music and travel. Mary and her husband Eric have supported the Sunny Hollow community in various capacities since 2006, when their son Joey started in the Children's House. (He's now a Third-Year student in Elementary West) The Jacobson family dwells in Saint Paul with their cat George and new kitten Ash-kit.

Gina Murray, Primary Guide (On Leave):

Gina is spending her tenth year at Sunny Hollow on a leave of absence in order to prepare and care for her new baby (due the middle of this October). Although she won't be in the classroom this year, she is a life-long believer in Montessori education. She was born in Milwaukee, WI where she completed the first seven years of her own education at Edward A. Mac Dowell Montessori School. Gina later moved to Saint Paul, and received her degree in English Literature from Saint Catherine's University, and her AMI Montessori diploma (primary level) from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. Gina currently lives in St. Paul with her husband, Britten, their (soon -to-be) new baby, and their beagle, Milo. Together, they enjoy spending their free time camping and traveling. Gina also enjoys running, reading and studying Italian.

Jennifer's Children's House**Jennifer Skaptason, Primary Guide:**

Jennifer Skaptason, Montessori guide Jennifer Skaptason is looking forward to her seventeenth year as a Montessori guide at Sunny Hollow. She earned her Association Montessori Internationale diploma in 1991 at the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota under the guidance of Chulanganee Fernando and Molly O'Shaughnessy. When not at Sunny Hollow, Jennifer can be found flying on a trapeze, climbing bluffs in Red Wing, walking around the neighborhood with TJ (her Sun Conure), reading and replenishing her spirit by jumping into the Temperance River each summer up on the North Shore.

Christy Love, Assistant:

Christy is excited to be starting her seventh year at Sunny Hollow and her seventeenth year as a Montessori teacher. She has a BA in History and her AMI certification from the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota (1995). Christy and her husband Rick have a son, Forrest (age 10 and a graduate of CH4). In her spare time, Christy enjoys walking, reading, gardening, yoga and camping.

Elementary West**Joe Hayes, Elementary Guide:**

Joe began his adventure in Montessori education several years ago when he took a job as a Children's House assistant, not fully knowing what to expect. This experience turned out to be joyful and rewarding, inspiring him to dive further into the Montessori Method. This summer, Joe completed the second of three summers of Elementary Teacher Training program through the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. Before working with young children, Joe worked extensively with teenagers guiding wilderness trips in the Boundary Waters and Canada with YMCA Camp Menogyn. He is also enthusiastic about old-time American music and dance. He is a member of the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers, a local Appalachian clogging group, and he is steadily working on his old-time fiddle, banjo and guitar playing—all things he loves to share with children! Joe is wholeheartedly excited to be returning to Sunny Hollow this fall as an Elementary Guide.

Catherine Brown, Assistant:

Catherine is delighted to begin her first year as a classroom assistant in Elementary West. She has a life-long enthusiasm for Montessori education, which began in high school when she was able to work as a classroom assistant after her own studies. Later, Catherine majored in Microbiology and Ecology at the University of Minnesota, but quickly discovered that her passions lie in sharing this knowledge and process of discovery with children. She then enrolled in the AMS training at the College of St. Catherine, where she completed the Montessori primary studies program. After completing her studies, Catherine moved to the deserts of Arizona where her daughter Sibel was born in 2008. Last January, Catherine returned to Minnesota with her family, and her daughter soon began her own adventure in Montessori education in Children's House 2. Both Catherine and Sibel are looking forward to beginning the 2011-2012 school year at Sunny Hollow Montessori.

Elementary East**Shanna Brown, Elementary Guide:**

Shanna Brown is excited to begin her tenth year at Sunny Hollow and her fifth year as a guide in the Elementary Program. Shanna completed her elementary training at the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota in 2009 and is also a graduate of Macalester College with a degree in anthropology and gender studies. In her free time, Shanna loves to walk in the woods, sleep outdoors, take photographs, and read as many old-fashioned mysteries as she can. Her "partners in crime" include her husband, Kyle, and her lovable boxer, Dagwood.

Gillett Cole, Elementary Guide:

Gillett is excited to return Sunny Hollow Montessori as a guide in the Elementary classroom. He has been a member of the Sunny Hollow community since 2003 when his oldest daughter, Libby, joined Children's House 4. He has served in many capacities at the school, including chair of the Great Gala and Board Trustee and Chairman. This summer, Gillett completed the second of three summers of the AMI Elementary Training at the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota, and will have his AMI diploma in the summer of 2012. Gillett enjoys the outdoors. He loves to sail, rock climb and go camping. He lives in St. Paul with his wife Lynne and two daughters Libby and Katharine.

Additional Support Staff**Beckie Shoberg, Classroom Aide and Extended Day Program:**

Beckie joined Sunny Hollow Montessori in early 2002 and brought with her over 18 years of experience working with children. She has two daughters and two grandchildren. She works as a float staff member and manages the after-school and summer programs. She loves to read, sew and go to the cabin.

Tammy Clemens, Classroom Aide:

Tammy has been with Sunny Hollow since 2005, working in the summer camp program, and on the float staff as a classroom aide. She has recently completed the AMI assistant training program at MTCM. Tammy is married to her husband Tom and has two children, Chad -23 and Ashley-21. She enjoys the outdoors, cooking, crafts, and traveling.

David Shubat, Classroom Aide

This is David's fourth year at Sunny Hollow Montessori. He started his Montessori career in 2007 with Mississippi Valley Montessori in West St. Paul, working as an assistant in Children's House, and also participating in after school care and the summer program. In June 2008, he completed the assistant training course with the Montessori Training Center of Minnesota. David's interests include photography, skiing, and getting out in nature regularly with his German shepherd, Maya.

Administrative Staff**Renee Campion, Head of School:**

Renee is very excited to be start her 5th year at Sunny Hollow as the Head of School. This summer, Renee completed her second year of the three year AMI Elementary Montessori training course. Renee has been involved in the Sunny Hollow community as a parent, a Board member and a staff member since 2003. She holds a Masters of Business Administration concentrating in nonprofit and public management from Boston University, and has also worked in the nonprofit and public sector on health care programs serving children. Renee and her husband David Walsh have two children, Claire (age 13) and Cam (age 12, a CH3 graduate).

Ashley Kaiser, School Administrator:

Ashley is looking forward to beginning her second year as School Administrator at Sunny Hollow Montessori. After working in corporate management positions, Ashley thoroughly enjoys being in a school environment; both talking with parents, and (especially) having long conversations with children. Ashley moved to Minnesota in 2006 after completing her B.S. in Social Science from Kansas State University. In her free time, she enjoys playing disc golf, reading, long walks with her puggle Jade, and home improvement projects with her boyfriend Andrew.

Amy Sutter, Director of Marketing and Development:

Amy has been a part of the Sunny Hollow community for seven years; first as a parent, then as the school's Business Manager and now as the Director of Marketing and Development. Amy is moved by the spirit of giving and service that she sees in both the classroom among children, as well as by Sunny Hollow parents. She has a BA in Psychology from St. Olaf and an MA in Integral Health Education. Amy has extensive work experience with children's program development in the non-profit sector, including grant writing, program management and staff training. Amy and her husband Chris Kehew have two children, Marley (age 11) and Elena (age 8). When she's not at Sunny Hollow, she spends time at her family cabin, loves traveling, cooking, eating and watching her girls fly through the air at the circus.

Gina McDonald, Bookkeeper:

Gina joined Sunny Hollow Montessori in June 2011. She has over 20 years experience in accounting and office management. Gina volunteers for her community sports association as treasurer and is moving into the executive director elect position. She lives in Champlin with her husband and three teenage children. Gina enjoys reading, exercising and gardening.