

Groton Community School

Staff Members

2016- 2017

Administration:



Linda Kosinski **GCS Director**

MA Leadership, BS Elementary Education, AA Early Childhood Education

With GCS since 1985

Non-voting GCS Trustee and Member of Board of Directors, Past GCS Parent

In my years at GCS, I have taught Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and served as Assistant and now school Director. I truly believe in the school's philosophy and embrace meeting the need for good early childhood programming that should be available to families and young children. I appreciate the talent and caliber of GCS teaching staff, feel privileged that my children were able to attend, and proud to be part of the GCS community.



Lisa Stafford **GCS Assistant Director, My Grown-up and Me Instructor**

MA Philosophy, BS Computer Science, Math & Philosophy, Bachelor's Equivalence ECE

With GCS since 1995

Non-voting GCS Trustee and Member of Board of Directors, Past GCS Parent

I felt "at home" from my very first experience as a GCS parent, and I started teaching at GCS the following year. My daughter is a now teacher on her own, and I am still working where she attended Preschool and Kindergarten! Groton Community School takes its middle name seriously, and I enjoy being a part of a dedicated, loyal, and caring community that continues to impact the lives of so many children and families! Outside of GCS, I enjoy walking, kayaking, Zumba and African drumming.



Terri Martin **Full Day Coordinator, Summer Camp Director,** **Head Teacher Extended Day**

BS Early Childhood Education

With GCS since 1995

Non-voting Member of Board of Directors

Groton Community School is "my happy place." Teaching is my passion...it is what I am meant to do. I live with my husband and our two wonderful dogs, Hondo and Shiloh.



Bonnie Stanton **Registrar**

Katherine Gibbs Graduate

With GCS since 1996

Past GCS Parent

I have enjoyed being the GCS Registrar for 20 years & counting! My introduction to GCS was in 1991 as a parent. On my daughter's last day of preschool, I left tearfully saying that someday I'd be back...My son and daughter have moved on long ago, but here I am years later! I love spending time with family & friends and especially enjoy my "lake time".

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Lorrie Morgan **Bookkeeper, and Substitute Teacher**

BA Accounting

With GCS since 2005

Past GCS Board of Directors and Learning Express Board Member, Past GCS Parent

I am committed to my family, the community, and to seeing that Groton Community School remains the successful school that it is. GCS is a great place to be involved with, and its extraordinary dedication to children and families keeps me involved.

Teaching Staff:



Lindsay Alling **Pre-Kindergarten Teacher**

BS Elementary Education & American Studies

With GCS since 2012

I am thoroughly enjoying my work as Pre-K Teacher and Camp Kaleidoscope Head Counselor. When I was younger, I knew that teaching was what I was meant to do in life, and GCS is the perfect place to explore my passion to do so. Outside of school, I enjoy photography, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Ruth Bruneau **TTh Yellow Room Head Teacher**

BA Humanities, Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching

With GCS 2004-2005 and since 2016

Groton Community School is the essence of what early childhood should be – child-centered. Our school has a passion for education which is unmatched throughout the USA. I am the mother of two wonderful boys, who bring joy to my life each and every day.



Chris Doherty **Kindergarten Assistant Teacher, Floating Substitute**

BS Early Childhood Education

With GCS since 2002

I am proud to be a part of this wonderful educational community, with outstanding, compassionate, and dedicated staff, in a friendly and nurturing school. At GCS, people share my passion for educating young children by treating them as valued, unique individuals, and providing fun, meaningful experiences in a supportive learning environment. Outside of GCS, above all, I put family first! My husband and I are proud parents of three amazing (adult) children, with whom we do many activities together, including hiking with our dogs, camping, canoeing, fixing up an old farmhouse, gardening, and just enjoying nature in all its beauty. I am also Assistant Director of the Townsend Summer Recreation Program because I thoroughly enjoy working with kids and celebrating each of them!

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Rebekka Ericson
Kindergarten and Extended Day Head Teacher,
Summer Camp Assistant Director

*MA Early Childhood Education, BS Art Education
With GCS since 2012*

I have enjoyed working with children of all ages in my years as an Early Childhood Educator. In addition to teaching Kindergarten, I look forward to my afternoons in the multi-age Extended Day Program, and summer time adventures in Camp Kaleidoscope, as well. I wanted to become a staff member at Groton Community School because I believe in the school's educational philosophy of teaching the whole child through play. I earned a Bachelor's Degree from Towson University in Art Education and a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Boston University.



Jennie Fitzkee
Full Day Program Head Teacher

*AA Kindergarten Education
With GCS since 1984
Past GCS Parent*

I have been teaching children at GCS for many wonderful years, with passion, excitement, and love. Making a difference in the lives of young children through play, reading aloud, art, music, and literacy is the greatest of accomplishments, and all I have ever wanted to do. I am a writer, looking at all that happens with young children, and putting those moments into stories so that others can both learn and enjoy.



Tracy Gerner
Yellow Room Assistant Teacher

*BA Psychology with Elementary Education Certification
With GCS 2008-2011 & since 2013*

I absolutely enjoy working at GCS, a school that is well run and organized, offers quality care and education for the children, and has dedicated and talented staff. I have worked as a Substitute, Floating Substitute, Assistant, and Teacher throughout the years at GCS. Outside of school, I enjoy going out and spending time with my family and friends.



Shelley Grove
Blue Room and Toddler Class Head Teacher

*BS Recreation, Bachelor's Equivalence Early Childhood Education
With GCS since 1996
Past GCS Parent*

All three of my sons attended GCS, and when my youngest began attending in 1996, I joined the staff as a Substitute Teacher, became an Assistant the next school year, and became a Head Teacher in 2009. I wanted to be a part of the GCS "family" that helped nurture and inspire learning in my sons, and I want to share my own passions to inspire children to learn about their world. I love all things "nature", and teaching children to follow their sense of wonder, be kind to others and grow in a happy environment.

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Patty Hammond **Blue Room and Extended Day Assistant Teacher**

*Preschool Lead Teacher Certification
With GCS since 2003*

While my home base is currently in both the Blue and Big Rooms, I was also an Aqua Room Assistant, and have spent time in all of the classrooms as a Floating Substitute. I love Groton Community School's philosophy, warm welcoming environment, and how our school makes you want to be a better you! I take the kindness that we teach children with me throughout my daily life.



Sandy Irvin **Pre-Kindergarten Head Teacher**

*BS Early Childhood Education
With GCS since 2006*

After owning my own school in Leominster for 16 years, I was more interested in the teaching aspect rather than administration, and have been a GCS Pre-K teacher ever since. I thoroughly enjoy the people I work with at Groton Community School. Outside of school, family means everything to me, and we all spend a lot of time together. I especially love being a grandmother. The beach is my "little piece of heaven!"



Noreen Keras **PM Pink Room and Toddler Assistant Teacher, Floating Sub**

*BS Hotel Restaurant Management
With GCS since 2000
Past GCS Board President and Learning Express Board Member, Past GCS Parent*

I started at GCS in 1989 as a parent, and all of my had four children attended. I have seen the school through many lenses since that time, serving as a member of the School and Learning Express Boards as well as in the capacity of a staff member. I love having the opportunity to help foster a love of exploration in children during their earliest years in the warm and caring environment created by the incredibly dedicated staff, along with the supportive families of GCS. I am a family oriented person who gets her inspiration through reading, travel, music and the beach.



Naomi Lynch **Full Day Program Assistant Teacher**

*AS Child Study
With GCS since 2012*

GCS is a loving and welcoming school, which is evident through staff interactions with children and parents. I love working in a supportive environment that values education and family. Outside of GCS I enjoy spending time with family, friends and my Golden Retriever Finley (Finn).

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Heidi May **Full Day Program Teacher**

*MS Counseling, BS Psychology
With GCS since 2016*

GCS has made me feel part of a warm family and community. I am happy to be here and love working with each staff member. I wanted to become a teacher at GCS because I enjoy working with children and have felt welcomed ever since I walked through the door. It truly is a wonderful place to be. The stories about greatness are true! I am a dog mom to Nora, a black lab, and hope to train her to be a therapy dog with kids.



Inga Nuccio **Head Teacher** **PM Pink Room Classes**

*BS Music Education, BS Equivalence Early Childhood Education
With GCS since 2005*

I am a teacher who enjoys exploring with, encouraging, and sharing the natural world with children and families at Groton Community School. I am inspired by the world around us (through my walks in the woods with my two dogs and passion for kayaking local rivers). I wanted to be a part of the GCS community as I appreciate their philosophy and dedication to interacting with each child as a unique individual, and the opportunity to work together with an amazing group of staff to achieve the best for each child and their family. I am passionate about opportunities to support whole body and brain wellness and learning.



Deb Penney **MWF Yellow Room Head Teacher**

*BA Human Development, AS Computer Programming
With GCS since 2000*

GCS is like a second family and I am so lucky to work with such talented and caring teachers! After owning a family daycare for years, I made the move to first job in the teaching world at GCS, and I have never wanted to leave because of the quality of care and philosophy of the school. I love spending time with my family and am very involved in my grandchildren's lives.



Sarah Soto **Assistant Teacher** **Extended Day Program**

*AS in Early Childhood Education
With GCS since 2016*

As an Assistant Teacher in the Big Room, I have the pleasure of spending each afternoon playing and learning with a great group of children and teachers. Teaching at GCS is perfect for me, as the philosophy aligns with my own views on teaching young children. I am an Early Childhood Education Board Member at Mount Wachusett Community College, where I have the opportunity to shape the curriculum for future Early Education teachers.

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Katy Sutton-Brown

Full Day Program Assistant Teacher, Floating Substitute

AS Early Childhood Education

With GCS since 2011

GCS is a wonderful place to raise a child and to work! I enjoy the fun, active, engaging, and nurturing environment and our wonderful, caring staff and community. I love the great outdoors and enjoy sharing nature experiences with others.



Lorelei (Lori) Svoboda

MWF PM Pink Room Assistant Teacher, Floating Substitute

BA English

With GCS since 2016

I have enjoyed my work with a variety of ages of children in both professional and volunteer capacities in schools, churches, and community groups. I am delighted to be a part of the GCS family. It is a wonderful, close knit community school that fosters a love of learning. I am a mother of three children and enjoy spending time watching my son play hockey and my daughters compete on local swim teams.

Consultants:



Patty Barr

Creative Movement Instructor

With GCS since 1997

I am an active person and feel sharing the value of exercise and movement with others makes everyone healthy and happier. I love sharing my passion with GCS as Director of Imagimotion Kidz. All children are born with a creative potential, but the critical years for stimulating and developing creativity are between the ages of three to five. Through movement, children have the opportunity to imagine, explore, discover, and maximize their potential.



Sarah Belcher, M.S., CCC-SLP

Speech and Language Development Consultant

With GCS since 2015

Board of Directors Vice President and Current GCS Parent

I live in Littleton with my husband, daughter (GCS alumna) and son (who currently attends). Groton Community School is a "home away from home" for my children, so it was important to me that I become more involved in the GCS community by joining the Board of Directors. Before my current role, I served as Fundraising Co-Chair. I enjoy helping children and their families through my professional work as a private Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist, and also as a Speech and Language Development Consultant at the school.

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Susan H. Lizotte, MS, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy Consultant

With GCS since 1998

Past GCS Parent



Katy Noise
Kindergarten Class French Instructor

With GCS since 2013