

Staff Bios

2011 - 2012

Beth Aparicio

Beth will begin her eighth year at NPNS. Beth is teaching in our Pre-K Program and is also our Educational Coordinator. Beth earned her Masters of Education at Columbia University and her Bachelor of Arts from Amherst College. Beth has worked with children of varying ages, including middle school, elementary school, and preschool. Prior to teaching, Beth worked as the Manager of Corporate Communications and Public Relations at Cadbury Beverages.

Patty Baggaley

In June 2010 Patty retired from 31 years of teaching at NPNS. She taught 2's, 4's and for many years was the Assistant Director of NPNS. She also taught 2nd, 5th, and 6th grades in elementary school. Patty received her BA from California State University at Long Beach and did her graduate work in education there as well as New York University. She also received certification by the State of CT to become a Designated Head Teacher for Child Day Care Centers in the State of CT. In 2010 Patty returned to NPNS as a floater supporting the teaching staff in many of the classrooms.

Betty Davila

Betty will begin her tenth year at NPNS and continues to work fulltime as a morning and afternoon 4's co-teacher along with Susanne Frank. Betty has her M.S. in Education N-6 specializing in Early Childhood Education from St. Johns University, NY. She also has fifteen years experience working in the field in both Regular and Special Ed. classrooms with children of all needs and capacities. Betty was born and raised in Stamford, CT., but is very proud of her Ecuadorian descent and is fluent in Spanish.

Ann Dickson

Ann is beginning her sixth year as a teacher at NPNS. This year she will be teaching a morning four year old class with Jen Laird. Ann received an M.S. in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College and a B.A. in English Literature from Wheaton. Ann's teaching experience also includes third, fourth and fifth graders. Ann and her husband live in Darien and are the parents of two boys.

Martha Duff

This is Martha's second year as the new Director at NPNS. Before becoming the Director she was the Assistant Director for five years. She had previously taught the 2's and 4's at NPNS and taught for 15 years in Atlanta and Nashville. Martha has a B.S. degree in Child Psychology from the University of Alabama. She taught and administered testing at the University's Preschool and taught teenagers at Bryce Mental Hospital. Martha and her husband Gill have 4 children and live in Darien. Martha is an active member of NPC.

Cynthia Dunn

Cynthia is looking forward to teaching the 2-day, 3-day and 4-day 3's program with Sarah Grant. She has worked at NPNS as an Extended Day and substitute teacher for two and a half years. Cynthia received her BA in English from Skidmore College. She is currently studying Early Childhood Education at Norwalk Community College and will complete her CDA this year. Cynthia has experience in teaching children of many ages through programs and camps at The Audubon Center in Greenwich, Darien Environmental Group, Back Yard Beekeepers Association and the Girls Scouts. Cynthia lives in Darien with her husband and has a grown daughter who attended Darien schools.

Susanne Frank

Susanne is looking forward to her seventh year at NPNS. She is a full-time teacher in our AM and PM 4's Program. She has been teaching for 25 years both in Germany and the United States. Susanne received her diploma in Early Childhood Education in Germany. In addition, she also received her CDA from Norwalk Community College. Susanne was the Director of the Nursery School at the German School in New York for five years. She is a licensed Rhythmic Teacher and currently the CE Director at First Church of Round Hill in Greenwich.

Sarah Grant

Sarah Grant is looking forward to her eleventh year at NPNS. She will be teaching the morning and afternoon 3's. Sarah is originally from Wales where she graduated from Cardiff College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. In Cardiff she was head of a day care program with children from birth to 5 years. Sarah has taught Sunday school and also volunteers for Younglives mentoring young girls and their babies.

Irini S. Gkiaourakis

Irini is looking forward to teaching in our AM 4's class this year. Irini was a former NPNS 3's assistant teacher and worked with Sarah Grant for 2 years in our 3's Program. She has her Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and her CDA. She's married and had a baby girl, who is now 3 years old, and she is ready to come back and teach. In her spare time Irini likes to spend as much time with her daughter, Elisavet (Ellie) as possible.

Jessica Hoyt

This is Jessica's third year assisting the teachers as a Floater. She has had three children attend NPNS. Jessica graduated with a BSIT in Graphic Design from CCSU in New Britain, CT. She was on the board for three years and one year served as our Board Chair. She is thrilled to be working with all the children in the school.

Lou Ann Hyder

Lou Ann and her husband Quentin have lived in Darien for 35 years. They have three children, two of whom graduated from NPNS. Lou Ann teaches two of NPNS's morning 3's classes. She graduated from Columbia University with a BS degree in Occupational Therapy and enjoyed classes in Early Childhood Education at Norwalk Community College. This is her 29th year teaching at NPNS.

Kati Iljushkin-Numa

Kati is happy to be back at NPNS and teaching in our two's classroom again. Kati is from Estonia and came to the United States 13 years ago. Here she earned a Bachelor's degree in General Studies from UConn and her Certificate in Early Childhood Education from NCC. Kati lives in Norwalk with her husband, stepdaughter, two cats, chinchilla and fishes. Kati loves to travel, take road trips with friends and runs with her husband. In the last six months she completed a half-marathon and two 5K races.

Yasmin King

This is Yasmin's ninth year at NPNS teaching our Two's Program. Yasmin is a native of England and attended teacher training college in London, England. She recently received her CDA from NCC. Yasmin is married with two sons, Jayden 7 and Malik 10. Yasmin enjoys working out at the gym, gardening, traveling and reading.

Jennifer Laird

Jen is looking forward to teaching the 5-day 4s again this year. This is her fifth year teaching at NPNS where she has previously taught the 3's, pre-k and extended day. Jen has two kids ages 7 and 10, both graduates of NPNS. As a member of Noroton Presbyterian, Jen taught Sunday school for four years. Before having children, Jen taught kindergarten and third grade at The Town School for Boys in San Francisco. She has a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from Cornell University.

Anne Lundberg

Anne is returning to NPNS and will be spending time in many of the classrooms this year supporting the teaching staff. In previous years, Anne worked in the 4's, 3's 2's and Extended Day Programs and subbed whenever needed. Anne attended Norwalk Community College where she took Early Childhood classes. This will be Anne's 16th year at NPNS.

Barbara Magee

This is Barbara's fifth year at NPNS and she will be in the Nursery School office full time again this year as Office Manager. In recent years Barbara has worked at NPNS in the office and has supported the teaching staff as well as being an assistant teacher at another Preschool in Darien. Barbara graduated from Katharine Gibbs Business School. Before working in Darien, she was an Executive Assistant for Playtex Apparel in Stamford for 13 years. Barbara lives in Darien with her husband and two sons.

Nancy McLaughlin

This is Nancy's 6th year at NPNS. Nancy lives in Darien and is the mother of 4 grown children. In addition to her CDA, Nancy also has a nursing degree from Boston College and will be helping out in the classrooms and is also our school nurse!

Laura Palmer

This is Laura's second year at NPNS as a part-time Floater assisting our teachers. She and her husband Steve moved to Darien 19 years ago, and are the parents of three children. Laura helped organize enrichment and education programs in the elementary school, taught religious education classes, and raised funds for rare cancer research. Her corporate experience includes sales, marketing and training positions in the banking and computer industries. Laura earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University Of Notre Dame, and a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University.

Ewa Pasciak

Ewa is teaching the five-day Pre-K class, she is in her eleventh year at NPNS. She grew up in Rzeszow in Poland. She graduated from Teacher's Training College in Rzeszow and received a Teaching Certificate with a specialty in early childhood education. Shortly after she moved to Cracow and then graduated from Jagiellonian University, department of English Philology, receiving Bachelor's degree in teaching. In Poland she had four years experience as an elementary school teacher and a child care center teacher. In 1997 she came to the USA and moved to Stamford. She also graduated from UConn with Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Services. Ewa and her husband currently live in Stamford and have two teenage daughters.

Kathy Pasquarella

This will be Kathy's tenth year as a teacher here at NPNS and her 9th as a 4's AM teacher and her first year working in the PM 4's too. She is looking forward to another great year at NPNS. Kathy has a degree from Iona College in Communication Arts and has received her CDA in Early Childhood Education from Norwalk Community College.

Kalie Riordan

Kalie is looking forward to her fourth year at NPNS and will be teaching in the 5 day 4's morning and afternoon programs. In previous years Kalie has worked with the 3's. She is a mother of two children, a 6th grader and a 2nd grader. Kalie has her teaching certification in Early Childhood Education, and a B.A. in Studio Art and Visual Communication Arts.

Meg Thilmany

Meg is joining us for her third year at NPNS and will be working in the AM 4's this year with Miss Kalie. Meg received her BA from Rosemont College in PA. She is the mother of two children, one in high school and the other in middle school. She was both Cub Scout leader and a Girl Scout leader and remains very active in the scouting community. Meg is also on the Board of the Darien Historical Society where she chairs the Education and children's Events Committee. Pryor to moving to Darien Meg was employed by Conde Nast Magazines as a Living Styles Editor in NYC.

Angela Vitale

Angela is teaching the morning 3's with LouAnn Hyder, this is her second year at NPNS. Before joining NPNS, she taught gymnastics to 2, 3 & 4 year olds at The Little Gym and was a substitute teacher at Pear Tree Point School for PreK - Grade 5. She has a B.S. degree in Elementary Education from LIU/CWPost. Angela lives in Darien with her husband and son and their spoiled dog. She also has two daughters, and twin granddaughters who recently turned 2. She loves being a grandmother, enjoys spending time with her family, and enjoys yoga and kickboxing.

Raquel Welsh

This is Raquel's second year at NPNS working in the Pre-K Class. She received her undergraduate degree from Southern Wesleyan University. Her studies focused on classroom management and curriculum development for Christian education. She received her Bachelor's Degree in religious education. She is currently working towards her Masters in Health Education at University of Bridgeport. This program allows her to study gross motor skill development and better help children with coordination. She has worked with all ages in many different capacities. Recently, she taught Pre-K, Kindergarten, and second grade at Pear Tree Point School, in Darien. She has developed a program through sports and play that helps improve children's fine and gross motor skills. She has a variety of experience in teaching children from school, camp, and sports. She also coached for the past three years at Darien High School as a cross country, basketball, and track coach. Her passion for learning stems from watching children develop, and celebrating their success in all areas of life.