

# Olympia Waldorf School Faculty

## **Tim Morrissey, Dean of Education and Eighth Grade Teacher**

Mr. Morrissey grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, loving numbers, caddying at the local golf course, and mowing lawns. After high school, he earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University then later went to M.I.T. for an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering. After working as a Software Engineer, an Environmental Consultant and a Hazardous Waste Specialist, he decided to take on the down-to-earth challenges of organic farming as he started Coyote Creek Farm, a small diversified community farm just south of Olympia. During this time, the search for quality education for his three sons led him to Olympia Waldorf School, and not much later he began teaching a few periods a week of Gardening, then Math, before becoming a class teacher in 2005. He completed his Waldorf Teacher Training in June 2007 through Sound Circle Center in Seattle. Mr. Morrissey still finds a little time to garden and ride his bike, but especially loves playing with his children and doing long math problems in his head.

*“I have tremendous gratitude for the wonderful educational opportunities I have had in my life, but as wonderful as they were, there were big pieces missing. I have only recently, through my training and my work as a Waldorf teacher, begun to unlock and develop my artistic and creative capacities. I am learning along with my students and finding that we bring incredible things out of one another!”*

## **Martin Lee, Third and Seventh Grade Teacher**

Mr. Lee began teaching at Olympia Waldorf School as the movement and games teacher. During this time, he began his teacher training at Antioch New England Graduate School. He received his Masters in Education and Waldorf Certificate in 2004. Mr. Lee also completed a five-year training in Spacial Dynamics and believes this training is an integral part of his teaching. His love of children and playful, yet disciplined, approach to learning make a great combination.

*“My path to Waldorf Education has been one of wonder and awe. I feel truly blessed to have been guided to this place. The opportunity to teach from the depths of one's soul is truly one of the greatest gifts one can receive. I am honored and humbled by this opportunity.”*

## **Keenan Hand, Sixth Grade Teacher**

Keenan Hand recently completed three years of study including Waldorf Teacher Training at Emerson College in England. He holds a Bachelors Degree of Fine Art with an emphasis in Art Education from Humboldt State University in California. One year of study was abroad in the Accademia di Belle Arti, in Florence, Italy. After university, he

spent a gap year of full time volunteer work with homeless people in Galway, Ireland. During the summer months, Keenan has enjoyed working on trails in National Parks such as Yosemite and Glacier National Park.

“My hope is that educating with a deep sense of purpose can plant the seeds of positive change.”

## **Robin Melcher, Fifth Grade Teacher**

Ms. Melcher was aware at a very early age that education was her chosen path. She spent hours as a child playing school with her younger sister and her friends. The artistic and spiritual nature of the Waldorf schools led her to the Eugene Waldorf Teacher Training after she had received her B.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon. Through her studies in Eugene, she has developed and strengthened her relationships with the arts, with community, with the inner life of the child, and with Anthroposophy that now lead the way on her journey with her class at the Olympia Waldorf School.

*“I am still a child at heart. Therefore, it is a privilege to spend everyday with these amazing children and bring to them the gifts of art and learning, while they bring to me the same. In my life, I could not imagine anything to be more rewarding.”*

## **Ed Glidden, Fourth Grade Teacher**

The search for the best education for his own child brought Mr. Glidden to Waldorf education in 1998. He fell in love with the warm, gentle holding of the kindergarten and continues to be moved by the unfolding curriculum. He studied the History of the Americas at The Evergreen State College, received his teaching credentials from Saint Martin's College, and graduated from the Waldorf Teacher Training program at Sound Circle Center in Seattle. He also teaches woodworking.

*“I find Waldorf education to be the perfect balance between the challenge of the intellect, the emotional movement of the heart, the development of the soul, and the practical work of the hands. Teachers in a Waldorf school have a similar experience of expansion of the soul, intellect, heart, and mastery of the arts.”*

## **Kolea Quincey, Second and Third Grade Teacher**

Kolea Quincey is new this year to Olympia Waldorf School and to Washington. She has spent the last 22 years on the island of Hawaii. Kolea spent those years teaching in Waldorf schools, Public Charter Schools, and other private schools, both as a class teacher and music teacher. She spent many summers in Alaska and loves the raw, natural world of the Pacific Northwest. Outside of school, she enjoys playing several

instruments, gardening, and creating mosaics. She is looking forward to hiking and spending time with her three grown children and nine-year-old grandson who live in Everett.

*"I am so fortunate to have discovered a profession that allows me to have my livelihood and my spiritual path as one. I get to paint, sing, draw, dance and be with beautiful children everyday!"*

## **Brianna Kaiser, First Grade Teacher**

Brianna Kaiser, First Grade Teacher, holds a B.A. from Fort Lewis College in Business Management, with a minor in Art and she has graduated from the Waldorf Teacher Training Program in Eugene, Oregon. Brianna has taught Title I and as Education Coordinator, ran the educational program at the Boys and Girls Club of Emerald Valley. She brings a strong background and understanding in Child Development and Art and is enthusiastic about the child's educational experience.

*"Through purpose and intention we engage the child's hands, heart and head. As the child is the heart of our work, we are striving for intellectual freedom."*

## **Patricia Cairns, Kindergarten Teacher, Spindlewood Classroom**

Patricia Cairns has been an Early Childhood educator for 18 years. After receiving her B.A. in English Literature with a teaching certificate in secondary education, Patricia discovered Waldorf Education and subsequently attended Emerson College in England for her Foundation Year and Education Course, specializing in Early Childhood Education. She has since taught kindergarten in Honolulu, Hawaii (her hometown), Germany, Oregon, Colorado, where she ran her own preschool for 10 years and most recently for a year in Hong Kong at a Waldorf Early Childhood Center. She joined the OWS kindergarten faculty in 2006. Additional highlights of her career have been two years of full-time eurythmy training in Switzerland; being an at-home mother for eight years with her now 26-year-old son, Jeremy; a sabbatical-year studying visual arts in England; teaching Kinderharp and recorder to children and adults; and teaching adults about Waldorf education and handwork to adults. Patricia loves working with young children and delights especially in gardening, puppetry and celebrating seasonal festivals with them through song, movement, the arts and handwork. Her personal interests are studying anthroposophy, gardening, eurythmy, lyre and recorder playing, and hiking in the Northwest.

*"I feel so blessed to spend my life working with children and their parents. To watch a child in my classroom develop capabilities, overcome challenges, and blossom is a never-ending joy."*

## **Susan Palmer, Kindergarten Teacher, Briar Rose Classroom**

Susan Palmer is proud to be Briar Rose Kindergarten teacher at Olympia Waldorf School. Susan was born in Olympia, Washington, and grew up in Alaska where she loved playing outside as a child, helped her parents build a cabin by the Kenai River as a teenager, and helped found a theatre company as an adult. Susan's loves include mothering, gardening, tending animals, writing poetry, and being with young children. Susan came to Waldorf education when her daughter was two years old, and longs to share the strength and values that an early exposure to Waldorf education can foster. Over the past four years she assisted in several nurseries and kindergartens, at Olympia Waldorf School, and at the Westside Waldorf School in Los Angeles. Previously she taught children's art classes at the Visual Arts Center of Alaska during her stint as assistant director. She later facilitated art and life skills experiences for adults with developmental disabilities, and worked with families of children with developmental disabilities at the Arc of Anchorage. Susan has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Art Institute and has begun graduate writing and early childhood education studies. She will complete her Early Childhood In-Service training at the Rudolf Steiner College this year. Susan brings a love of language, story, and puppetry to her work with young children.

*“My goal is to “hold the light” as I support the growth of "well-beingness" for each child and for the group as a whole. I am privileged to share the present moment with the children, whether it's a moment of play and laughter, or quiet concentration, or a learning moment fraught with emotion...I am honored to help them find their way, and I am delighted to encircle them with love and care.”*

## **Susanne Rogge, German Teacher**

Susanne has been teaching German since 1995 to all the grades. In teaching her native language, she integrates head, heart and hands in her learning experience. She likes to share her love for music, crafts, poems, and native food with her students.

*“In each language a special view of the world is contained. By learning a foreign language, we gain a new view of the world.”*

## **Candy Braillard, Apple Blossom Preschool Teacher and Extended Care Director**

Candy Braillard has been working with children for the entirety of her life. She began tutoring kindergarteners as a second grade student, then tutored students with special needs throughout junior and senior high school. At 18, she began working in daycare and has since worked with a number of educational philosophies. Candy majored in elementary education in college and completed a Foundation Year of Waldorf education training with Waldorf Master Teacher, Bill Bryant. Candy has been a member of the

Olympia Waldorf School community for more than 16 years and treasures her many memories of students she has worked with.

***“I believe in Waldorf education with my whole heart and look forward to providing a rich, nurturing environment for your little ones.”***