

Meet Our Care Group

The impulses to reach out to children with special learning modalities arose in the first Waldorf School and discussions about them were often held in the faculty meetings with Rudolf Steiner. A brief explanation of the situation was given and Steiner made insightful recommendations. Since that time, Waldorf schools continue to bring the needs of individual children into faculty meetings, often through a Care Group in the form of child study.

Like most Waldorf schools, our school has a Care Group comprised of teachers who voluntarily come together to carry the deeper aspects of education, growth, and well being of the students. Coming from diverse and rich backgrounds in education and life, this group brings a wealth of knowledge and heart forces, along with a desire for continued learning and self-development. This year's Care Group members include: Susan Eggers (Chair), Kristen Daley, Kyle Dunlap, Maureen Gold, and Sarah Kessler.

Our mission remains unchanged. The Care Group strives to be an organ of perception for the school in situations where children have extra developmental, behavioral, and/or academic needs. The group's intention is to serve as a resource for these children along with their parents and teachers. Weekly meetings are devoted to study, to deepen an understanding of child development, to discuss students who are having difficulty within the classroom setting, to stay abreast of different learning styles and methods, and to maintain our Waldorf-based education support program.

In addition to the study, the Care Group leads the child study process for the faculty, and reviews assessments of students in the First Grade Readiness and Second Grade Assessments.

The Care Group also develops a therapeutic network and offers the school community a list of Care Providers outside our school that work as occupational therapists, counselors, anthroposophic and homeopathic practitioners, osteopaths, optometrists, tutors, and more.

Contact mgold@princetonwaldorf.org to receive a copy.

Susan Eggers, Eurythmy and Chorus, Care Group Chair

Susan Eggers received her bachelor's degree in education from Valparaiso University in Indiana, and a master's degree in special education from Northeastern Illinois University. She has a diploma in eurythmy from Eurythmy Spring Valley and a certificate in pedagogical eurythmy and therapeutic eurythmy. Prior to working at the Waldorf School of Princeton, Ms. Eggers was a class teacher at the Four Winds Waldorf School in the suburbs of Chicago. Ms. Eggers's experience and training in special education helps her understand and meet children with a wide range of abilities. Ms. Eggers loves teaching, bringing her enthusiasm to the children in both chorus and eurythmy. Creating community, whether it be among children or parents, is a gift of hers.

Kristen Daley, Handwork

Kristen Daley received a bachelor of fine arts degree in fiber arts from Wayne State University in Michigan and completed the Waldorf foundation studies program in Detroit. Ms. Daley has been

teaching handwork at the Waldorf School of Princeton since 2005. In addition to teaching all grades, Ms. Daley is pleased to offer a parent handwork class once a week, and has enjoyed being a counselor at the school's summer camp program for the last five summers. Prior to coming to Princeton, she was a handwork assistant at the Detroit Waldorf School as well as the lead handwork teacher at the Oakland Steiner School in Rochester, Michigan. Being a handwork teacher is important work for Ms. Daley, as she observes and aids in the healthy development of her students through individual and group projects while providing a warm and efficacious work environment. She enjoys teaching and interacting with her students and being a conduit for their ever-developing creative abilities and work in the world.

Kyle Dunlap, Children's Garden teacher, Lilac Class

Kyle received her bachelor of fine arts degree in theatrical design from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and her certificate in Waldorf early childhood education from Sunbridge College in Chestnut Ridge, New York. Ms. Dunlap was the lead teacher at the Butterfly House, a mixed-age kindergarten program in North Carolina, from 2008 to 2011. Prior to becoming a Waldorf teacher, Ms. Dunlap lived and worked in Manhattan from 1999 until 2006, where she operated a fabric painting studio while continuing her education in the sculptural arts at the National Academy School.

Maureen Gold, Educational Support Coordinator

Previously, Maureen was a Special Education teacher in the South Brunswick School District and a Language/Math Specialist at the Cambridge School of Pennington. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and attended Oxford University. Also, she is a Certified Students with Disabilities teacher and trained in a variety of alternative teaching strategies such as Wilson Language®, Orton-Gillingham, Fountas and Pinnell Guided Reading Program, Lindamood-Bell™ LiPS®, and Visualizing and Verbalizing®, Seeing Stars®, On Cloud Nine®, Touch Math®, and Making Math Real™ programs. She enjoys the challenge of discovering the best ways and modalities to reach children with learning differences and adores working at the Waldorf School of Princeton.

Sarah Kessler, Children's Garden teacher, Sunflower Class

Sarah Kessler received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and her Waldorf certification from Mercy College in Detroit. Ms. Kessler has taught early childhood classes at the Princeton Waldorf School for more than 13 years. Ms. Kessler began teaching a mixed-age kindergarten at the school in 1987, and then took time off to be home with her three children. During that time, she was an educational consultant, setting up a Waldorf-inspired early childhood program for Kehilat Hanahar, a Jewish day school in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Ms. Kessler has been a member of the faculty development committee, evaluating, and mentoring teachers for the last four years. Ms. Kessler brings humor, insight, and creativity to her classroom.