

August 19, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the Kennedy-Longfellow School – the KLO!

At the KLO we challenge all students to become curious, active and engaged learners in a nurturing environment. For those of you who are already a part of the KLO community, you know that we are committed to creating a supportive environment in which the academic, social, emotional and overall wellbeing of our students come first. For those families who are new to the KLO we want to extend a very warm welcome! We know this is going to be a fun, engaging and productive year of learning, and that you will love the KLO community as much as our current students, families and staff already do.

This summer has flown by and it's hard to believe we are already in mid-August and preparing for the beginning of a new school year. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy all the wonderful things that summer brings – sunshine, barbeques, beaches, ice-cream, and much, much more. We are in full preparation mode getting ready to welcome in our new JK and K students on September 10 and to welcome back all of our students in grades 1-5 on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was a busy summer here at the KLO with staff hiring to complete, summer programming, building cleaning, and some building “beautification work.” We hope that you like some of the fresh and inviting new spaces at the KLO. At the end of last year, we had several staff members who retired and several others who moved out of state or moved to positions in other towns. You will notice many new faces at the KLO this year and we are thrilled to have them join our amazing community and team. Below is a brief overview of the new staff and/or staff changes.

1. I am thrilled to announce that **Ms. Karla Anderson**, our former 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, has been hired as our new building Math Coach. Ms. Anderson is a certified elementary teacher and has her certification for elementary math. She is thrilled to be moving into this new role and eager to work with all of our teachers and students.
2. I am also pleased to announce that we have hired **Ms. Lija Yang** as our new building Literacy Coach after the retirement of Ms. Meg Urquhart. Ms. Yang spent several years teaching in the Somerville Public schools and most recently has been working at Tufts University as an Educator-in-Residence, a Guest Lecturer, and an Intern Supervisor in their Master of Arts in Teaching STEM program.
3. Next year we are excited to welcome a new Literacy Interventionist, **Ms. Susan Pemsler**, here at the KLO. Ms. Pemsler earned her Master's Degree from Boston University and most recently worked as the Literacy Coach at the Haggerty School in Cambridge. She is excited for this change and to be working directly with children again.
4. **Ms. Megan Magoon** will be the new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher in room 203. Ms. Magoon holds a MA in Teaching from UMASS Boston and joins us after teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade for the past three years in the Revere Public Schools.

5. **Ms. Sarah Branz** will be the new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher in room 204. Ms. Branz earned her Master's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania and joins us after teaching at the Cambridgeport School last year. Ms. Branz also worked in the Boston Public Schools as a Program Coordinator for PlayWorks.
6. We are adding an additional 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Sheltered English Immersion classroom this fall and would like to welcome **Rebecca Groves** as the teacher of that class. Ms. Groves holds a Master's Degree from UMASS Boston and has spent several years teaching in Central and South America.
7. Our new school psychologist is **Ms. Erica Liu**. Ms. Liu holds a M.Ed. and an Ed.S from UMASS Boston and joins us after having worked last year as a School Psychologist in the Milford Public Schools.
8. We are also excited to welcome a new special educator, **Ms. Alysha Lindmark**. Ms. Lindmark earned a Master's Degree from The College of Saint Rose and joins us after having spent that past two years teaching the Broward County Public Schools in Florida.
9. **Ms. Beth Inconiglios** will be teaching our JK/K classroom as Ms. Freitas is on a yearlong leave of absence. Ms. Inconiglios earned her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Lesley University and has spent the past two years teaching Kindergarten in the Topsfield Public Schools.
10. We are adding an additional .5 School Social worker this year at the KLO. **Ms. Natalie Lang** joins us after working for the past 8 years as a School Adjustment Counselor in the Milton Public Schools. Ms. Lang is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and earned her Master of Social Work from Boston University. In addition to working here at the KLO, Ms. Lang will also be working .5 at the Morse School.
11. Our new Building Substitute is **Ms. Kim Cottens**. Ms. Cottens holds a Master's Degree in Education from Cambridge College and most recently worked as a Lead Teacher and Inclusion specialist for the Department of Human Services here in Cambridge.

As you can see, this is a long list of new staff that is joining the Kennedy-Longfellow, but we are excited to welcome them into our community and know that it's going to be an amazing 2015-2016 school year at the KLO!

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing all of our familiar faces along with those who are new to our school in early September.

Best Regards,  
Christine Gerber