



NEW STAFF 2012-2013

Michelle McGregor joins the McKenzie Office Team as one of the school secretaries. In the past she has worked as a unit secretary for a group of surgeons, and later worked for United Airlines as a Chief International Purser. She now resides in Northfield with her husband and her two children. In the summer you can find her either on the beach or on the softball field. She looks forward to joining the McKenzie family.

Jaime Goberville happily joins our team after 2 years of teaching in the Chicago Public Schools, and more recently, 5 years of Spanish teaching at Central School here in District 39. She is looking forward to collaborating with her McKenzie colleagues and soon getting to know her new students and their supportive families! Jaime received her BA in Spanish from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville where she also developed her devotion to whichever football team Peyton Manning chooses--Go Broncos! She went on to receive her M.Ed at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she further developed and combined her love of teaching with the Spanish language. When Jaime is not sharing her energy and enthusiasm for Spanish with her students, she enjoys reading, travelling, and listening to live music. But mostly, Jaime along with her husband, JT, love exploring and discovering the world through the almost-two-year-old eyes of their son, Brady. Jaime is looking forward to an enriching year at McKenzie!

Colin Wehman, our new Physical Education instructor, will have assignments at both McKenzie and Central Schools this year. Colin graduated from Indiana University, where he received his B.A. in Physical Education and Health Education. Returning to his hometown of Park Ridge, Colin has spent the past two years in Niles High School District 219, where he taught Physical Education and Health and coached multiple sports including: boys' cross country, boys' basketball, track and field, as well as freshman football. He is very excited to be a part of District 39, eagerly anticipating teaching at the elementary level. In his free time, he enjoys watching movies, listening to music, playing competitive sports, and running. He is also a phenomenal dancer!

School psychologist **Kira Huffaker** is the newest member of McKenzie's Student Assistance Team. Kira completed her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration in Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She went on to spend one year teaching English in Brazil, then completed her Master's degree in School Psychology at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. Since her return to Illinois, Kira has spent the past six years as school psychologist in Morton Grove Golf School District 67. She and her husband, John, were married last summer and currently live in Chicago. This summer, Kira enjoyed working around her house, taking long walks with her two dogs, Brodie and Ecie, and traveling to Yosemite. She welcomes the opportunity to be part of the McKenzie Community.

Gwen Faulkner is the newest addition to our 1st Grade Team, now six teachers strong! She graduated from Northwestern University with a Master's degree in Elementary Education and an undergraduate degree in Psychology with an emphasis on child and adolescent development from Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. Gwen is happily returning to McKenzie Elementary School, where she completed her practicum and student teaching experiences under the tutelage of second grade's Jennifer Weil. This past year, Gwen developed and taught a comprehensive curriculum in a new Pre-Kindergarten program at North Park Elementary School in Chicago. When she is not in the classroom, Gwen is eagerly learning how to play guitar at the Old Town School of Folk Music. She enjoys getting lost in good books, cooking Faulkner family favorite recipes, and spending time with her nearby family in Northfield, IL. Gwen is ecstatic to be coming home to the McKenzie community and looks forward to an exciting and rewarding year ahead!

Amy Fitzgerald is thrilled to be joining the McKenzie team and District 39 where her family has a long history. Her mother and grandmother both attended schools in District 39, and her great grandmother taught at Central School in the early 1900's. Amy graduated from Highland Park High School, and went to Hiram College in Ohio where she earned her B.A. with a major in Theatre. Amy spent ten years working in Chicago theatres, including Victory Gardens, where she met her husband Chris. They now have two precocious daughters, ages ten and fourteen. Amy earned her Master's degree in Elementary Education at National-Louis University with a certificate in Special Education. She has taught in Glencoe and Arlington Heights and is looking forward to an exciting year at McKenzie, where she will be supporting students using Response to Intervention strategies.

Beth Carmody begins the year as a maternity leave substitute in Erin Brighty's third grade classroom. Over the past few years, Beth has become a valued and respected colleague, serving in a variety of roles. Beth earned her undergraduate degree in education from Saint Mary's College and her Masters of Education from National Louis University. Beth has a varied background, from teaching Kindergarten and First Grade in Lincolnwood to serving as principal of Carmel International School in Hong Kong. Beth lives in Wilmette with her husband and three kids who attend Harper, HMS, and WJHS. Travel, reading, and keeping track of an active family keeps her very happy and very busy. She looks forward to being back at McKenzie and launching a new school year with the "Brighty Bunch"!