

School Faculty 2019-2020

Allison Ady—Support

Sam Andreas—Older
Primary

Maya Byrd—Older Primary

Kim Conner—Part Time
Programs

Tori Doell—Older All Days

Joe Fritz—Support

Julie Gill—Younger Primary

Trasey Graybill—Support

Ande Green-Williams—
Younger All Days

Amanda Hobb—Older Part
Time

Lexi Hundley—Support

Tonya Palsulich—Younger
Primary

Maite Petersen—Mentor in
Residence

Alyson Peterson—Younger
All Days

Sage Rogers—Support

Andy Shadduck—Older All
Days

Olivia Smith—Support

Rebecca Stalder—Part Time
Programs

Alex Thornton—Support

Maria Wagner—Support

Sue Warnke--Support

Sarah O'Dell—Executive
Director

Nicole Shadduck—
Education Director

From the Director: Here and Now

By Nicole Shadduck, Education Director

Most of us have heard recently about the importance of being present in the 'here and now'. Being present, practicing mindfulness and living in the moment are key phrases in our lives. So what does it look like in a classroom and how does it impact children's experiences?

Picture this: a four year old child is moving from her classroom into a combined group for our late day program. When entering the extended day classroom, she happily joins in a game of building MagnaTile buildings with a group of classmates. While looking around the room, she notices kitties and doggies that she has not used in her room recently. She gets up and selects a small cat, gets distracted by a story and then heads back to where she was playing to find another child playing with HER building.

This did not go well.

There were tears, lots of tears. And there was yelling. Wow, there was yelling. I held her and talked to her. I could have rushed her through the problem, picked her up, collected the MagnaTiles and worked with the group to make a plan for who was using which pieces and what the game would be. This would have been a correct and perfectly acceptable way to work through the problem and certainly a method I have used and will use again. But not this time.

We sat and then we sat a little longer. I began to reassure her that I was there and I could help. I continued to talk while she recovered. I told her I would help when she was ready and after a little more time, she was ready to play. I stood up and we walked over to the group. I explained to the children that she was playing and got up to get her cat and needed to know what she could do in the game. They invited her in, but that wasn't quite the solution she was looking for. The solution was more MagnaTiles, or so I thought.

We walked over to the shelf of manipulatives and retrieved a second box of magnet builders. When bringing more blocks to the game, she noticed a pair of dress up shoes and started to leave the game again. I stopped her and said, "Yes, you can get a pair of dress up shoes but right now we are carrying the box of magnets. You can choose to join in the magnet game or go put on the dress up shoes." The dress up shoes 'won' and she didn't return to the MagnaTiles.

The problem wasn't only about the magnets, the stuffed cat or the shoes. It was about being in the moment. It was about being present and experiencing feelings. This is so important for us and for children in our care and classrooms.

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Important Details

Please see the Weekly Updates and the school calendar for a comprehensive list of events and closures.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

Friday, February 21st, Contracts for the 2020-2021 School Year are due with deposit by 4:00 PM.

Friday, February 28th, Last day to have deposit refunded if enrollment is cancelled.

Monday-Friday, March 23rd-27th, Spring Break, SCHOOL CLOSED, All Days are Open and Pre-Arranged Primary Child Care is available.

Friday, April 3rd, P-TCS Annual Spring Fundraiser to benefit tuition assistance. More details coming soon.

Thursday, April 23rd, Spring Sing for TCS Children and Teachers

Friday, April 24th, All School Family Picnic at Sunset Park, 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 25th, Spring Work Party, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

I was able to be present with this child because I intentionally put all my office in order, set my phone aside and decided that tomorrow would be the day I thought about the 'What Comes Nexts?', about enrolling for next year and returning 3 emails and 2 phone calls. Young children need the adults in their lives to be present in order to be 'in the moment' themselves.

Fast forward to Wednesday morning: I wake up hours before my alarm goes off, ready to get up, get dressed and get out the door because I have the best story to share in this month's newsletter! From the darkness, I hear, "It's early. Why are you getting up?"

I grit my teeth as I am already thinking about what is coming next and start to tell my list of plans for the day. I stop and think, "Well, now I am a hypocrite." I snuggle back into my pillow for just a few minutes and practice 'being present.' After a few minutes of peace and quiet, I remind myself again to be 'in the moment'. I say, "I love you and have a good day" and get myself out the door. Slowing down and being in the 'here and now' is the key to me feeling connected (and happy) about my day while I deal with and prepare for the 'What Comes Nexts?'

I ask you to keep this vignette in mind as you make decisions about next year's class placement for your child. Children live in the 'here and now' and the 'What Comes Nexts?' are so far away. Enjoy the moment with your little ones. I think you'll be happy and connected, too.

Auction News: Why Tuition Assistance?

By Sarah O'Dell, Executive Director

TCS relies on the Annual Benefit for Tuition Assistance aka "The Auction" to fund a robust tuition assistance program. The annual fundraiser, orchestrated by our parent group, is the primary way tuition assistance funds are collected. In the last 20 years TCS has awarded half a million dollars in tuition assistance! I have been asked on several occasions, "Why don't you use the money raised at the auction for other projects?" It is a long standing practice at TCS not to fundraise in support of an operating income for 2 reasons:

- 1) By keeping our income driven by tuition it allows our operations to be predictable and sustainable. It allows us to maintain a high quality program without the ups and downs associated with fundraising. We have supplemented tuition assistance funds in the past with grants, endowments and by pulling from our tuition income but we have not operated our school with funds from the auction.
- 2) Many years ago a set of goals for The Children's School was penned. One goal reads: The school will create and sustain those conditions which reflect our commitment to diversity; we seek families from different socio-economic, racial, religious and cultural backgrounds; we respect differences in family configuration and welcome children with disabilities. Our financial aid program supports families in need of assistance.

I am proud to be part of a tradition that dates back over 35 years. The teachers, administrators, board and most of all the families at TCS have always taken our tuition assistance fundraising very seriously and have strived to raise the most money possible.

An enthusiastic thank you goes out to P-TCS, the auction committee and those who attend and contribute to the auction. I hope to see many of you on Friday, April 3rd at the Stone House to help more children experience all we do here at TCS!