



**Dear Town School Parents and Guardians,**

**This letter is dedicated to sharing information with you about our wonderful new hires for next year.** We were fortunate to have most of our hiring completed before shifting into Online Town and now we are imagining all the new ways we will support their transition to our community. Employee attrition is fundamental to the year-to-year rhythm in all good schools, as members of our community move on for new opportunities or to new destinations. While goodbyes are always bittersweet, we are fortunate that these transitions provide an opportunity to add new community members who contribute fresh perspectives and new strengths to our vibrant faculty.

An outstanding team of educators is the heart and soul of a school. Every hiring decision is an opportunity to further the mission of the school, to extend our capacity to meet the needs of our students, and to deliver an outstanding program. Our hiring process is very inclusive, with specific hiring committees for each role and with every candidate available for employees to meet at lunch during the interview visit. We hope the process helps us identify strong and collaborative educators committed to growth as professionals and individuals. We publicize the openings on national and regional websites, on our LinkedIn, on the Town website, and any relevant listservs or educational/professional groups. We ask our current faculty to post the openings on their personal networks as well so we have our best promoters reaching out.

Generally, new teachers don't begin their work until late summer, but under these current circumstances we have instituted earlier transitions so we have plenty of time for strong curriculum design. New Lower School Head Peggy Laurent will join us this summer and will have significant planning time with the administrative team and teachers before school opens. Our decision to pilot a new co-teacher program for next year preceded Covid-19, and it is a tremendous asset to have these educators who are familiar with our boys and our teaching continue with us next fall. The co-teacher program affords New Teacher Institute graduates the opportunity to refine their teaching practice, partner in a classroom with an experienced teacher, and pursue an Action Research Project or Independent Project. I am delighted that three of our current second year Resident Teachers have been accepted into the program and will return to Town next year.

In addition to our new hires, we are excited to be welcoming several very young new members to our community - Town babies! EJ Wagner will be on family leave for the fall term, as will Kelley Masters. And, just recently we learned the exciting news that Claire Koshland will be out for leave beginning in October. As is normal in these circumstances, some family leave positions are still in the hiring process and we plan to complete those in the next few weeks. I will update you on those hires and any other changes this summer. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jai H. Dier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lorri

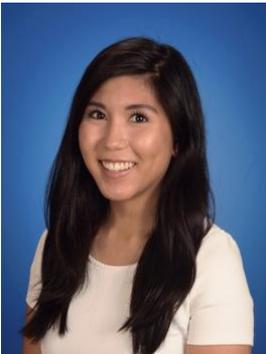
## CHANGING ROLES, NEW RESIDENT TEACHERS AND NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



**Kate Callan** joins Town as a Third Grade Head Teacher. Kate has taught at several independent schools across grades K-4, serving most recently as a fourth grade teacher at the Brandeis School in San Francisco. Kate has completed a multi-subject teaching credential through San Jose State and is in the process of completing her Master's Degree from Stanford in Liberal Arts, with a focus on children's writing. Kate has a BA in Liberal Studies with a minor in English from Notre Dame de Namur University and enjoys cooking and reading in her spare time.



**Beau Casazza** joins second grade as a Resident Teacher this year. Beau has a Master of Arts from the University of San Francisco, as well as a Bachelor of Arts from Holy Cross College. He most recently worked as a Facilities Assistant at San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department managing child care, tutoring, and activities for the Glen Park and Richmond Recreation Centers. Beau has also worked as a Project Coordinator at Ship Art International. He builds bicycles and enjoys walking in San Francisco in his spare time.



**Kim Darvin** joins us as the Lower School SEL Teacher during Mrs. Wagner's Family Leave this fall. Kim holds a Master's degree in Teaching from the University of San Francisco, along with a teaching credential. She also has a BA from USF in English, with a concentration in writing. Kim has worked most recently as a fifth and sixth grade teacher at the Merryhill Elementary School San Jose. Kim is a frequent visitor of bookstores, Disneyland, and conventions like San Diego Comic-Con.



**Jerrica Davy** joins the kindergarten team as a Resident Teacher this year. Jerrica has an MA in French Literature from Boston College, and a BA in English and American Literature from Middlebury College. Jerrica also has an early childhood teaching credential from the state of Colorado. She has most recently worked as a Teaching Fellow at Middlebury and as an after-school tutor for younger children in Paris.



**Javin deMello-Folsom** will serve next year in the new role of Co-Teacher in STEM 7/8. Javin completed the Resident Teacher program at Town last year, working in both the 5/6 and 7/8 Upper School STEM classrooms. Javin earned his teaching credential through Teach-NOW Graduate School of Education, and he holds a BA in Biology from Reed College. We are delighted that Javin will be at Town in this new role this year!



**Caitlyn Harvey** joins the New Teacher Institute as the Art Resident Teacher. She recently returned to her hometown of San Francisco after a number of years exploring various regions of the U.S. and substitute teaching. This year, she has worked in the After School Programs department of the Convent and Stuart Hall schools. She holds an MA in Education from Texas State University and a BA in Studio Art and Psychology from Sonoma State University.



**Brisa Kress** is working as a Resident Teacher in first grade. Brisa has worked most recently as a Strategic Recruiter and Account Manager at Betts Recruiting in San Francisco; prior to that she worked as a Dental Assistant in Princeville, Hawaii. She has extensive experience working with children in summer camp and home care settings. Brisa has a BA in Communications from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



**Peggy Laurent** joins Town School as our new Head of Lower School. Peggy has experience both as an administrator and as a teacher, serving as the Lower School Head at The Langley School in McClean, Virginia, since 2007. Peggy has an MA in Curriculum and Teaching from Columbia University and a BA in Psychology from Wellesley College. Peggy has taught in public and independent schools, including science and math in both Alexandria City's Public Schools' Gifted & Talented Program and Fairfax County Public Schools' Japanese Immersion Program. She has successfully developed curricula and programs that foster intellectual curiosity and has demonstrated consistent leadership in programs promoting diversity and inclusion. Peggy is a jewelry maker in her spare time and loves to read.



**Jennifer C. Liu** expands her role this year to reflect the integral work she has been doing at Town, with the new title of Director of Teacher Development and Strategic Initiatives. She retains her leadership of the New Teacher Institute while adding leadership of teacher learning to support curricular initiatives. Her work with strategic initiatives will focus primarily on the implementation of our strategic plan, in partnership with the administrative team. Jennifer earned her Master of Arts in Education, Curriculum and Teaching: Gifted Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. She graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA from Wheaton College with a double major in education and psychology. After teaching in both public and independent schools for ten years on the East Coast, Jennifer came to Town as a Humanities teacher in 2005. She became the

Director of the New Teacher Institute in 2012, leading our program for early career teachers and serving on the Senior Administrative Team. Jennifer serves on the board of the Bay Area Teacher Training Institute and was a founding board member for the Bay Area Coaching Network. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys celebrity gossip, reading and traveling.



**Sarah Mabie** will be a Head Teacher in second grade for a Family Leave position this fall and will continue through the year as a Co-Teacher. She completed Town's Resident Teacher program last spring and prior to that worked as an Associate Teacher in Town's Extended Day Program. Sarah has an MA and a BA in Classics from San Francisco State University. Sarah also holds a California teaching certificate in Latin. We are thrilled that Sarah will remain at Town in this new role this year!



**Sarah Nadler** joins Town as a Fifth and Sixth Grade Math Teacher. Sarah holds an MA from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, an MA in Special Education from Loyola Marymount University, and a BA in Spanish with a Religion minor from Dartmouth College. Since 2017, Sarah has been responsible for developing the math program and teaching sixth grade math for the startup school Millennium School. Prior to this role, Sarah spent a decade teaching elementary and high school math.



**Emily O'Keeffe** joins Town as the Seventh and Eighth Grade Lit Writer Teacher. Emily has an MA from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and an MA in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University. She earned her BA in Anthropology with a minor in Social and Ethnic Relations from the University of California, Davis. Emily has taught at independent schools and international schools, including the Schiller International School in Barcelona, Spain. Her teaching experience includes social studies and writing, with a focus on research and analysis. Emily enjoys time with her children and biking around the Bay Area.



**Catherine (Alex) Passano** joins the New Teacher Institute as a Resident Teacher in second grade. Previously Alex worked as a business operations specialist at Backroads in Berkeley, and before that held several roles with Helmut Lang in New York. Alex earned her BA in French with a minor in the History of Art from Vanderbilt University.



**Maria Sandoval** joins Town as a Seventh and Eighth Grade Spanish Teacher. She has taught elementary and middle school Spanish, most recently the Kavod Charter School in San Diego. Maria spent the early part of her life in Ecuador and has a BS in Economics from the Higher Polytechnic School of the Litoral in Guayaquil, Ecuador. She has earned a Master's in Education from National University and holds Massachusetts State Teaching Credential in Spanish. Maria is passionate about sharing her culture and exploring cultures around the world and enjoys exercising or spending time with her daughter in her spare time.



**Alexis Schmidt** is a Lower School Head Teacher, dividing her time between various classrooms as needed. Alexis has a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from the University of San Francisco; she also has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Davis. For the last five years Alexis has been a kindergarten teacher at the Blue School in New York City; prior to that she taught kindergarten and third grade at Storefront Academy in Harlem.



**Madison Teuscher** joins Town in the role of Lower School Music Teacher. Madison currently teaches elementary music at the Roxboro Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, Ohio and has broad expertise as a children's music instructor and teaching artist. She earned her MA in Music Education from Case Western Reserve University in May 2020, and holds a BA in Music Theory and a B.Mus. in Vocal Performance from the University of Idaho. Madison is fluent in Spanish and plays multiple instruments including piano, guitar, banjo, recorder, and ukulele.



**Sierra Trees** is a Co-Teacher in kindergarten this year. She also completed Town's Resident Teacher program last spring, and earned her teaching credential through Teach-NOW Graduate School of Education. Sierra holds a BA in Art History and Theology from Fordham University. We are delighted that Sierra will continue in this new role at Town this year!



**Colby Yee** joins the New Teacher Institute as a Resident Teacher in third grade. He holds a BA in Sociology with a minor in Studio Art from the University of Vermont, Burlington. Colby has experience in education as a teaching assistant at the University of Vermont, an after school program leader at the Boys & Girls Club, and a camp counselor at Camp Granite Lake in Colorado