

STAFF

Sandy Smith will continue as Head Teacher in the Rose Room. As the owner and Directress / Administrator of the Garden Montessori School she has a State of Pennsylvania teaching certificate, a State of Pennsylvania Directors Certificate, an Early Childhood (3-6) certificate from the American Montessori Society and a Bachelors degree in Psychology. Sandy received a scholarship to attend the Pennsylvania Governor's Institute for School Leadership at Shippensburg University in 2003 and was published in the Institute's Annual Anthology. She is the Co-chair of the Greater Pittsburgh Montessori Society, a member of the American Montessori Society, Association Montessori International, International Montessori Council and NAMTA. Sandy recently received a scholarship to attend the Pennsylvania Governor's Institute on Early Childhood and a Leadership and Supervisor Seminar through Rockhurst University. She is currently serving as On-site Coordinator for the CMTE 3-6 training being held at the Garden and will act as Supervising Teacher for the staff enrolled in the program.

Kim Kuchtjak is returning to the Garden as morning Classroom Assistant in the Rose Room. She is working on her Associates degree at the Community College of Allegheny County. She has taken the Montessori training and Advanced Assistant Training from Mt. Lebanon Montessori School. Kim has also completed the Montessori Philosophy Training through Duquesne University. She is currently enrolled in the CMTE Montessori Teacher certification program here at the Garden Montessori School. She has worked at the Garden as a Classroom Assistant and Material Making for the last five years. Kim is the mother of two Montessori children who have been enrolled in Toddler, 3-6, and elementary programs, assisting in the classroom as a parent and substitute teacher for the last 12 years.

Leslie Faish is the Head Teacher for the Arbor Room. Leslie has completed the 3-6 Primary Montessori Training through the Center of Montessori Teacher Education in Altoona. She has an Associates degree in Child Development from Allegheny Community College. She worked as a Program Director at St. Richards's Church and developed the religious education program for preschool through eighth grade. Leslie also taught Preschool at St. Catherine's Church. She has extensive background in volunteer mission work, CCD instruction and conducted Odyssey of the Mind Program at Pine-Richland Middle School. Leslie has also completed course work for Emergency Medical Technician and has provided assistance for geriatric and spinal cord injury patients.

Kathy Zang is the Head Teacher of the Tree House Room. Kathy holds a Pennsylvania Teachers Certificate K-6. She has a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Ohio State University. Kathy is currently enrolled in the CMTE Montessori Certification Program for her 3-6 Primary Montessori Certification. Kathy taught third grade at Alpine Village School, Lexington, KY. She assisted with the Toddler room at Montessori Centre Academy, Glenshaw, PA. Kathy spent ten years teaching four year olds and pre-K at St. Catherine of Sweden, Wildwood, PA. Last year she was the Assistant for the Extended Day children. She was involved in all aspects of planning and implementation of daily activities, special projects and field trips. Kathy is the mother of four children, who loved their Montessori experiences.

Linda Edsall is the Assistant in the Tree House Room. Linda has over 15 years experience in Early Childhood Education. She has a National Administrator's Credential from the National Child Care Association. Linda was the program coordinator for a local preschool and has experience in Creative Curriculum.

Patti Hasselbusch is Miss Leslie's Assistant in the Arbor Room. Patti has worked as an Administrative Assistant at the Garden for two years. She has a B.S. in Business Management from DePaul University. As a Montessori parent Patti is excited to be enrolled in the CMTE Montessori Certification Program for her 3-6 Primary Montessori Certification. Patti's daughter Ana attends the Garden and will be in Extended Day this year.

Abi Gallagher will be my Administrative Assistant. Abi has more than 20 years of experience as a trainer in software. She has taught more than 2,000 hours of non credit courses at the Community College of Allegheny College in Word, Excel, Publisher and Internet Explorer. She is an active volunteer at Surgicorps International, Gwen's Girls, Human Services Center Corporation and WDUQ radio. Abi is responsible for all Administrative planning and organizing of carline help, field trip drivers, newsletters and invoices.

Lucrecia Serra is continuing to teach Spanish at the Garden. Lucrecia (Lucky) is a native Spanish speaker. Lucky holds a Bachelor's degree in International Studies. She has been a cultural ambassador for her home country, Nicaragua as well as Cultural and Administrative Director Assistant (1991 - 1997) to Nicaragua's Embassy in Venezuela. Lucky was also Director of the Internal Ministries Newsletter Information and Media Bureau - Presidential Office Nicaragua. She has taught Spanish language both privately and also in after school programs in several North Allegheny schools for five years and in the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). You can find her web site at www.pasitosinspanish.com for information on extra classes that she teaches. Miss Lucky will also take the Montessori Assistants training at Mt. Lebanon as well.

Miss Lucky will teach the same 4 year progressive curriculum that Miss Diane taught, including all of the materials, special events and Children's Day. She will also be giving the children objects each week which will highlight a specific subject she has taught. Consequently, for those of you familiar with making a "Spanish box" you can make another one or get your old one back out! For those of you new to the program, you and your child will need to make a decorated special Spanish box (shoe box size) so that you can keep your objects in one place at home. Each object that will come home every Friday will have the Spanish pronunciation and phonetic pronunciation so that you may participate with your child in practicing the words.