



# MEET THE TEAM

## Administrative Team



### **Jami Young, WSS Founder, Site Coordinator RP Penn Elementary BS Elementary Education/Special Education**

I have owned and operated Winter Sun Schoolhouse since 2005 and have acted as the Site Coordinator of the Reeths-Puffer Pennsylvania Elementary Kindergarten program since 2012. I graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1996 with a degree in Elementary Education/Special Education, but my real degree was earned by raising seven children. Chance, Richie, Sky, Ryan, Sierra, Sedona, and Jett are the ones that taught me the value of growing up

in an emotionally loving, physically challenging, mentally stimulating, and creative environment. I have taught on the Hopi Indian Reservation and spent time in a variety of classrooms. I believe that education is a tremendous tool by which we can make a meaningful impact on humanity and the planet we live on. I plan to be in this field for the rest of my life and hope to reach children far and wide; however, my immediate goal is to continue working for my dedicated and heartfelt team, the families I serve and the children I am so fortunate to cross paths with.



### **Bethany Kulesza, WSS Central Administrator, Whitehall Road Campus Director**

#### **MA Early Childhood Education & BA Elementary Education**

I have worked at Winter Sun since 2011! My husband, Tony, and I have three rambunctious boys; Ryan, Grant and Jaxon. They definitely keep us busy with school, sports and life! I have a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies and Elementary Education. I hold a professional teaching certificate, and I am working on my last few classes to finally obtain a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

### **Cindy Taylor, Henry Street Campus Director, Music Together Specialist & Music Teacher BS Business Administration/Marketing**

I have been happily working at Winter Sun since 2012. Prior to becoming the Director at the Henry Street campus, I worked at the Whitehall Road, Ruddiman Avenue and Reeths-Puffer Pennsylvania campuses teaching musical theater to infants through kindergarten-aged kiddos. Over the years, I have also been involved in several Winter Sun business initiatives including a redesign of the website, assisting in curriculum development and providing administrative support in the day-to-day operations. Going forward, my focus will be on supporting the families and teachers at the Henry Street campus as well as singing, dancing, being silly and loving kids as the Musical Theater Teacher a few days a week. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Marketing from Western Michigan University. I am married and adore being a mom to my three amazing children; Nathan, Nicholas, and Samantha. In my spare time I love to read, be outdoors in the garden or at the lake, run, support my kids in all their extracurricular activities and spend time with extended family and friends.



## *Administrative Team continued...*

### **Crystal Chumley-Jarvis, Human Resource, Yoga Teacher** ***BA International Studies & Sociology, Yoga Training***

I have been a Winter Sun mom since 2011! I searched far and wide for a place I felt would honor my child as an individual and found WSS to be that place. I have now been working at Winter Sun for seven years and have found that Winter Sun also honors me as an individual. I am an MSU graduate, a wife and a mother of four. I love being outside with my family. My goal at Winter Sun is to continue to provide a loving, inspiring environment for our staff and your children!

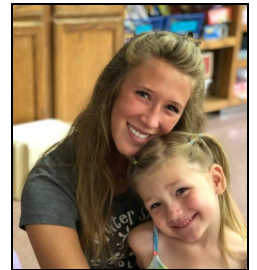


### **Liliana Burillo, Spanish Teacher** ***BS Business Administration***

I was born in Colombia, South America and studied business administration there before coming to the United States ten years ago. Life and the love of children drew me to a career in education. Before coming to Winter Sun, I worked in the Spanish Two-Way Immersion program in Muskegon Public Schools for four years. I'm very grateful for my four sons (who are my own little teachers). I love Winter Sun Schoolhouse's vision as well as helping our little ones grow and learn to love the Spanish culture and language.

### **Sierra Young, Winter Sun Rooted Program Coordinator, Administrative Assistant** ***BS Degree in Business Administrative Management & Finance with Minors in International Business and Nonprofit Administration***

My mom opened Winter Sun when I was in second grade, and I have worked here ever since, literally. Until recently, I didn't realize how much it has taught me about the challenges that come with running a small business. I am thankful to be able to apply real life situations to what I am learning in school. I attended Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, for three years and studied abroad, in Prague for a semester before moving home to help mom with the business and finish school at GVSU. When I have free time, I can be found exercising, laughing with my family, cooking, reading, traveling and spending time with good friends.



### **Jenelle White, Natural Space Designer, Reggio-Inspired Facilitator of Creative Spaces** ***BS Landscape Design***



After graduating from Michigan State University and spending nearly a decade in the commercial/residential landscaping industry, my heart has led me to Winter Sun! My life is blessed with a loving and supportive husband, two beautiful children, Canyon and Sierra, and six spoiled chickens. I have many hobbies and interests, including hiking, fishing, art, and vegetable and butterfly gardening; I also enjoy learning about sustainable, healthy and natural living! I am truly grateful for this both unique and meaningful opportunity as I enjoy sharing my creative energy and passion for art, gardening and environmental stewardship with the children. Working together to create a space where children can explore, discover, learn and grow while unlocking their imagination and connect with the world around them is what it's all about for me.

# Whitehall Road Campus

## **Onica McFarland, Lead Voyager Teacher**

### ***Child Development Associates***

I have been blessed with being a teacher here at Winter Sun since 2011. I graduated from Muskegon Community College with my Child Development Associate's degree. One of my biggest passions are kids! I love experiencing their worlds, and helping them grow as we play, learn, experiment, stretch, dance, and sing! I also enjoy watching soccer and Michigan football games with my husband, Jared, and our son, Dempsey. I love what I do and plan on teaching here at Winter Sun for as long as I can.



## **Holly Binns, Assistant Teacher**

### ***Pursuing Child Development Associates***

Teaching preschool has been my passion for as long as I can remember. I have worked at Winter Sun since 2018 and have loved every second of it! I am working towards obtaining my CDA and my hobbies include hiking, art, and spending time with my friends and family.

## **Jodi Groessl, Lead Navigator Teacher**

### ***MA & BA Education, ZA Endorse Early Childhood and Special Education, Certified Early Childhood Specialist (GSRP)***

I have been with Winter Sun Schoolhouse for many years. My daughter, Lily, went to Winter Sun in 2006. She is now a junior at Whitehall High School. She loves to come to Winter Sun whenever she gets a chance. Lily plays on the high school tennis team. My son, Jack, is attending his first year at GVSU. He is studying Mechanical Engineering and belongs to the GVSU Rowing Team. I graduated from GVSU with a BA in Special Education. I am endorsed in ZA, CI, EI, and LD. I received my master's degree from Grand Valley and attended Western Michigan University for classes in a second master's in the area of counseling. I have worked with many ages of children, from high school down to preschool. I feel very grateful to have nestled in with Early Childhood because it is such a fantastic age. My life is filled with many passions. I love to be outdoors, biking, kayaking, hiking, camping, and so on. I love to take photographs and I love working with children.



## **Lindsey Eyestone, Lead Pioneer Teacher**

### ***Child Development Associates***

Winter Sun is my home and where my heart lives. I have been here 2013 and never plan to leave. These children are my life! I also have another life and that includes camping, fishing, reading and exploring the beauty of west Michigan.



COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;  
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;  
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.

Henry Ford



## Whitehall Road Campus continued...



**Kim Dalga, Teacher**

### ***Child Development Associates Infant/Toddler***

I began working at Winter Sun in 2015. I am a mother of four and a grandmother of six. I recently received my Child Development Associates! I love smiling, dancing, singing and being silly, so spending my time with children is the perfect position for me.

**Maryssa Sischo, Explorer Teacher**

I have been a part of Winter Sun for almost three years working in our Explorer Room, but my love for kids and unlocking their potential has been happening for years and years. My husband and I have one daughter and a son and couldn't be happier that she is a part of the Winter Sun family. Because that's what I love about this place... we are FAMILY. We treat your kids like our own and love them like our own and are ecstatic to help them learn like they're our own. My personal zeal for these kiddos is learning to speak their language so that I can help them in the best possible way to GROW emotionally, physically, and mentally. I look forward to this year and spending it with your child!



**Michelle Singleton, Explorer Teacher**

### ***Pursuing a Child Development Associates***

I have worked at Wintersun Schoolhouse since 2019. I have been teaching and caring for kiddos since 2017. My husband Mike and our two boys Jake and Kyle keep me going and always inspire me to fulfill my dreams. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration along with an Associates Degree in Business Management. Along my journey I found that I most love teaching! I am currently pursuing my CDA to better serve your kiddo's and Wintersun.



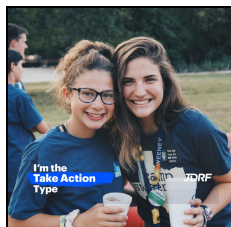
**Lyndsey Jeffries, Assistant Teacher, Student at MCC**

I have recently joined the Winter Sun family in January 2020, and have enjoyed every second of it. I graduated from Whitehall High School in 2019 and will be a sophomore at Muskegon Community College this fall studying education. I enjoy being outdoors, going on adventures, and spending time with family and friends. I'm so excited to spend my days teaching, playing, and impacting the kiddos at such a developmental age.



**Dylan Roesler, Assistant Teacher, future Student at GVSU**

I'm Mr. Dylan, music is my game. I've been here almost six years, with close to eight years of child care under my belt. I'm attending Grand Valley in the spring of 2021 for a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Development as well as Psychology. I play eight instruments, love anything outdoorsy and enjoy all sorts of artistic expression. Winter Sun is one of my favorite places in the world and right where I feel most at home.



**Kate Uganski, Winter Sun Rooted Teacher**

### ***BS Neuroscience and Behavior/Pre-Health at University of Notre Dame***

I have spent the past three summers working at Camp Sweeney in Texas and am currently the Program Director. I will be coaching volleyball for Reeths-Puffer High School this fall and am so excited to join the Winter Sun Rooted Enrichment Program. I enjoy traveling, living a healthy lifestyle and bringing happiness to the lives of others.



# Ruddiman Drive Campus

## **Kaitlin Valentin, Director and Co-Lead Voyager Teacher** **Child Development Associates**

I have been working at Winter Sun, on and off, since I was sixteen! I am a mother of 3 young children and love every part of it. I am so excited to be such a big part of your children's early education. I love watching little minds grow, through play, music, and educational opportunities, so spending my day with your children is exactly where I am meant to be!



## **Chynnah Corpe, Co-Director and Co-Lead Voyager Teacher** **Child Development Associates**

Winter Sun has been my home for the past seven years. It is also the school that my daughter attends. I love doing yoga, acting silly and spending time with my co-workers. I recently received my CDA and am pursuing a Degree in Nursing. I team up with Miss Kaitlin and the Voyager class at the Ruddiman campus. Together, we get to have the most fun ever!

## **Shaylin Morse, Navigator Teacher** **Associates Degree and Pursuing Child Development Associates**

I have worked at Winter Sun since 2016 and love it everyday! I enjoy helping people and love spending my days with children. When I am not working, I love to read, spend time outside, or get creative. I also love spending time with my husband, friends and family!



## **Alyssa Janusiewicz, Assistant Navigator Teacher**

I grew up in Muskegon and graduated from Calvary Christian in 2010. I have been working at Winter Sun since August 2018. Winter Sun is my second family - I love my job and my coworkers! Working with kids has always been a passion of mine. I have a total of eight yrs of experience and am excited to finally be pursuing a CDA! In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband and family. I also love to travel and be outside.



## **Sedona Young, Yoga Teacher and Assistant Teacher**

### **Child Development Associates, Cert. Yoga Teacher & Health Coach**

I have been involved in the Winter Sun world since I was 4-years-old and have recently discovered that I am very passionate about caring for and teaching all children. Moving, loving and giving kids the most real and healthiest environment to express their authentic selves is what makes me happiest.

TEAMWORK  
MAKES THE  
DREAM  
WORK

# Henry Street Campus

## **Torrie Fett, Assistant Director** **Child Development Associates**

Working with kids has always been a passion of mine! I have an associates degree in child development and I have been working for Winter Sun for over 3 years! The last couple years I have worked as the Pioneer lead teacher but this year I will be taking on a new role as Assistant Director! When I'm not working I enjoy traveling, hanging out with my friends and family, and spending time on the lake!



## **Kailey Johnston, Lead Voyager Teacher** **Child Development Associates**

I have been working at Winter Sun for three years now. I am the lead Voyager teacher and have my Child Development Associates. I absolutely love working here! I love to teach, be silly and give a ton of hugs! When I'm not at work I spend time with my husband and three children, Carter (8), Cora (5) and Beckett (born 6-8-20). We spend a lot of our free time at sporting events, swimming in our pool, eating ice cream and bike riding.

## **Erica Kelly, Early 5's Teacher** **MA Education Administration, BA Elementary Special Education** **(CI/EI) Master's**

Teaching has always been my passion. After receiving my bachelor's in Elementary Education and Special Education from Grand Valley, I moved to Colorado where I taught students with Significant Support Needs Grades K-5th. Eight years later, I decided to move back to Michigan with my husband and our twin boys. After reestablishing our home in west Michigan, I was feeling the call to teach again and was lucky enough to stumble upon Winter Sun. I immediately fell head over heels! Winter Sun's vision and philosophy directly aligns with my own and speaks to my heart. This is my third year at Winter Sun, and my boys and I are both loving it! You can't put a price on your child asking you when they get to go back to school. I am honored to be a part of something as special as Winter Sun and the community we serve.



## **Kristen Brooks, Assistant Voyager Teacher**

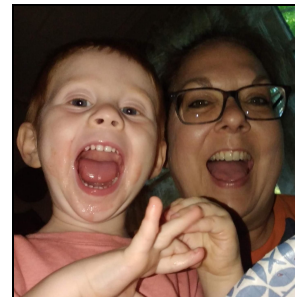
My journey at Winter Sun Schoolhouse has just begun and I'm very excited to be a part of this wonderful team. I graduated from Reeths-Puffer and attended Baker College for Elementary Education. I have worked on and off for the last twenty years with children. I recently married my best friend and added two amazing boys to my life; Justin (13) and Mason (10). In my spare time, you can find me at baseball, soccer or LOTS of hockey games.

## *Henry Street Campus continued...*

### **Barb Bobinski, Lead Navigator Teacher**

#### ***BA Early Childhood Education***

Most of us find one career that we enjoy and feel lucky to be doing what we love. My life has been blessed with having discovered and followed more than one passion and dream. I worked as a travel agent for 30 years and was given endless opportunities to travel the globe. However, I had always dreamed of a career in education, so at the age of 48 I started classes at Baker College and earned my BA in Early Childhood Education. Past teaching positions include Telemon Migrant Head Start and Head Start at MAISD. After five years in the classroom I hung up my teaching hat and became my Mom's fulltime in-home care partner. Together we achieved her heart's desire to remain in her home through her final days! Then in August of 2018 my career path led me back to the classroom and to Winter Sun. I've traveled the world, worked with and cared for senior loved ones and now work with little ones again. Teaching young children is an adventure every day! I feel that to be successful in this field I need to listen more than I speak and look at life with the wonder of a three year old. I learn something new everyday working with your awesome and inspiring children! My hobbies include sewing, gardening and beekeeping. ***Find a job you love and you'll never work a day in your life!***



### **Amber Moser, Lead Young Navigator Teacher**

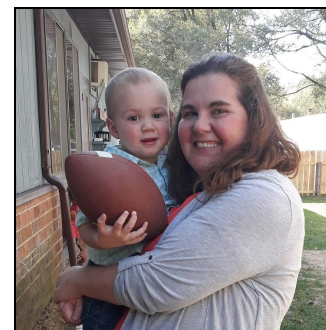
#### ***Pursuing a Child Development Associates***

My passion for children began at a young age, I began working with children straight out of high school and am so grateful to have found Winter Sun! Upon obtaining my Medical Administration and Medical Billing and Coding Certification, I realized that working with children holds my heart and decided to work towards my Child Development Associates. When I'm not working, My husband and I are probably chasing around our crazy 6 year old. I am so excited and honored to learn and grow with your children!

### **Cristin Whiteman, Lead Big Explorer Teacher**

#### ***Child Development Associates***

I joined the Winter Sun family in August 2019. I have worked at other childcare centers but am so HAPPY to join this amazing team. I have been married to my highschool sweetheart Jason for fourteen years. We have three amazing children; Emma 12, Ethan 9 and Braden, 8. After having Braden we decided I would be a stay at home mom. After most of my children were in school full time I pursued my dream job. I went back to school and received my Child Development Associates in Infant/Toddler. I have been working with young children for five years now. I have worked with all ages from birth to 3-years-old. Children make working so much fun! You just never know what they are going to do or say. I enjoy making messes, getting dirty and having a lot of fun! Outside of caring for and having fun with the littles in my classroom, I love to spend time making as many memories as possible with my family. We love to go camping together! I look forward to getting to know each and everyone of you and your children! Thank you for allowing me to care for your precious family!



*"Alone, we can do so little, together we can do so much!"*

*-Helen Keller*



## *Henry Street Campus continued...*

### **Macy VanAppel, Assistant Teacher** ***Early Childhood Bachelor's Degree***

I've been working with kids for about 7 years and I have been part of the Winter Sun team for a little over 3 years now. I have my Bachelors in early childhood education. I love working with kids because they give me an excuse to act silly. When I am not at work I am playing with my dog, and enjoying all that nature has to offer. I am very excited to work with all the children at the Henry Street Campus!



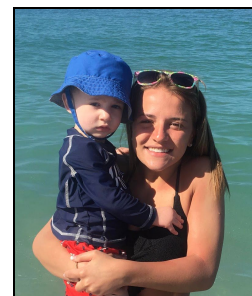
### **Kim Muskovin, Lead Explorer Teacher** ***Pursuing Infant/Toddler Early Childhood Associates***



I am a mom of six beautiful children; Caleb, Ethan, Ella, Emily, Sophia and Adeline. I had the privilege of staying home with them, up until recently, and cherished every moment. They all attend Muskegon Catholic Central and are involved in many sports and activities that I have thoroughly enjoyed attending and volunteering for-do they ever keep me busy! I have a passion for music and singing and feel that expressing yourself in that way is good for the soul. I graduated from Reeths-Puffer High School and although I did not attend college, I feel my life experiences as a mother have molded me into the person that I am today; I wouldn't have it any other way! I am super excited to be on this team and be able to put those skills that I have acquired over the years of raising my own children to good use!

### **Emma Taylor, Assistant Explorer Teacher, Student at MCC**

I have been a part of the Winter Sun family for 2 years and I am so thankful for this journey. I am so excited to learn and grow alongside your child this year! I am currently a student at Muskegon Community College pursuing my degree in Nursing with the end goal of becoming a Neonatal Nurse at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital! In my spare time I love supporting my brother at all of his sporting events, and spending time with my family and friends.



### **Olivia Curtice, Assistant Teacher, Student at MCC**

My brother has been attending the Henry Street Campus since the first day it opened. I loved the environment and thought it would be a great place to work in my time away from school. I am currently going into my sophomore year of college at Muskegon Community College. I will graduate with my associates degree in health sciences this upcoming spring. I am planning to attend Grand Valley State University in fall 2021 where I will study biology. I plan to then get my masters degree in science to become a physician assistant. In my free time I love to spend time with my friends, family, and dogs!

### **Stefanie Bannink, Assistant Teacher, Student at MCC**

My name is Stefanie Bannink and I have been working at Winter Sun for almost a year. I love developing relationships with the children, and I am so thankful for being a part of this amazing team. Currently, I am a second year student at Muskegon Community College, and I plan on furthering my education at Grand Valley State University. During my free time I enjoy working out, spending time outside, crafty activities, and hanging out with friends and family. I am very excited for this year and more memories!



## *Henry Street Campus continued...*

### **Shelby Versalle, Assistant Teacher, Student at MCC**

My name is Shelby Versalle and I am beyond grateful to have joined the Winter Sun team. I am currently a second year student at Muskegon Community College, and I am working toward my nursing degree. In my spare time, I love hanging out with friends and family, partaking in outdoor activities, and overall, being around others. I look forward to spending time with the kids and being part of their growth and development.



### **Taylor Haver, Assistant Teacher, Student at GVSU**

I have always had a special bond when it comes to kids! My family always says I am the kid whisperer. I never thought I would love working with kids so much, but as soon as my younger brother and sister were born I knew this was what I was meant to do! I am currently a senior at GVSU and I will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood minor. If it wasn't for these two little blessings in the picture above, I wouldn't be where I am today!

## *Reeths-Puffer Pennsylvania Elementary*



### **Alex Evans, Assistant Teacher, Winter Sun Rooted Teacher *BS Elementary Education & Pursuing MA School Counseling***

Hello, I am a Grand Valley graduate and am currently working on my Masters in School Counseling. Working at the Pennsylvania campus has been such a gift; I get to teach art, play music, sing, dance and laugh with these amazing Kindergartners. I am looking forward to another great school year full of nature and art of all kinds! I am a Reeths-Puffer/GVSU graduate and Michigan Certified Teacher.

### **Julie VanderWoude, Office Manager and Assistant Teacher**

I began my journey at Winter Sun at the Whitehall Road campus, 8 years ago working with the Explorers and Pioneers. For the past four years I have been at Reeths-Puffer's Pennsylvania Elementary School assisting with the Winter Sun Inspired Kindergarten program. I also have my cosmetology license and still enjoy doing hair. I have been happily married for twenty-two years. John and I have four amazing and very different children; Sam, Henry, Jack, and Grace.



### **Heather Klimsza-Zack, Kindergarten Adventure Teacher *BS Elementary Education/Special Education & MA School Admin.***

### **Karyn Edwards, Kindergarten Quest Teacher**

### ***BS Elementary Education/Special Education & MA School Admin.***

We are excited and honored to have the opportunity to work with young children in our community through this unique program that was designed to challenge children to refine what they already know and to confidently travel into developmental areas that are unknown; mentally, socially, emotionally, creatively and physically. We are Reeths-Puffer Michigan State Certified Teachers who have collaborated with Winter Sun for the past seven years, offering a kindergarten program to this community that is guided by the whole child and environmentally/science driven. We are committed to children and have a passion for uncovering the potential of every one of our students. When we aren't teaching, we can often be found spending time with our own families, supporting their extra-curricular activities and engaging in the outdoor beauty that makes West Michigan the best place to be.