

THE FROND & FIDDLEHEAD

Newsletter of FernLeaf Community Charter School

MEET THE STAFF!

With the New Year, we continue our presentation of brief snapshots of the amazing staff who work together to make the heart of FernLeaf. For bios of the other staff members, refer to the newsletter published prior to the winter break.



JENN RYAN

3RD GRADE

Jennifer has lived in WNC since 1999 when she was recruited to play for the women's soccer team at Appalachian State University. She graduated with a degree in elementary education in 2004, and, prior to coming to FernLeaf, taught 3rd-5th grade in Buncombe County Schools for 12 years. She leads a multifaceted life where she is creative, energetic, and adventurous in the classroom and her family life.

She has a love for the arts and incorporates them into her classroom culture. As a liaison for the Leaf Schools and Streets Program she loves to expose her students to things that broaden their cultural horizons. She is energetic and loves to build a strong classroom community giving her students leadership roles to contribute and synergize in the classroom. You will often see her on the sidelines of her student's ballgames cheering them on as leaders in the community. She loves to hike and explore the outdoors and is looking forward to utilizing the outdoors as a classroom.

Michele is an Asheville native (yes... really, a native). She graduated from UNC Asheville, and taught at Hall Fletcher Elementary for 10 years before coming to FernLeaf. She has a passion for environmental education, hands-on activities, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) projects and brain-based learning. While working at Hall Fletcher, she helped lead a pilot program that implemented commercial composting districtwide. She also led efforts that resulted in the school winning the Elementary Solar Schools Challenge in 2015. Most recently, Michele served on Hall Fletcher's digital leadership team where she helped create engaging lessons with stop-motion animation and STEAM-based projects.

Michele is a mom to two sweet children- Kauis (8) and Mila (6). She is also a life partner to Chris who is a teacher at Francine Delany New School for Children. She is super excited to be a part of FernLeaf Community Charter School!



MICHELE CORRAL

3RD GRADE

Before falling in love with the mountains, Eleanor was raised in the midwest. She graduated with a dual degree in Special Education and Elementary Education from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, MO in 2016. While in college, she was led to work at a summer camp in Zirconia, NC working with children on the Autism Spectrum. It was there where Eleanor developed her teaching philosophies of educating outdoors, promoting curiosity, and an emphasis on community building. After two summers at camp, working in roles of camp counselor and program manager, she decided she could never live elsewhere and relocated to the Asheville area.

Eleanor is beyond thrilled to spend her first official year teaching at FernLeaf, after having served in many "teaching" capacities in her life. In her free time, Eleanor loves to hike, canoe, knit, and try new restaurants.



Kathleen grew up in West Virginia where she enjoyed spending time in the mountains with her family. She has called western North Carolina her "home away from home" since 2001 when she moved to Boone to attend Appalachian State University. She currently lives in Edneyville, where she can be found with her family working in the garden, listening to music, hiking, or cooking up a big meal. She loves to snowboard, scuba dive, fish, travel, and spend time by the ocean. Prior to FernLeaf, most of her decade teaching was in fourth grade classrooms in Buncombe County Schools. Kathleen is a National Board Certified teacher who is committed to differentiating instruction.

Alyssa came to North Carolina from Kansas in 2004, and received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Western Carolina University in Special Education: General and Adaptive Curriculum with a concentration in Elementary Education and Social and Emotional Disabilities.

Possessing a wealth of experience in inclusion settings, Alyssa enjoys working collaboratively with parents and teachers to achieve the best outcomes for students. She believes fervently that the inclusion model is best for all students, and possesses a wealth of knowledge related to developing strategies designed to help students and families be successful

She lives in Fletcher with her dog, Abby, and cat, Noname. In her free time she enjoys playing outside with Abby, gardening, fishing, cooking, reading, and watching movies.





Born in Wisconsin and raised in Raleigh, Mary moved to Hendersonville in 2003 from Boone after she earned a degree in special education from Appalachian State. She has worked with children in a variety of settings including: tutoring, working with preschool age children, as a house parent at a boarding school for adolescent girls, working as an EC Teacher for grades K-5 in Henderson County, working one on one with a child with special needs and, her personal favorite, as a mom to her three kiddos. Mary firmly believes in helping students access their education through individualizing instruction, making accommodations, and setting attainable short term and long term goals with students and their families.

She serves on the Special Needs Sports Board, volunteers with The Humane Society, and has helped to raise money to fund an accessible playground in Henderson County. She has helped run Camp Cliffview, a camp for children with special needs. She loves to be outdoors, read and spend time with her husband, Damian, and their children.

Aimee came to Western North Carolina five years ago after spending over 25 years in the Mountains of Colorado where she enjoyed working in the hospitality business... and doing lots of skiing, hiking and rafting. But, Aimee's real passion has always been connecting with her community through volunteering. Her volunteer work includes jump starting a middle school girls' soccer program, launching a food helpline at MANNA FoodBank, coordinating fundraising events and galas for her local animal shelter, and becoming a foster parent with her husband, Dave. Their daughter, Jaquoia, is a 4th grader this year at Fernleaf.

Aimee believes every child has a unique learning style. She is very excited to be a part of the Fernleaf community and wants to help create a supportive environment where the teachers are able to connect and foster learning in every child.



Sarah started working with children as a teacher/counselor at Pressley Ridge in Walker, WV. She moved to North Carolina in 2007 to work as a wilderness instructor at the SUWS of the Carolinas near Old Fort. She later relocated to Fayetteville, NC to serve as an exceptional children's teacher assistant for three years in an elementary school. Additionally, she worked as a respite care provider through Ft. Bragg, where she provided children with special needs of military families assistance in their day to day.

For the past five years, with a degree in criminal justice, Sarah worked with the administration of the courts with the Department of Public Safety. Alas, she missed working with children, and made the transition from the courtrooms back to the classroom at FernLeaf. Her long-term goal is to return to school to complete a degree in elementary education.

Ellyn was born in Asheville, but was raised, with a passion for dance and exploring, in Nashville.

With degrees in history and dance from College of Charleston, and with a semester abroad in Florence, Italy, she returned to NC to work in the education department at a Charlotte museum while also teaching dance classes. She returned to school at UNC-Charlotte and obtained a degree in elementary education. She has experience working as a preschool teacher, K-5 assistant, substitute, and Title I assistant.



As one of the school's founders, Molly has worked to support the development of FernLeaf behind the scenes for the past six years through committee and board involvement. She is a licensed professional counselor, and holds a NC school counselor license. Her background includes 17 years working with children, adolescents, and families in both the school and community setting. She is passionate about her own lifelong learning opportunities and applying her knowledge and experiences to develop student- and school-centered programs and supports. Molly has initiated and facilitated the development of a system-wide Crisis Response Team protocol in Henderson County in addition to the creation of the Henderson County Suicide Prevention Toolkit. She is an engaged member of her professional community with multiple published articles and frequent speaking engagements at the local and state levels.



Michael's interest in educational policy, psychology, and creative approaches to teaching and learning were piqued while studying music education at the University of Illinois. He spent 17 years in urban, suburban, and rural K-12 settings in Illinois and North Carolina schools as Director of Orchestras, where he recognized a personal strength in building programs and creating rich, positive, and meaningful experiences for children. He earned a master's degree at Western Carolina University in entrepreneurship, which provided a foundation better suited to his interests and passion for enacting meaningful change in the lives of children. After a failed attempt to launch a summer camp, he began planning for what would ultimately become FernLeaf Community Charter School. When Michael is not scratching his head about the next big project and trying to change the world one school and one child at a time, he can be found somewhere in woods with Molly, Bridget, and Oscar.

Colleen, and her husband Ed, moved to the Hendersonville area two years ago from Erie, Pennsylvania to spend more time with their four children and grandchildren, and to help their oldest son begin a local brewery. While raising their children, Colleen decided to open an Home Day Care which she ran for 13 years. Now, Colleen can be found most morning at a local gym working out. Besides fitness some of Colleen's favorite things are spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren (one at FernLeaf now, and the other will be there next year!), and exploring the many attractions that are available in the area.



We love the FernLeaf staff!

Thank you for your tireless work for, your creative commitment to and your consistent presence with the students you serve.



Calling all volunteers...

FernLeaf is recruiting volunteer tutors to assist in the academic support of all FernLeaf students. Volunteer tutors will commit to coming in once weekly for a specified amount of time to work with small groups of students on targeted academic skills. Previous teaching or tutoring experience is preferred. The process begins with the completion of this linked [Volunteer Tutor Application](#) and a background check. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in this opportunity please complete this application. If you have questions, please contact Molly at molly.luplow@fernleafccs.org



NOW IS THE TIME!

UPCOMING STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Jan 31: Eleanor Clark

Feb 14: Mary Rutkowski

Please contact Sara Miller -
sara.miller921@gmail.com - if you'd like
teacher appreciation ideas!



FEBRUARY BREAK NATURE CAMP

FEB 12-16 8:00-3:00

Looking for something for your Fernleaf student to do during the break next month? Look no further...

Send them to Fernleaf for a fun week of camp! Focusing on the natural world, the week's activities and speakers will engage students in different environmental topics as they participate in fun hands-on activities and presentations. Students need to pack a lunch and snack for each day.

Click [HERE](#) for registration.



Only \$225 for the week.

Sibling discounts available

Contact Amy with questions, or for more
information:

amy.schmitte@fernleafccs.org

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS WITH OPENINGS:

Wednesday-Bricks4Kidz

This class is for FernLeaf students in grades K-5. Classes are one hour and held after school on Wednesdays. Students will make motorized Lego projects, plus use many other engineering materials for an hour of building fun! Refunds are not given, so please make sure your child can attend. All snow days WILL BE made up at the end of the session, so we may have to go a week or two past April 19 if we miss any classes due to snow. We reserve the right to dismiss any child, without refund, whose behavior is unacceptable after warnings have been given to both child and parent. Click [HERE](#) to register.



Wednesday-Soccer Shots



Jan 24, 2018 - May 16, 2018 for students age 5-8
 No classes: 03/14/2018, 03/21/2018, 04/04/2018
 Soccer Shots utilizes creative and imaginative games to focus on basic soccer skills like dribbling, passing and shooting. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Friday - Strings Program

Level 1 classes are open to **all students**, K-4th grade, and meet on Fridays 1:30-2:30.
 Level 2 classes, open to students who completed Level 1 in the fall, meet Fridays 12:15-1:15.
 Tuition for either 12-week session is \$125; No classes on February 16th, March 9th, and April 6th.
 Click [HERE](#) to register.



2ND ANNUAL FERNLEAF SILENT AUCTION

Now accepting donations of your amazing talents, gifts and goods!!

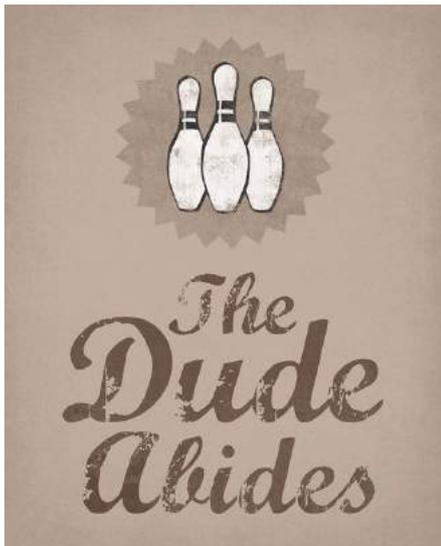
We are excited to launch Fern Leaf's Second Annual Auction – to raise funds for this amazing school! From now until February 23rd, we will gladly accept your donations of your time, talents, and any goods that you and your family/ friends may be willing to offer. This also may be a great opportunity to “re-gift” a quality gift you received for the holidays that was not to your taste. Here are some ideas:

- Handywoman skills for a few hours
- House cleaning with natural cleaning products
- Hand knitted/crocheted hats, scarves, baby blankets
- Massage / Acupuncture / Private yoga session
- Pedicure or manicure in the privacy of one's home
- Upcycled furniture or decorating consultation
- Birthday party organizing
- Handmade jewelry or pottery
- Vacation cabin / rental to share for a long weekend
- A special meal you would be happy to cook for a busy family
- Childcare for date night out (especially someone your kid knows)
- Gift basket of gardening supplies with new starts or home-grown seeds
- Any other gift basket you or your child's class can gather up!



Any of these – or many other “goods or services”- would be most welcome! The auction officially begins on March 9th, and will be done entirely on line, making the website link easy to share with our families and friends who care about our children and their education. To donate, or help in any way with this fundraising project, contact us at FernLeafAuction@gmail.com

Your Auctioneers, Katie May and Mary Anne Tierney



FAMILY FUN NIGHT THIS WEDNESDAY!

Tarheel Lanes
 3275 Asheville Hwy, Hendersonville, NC 28791
 Drop-In 3:30-6:30
 10% of each package is donated to FernLeaf
 Clean off those shoes and come abide with us!

Students should stay home when they have any of the following symptoms:

Fever

Vomiting or diarrhea

Unidentified rash

Chicken Pox

Strep throat: until treated by a physician

Conjunctivitis ("pink eye"): until student has been on medication for 24 hours

Classroom teachers, the school nurse, and School Director are authorized to send a child home from school if his/her condition warrants this.



The child will be released to parents; if parents are not available, s/he will be released to an individual designated by parents on the Student Information Form.

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING!

LET'S BUILD A MOBILE LIBRARY



Our students are in need of a library. While each classroom has its own supply of books, we want our students to be able to take a book home each week and enjoy it on their own time.

During the month of January (and beyond), FernLeaf will be collecting new and gently-used books to build our mobile library. We are looking for books of all types and genres; we hope to have books that will appeal to students of all grade levels and interests. Please drop off donations in the office in the "Book Donation" box near Karie's desk. As time goes on, we would love to have volunteers to sort and label books each week. Look for volunteer information soon!

In addition, we would also love donations of Lowe's gift cards. We hope to make this mobile library both useful and visually appealing, so donations of wood or gift cards would be tremendously helpful. Thanks for working with us to encourage the love of reading in all of our students!

