

## **A WORD OR TWO ABOUT OUR KASEP TEACHERS**

**BINDY BAKER [Gymnastics – KCC Class]** is the daughter of our long-time gymnastics teacher, Judy Baker. Bindy is a highly experienced and well trained former gymnast. She has been a gymnastics instructor and a pre-school teacher for over 20 years. Bindy is patient and loves teaching children. Her mom and auntie will join her—both are former gymnasts and have been teaching KASEP gymnastics for nearly 20 years.

**VICKY BRODT [Cooking, Crafting, Gardening, Sewing and Math Fundamentals]** has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and has taught preschool for over 15 years. She also received a certificate in Landscape Horticulture and does small-scale landscape projects. She owns a small business called the "Whimsical Rooster" where she sells handmade fabric items. Vicky loves to cook and to share her enthusiasm for cooking and crafting with kids of all ages.

**ELAINE CHU [Crafty Creations, Beginning Mandarin through Hands-On Art]** is a craft artist/educator who loves teaching students of all ages. She received a B.A. in music from Yale University and a B.F.A in graphic design from University of the Arts. She has taught workshops at the ACCI Gallery, Berkeley Art Center, KALA, and SF Center for the Book. Her specialty is paper and book arts. She loves working with kids to create unique pieces while they learn new concepts in art and language.

**JEAN ELLISEN [Storytelling]** has been telling stories all her life, but telling stories *on purpose* for 25 years. She is an active member and former board member of the Storytelling Association of California, was a co-producer of the popular Bay Area Storytelling Festival, and has told stories locally, nationally and internationally. Her passion is helping others find their own voice through storytelling.

**VERONICA MEDINA-ROSS [Eco Kids, Fun Environmental Science]** has been working to protect the environment for 20+ years. She has been a researcher, government official, consultant and teacher. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from University of East Anglia, Norwich (U.K.). Veronica loves to teach students about the environment around them and guide and motivate them to help take care of our Planet.

**KRISTEN PARKS AND DOUG MCNEELY [Circus Arts – KCC Class].** Slim the Clown (Doug McNeely) has been performing and teaching Circus Arts for the last 15 years. He has toured the US and Europe, and has taught at many schools and parks and recreation centers. Kristen and Doug recently appeared on national television with an exciting performance-based show called "Fake Off."

**CAREY PIECH [Artful Animals, Critter Adventures, Art Travelers] is a Kensington Hilltop parent and museum educator. She has a Bachelors degree in Art History and a Masters degree in Elementary Education and Museum Education. She has taught art, natural science and history programs in a variety of museums including the de Young Museum, the Oakland Museum of California and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.**

**CHARA PRESCOTT [Spanish through Art and Play] recently moved back to the East Bay from the Sacramento area and is pleased to once again call Berkeley home. Chara lived in a few different places before settling in the Bay Area, including Arkansas, North Carolina, Illinois, and Texas. She is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and can speak conversational French. Her passions include cooking/catering, live music, hanging out with her family, and especially working with children. Chara is always excited to take on new challenges and is constantly amazed by her three incredible children.**

**KIM ROOTS [Sports and Games; Tennis], has a degree in Mathematics and Philosophy from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He has been teaching and coaching sports and tennis in our program and in the community for many years. Kim's major interest is to make sports accessible and fun for all kids.**

**VICTOR MORTON/SKYHAWK SPORTS [Kindergarten Sports; Basketball; Sports Medley - KCC classes] provides a fun, safe and positive environment where future athletes can take their first step toward an active lifestyle! Skyhawk believes every child should experience the joy and benefits of sports. One of its goals is "Teaching life skills through sports."**

**SANDY THACKER [Carpentry] has taught carpentry to kids for more than 30 years. Sandy, who has a Master's Degree in Education from Stanford University, taught high school and middle school, and then worked for several years as a carpenter. She has developed a wonderful and very successful program for teaching woodworking skills to children.**

**LEAH VIRSIK [Pottery] is grounded in optimism and loves to teach! Her world is teaching art to a wide range of youth and adults with varying abilities. She brings creativity and patience, and she comes prepared with lessons and materials that make one feel welcome and ready to play in her world of art. Her artwork is driven by an interest in materials and includes collage, sculptural fiber, and book arts. She received her MFA in Fine Arts and earned her undergraduate degree in Business Administration.**