

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

**BINDY Graul [Gymnastics]** Bindy is a highly experienced and well trained former gymnast. She has been a gymnastics instructor and a pre-school teacher for over 25 years. Bindy is patient and loves teaching children.

**SEAN BRODT [World of Tabletop Role Playing Games, Magic Advanced, Homework Club]**, supervises our Homework Club. He is also a gamer and wants to share his enthusiasm and skills with both beginning and more advanced gamers.

**VICKY BRODT [Cooking, Mixed Media Art, Reading, and Sewing]** 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 share her enthusiasm for cooking and crafting with kids of all ages.

**GERI ENGBERG [Improv]** has been teaching improv classes and workshops to young children, teens, adults and seniors in the Bay area for the past 12 years. She has experience in a wide variety of settings, including classrooms, after school programs, libraries, and summer camps. She trained at ImprovBoston in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they teach and perform classic short form improv.

**LEAH FORREST [American Sign Language]** is a Kensington Hilltop Alumni and has been helping kids in Homework Club at KASEP for the past few years. She has a BA degree in Elementary Education and enjoys working with kids of all ages. American Sign Language (ASL) has been a passion of Leah's since elementary school. Since graduating from college, Leah has been taking full immersion ASL classes to complete her AA degree in sign language.

**LORI HESS [Mindfulness Yoga]** is a kids' yoga teacher who has a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of San Francisco and was certified to teach children's yoga by "It's Yoga Kids". She loves to plant the seeds for a solid foundation and life-long love of yoga by helping children develop strong, flexible, and peaceful bodies and minds. She founded Way to Glow Kids Yoga and has taught yoga to children from toddler through teen.

**IAN MCAVOY [Off the Block S.T.E.M. with LEGO®]** provides students with a hands-on, engaging, and educational experience that fosters a deep understanding of STEM concepts while nurturing creativity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork. Ian is always finding new, innovative ways to use LEGO® to teach complex STEM concepts in a fun and accessible way as well as staying up-to-date with the latest trends and developments in STEM education and LEGO. He hopes his program will inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators!

**DOUG MCNEELY [Circus Arts]**. Slim the Clown (Doug McNeely) has been performing and teaching Circus Arts for the last 20 years. He has toured the US and Europe, and has taught at many schools and parks and recreation centers.

**KIM ROOTS [Tennis, Chess]** 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.

**APRIL SCHLANGER [Making Family Meals; Cats & Dogs; Rainbows & Unicorns] has a broad brush of skills and enthusiasm for working with and teaching young children. She is the owner of Happyfoodwine, which sells, teaches, hosts, and promotes all of the “Happy” things in life: wine, food, crafts, canning, etc.**

**MELITA SILBERSTEIN [Music and Fun for TK] is a musician and music teacher based out of Berkeley. She has taught music to children in schools, libraries, and venues for families all over the Bay for two decades. She is also the founding member of the popular band for kids, Octopretzel. To learn more about Melita visit [melitamusic.com](http://melitamusic.com).**

**OAKLAND SPIDERS COMMUNITY WEB [Ultimate Frisbee], founded in 2022, focuses on community development in conjunction with the Oakland Spiders, a professional Ultimate Frisbee team, competing in the Ultimate Frisbee Association (UFA). The Spiders mission is to entertain and inspire our community to live healthier, more connected lives through Ultimate.**

**NIKKI SUND [Hula Hooping] is a lifelong art lover and learner. After she moved from the Midwest to the Bay Area five years ago, her love for the arts blossomed and along came several passion projects. She began hula hooping and shortly after, began teaching as well as performing at shows & festivals. Along with her love for hooping, Nikki owns a small jewelry business and is a singer. Nikki is currently a psychology undergraduate student at SFSU and plans to become an expressive arts therapist to help cultivate joy and healing for others.**

**SANDY THACKER [Carpentry] has taught carpentry to kids for almost 40 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.**