

# THE FROND & FIDDLEHEAD

Newsletter of FernLeaf Community Charter School

## MEET THE STAFF!

With all the new families and the new staff that have joined FernLeaf this year, we thought it would be a good idea to introduce the staff to everyone. Please take some time to read through and say hello to someone new next time you come through our doors! Here is half of the staff - the rest of the bios will be in January's letter.



**NINA VETETO**  
KINDERGARTEN

Nina grew up in Charleston, SC, but left the South to pursue her undergraduate degree in art history and museum studies at Hartwick College in Upstate NY. She later received an master's degree from UNC, Chapel Hill and a master's in early childhood education from the College of Charleston. Nina began her teaching career as a K-1 teacher in the Chapel Hill-Carroboro City Schools, and taught in a number of different capacities as an environmental educator, a preschool teacher and as a Title 1 Reading Teacher in Buncombe County Schools. Most recently, Nina served as the founder and director of Monarch Rescue, an education based non-profit dedicated to creating habitat in WNC and teaching students about the needs of this imperiled butterfly.

"Stay Curious" is Nina's personal motto, and she believes wholeheartedly in nurturing a child's sense of wonder in the world. She is thrilled to be a part of the Fernleaf Community. Nina lives in Candler, with her husband Tracy and is the proud mama of Mia, Wren and her stepdaughter Hallie, a senior at American University.

Amy grew up in Syracuse, NY, where her childhood spent outside fostered her love for the environment. She earned a bachelor's degree in conservation biology at the State University of New York. During her college career, she spent her time gaining experience in the environmental field. She volunteered at a local wildlife rehabilitation center and worked as a hellbender salamander field research assistant. During her senior year, Amy fell in love with environmental education and decided to pursue that interest. She interned at a local nature center working with environmental educators teaching children in Syracuse city schools about the nature that surrounds them.

Her love of all things nature led her to move to Western North Carolina. She served with AmeriCorps Project Conserve for two years in Tryon, North Carolina as the education assistant at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center. She taught children in grades k-5 in schools, on field trips, and during summer camps. Amy is thrilled to be joining the FernLeaf community as a teaching assistant and is looking forward to a fun and exciting school year!



**AMY SCHMITTE**  
KINDERGARTEN: TEACHER ASST

Jennifer grew up in Richmond, Virginia, but fell in love with the mountains of Western North Carolina as a student at Warren Wilson College. She graduated with a degree in Elementary Education, and began teaching in Henderson County that fall. After eight years of teaching, Jennifer took a few years off to raise her two children, Henry and Tessa, and to serve as a founding board member of FernLeaf. She has spent the last four years teaching Pre-Kindergarten in Hendersonville.

Jennifer is thrilled to be teaching at FernLeaf! She has a passion for play-based learning and strives to differentiate and make learning fun for her students. She has a love for children's literature (with a particular love for Roald Dahl) and finds great delight in sharing her favorite books with her students. In her free time, she loves distance running, cooking, geocaching, and going on adventures with her family.



Joe grew up in South Florida, but relocated to the Asheville area 22 years ago. He holds an Associate of Arts degree and is certified in early childhood education. Joe has spent the past 14 years as a teacher and Child Enrichment Program Coordinator at Around the Son Preschool at Skyland United Methodist Church. In addition, he served six years as the Commanding Officer of the Asheville Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a Navy youth leadership program. He has been married for 20 years to his wife, Kelley, and has 3 sons: Will, a sophomore studying Geology at North Carolina State University; Robert, a freshman studying Elementary Education at Appalachian State University; and Ben, a fifth grader at Glenn C. Marlow Elementary. Joe and his family enjoy many outdoor activities, including hiking, kayaking, traveling, and off road driving in their Jeeps.

Mary's love of the outdoors began with Wisconsin summers spent fishing, hiking, camping, and swimming, and winters spent snowmobiling through pine forests and across lakes. She moved to the city to study at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and received her teaching degree in K-12 Art Education. She remained there teaching elementary art before setting out on a new adventure and moving to Asheville in 2015. She has worked at FernLeaf for the past year as an associate teacher, and loves watching the kids thrive in an environment of exploration and community. She has a passion for integrating art in all subject areas, learning through the natural world, and letting kids play! Mary currently lives in West Asheville, and enjoys embroidering, reading, camping, rockhounding, studying plants and insects, and doting on her cat, Fredy.







Born and raised in coastal Massachusetts, Whitney received her master's degree in education from Antioch University. During her studies, she spent a semester in New Zealand studying various ecosystems while creating and implementing an environmental education curriculum. Her time there marked the beginning of a wanderlust that has carried her far and wide. She spent a year in Hawaii teaching on the North Shore of Oahu, she has backpacked extensively throughout the world, from the deserts of the Southwest to rain forests of Tahiti, she lived on a 150-foot schooner in the Caribbean, and has studied the rain-forests and marine ecosystems of both Belize and Guatemala.

Whitney, and her husband, Jason, moved with their two Saint Bernard dogs from Seattle, where she taught for over nine years and helped establish STEAM programs and curriculum, to WNC for the opportunity to be part of the FernLeaf community. As a family, when they aren't travelling, they like to take hikes and see live music.

Katelyn was born in Southern California, but was raised in Hendersonville. She graduated from West Henderson High School in 2009 and knew education was where she was meant to be. She graduated from Mars Hill University with a degree in integrated education. Katelyn has a passion for working with children, and has experience in working as an overnight summer camp counselor and day camp director, combining her love for education with the unique magic reserved for being outside!

Katelyn is certified as an instructor in Foundations of Math and Foundations of Reading programs, and she is grateful to use these skills when working with awesome first grade scholars. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends, drinking coffee, cooking and baking.

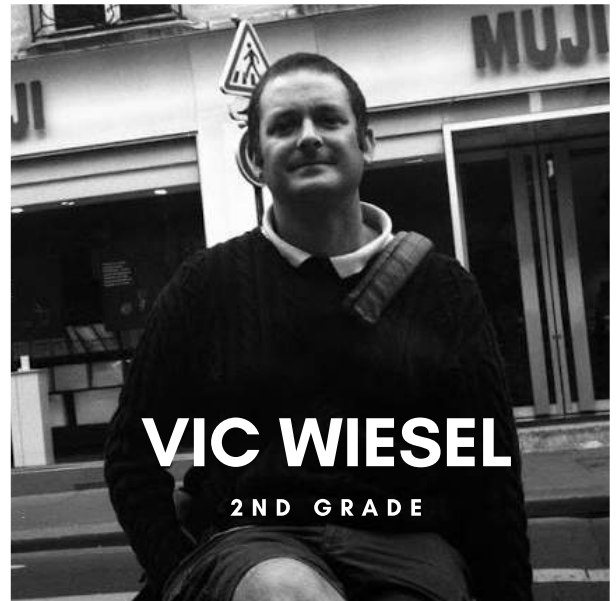


Leslie has been a part of the FernLeaf community since its inception and is excited to now be a part of the incredible staff. She grew up in Mobile, AL and graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. For 20 years, and in many different homes, she has been lucky enough to be a teacher in a variety of ways including as an outdoor educator, yoga teacher, coach, camp counselor, tutor, mentor, and mother. For nine years, she has been a classroom teacher in public schools in both Hendersonville, NC and Austin, TX. She loves to help kids grow, get excited about learning, and find ways to develop and pursue their interests.

She and her husband, Neil, both teachers, use every school break to check out new places, cultures, and experiences. They have two children, Isabella and Beckett, who they love taking along on their adventures all over the world.

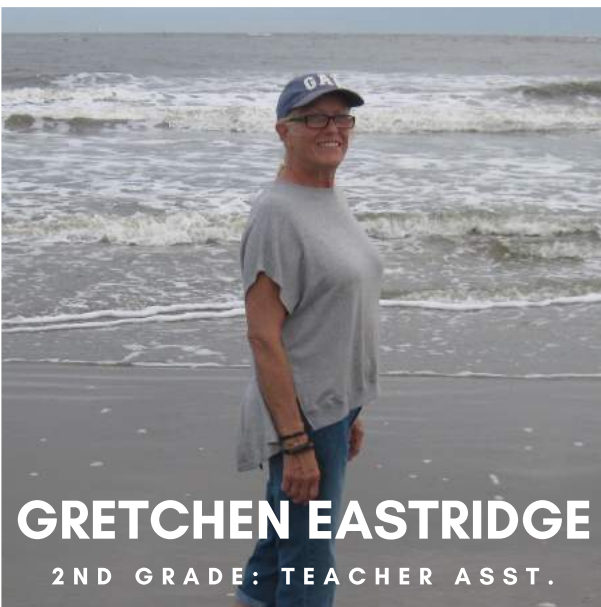
Vic is thrilled to be a part of the FernLeaf teaching team. With a degree in media studies, he had a brief stint working for the TV Food Network before leaving television to work with children in the outdoors. Vic has extensive experience teaching in a variety of environments, from backcountry environmental education to middle school language arts.

He is committed to creating a safe educational space for everyone in his classroom. In his free time, Vic is an avid photographer, exploring traditional and historical photographic techniques in his Hendersonville darkroom. He also enjoys a variety of outdoor pursuits, including sailing, whitewater kayaking, and alpine skiing.



**VIC WIESEL**

2ND GRADE



**GRETCHEN EASTRIDGE**

2ND GRADE: TEACHER ASST.

Gretchen and her husband, Bud, moved from a farm in Ohio to WNC 14 years ago to be near their daughter, Kara, and her family. Gretchen's son, Eric, and his family live in California. While she and Bud owned and operated several businesses together, her passion has always been working with children. She worked in public schools as an assistant teacher in classrooms for children with special needs, and as an administrative assistant in a middle school. Before coming to FernLeaf, however, she was an associate teacher at Swannanoa Valley Montessori School.

She and Bud are avid gardeners and enjoy being near the water and exploring nature. Being a mother and grandmother are her greatest accomplishments.



**CHAD CAMBY**

BUILDING CUSTODIAN

Chad Camby is a WNC native and has worked with the Henderson County Public Schools for four years as a Custodian with Balfour Education Center, two of those as head Custodian. He is currently working full time for HCPS in the maintenance department as a HVAC tech. He is thrilled to be part of the Fernleaf family and is incredibly grateful for everyone making him feel so welcome!

# Stone Soup

FernLeaf Community Potluck

Wednesday November 22,  
12:00-1:30



The students will be making Stone Soup together  
**PLEASE SEND THEM TO SCHOOL WITH A FAVORITE  
WASHED AND CUT VEGETABLE TO ADD TO THE  
COMMUNITY POT!**

Then, bring a dish to share and join the school  
community for a lunch potluck at 12:00

**PLEASE LABEL ALL DISHES AND BRING YOUR OWN  
PLATES, BOWLS AND SILVERWARE TO REDUCE  
WASTE.**



## W i n t e r   W e a t h e r   G e a r :

Please be sure that your student(s) are prepared for the changing weather.

Early morning temperatures can be chilly. Students arriving at school before 7:50 will spend their time in the Playspace. The building will be open to students at 7:30 ONLY when it is raining or when weather advisories are in effect.



## E m p o w e r e d   P a r e n t i n g   C i r c l e :

FernLeaf parent and licensed professional counselor Meghan O'Malley will be offering another Empowered Parenting Circle on **Wednesday, November 29th from 5:00 - 5:50 pm**. This parenting support is open to all FernLeaf parents and guardians. To learn more about Meghan and the work she does with families please visit her website at: [fierceloveway.com](http://fierceloveway.com).

Child care for FernLeaf students will be provided by the FernLeaf after school program for \$5.00 per child. If you are interested in enrolling your child for care during this time please contact Colleen Weber at [colleen.weber@fernleafccs.org](mailto:colleen.weber@fernleafccs.org).

## RECENT & UPCOMING STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Nov 2: Katelyn Harris

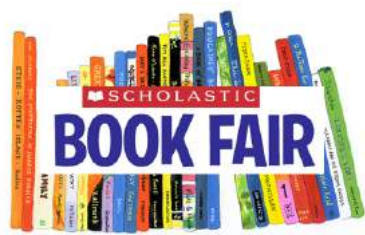
Nov 12: Molly Luplow

Nov 12: Jennifer Love

Dec 1: Nina Veteto

Dec 26: Whitney Mebane

Please contact Sara Miller @ [sara.miller921@gmail.com](mailto:sara.miller921@gmail.com) if you'd like teacher appreciation ideas!



## A BIG THANK YOU!

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FERNLEAF FAMILIES FOR JUST UNDER \$4000 IN BOOK SALES. THIS TRANSLATES INTO JUST OVER \$2000 OF SCHOLASTIC DOLLARS FOR OUR TEACHERS TO USE TO PURCHASE RESOURCES FOR THEIR CLASSROOMS.





# Henderson County

## Toy Run



**Saturday  
Nov. 18th  
2017**

Benefiting abused & neglected children of Henderson Co.

Fletcher  
Community Park  
Registration 10:00  
to 1:00  
Kick Stands Up  
1:30



Registration  
\$15.00 or  
New Toy (\$15  
value or more)

Door Prizes

50/50 Raffle

T-Shirts

All Motorcycles Welcome

Assistance provided by: Christian Motorcyclist Assoc., Hendersonville Chapter  
and local Motorcycle Associations.

For more information contact: Tammi Dudas 828-698-6866

Find us on:  
**facebook**

Henderson-County-TOY-RUN

JOE IS HELPING OUT WITH THIS TOY DRIVE. IF  
YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO  
DONATE PLEASE CONTACT HIM AT  
[JOE.HINCHLIFFE@FERNLEAFCCS.ORG](mailto:JOE.HINCHLIFFE@FERNLEAFCCS.ORG)



## Trout Article for Volunteer Newsletter by Ayden Berry and Brayden Tody

Ayden and Brayden!

First we had the tank with no fish. Then on Thursday September 21st the trout eggs arrived. 7 Days Later the the first eggs started to hatch. Then we had to start testing the water and checking the temperature so they would not die. Then we started to pick out the dead eggs because if we did not it would create fungus and the other ones would die. A couple of days later the rest of the eggs had hatched. After they hatched then they started to feed off their egg sacs. Now they are at the stage of fry they are starting to get bigger and bigger everyday day and now we are starting to feed them.

Hey Ayden and Brayden!



Kathleen Askew  
11:27 AM Oct 23

Resolve

Can you please add an introductory paragraph to introduce our experience? Please make sure to describe your feelings (show, don't tell).



Kathleen Askew  
11:27 AM Oct 23

Resolve

Can you guys add a concluding paragraph to wrap up the feelings you have about raising trout?



So much of the work at FernLeaf – both inside and outside the classroom – is a process, like an ongoing conversation. This is a snapshot into the collaborative effort between students and their teacher as they all work to move the process, and the conversation forward.

# SICK CHILD POLICY AT FERNLEAF

The health and wellness of the school community should be balanced with the student's educational needs. We understand that balancing work with caring for sick children at home is a challenge, but when students attend school when they are sick it disrupts the educational experience of others and increases the likelihood that the illness will spread throughout the classroom and school.

**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!**





## AFTERSCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

**Bricks 4 Kidz** is coming back this winter with another 12 week session of LEGO engineering classes! These classes will be held on WEDNESDAYS after school, (3:15-4:15) and are for students in grades K-5. Students will build motorized Lego models, plus use many other engineering materials each week. Space is limited.

Cost: \$135 for 12 weeks. Click [HERE](#) to sign up!



**Lango's** winter session will begin on Tuesday, November 28. The storybook for the new session is "Aventura en el invierno-Winter adventures". Cost is \$100 per 10 weeks of classes. Click [HERE](#) to register!

## UPCOMING FERNLEAF FUNDRAISER

FernLeaf will be hosting a Norwex fundraiser at the end of November. Norwex is a chemical free cleaning product best known for its tightly woven microfiber with silver embedded to allow self-purification. 15% of the proceeds from this sale will go towards curriculum resources for FernLeaf classrooms.

There will be a product presentation of Norwex products on **Tuesday, November 28th at 2:00 pm** in the Fiddlehead room in the 3/4 Building. This presentation will be followed by a **drop-in informational session from 3:00 - 4:30**. Information will also be available **Wednesday morning, the 29th from 7:30 - 8:30 am** in the Fiddlehead room.





# MUSIC ACADEMY

of Western North Carolina

*Be Inspired!*

## After-School Strings Program For 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Graders! Register Now For The Spring Semester!

- *After-School Strings Class for 2nd, 3rd, & 4th grade students interested in learning violin, viola, or cello.*
- *Classes meet each Friday for 12 Weeks at Fernleaf Community Charter School from January 19th through April 27th, 2018. Grades 2-4 Beginning Class meets from 12:15 - 1:15 PM and Grade 2-4 Level 2 Class meets from 1:30 - 2:30 PM.*
- *Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to 25 students. Please Register Online [HERE](#) or by Phone TODAY!*
- *Tuition is \$125.00 for the entire semester.*

**Space is Limited!**  
**Reserve Your Spot Today!**



Hendersonville, North Carolina's  
#1 Choice, Best Value, & LARGEST  
Music School!

**828-693-3726**

<http://wncmusicacademy.com/music-classes>

1411 Asheville Highway  
Hendersonville, North Carolina



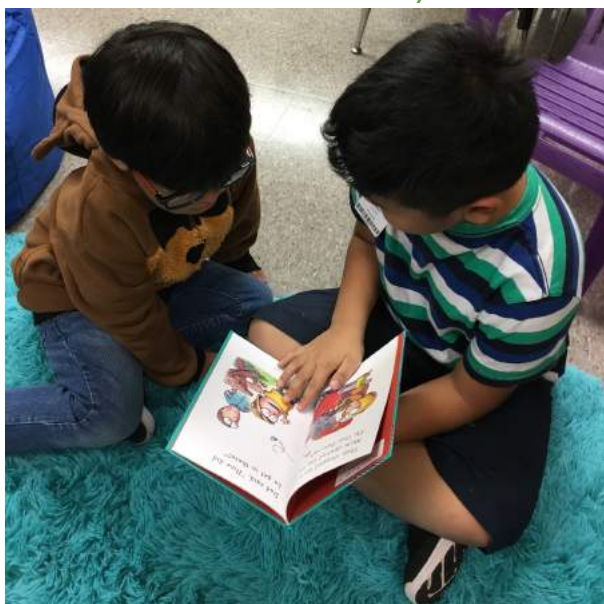


# THANK YOU AGAIN!

"Hi!! I wanted to share some pictures with you of the Library and happiness that your school helped create!!

Thank you!!"

Here is a message from the teacher in Houston, TX who received the funds we raised during our Hurricane Relief Fundraiser!



## EDITORS



The Frond & Fiddlehead Editors are Nicole & Sam Rule. Parents to Kedzie (3rd), Elsa (1st) & Ainslie (K) - also Olive a FernLeaf wannabe (preschool).

Please contact them @ [rulefamily.fernleaf@gmail.com](mailto:rulefamily.fernleaf@gmail.com) if you have questions or anything you'd like to submit for next month's newsletter!

We look forward to hearing from you!

For more information about their other venture, check out [greatestworth.com](http://greatestworth.com) - a site dedicated to helping families live with intention in their financial, emotional and personal lives.