

2014-2015

New Staff at Lincoln

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff as they partner with us on our journey of being the place where greatness begins.



New Staff

Kim Hilmer, LD Aide

My name is Kim Hilmer and I am excited to be joining the Lincoln staff this year as a paraprofessional. I have 20 years experience working in middle and elementary schools. My personal goals as a paraprofessional are to respect each student's learning style, create a positive relationship in which the students enjoy their accomplishments and learn to view their struggles with a "can do" attitude.

I've been married to my husband Doug for 29 years. Our daughter's name is Krista and she is married to Kyle. We enjoy spending time together boating, swimming, sauna-ing (I'm a proud Finn), fishing and having campfires as often as possible at our place in the Upper Peninsula of MI. My hobbies are drawing portraits, painting (water color and acrylic), making leaded stained glass. Basically anything to do with art is interesting to me. I sincerely enjoy working in the school system and I'm really looking forward to working with Lincoln staff and students!



Hannah Beachem, CD Teacher

My name is Hannah Beachem and I am thrilled to be joining the team here at Lincoln! I am one of the new CD teachers within the school, becoming part of an amazing team of hard-working and welcoming individuals. Before coming to Lincoln, I was an Early Childhood teacher for the school district of Milton, working throughout the community. I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Special Education in December, 2012. I had six semesters of student-teaching/field experience while obtaining my degree, spending my final semester of student teaching in Lake Geneva School District.

I currently live in Madison, WI with my fiance, Nick, and our cat, Marley. I am from a small town, Union Grove, WI, near Kenosha, WI. I have a very large family and it will only become larger once I become Mrs. Johnson. :) (PS that is next summer!) I don't think I can say it enough; I am so thankful to be here at Lincoln and can't wait to see what the school year has in store for us all!



Karli Lloyd, Title I Aide, Tech Focus

My name is Karli Lloyd. I am 24 years young. I was born and raised here in Janesville, WI. As a child, I always wanted a job working with children. I graduated from Parker High School and went on to attend UW Rock County. While studying for my Associates degree, I was accepted for an internship position at Walt Disney World. My family and I vacationed there often throughout my childhood, so working at Walt Disney World was always a dream of mine. After my internship, I moved back home to finish my Associates degree in Elementary Education. While in school, I volunteered at St. Paul's Lutheran School, as well as worked two jobs. While volunteering at St. Paul's, I spent my time with the third grade class and I loved every second I was there. One of the jobs I had was an In-Home Autism Therapist. This job was more rewarding than I



could have ever imagined. Most recently, I have been working from home for the past 8 months and I have enjoyed it because it has given me the opportunity to spend quality time with my daughter.

I am engaged and my fiancé's name is Merrill. We have a daughter, Kara, who was born October 2012. She is a very busy lady and likes to keep us on our toes. In March, we welcomed Roscoe, who is our eight month old black lab. Merrill is an electrician and travels often during the week. Since he is gone during the week, we spend our weekends enjoying anything and everything we can as a family. We recently bought a house in Turtle Township/Beloit. We now have a 1.5 acre lot, so this summer has been full of yard work and landscaping. We also love to camp and host bonfires. I am excited to see what the future brings, but for now I am ready to enjoy my new house, my new job, and meet all the fabulous new kids here at Lincoln Elementary.

Summer Bruegger, Instructional Aide

Hi! My name is Summer Bruegger and I am so excited to join the Lincoln Elementary School staff. I was born and raised here in Janesville. I graduated from Parker High School and attended UW- Rock County where I received my Associate's degree in Arts and Sciences. I moved on to UW-Oshkosh for one year of study in their Special Education practicum. I came back to Janesville and started working in the child care field. I worked in three different child care centers over twelve years. During that time, I continued my education through correspondence courses, workshops and training with courses ranging from child development to administration. I began working for the Janesville School District in September 2012. On a personal note, I am married to my husband Trevor and together we have three sons. Hunter attended Lincoln from kindergarten through fifth and will be starting middle school this year at Edison. My other two sons, Brodie and Austin, are here at Lincoln. My boys are very active in community sports and activities. As a family we love spending time outdoors, swimming, playing, and going for walks. We are huge Wisconsin Badger and Green Bay Packers football fans! In my free time, I love to read and I have been working on my new hobby, sewing! I look forward to getting to know all of the Lincoln staff and students!



Charity Wopat, Food Service Helper

Hello everyone! My name is Charity Wopat. I was new to the district last year. I am so very excited to be here at Lincoln!! Everyone has been so warm and welcoming and the kids are so sweet and polite. I have three children, my daughter is in college and two boys in high school. I live in Milton and waitress at a family restaurant on the weekends. I love spending time with my family, having adventures, experiencing new things and loving life! Looking forward to an amazing year with you all!!



Jenny Twardzik, Grade 4 Teacher

Hi! My name is Jenny Twardzik. I am the new fourth grade teacher here at Lincoln! Becky, my new fourth grade colleague, tells me that she feels like Lincoln "won the jackpot" by getting me, but I feel like I am the lucky one! ☺

I was born in Chicago, Illinois and was raised in Avon Park, Florida. I moved to Janesville when I was a sophomore in high school. I went to college at UW-Rock County and then transferred to UW-Whitewater. I graduated with both an elementary education degree as well as a degree in library media and technology. I plan to incorporate technology into many of my lessons. I am excited to have the one-on-one Chrome Books this year! Last year, I also completed my masters as a Reading and Language Arts Specialist. I went to grad school with some other Lincoln staff members. It's great working with those ladies again. This is my tenth year of teaching. I previously taught for nine years at Adams Elementary School, and I've always been in the fourth grade.



My family is super important to me! My mom owns a pawn shop in town. She took the store over when my dad passed away ten years ago. My brother Brian also helps run the store. My sister Cassandra is a social worker at the YWCA and just recently received her masters at George Williams. My baby sister Melissa works at Walgreens in Beloit. I have an adorable nephew who turned four in March. He means the world to me!

My three siblings went to school at Lincoln. The week before I was told I would be at Lincoln, my sister Melissa had texted me asking why I didn't work at Lincoln since that's where they all went. I told her it was because I was hired on

at Adams. What funny timing for a question like that!

I have a puppy named Freddy who is five years old. Sometimes he gets himself into a bit of trouble, but I still love him lots! :)

Thank you for all being so supportive and checking in on me. I appreciate of of you and am blessed to be a Lincoln Lion. ☺

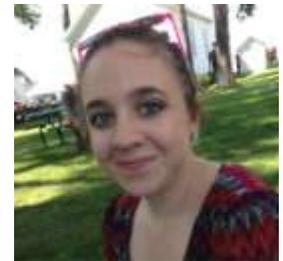
Doug Thiering, Custodian

My name is Doug Thiering, I currently work as a part time custodian for the School District of Janesville at Madison Elementary School and here at Lincoln Elementary School. In addition to working part time, I also go to school at Blackhawk Technical College where I am studying criminal justice. I'm aspiring to have a career in corrections or loss prevention. Outside of my main employment and my schooling, I am also a member of the United States Air Force Air National Guard. I've been serving for just over 3 years. In regards to the military, I also will be deploying for the first time at the end of December or early January. Personally speaking, I'm 22 years old and have a wonderful wife of almost 3 years whose name is Jordan Thiering. She works as a special education aide in the school district at Madison Elementary School. My wife is truly an amazing and inspirational woman who I am blessed to have married me. I have 3 loving, hyper, and absolutely precious pit bulls at home, 2 of which we've rescued, the other is a pure breed whom was my birthday present last year from my wife. In addition, I'm infatuated with fitness. I love to lift weights. I believe it's a part of your life and not something you just add in and take out depending on the amount of time you have. Furthermore, I'm also a bible believing Christian. Jesus Christ is one of the main parts of my life, without Him, I would not be where I am today. Lastly, I'll end with a quote, "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." - Ralph Waldo Emerson



Nicole Heling, Band & Orchestra Teacher

My name is Nicole Heling and I will be the new band and orchestra teacher at various elementary schools in Janesville and Lincoln is one of them! This is my second year in the School District of Janesville as a music teacher. I taught part-time general music last year at Van Buren Elementary and Franklin Middle School. I am a graduate of University of Wisconsin- Whitewater with a degree in K-12 Instrumental Music Education and a certificate in general music. I am very excited to be working with the 5th grade students across the district and those here at Lincoln!



I recently moved to the east side of Madison with my boyfriend, Andrew. who is working towards his masters in percussion performance at UW-Madison. Aside from enjoying being a music teacher, I like to read, bike, scrapbook, and prepare new music for our saxophone and percussion duo, the Woodwind Duo.

I look forward to working with the wonderful staff at Lincoln elementary this year!

Kelly Zastrow, Instructional Aide

Hi, my name is Kelly Zastrow. I am new to the Janesville School District and I am very excited to join the paraprofessional staff here at Lincoln elementary! I have an Associates Degree in Marketing from Blackhawk Tech. I have been a stay at home mom for the past 11 years. During that time I temporarily filled in as a playgroup leader at the Exchange Family Resource Center where I planned and facilitated weekly playgroups for children up to age 5. In addition to that I have also spent a lot of time volunteering in my children's school. I helped out in the library on a weekly basis and volunteered in the classroom whenever I could. I am also very active with the PTA at their school. A few roles I have taken on within the PTA have been Treasurer, Fundraiser Chairperson and Spring Fling Co-Chair. As well as volunteering my time at many of the PTA events!



My husband, Nathan, and I recently celebrated our 13th wedding anniversary and we have 3 wonderful children. We have 2 daughters, Katelyn a 5th grader and Layne a 3rd grader and 1 son, Easton, who is in Kindergarten. As a family

we enjoy spending time outdoors, we love to go camping and exploring the beautiful state parks Wisconsin has to offer! We also LOVE the Green Bay Packers! I am looking forward to a wonderful school year and getting to know the Lincoln kids and staff!

Melani Phillips, Instructional Aide

Hi, I'm Melani Phillips and I graduated from UW-LaCrosse in 2004 with my degree in sociology. Since graduating, I have worked for LA Weightloss as an assistant manager helping people live a healthier life style. I have also worked in customer service positions as well. I love working with people, especially children on a daily basis. I am so excited for my position as an aide at Lincoln. I have loved getting to know the staff and students the past couple weeks and am excited to continue my journey here.



I have lived in the Janesville area most of my life. I currently reside in Evansville with my husband, Andy and our two kids. My son is 2 ½ and my daughter just turned one. We love to spend our time at our family cabin on the weekends and also on the golf course. I look forward to Lincoln becoming part of our family too! Thank you for welcoming me!

Kathleen Hanke, Innovation Specialist

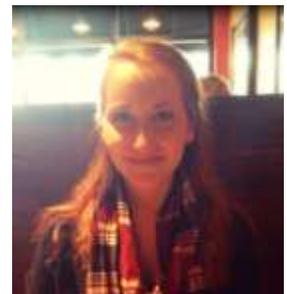
Kathleen is new to the School District of Janesville, working at both Lincoln Elementary and Wilson Elementary. She is our Innovation Specialist and works closely with teachers to incorporate technology into the curriculum and helps cast a vision about how to utilize technology in ways that match national and global trends. She was instrumental in leading her previous district in a 1:1 device initiative, similar in many ways to the pilot that Lincoln has underway this year. Her expertise is greatly valued.



Student Teachers

Anna Teichen, Student Teacher with Jamie Olin

Hello! My name is Anna Teichen. I am a UW-Whitewater student studying Elementary Education with a minor in ESL (teaching English as a Second Language). Apart from my part-time job at an appraisal office I spend most of my time volunteering at my church, Turning Point, where my husband, Josh, is the Youth Pastor. We enjoy spending our time with family and playing in a band together. This summer we celebrated our two year anniversary by going skydiving for the first time! I have lived in Janesville for over a year now and I am extremely pleased to be able to complete my student teaching experience at Lincoln in 2nd grade. I sincerely look forward to meeting students and families and working with Lincoln's incredible staff to give every student a great year.



Morgan Schubert, Student Teacher with Hannah Barry

I am a student teacher here at Lincoln this semester. I will graduate from University of Wisconsin - Whitewater in December with licenses in 1st through 8th grade as well as Adaptive Education. In January, I will be finishing my last month of student teaching in Jamaica. In my prior field studies, I worked in Milton Middle School and Van Buren Elementary School. I am from Rockford, Illinois and attended Rock Valley College before transferring to UW-Whitewater.



Although my family is located in Rockford, we are originally from Mooresville, Indiana. I lived there until I was fourteen. The majority of my extended family still lives in Indiana so we visit on most holidays. I have a Godson named Reid who is two years old. He also lives in Indiana and I love to spoil him. I have two younger brothers, Adam (21) and Levi (18). My dog is named Parker and he's a Shih-Poo. My boyfriend's name is Grant; we have been together for 5 years now. Some things I enjoy doing include reading, doing crafts, being active, kayaking, frisbee golfing, spending time with family and friends, watching Netflix and relaxing.

Brad Cagney, Student Teacher with Brenda Wenzel

My name is Brad Cagney and I am a Student teacher for Brenda Wenzel here at Lincoln. I am originally from Janesville and attended Craig High School. I attended University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for five years. I love sports and being active, hence the reason I became a physical education teacher. In my free time I like playing sports, hunting, and hanging out with friends. I also received minors in adapted physical education, health education, and coaching and hope to use these in my profession as well.



Elizabeth Muetz, Student Teacher with Amy DeGarmo

I am in my final semester at UW-Whitewater. This is my fifth year at the university and I'm so excited to be doing my student teaching here at Lincoln Elementary! Last semester I spent my semester working with a sixth grade language arts class in Edgerton and taught half the morning sections. I have also had experience volunteering in first and fifth grade classrooms throughout my college experience. I love to read all types of books though I am particularly fond of the Harry Potter series. I have lived in Janesville my entire life and graduated from Parker High school. I am looking forward to finishing up my college career as part the Class of 2014 with the second grade team!



Lincoln Staff In New Positions

Amy DeGarmo – Grade 2 Teacher
Staci Conrad – Special Education CD Aide
Julie Brown – LMC Aide
Mel Arensdorf – Special Education CD Aide
Tessa Falk – Special Education CD Aide
Jill Cass – Special Education CD Aide
Tammy Zhe – Special Education EC and CD Aide
Heidi Schroeder – Health and Attendance Aide

