# Let's celebrate our wonderful team!

# Infants – Ducklings



Our babies thrive in the gentle hands of **Karen Grady** and **Hannah Williamson**. Besides providing loving care in a quiet and calming setting, our Infant teachers fill the daily lives of the infants with a bright variety of stimulating learning materials and experiences.

Karen, who has been with WPPP since 1999, has a strong sense of ethics, and her CDA gives her the knowledge necessary to understand the developmental and physical needs of our infants. Hannah, who just came to us in 2015, is working on her Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling, and she intuitively understands the needs of the babies.



Our youngest toddlers develop their independent skills and their first experiences in a group under the gentle, reassuring and consistent guidance of **Rachel Watson** and **Karen Rengel**.

Rachel, a current graduate in Education from UCF, is successfully able to guide her young charges to have fun individually while also socializing together. Karen has assisted in our summer camp since 2004 and worked for Orange County Schools for many years. She provides the loving structure that prepares the children for a school experience.

## 2 Day 2s -- Pandas



**Kris Catina** and **Gail Cannaday** work together teaching 24 children in two separate classes of 2-yearolds, and combine their organizational skills with imaginative, hands-on experiences for their little charges.

Kris, a cheerful, positive teacher who has provided her students with a warm, loving learning environment since 2008, is always willing step in without being asked to meet the needs of the school as a whole. She has her CDA. Gail, who came to WPPP in 2006, graduated from UCF, and brings quiet competence and follow-through to the team, enabling them to engage in messy, fun projects that children love.



While many believe that managing a group of active 2-year-olds five days a week is an enormous challenge, **Rochelle Washington** and **Yvonne Mendez** bring experience and strength to their classroom, and work wonders providing a happy structure to this lively group of independent toddlers.

Rochelle has strong teaching skills, having been in the field for many years. She has a BA in English and although she only joined us in 2014, it seems as though she has been here for years. Yvonne has been a kind, nurturing assistant, who adds a gentle touch to the classroom.

3 Day 3s–Lambs



**Susan Richcreek** and **Denise Holden** have managed the unusual feat of shaping a rambunctious group of all boys into a structured, happy, active class!

Susan, who joined WPPP in 2006, is an experienced elementary teacher, a consummate professional and self- starter. With her strong faith and teaching skills she makes Chapel—which she organizes and leads--into a positive, age-appropriate learning experience. Denise has been at WPPP since 2006, and worked with 2's and 3's. Her consistency and organizational talents help the class run smoothly in a calm and focused way.

## 5 Day 3s – Ladybugs



**Anne Cleary** and **Barbara Hordern** provide continuity and clear expectations to their classroom, creating a calm learning environment and excellent preparation for the years to come.

Anne is a hardworking, dedicated teacher who goes over and above to provide her students with selfdiscipline and consistency, while enjoying a myriad of activities. At WPPP since 2004, Anne was educated in Scotland to teach a nursery pre-k program. Barbara, part of the WPPP team since 1999, has worked in many of the other classrooms over the years, bringing her easygoing flexibility and competence to whatever she does.

# 5 Day 3s-Kittens



**Aida Nassar** and **Shawnine Cuppy** provide an exceptional early childhood experience to their class, with a little mixture of science, Spanish and developmentally-appropriate learning opportunities.

Aida has been at WPPP since 2009. Calm and even-tempered, with a BS in Science, she creates a pleasant and happy atmosphere, while preparing the children for the transition to VPK. Shawnine brings a maternal touch, consistency and fairness while assisting Aida in insuring the class runs smoothly. Shawnine joined our preschool in 2013.

4 Day VPK-Dolphins



**Ginger Grimm** and **Brittany Terry** spend a great deal of time creating a fresh and exciting, hands-on curriculum, while keeping up with the complex guidelines required for VPK.

Ginger is an RN and certified elementary teacher who came to us in 2011. Hard-working and very creative, she is continuing her education, adding Early Childhood courses to her other achievements. Brittany, a warm, nurturing teacher with a CDA, has been with the school since 2009. Together they provide innovative science, literacy and math activities to their students.

5 Day VPK - Alligators



**Christy Kearney** and **Miriam Gabra** combine developmentally appropriate practice with imaginative ideas that are creative and fun for the children in their class.

Christy, who joined our team in 2005, truly understands the fundamental principle that play is children's work, and brings that knowledge to all that she does. In addition to her Early Childhood Education BA from the University of Kansas, she has a creative flair for making special events exciting. Miriam's BA degree in French has come in handy incorporating a second language into the program. Miriam also has a CDA equivalent in early childhood. Part of the WPPP team since 2005, she is gentle but focused on helping the children acquire the necessary skills to succeed in school.

# 5 Day VPK – Bears



**Aixa Correa**, **Marcia Adams** and **Tricia Wilson** have created a new, closely-knit VPK team, which combines their individual teaching styles with their many years of experience to provide a unique learning environment for their students.

Aixa has been part of our team since 2006. A wonderful storyteller, she brings a gentle but firm touch to the class as she guides the other two teachers in insuring they are successfully brought up to speed to meet the required VPK standards. She has an AA degree in Elementary Education from Puerto Rico.

Marcia has been a loving toddler teacher at WPPP since 2005. This year she has taken on the challenge of teaching a new age group, working to provide the children with the wide variety of activities they need to help them grow and develop. She has a BA in Sociology, her CDA in Early Childhood and has worked with children most of her life.

Tricia has worked with younger children since 2000, and now has moved to VPK. She has a CDA in Early Childhood Education, and is in the process of completing her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, and is able to bring to the class the leading edge research and practices of children in this age group. She also has a Director's Credential and has planned and organized our Summer Camp program over the last four years.

#### **Behind the Scenes**

**Catherine Cross** (Art Enrichment, VPK) has taught our students since 2005 to explore the elements of Art and to recognize the artists who have made an impact on the world. The children create their own work using a variety of materials and tools that are not usually available in the more common teacher-directed projects. She also teaches children to really look and see the color, shape and beauty that are part of God's world.

**Cherry Hooven** (Front Desk Administrator) came to us in 1999 after seven years as the front desk administrator at the US Naval Training Day Care Center located in what is now Baldwin Park. Cherry knows each and every parent and child in the program, and is able to answer their questions with ease. While mastering an entirely new accounting program, she still finds the time to meet the needs of everyone calling or stopping by for help.

**Suzanne Lomas** (Assistant Director and VPK Specialist) has been with us since 1992, starting when her daughter was a student and she was asked to substitute. She has a degree in Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and she has taught kindergarten in public school. Over the years, Suzanne has worked in every classroom in the school.

**Tricia Wilson** (Head Teacher, Communications) is currently wearing many hats and handles numerous administrative responsibilities as well as classroom teaching and assists Susan Richcreek in planning and organizing Chapel activities. Tricia bridges the gap between the children, the parents, the teachers and the Church. She has been a member of WPPC for over 40 years.

**Laurel Zinssar** (Director) began her career as a Preschool Teacher, working for federally-funded programs for low income families, followed by teaching experiences in a wide variety of settings in states across the country. She has an MS in Early Childhood Education and Administration, and first became a Preschool Director in 1987. She joined WPPP in 1999.