

## **2017-18 KINHAVEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

### **PRESIDENT**

I'm Erin McCants Parker, mom to Leighton, a T/Th Panda. I serve as the Pandas Class Representative and the liaison for the Search & Transition committee. I seek the role of President next year because I am passionate about the future of our school and leading us through a time of organizational transition. Our family quickly fell in love with Kinhaven, from our teachers, director and member families. Service on the Board this year has brought challenges as we sought a new location, but even more rewards through deeper friendships and a stronger commitment to this community. I've loved sharing my professional skills as an executive coach and organizational change consultant, while being more involved in my daughter's school experience.

As President, my goal is to continue collaborating with our Executive Director to ensure we maintain our strong school culture in a new location, making the transition as smooth as possible for our families and staff. Looking ahead, we will increase the visibility of our brand in the marketplace focused on our eventual return to the new, expanded space. I am confident I can commit the necessary time to serve in this role on the Board.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

My name is Meetal Desai and I am parent of Maliya (alumnus) and Nina (M,W,F Panda). I would be thrilled to serve as the Vice President of the Kinhaven Board and work to ensure the smooth transition of our school to its new location. I have previously served on the Kinhaven Board as the Rainbows Parent Representative and thoroughly enjoyed contributing to furthering the Kinhaven mission and supporting the community. During my year as on the board, I helped with the Kinhaven strategic plan, communicated parent concerns to the board, and relayed pertinent board information back to Rainbow parents. I have the experience to serve in this role and am excited to continue supporting our community.

Personally, I am currently working towards becoming a health and wellness coach and have developed a small food delivery company that specializes in healthy and home-cooked meals. Prior to this endeavor, I worked in the healthcare administration space for close to 12 years and am hoping to transition back to that field once Nina starts kindergarten in 2019. I have quite a bit of experience in customer service, public speaking, and program management. I am confident that I will make a strong Vice President and look forward to working with you all in the future.

## **TREASURER**

I'm a mother of two (Spencer – almost 4 years old and Anna –almost 20 months). I'm running for Treasurer because we've had great experiences with Kinhaven and I'd like to help with the transition to the new location. I am just finishing my first year on Kinhaven's Board, as the Grasshopper parent representative and have enjoyed contributing to the school and its community of families.

Prior to having kids, I worked in the Financial Services industry for 13 years, last as a Director of Regulatory Policy. I have an MBA in Finance from Loyola University and a BA in Government from Hamilton College.

As a family, we love traveling, eating out and listening to and playing music. We're also avid Capitals fans.

## **SECRETARY**

Hi! I'm Rohitha Bhushan, mother to Keshav (MWF Pandas). We're new to Kinhaven having been in the school only the past year. We have been nothing short of impressed to say the very least, at how the school and its incredibly close-knit community of parents manage the various activities effortlessly. I haven't had a chance to play an active role the past year though I'd love for that to change and be more involved in the Kinhaven Executive Board as the Secretary. I work at a start-up where I have the flexibility to contribute the time and energy involved for this position. I look forward to joining the other wonderful parents and the Kinhaven committee members to get ready for the exciting new school year ahead.

## **DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

My name is Jacque Yue, mother to Aaron, who is currently in the Panda class. I'm running to serve as Director at Large. I will bring over 15 years of education and non-profit experience to the board. My professional background is in education and camp administration. Most recently, I was the Camp Director at a non-profit, residential summer camp. I now work part-time in finance and camp administration. I have a degree in mathematics and physics from Cleveland State University. My family and I returned to Arlington last year and joined Kinhaven last summer. I live in the Yorktown neighborhood with my husband, Andrew and son, Aaron. We love to ski, camp and play outside.

### **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE – Beginners Class & Strategic Planning Committee Liaison**

Hi - My name is Kristy Croushore and I would like your vote to serve as Parent Representative for the Beginners Class for the 2017-2018 school year. This year will be my family's second at Kinhaven, and I would like to be more involved in a leadership role in our school community. I understand that many parents cannot attend monthly Board meetings for various reasons, but still want to feel connected to that important information flow. Since my schedule allows me to attend Board meetings, I would like to serve as your eyes and ears at these events, and promise to report back promptly at the conclusion of each Board meeting with news and activities that will affect your respective families. Further, I promise to be available to hear from you about any concerns or issues you may have, and to be your voice in raising them effectively with the Board. In addition, I would also like to serve as a Liaison to the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, so that I can keep you abreast of longer-term planning for Kinhaven, such as our eventual transition back to our new and improved facilities in Ballston. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the Parent Representative role for the Beginners Class for 2017-2018, and I would be grateful if you cast your vote for me.

### **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE – Partial Week Preschool & Hospitality Committee Liaison**

My name is Lauren Jordan, mother of Livia Rae Jordan (M/W/F Tiger) and Nash Declan Jordan (1 years old). We joined the Kinhaven family last year and have truly enjoyed being a part of this close-knit community. My current role as the M/W/F Tiger's Room Parent has been wonderful. I would like to continue to serve as a liaison to the parents and the school by furthering my involvement as the Young 3s Class Representative.

As a working Mom of 2, I understand that it can be difficult to make every board meeting – I am confident that each parent in our class will receive consistent and informative communication, in a timely manner. I understand how important education is for our children at this early age as almost half of my extended family are in the education field. I look forward to working with each parent to be sure they feel included and have an enjoyable and positive Kinhaven experience.

### **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE – Full Week Preschool & Fundraising Committee Liaison**

Hi! My name is Dasha Herмосilla and I am the Mom of Gryffin Fahle (current MWF Tiger and rising M-F Preschool class). We also have two older boys (Braydon 5th and Keaghan 3rd) who also attended Kinhaven. In our time at the school we have had a kids from Bluebirds to Rainbows and nearly everything in between. We have seen it all! Most recently I have served Kinhaven as a shared Tiger class board representative this spring after the mid-year departure of our board representative. Next year I will also assume the role of Kinhaven 5k chair. When I started at Kinhaven in 2008 with my oldest, I coincidentally started as a shared board representative with another family. I served for one year and then moved on to serve the school as Treasurer, Auction Chair and President for two years. I have seen a lot change over the years, but as we enter our 10th year as a member of the Kinhaven community, there is no bigger change than our much anticipated move to the St. George's location. I look forward to helping the families and school with a successful transition.

### **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE – Pre-K Class & Membership Committee Liaison**

Ljubica Moore: Many of you know me by the more pronounceable moniker “L.J.,” or, even more likely, as Tad’s mom (MWF Pandas). We Moores have been part of Kinhaven only since last year, but we are already wowed by it. Thanks to the kind, attentive, and nurturing staff – and to the other boys and girls who brighten Kinhaven’s halls – our little guy has thrived beyond our greatest expectations. Moreover, you parents have created an environment in which we feel welcomed and supported. All of this motivates me to want to give back to the community by serving as a parent representative.

By way of background, I’m an attorney – but please don’t hold that against me ☺ After graduating from law school, I practiced law overseas in places where my husband Rod, a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, was assigned. For now, family is my top priority, and I have put my career on pause.

I am ready to commit my time and energy to this position. I have been involved in many charities, clubs, and fundraising activities during my time overseas and would like to think that my hybrid background –very international and very American – would be an advantage within Kinhaven’s culturally rich community.

### **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE – Pre-K Class & Membership Committee Liaison**

My name is Han White, mother to Alyssa (M/W/F Pandalas) and Noelle (10 month old). We have been with Kinhaven for a year and love the nurturing program and faculty, sense of community and friendships formed. For these reasons, I would like to be more involved in the Kinhaven community by serving as a Parent Representative. Having “survived” the first year with an infant of sleepless nights and around the clock feedings, I now have more time (and energy!) which I would like to invest in Kinhaven. I am interested in the opportunity of maintaining the program and standards at Kinhaven not only for current students but future ones too with the hope of Noelle also becoming a fellow Kinhaven.

I am a stay at home mom having left my previous job as an accounting manager at a financial services company. With more flexibility, I am fortunate enough to have the chance to spend more time with my children and enjoy more traveling, cooking and running. Since Alyssa will be going to class 5 days a week next year, I will have more time that I can provide to Kinhaven and believe this role will be a good fit.

### **PARENT REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE – JOBS Committee Liaison**

My name is Molly Gossin, mother to Elle (Rising Star) and Hudson (T/Th Beginners). I want to serve on the Board as a Parent Representative – At Large. I have thoroughly enjoyed the three years my daughter has been at Kinhaven and want to contribute to the school community that my family has found welcoming and nurturing to Elle. I have found Kinhaven to be a very safe, fun, enjoyable learning environment that has been enriched by the community of involved parents. As a stay at home mom, I have the time to devote to the Board and look forward to contributing to school leadership through service on the Board. Thank you.

### **ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE**

My name is Mary Edmondson, mother of two Kinhaven alumnae, Andrew and Catherine Ross, currently second graders at Glebe Elementary School. It is hard to believe three years have passed since I served as Kinhaven's board president, and even longer since being board secretary and a class representative. I admit to remembering several board discussions surrounding an alumni representative and wondering who would want to do that and why! Some distance from an organization brings a whole new appreciation for it. Here are the three primary reasons I would be happy to give my time to Kinhaven: 1) I have observed the value a well-rounded play-based preschool education gives to our children; 2) I believe our community greatly benefits from having a long-standing, independent, non-profit preschool option; and 3) my loyalty to Kinhaven--its philosophy, administration and teachers--drives my desire to see Kinhaven sail through this transition and succeed in its new location. Although I am hoping to re-enter the paid workforce on a full-time basis in the near future (making my spare time even more precious), I would be proud to serve on your board as an alumni representative.