

2016-17 Board of Directors Nominees

Each family will have one vote via electronic ballot delivered to the primary email address. Select one (1) nominee per office. The ballot will close at 8pm on April 15.

President

Jane Wishneff: My name is Jane Wishneff and I am running to serve as President of the Board of Directors for next year. Next year will be my family's 4th year at Kinhaven. I have three energetic and loving daughters - Grayson is a rising Rainbow and Avery, a rising Bluebird. My oldest daughter, Riley is a Kinhaven alum and currently in Kindergarten at Taylor.

I have served on the Board of Directors each of the three years we have been at Kinhaven. First, as Class Representative, then Vice President, and this past year as President. As I discussed at Back to School Night in September, my goal for this past year was to work with the Kinhaven community to develop a Strategic Plan to guide the school's leadership over the course of the next several years. I am pleased to report that I have been working with a dedicated group of parents over the past several months on this project and we are in the drafting phase of this document. For next year, I would like to focus on the initial stages of implementation of this Plan. I'm very grateful for the opportunity I have had to give back to Kinhaven and hope to continue this as your board President again next year.

Vice- President

Enjoli Goyal: My name is Enjoli Goyal, mother to Ajan (Kinhaven Alumnus) and Syra (T/Th/F Grasshopper). Having loved every moment of the past 4 years we have been part of the Kinhaven community, I would like to continue to serve on the Board of Directors. My current role as the Grasshopper's Class Representative has been a wonderful experience and I would like to get further involved as the Vice President. I hope to maintain the warm, structured environment that promotes a child's independence and family inclusiveness.

As all of you know, juggling the many responsibilities of an active household is a constant challenge. As a stay at home mom, I am lucky enough to have the time to devote to this position because Ajan will be in 1st grade at Glebe Elementary and Syra will be attending Kinhaven 5 days a week as a Rising Star. Plus, we turned the corner a year ago and are down to just nighttime pull-ups! Prior to motherhood, I was a Corporate Tax Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). So, while my life is now an eternal "busy season," I am confident I can commit the time and energy to the Kinhaven Executive Board.

Treasurer

Kristin Thakor: My name is Kristin Thakor and I am running to serve as treasurer. This will be our 4th year at Kinhaven. My son, Colin, will be a Rising Star, and my daughter, Maggie, will be a Tiger. Right now I am staying at home with the kids but my professional background is in economics. At Kinhaven I am currently the treasurer and the room parent for the Tuesday-Thursday Bluebirds. The chance to pull out my grown-up skills to help Kinhaven and give back a little of what Kinhaven has given my children and our family is why I am running to serve as treasurer for a second year

Secretary

Lexi Patel: It was a pleasure to serve as the Tigers' classroom representative for the last year. This year, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve as Secretary. Before Jacob was born in 2012, I worked in DC Public Schools as an Early Childhood educator. This has shaped my experience at Kinhaven, first as a parent and secondly as a Board member. As the Tigers' representative, I worked to communicate parents' concerns and needs to the school. I elicited regular input from parents and passed along administrative responses accordingly. The Secretary communicates the workings of the Board to the entire Kinhaven community. This communication—from parents to the administration and from the administration back to parents—is a critical component of a healthy school community in which each child's educational and emotional needs are met. We are expecting our second child this summer, and as I look forward to many more years in the Kinhaven community, I appreciate the role of the Board and my opportunity as a parent to participate

Director at Large

Cindy McCool: I'm the parent of two Kinhaven students: Claire, who is a Comet and soon to be Rainbow and Will, who is a Bluebird and soon to be Tiger. 2016/2017 will be our family's 4th year at Kinhaven! This is my second year on the Board of Directors. Last year I was the Membership liaison to the Board and I'm currently serving as the Director at Large. As a working mom, I'm not always available to make all the drop-offs and pick-ups so I find my time on the Board to be invaluable as it allows me to give back to the school and be involved in the wonderful Kinhaven community. I would like to continue serving as Director at Large as our Personnel is the heart of school and I want to continue representing our caring teachers' interests to the Board. I'm confident I can commit the time and energy to this position.

Bluebirds Class Representative

Kate Ahrens: My name is Kate Ahrens and 2016-17 will be our fourth year at Kinhaven. Our first daughter is set to graduate in June and begin kindergarten at McKinley in the fall, and our second daughter will be in the Bluebirds class. I have been on the Board of Directors for three years, two as the Search & Transition chair and this year as the Secretary. I look forward to meeting each Bluebird family and being their class representative to the Board of Directors.

Tigers Class Representative

Melissa Stanzione: I didn't know much about Kinhaven when my daughter, Giulia (Sunbeam), and son, Lucius (Bluebird), were accepted last summer, except that it is considered a top area preschool. I have been amazed by how welcoming the Kinhaven community is, how well-run the school is and how attuned the teachers are to the students' needs. All of these factors make me want to contribute what I can.

I returned to work last fall after a more than three-year absence and miss chatting with other parents during drop-off and pick-up, and being at the school with my kids. I think the position of Tigers class representative would allow me (force me!) to keep in touch with other families and be a part of this thriving, amazing community.

Pandas Class Representative

Erin McCants Parker: is mom to Leighton, current Bluebird. Erin is delighted to be considered for her first role in a school setting for her child. She is interested in being an active participant in her daughter's first school experience and contribute her outside expertise to the Kinhaven Community. She brings over 18 years of corporate and consulting experience to the board. Erin began her career as a financial analyst, before pursuing her M.B.A. and joining a consulting firm. Erin has worked with several not-for-profit and for-profit organizations to support their boards, from board development, strategic planning, evaluation of board members, and refining policies and governance processes. Later in her career, Erin pursued her leadership coach certification. She now enjoys running her own consulting practice working with executives in a variety of ways. She brings her broad business expertise to small and mid-size business to help them set strategy and achieve difficult goals, while coaching their leaders through change. She is known for her ability to quickly establish a trusted rapport, deal with sensitive situations, provide developmental feedback, and help the leaders she serves bring about lasting change. Erin lives in Arlington with her husband Preston, Leighton, their dog Bo and two cats. She loves to be outside, traveling or watching Virginia Tech football.

Grasshoppers Class Representative

Katherine (Katie) Bragan: I'm a mother of two (Spencer - rising Grasshopper and Anna - rising Bluebird). I'm running for this position because we've had great experiences with Kinhaven. I would love to be more involved and to help contribute 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.

Kate Perkins: I am Kate Perkins, the mother of Emma (currently a Tiger) and Ethan (6 months) and I'm interested in being the Grasshoppers Representative. I'm a teacher and a reading specialist and have worked and volunteered in a variety of elementary, middle, and high schools. I've never worked at a preschool, but think serving on the board would allow me to learn more about early childhood education and how Kinhaven operates. Being the Grasshoppers Representative would also allow me to be more involved in Emma's classroom. Additionally, I'm interested in being a part of the decision making team at Kinhaven. I hope to bring my experience from working at numerous schools and knowledge of best educational practices to the board.

Sunbeams Class Representative

Emily Parsons: I would like to run for the board because I believe I would be a good advocate for our Sunbeams class. I have an innate ability to relate well to others. My degree is in social work, which lends itself well to help problem solve and find solutions to meet the needs of others. I am a stay-at-home Mom to three wild but wonderful boys; Luke (4, rising K), Max (3, rising Sunbeam) and Parker (6 mo., rising Bluebird). I enjoy many outdoor activities with my boys,

sports, traveling, music class and arts. I would like to think that I would be a valuable asset to the board.

Rising Stars Class Representative

Cintia Gilmore: My name is Cintia Gilmore, proud mother of Sofia who will be a Rising Star in the next school year. It will be our second year at Kinhaven, and since we believe we have learned the ropes I feel ready to make a bigger contribution to the governing of the school. My background as a lawyer taught me the importance of having good representation, and I would be happy to serve as the voice of Rising Stars' parents and caregivers at the Board of Directors.

Megan McNamara: My name is Megan McNamara. I am mother to Aaron (current Grasshopper) and Hannah (2016-17 two-day Bluebird). Our family relocated to the USA from Chile in April 2015 but I am South African and my husband is from Argentina. My work experience prior to our moves includes Talent Management, specifically development of performance management, Project Management and PMO compliance. As our association with the school will include Hannah for the next few years I believe that it is important to get involved with the workings that make Kinhaven a success. Therefore, I would be honored to serve on the board as Rising Stars Class Representative.

Lisa Miller: Mom to Grasshopper, Liam, and Kinhaven alum, Teigan, (and big sister Arianna who went to preschool in London). So bitter sweet to think that our family is coming up on our last year at Kinhaven. It's been a fabulous place for both our boys. We've seen how Rising Stars helped Teigan make the transition to Kindergarten with ease and look forward to what I'm sure will be a great year for the entire class. After having done a variety of different jobs the past three years, I'd look forward to the opportunity to be more involved with the Board in my final year - to give something back, to be more actively engaged and hopefully to share whatever insight I may have picked up having already parented two kids through their pre-K year and successful transition to elementary school. Apart from being mom, I've been a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State for almost 17 years, the past three in a job-share arrangement (yeah for work/life balance).

Rainbows Class Representative

Rod O'Connor: I am the father of current Rising Star and future Rainbow, Caitlin, and her two older siblings who are students at Jamestown elementary. When we returned to Arlington last year after a stint in London, we were very fortunate to be able to join the Kinhaven community. I have lived in Arlington since 1992 and know firsthand how important places like Kinhaven are as our community experiences rapid growth and change. Kinhaven provides a fun, safe, involved and innovative place for kids to take their first steps on a lifelong education path, and I am thrilled we have been able to provide this opportunity for our daughter. I grew up with a mother who started as a teacher and became the administrator of the preschool I attended. She spent her career there helping provide good opportunities for young children and teaching me the value of the same. I would be honored to serve on the Kinhaven Board and help the school continue its success.