

# Meet the 2023-2024 Binkley Parent Board!



## **Lara Valerio (Chair/Co-Chair)**

Hi, my name is Lara Valerio and I'm the chair/co-chair for the parent board here at Binkley. Binkley preschool has always had a place in my heart as it was where I went to school as a child and my first experience in a classroom setting. It is why I decided to enroll my daughter today. The school has helped immensely with her social and emotional development in which we are forever grateful. Cheers to a great school year ahead!



## **Kim Buckley (Director)**

This year marks the 15th year for Mrs. Buckley at Binkley Preschool. What began as a mom enrolling her youngest child in the 2's class in 2008, soon went from Substitute Teaching, Teaching Assistant in the 4's in 2011 and eventually to Director in 2017. You will often hear Mrs. Buckley say that joining the Binkley Family has been the BEST job second only to staying home with her 4 children as a full time mama! The Binkley Family IS her second family, every kiddo, every mommy, daddy, grandma, grandpa, etc. If you love someone at Binkley Preschool so does Mrs. Buckley.

Mrs. Buckley was born in Boston, grew up in RI, and graduated from the University of San Francisco where she lived for 10 years and met her husband of 31 years.

She has 4 children, a daughter in Charlotte, NC, a son, daughter-in-law and 6mo. old granddaughter in Tampa, FL, a son in Venice, CA and her youngest, a daughter in Chapel Hill. She has a Bernese Mountain dog and a Miniature Jack Russell Terrier just to keep things interesting. She loves to travel, walk with her husband, read a good book, laugh, and perhaps most of all, she loves the littles!



### **Ryland Pigg (Treasurer)**

I'm Ryland Pigg, Treasurer. I have Charlie in the 2's MWF class, but he is our 4th Binkley student, graduates including Billy (kindergarten), Tony (4th grade), and Johnny (6th grade). We chose Binkley at the recommendation of a friend 7 years ago, and have loved it ever since. I work as an actuarial leader at Blue Cross NC by day, and I also volunteer as the bishop of my local church (i.e. head pastor for the congregation) on Sundays and during some nights and weekends. This combination takes up much of my time outside of my family, so there is limited time for hobbies, but I find it extremely fulfilling. I look forward to helping the board continue to find new and exciting ways to make Binkley a great experience for kids, parents, teachers, and volunteers.



### **Kim Prejs (Teacher Liaison)**

Kim Prejs has been a teacher at Binkley Preschool since 2014 when she began as the lead 3-year-old teacher. She transitioned to the lead 4-year-old teacher position in 2021 and is excited to be back with the 3s in 2023! She has a background in education, as she previously taught kindergarten and first grade in both public and private school settings. With a Master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Kim loves working with preschool-aged children, nurturing their love of learning and helping them to have a wonderful first school experience. What fun it is to watch them grow and learn, especially because their excitement is contagious. Kim feels so lucky to be part of the Binkley community and truly enjoys working with the whole family, getting to know all the important members of each student's life. Kim lives in Carrboro with her husband, two daughters (one of whom is a Binkley grad herself!), and two dogs.



### **Stephanie Bogdewic (Registrar)**

Stephanie is currently serving as the Registrar on the Parent Board. Her son, Jamie, is in the MWF Manatees class, and they love being a part of this community! Stephanie works in public health research, and in her free time she loves to be active and spend time with family and friends.



### **Kelly Katerakis (Scholarship Chair)**

Kelly Katerakis is the Scholarship Chair and this is her third year at Binkley. Her favorite thing about Binkley is the support and unwavering commitment of all the teachers and Kim to create such a wonderful place for our children!

### **Karen Long (Church Liaison)**

Karen Long is the liaison to the board from Binkley Baptist Church. She is a retired attorney and is the mother of two daughters and the Nana to three granddaughters. She is constantly awed by the work you all do as board members and parents of little kids.





### **Julie Sides (Co-Fundraiser)**

Hi! My name is Julie Sides and I'm the fundraising co-chair here at Binkley. Ever since we first toured Binkley we knew this place and community felt like home. My daughter currently attends and my son will in the future. I look forward to being apart of the Binkley family for years to come.



### **Carri Holden (Co-Fundraiser)**

Hi, I'm Carri Holden, Fundraising Co-Chair. My son, Riley, is in Ms. Jones' Superstars class (4s), and this is our first year at Binkley. Our family relocated to Chapel Hill from California in 2019, and we really love this area. I'm a stay-at-home Mom and so delighted to be able to stay home with Riley and his 2 younger siblings. We're looking forward to meeting other families at the school this year!



### **Max Goldstein (Parent Coordinator)**

Hello! My name is Max and I am so so excited to serve as your new parent coordinator! Basically I get to do all the fun stuff organizing bday celebrations and teacher appreciation, and look for an email coming from me about our teachers favorite things! My son Leroy is in the 2's class just as I was 33 years ago. Can you guess which one is me(hint- the cutest one)?



### **Lauren Dermody (Secretary)**

Last year I was fundraising co-chair on the Board and this year I'm serving as secretary. My primary responsibility is to record the minutes at our monthly board meetings. My daughter graduated from the 4s last May, and my son is starting in the 2s this year. I was blown away by Binkley, Mrs. Buckley, and the teachers when we toured and still am today. I'm just so grateful to have found such an amazing, nurturing school for my children!