



Volume 23, Issue 1

August 2018

# COTTON TALES

## The Silk Road: A Journey of Many Steps

### From the Director...

As we begin our 23rd year of teaching, we are thrilled to announce that this year's Journey of Many Steps will follow The Silk Road through Europe in the first semester and Asia in the second.

Our staff is rested, rejuvenated, remarkable and ready to take on the new year.

Happily, Kir and Lisa, will be working on site full time; Lisa with Toddlers in the morning and Drama in the afternoon, and Kir as our Events Coordinator in the morning and Drama in the afternoon. Kristen Hatch has returned and will be rejoining the Senior Elementary class once again as Amanda's assistant.

Our long time friend, Christy Larson, an accomplished Montessori teacher, will be assisting Joy Reese in the Junior

Elementary. And Deanna Ybarra, another accomplished Montessori teacher, recently returned from 12 years of teaching in China, will be assisting Mr. Taylor Black who has been promoted to lead teacher in the Junior Elementary in place of Corinne Mathes who moved to North Carolina in May.

We have hired a skilled and delightful music teacher named Christine Smith who will be working closely with the drama team this year.

This summer has been spent restoring and repairing our most highly used spaces. The field is lush and green again thanks to Dutchman Landscapers. The shade structure on the sand playground has been replaced (due to rot) by

Mat Hayes, Construction and Repairs. Our carpets have been cleaned and treated by Tristan at Five Stones, the Witte family has donated two nearly new swamp coolers for the main building which are being installed by our friends at Sun Vista. Finally, our new music teacher, Christine Smith has brought in new instruments, a sound system, and a wonderful collection teaching materials from her distinguished career, to share with our students.

Our Cottonwood Parent Association is staffed and eager to serve the needs of our student body.

This school year is shaping up to be one of our best ever and we are so glad you will be joining us on this journey of many steps!

### Upcoming Events:

- Staff Orientation and Prep-Aug 13-17
- Toddler Classroom Orientations w/Ms. Amy and Ms. Pam Aug 16 & 17, by appointment
- Parent/Child Orientation Aug 18 at 9:00 am
- First Day of School! Monday, August 20
- Senior Elementary Campout August 23-24
- First Burrito Day and Sing Along-Sept 7 @ 7:30AM!
- School closed for Labor Day on September 3. No childcare available.
- Back to School Family Yoga Class on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 130-3 in



### Meet the Teachers Orientation Aug, 18 at 9:00 am

You won't want to miss this year's Parent/Child Orientation on Saturday, August 18 at 9AM! We've set this special "Meet and Greet" so that you and your children can get acquainted with their teachers and see their new classrooms. We'll be gathering in the multi-purpose room at 9AM for donuts and coffee, and

brief introductions to our staff. Classroom meetings for parents will follow at 9:30AM while students adjourn to the playgrounds with our teacher's aides. Come out and greet one another, meet new teachers and families, and visit with our CSPA representatives. We're in for a glorious year together as we

caravan through Europe and Asia, exploring The Silk Road in both modern and ancient times. There are many treasures to pick up along the way and we are anxious to begin our travels on Monday, August 20. We are so glad you will be joining us on our route featuring a year of myths, magic and meals.

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## Family Communication @ [www.cottonschool.org](http://www.cottonschool.org), Facebook, IG & email

The Cottonwood School website, can be found at :

[www.cottonwoodschool.org](http://www.cottonwoodschool.org)

We use this site to offer information on the school to the general public. You can find our school calendar there under Parent information, along with current events, CSPA information and updates on school activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCottonwoodSchoolInCorralesNm/>

You can find the school's Facebook page at the link above or by searching for the Cottonwood School in Corrales, NM. There is also a "group" site called The Cottonwood School and we post the same information on both sites, but you won't need an invitation to join the first one. All other names are ghost sites created by people posting or

tagging Cottonwood Montessori. You can LIKE us at Cottonwood School in Corrales, NM to get up to date info.

[trish@cottonwoodschool.org](mailto:trish@cottonwoodschool.org)

Our Director, Ms. Trish Nickerson, will send out email updates every Monday to inform you of school events and activities, to clarify questions and to send attachments thus cutting down on paper. If you are not receiving the weekly updates, please call the office to verify your email address, then check your junk folder to make sure we have permission to send you information. You can do that by putting school email addresses in your contacts.

Your teacher will also send out a weekly update of classroom updates!

**Twitter**

We use Ms. Trish @CottonwoodSch as our twitter handle to send out notices, re-tweets on current practice and theory from innovators in our educational community and pictures from our classrooms and from around the campus. It's a small account and fairly new, but we'd love for you to follow us on TWITTER!

**Instagram**

The school's Instagram account is at cottonwood\_school. We try to post pics from our school day, videos of staff, students and parents, and overall happenings around the school. It's a nice way to keep up with our daily and weekly events so if you have an IG account, FOLLOW US and stay in the know!

## A Bit About the Silk Road

700 A.D...the Roman Empire has fallen. Italy, Spain, and Northern Europe are controlled by Germanic tribes. London and Paris are small towns; Rome is a half-deserted city of ruins. In the eastern Mediterranean, the Roman tradition lives on in the Byzantium (also called Constantinople, now Istanbul). The Christian rulers of Byzantium face a serious challenge from the rapidly expanding world of

Islam. Founded by the Prophet Muhammad in 622, Islam has spread throughout Arabia and now controls Iraq, Armenia, Persia, and much of North Africa. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, China is ruled by the glorious Tang Dynasty (618-906), whose emperors have brought China to a high point of power, territorial control, and cultural brilliance. China's capital, Chang'an, is the largest city in the

world. The great empires of the West and the East are linked by the Silk Route, an ancient trade network of caravan tracks across the steppes and deserts of Central Asia. ~The Silk Route:

7,000 Miles of History by John S. Major

## Meet Our Amazing 2018-2019 Teaching Teams!

We have assembled a dynamic group of educators to head up our programs this year. Here is the 2018 lineup...

### Senior Elementary 4th-5th

Amanda Herman/Kristen Hatch

### Junior Ele 1st-3rd grade

Joy Reese/Christy Larson

Taylor Black/Deanna Ybarra

### Early Childhood 3-6 years

Elizabeth Mckinley/Kristi Adams

Estela Cross-Guillen/Conor Sullivan

### Toddlers 2-3 years

Pam Gonzales/Lisa Fenstermacher

Amy Appel/Angilece Ratliff

### Aftercare

Elementary-Kellie Nickerson

Early Childhood-Cyndi Roy

### Specialists

Art-Tricia Larese

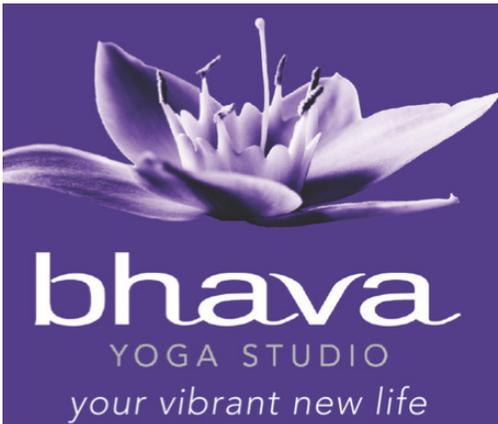
Drama-Kir Kipness and

Lisa Fenstermacher

Environmental Ed-Becky Pierce

Music-Christine Smith

PE-Kellie Nickerson



# Steady Start for School Special Family Class w/ Linda Brody

Bhava Yoga @ Cottonwood School



**Saturday Sept 8, 2018**  
1:30-3:00 PM  
\$20 for two participants  
\$5 each additional  
Cash or check only



Linda Brody is a 1st-3rd grade teacher and kids and family yoga teacher at Little Earth School in Santa Fe. She has taught kids and family yoga at Bhava Yoga Studio in Albuquerque since 2015. Linda gives children the benefits of grounding, strengthening, calming and self-regulation skills, through carefully crafted yoga classes that are fun, engaging and in tune with the ages and developmental needs of her students. Linda has an amazing ability to connect with each child! She loves teaching yoga to children, who model joyful playful exploration.

Take the crazy out of the school starting  
Experience the benefits of yoga together.  
Gain tools for steadiness of mind and body.

At Cottonwood, we strive to foster a strong and supportive parent-student-teacher community. We have several opportunities for parents to play active roles that greatly benefit the classroom and the school. You will be asked at the parent orientation to sign up for one of the volunteer positions listed below. Please preview the list of jobs to determine which tickles your fancy. We thank you in advance for your help and support!

- **Room Parent**-The Room Parent will work closely with the classroom teachers in organizing field trips, class parties, fundraisers, special events, and volunteers. The Room Parent will be responsible for contacting families in the class through notes, letters, and phone calls whenever necessary and to enlist help. Room Parents will also liaise and coordinate with other Room Parents within a section and with the Parent Association section representative as needed for shared events and activities.
- **Phone Tree**-The Phone Tree parent will, as requested by the Director, school secretary, classroom teacher, or Committee Chairs, activate the phone-tree to contact all families in the class for communication of important and timely information.
- **Librarian**-The Librarian parent works with the classroom teachers in acquiring appropriate reading and research material from local libraries for the classroom. The teachers will provide either a book list or a topic of study on which the volunteer can base their selections. The school will be responsible for any lost or damaged books. The Library parent is responsible for returning books on time or getting an extension if needed.
- **Scrapbook**-The Scrapbook parent will document school-year events at the school and in the classroom through photographs and written material and will assemble the classroom scrapbook for the year-end annual auction. The Scrapbook parent will also provide digital copies of photos taken throughout the year to the class Yearbook parent.
- **Yearbook**-The Yearbook parent will collect digital copies of photos from other classroom parents throughout the year and upload to the Yearbook software site. Yearbook parents will be a member of the Yearbook Committee that is responsible to assemble the annual yearbook.
- **Hospitality**-The Hospitality parent will help to organize potluck suppers and/or carpools for families who are sick, experiencing significant hardship, or have recently given birth. Also works with the Director and the Hospitality Committee to help with teacher appreciation luncheon and gifts.
- **Laundry**-The Laundry parent will assist the classroom teachers in organizing the laundering of napkins, tablecloths, and nap sheets each week; and rugs, picnic blankets, pillows, and dress-ups as needed.
- **Pet Partner**-The Pet Partner will be responsible for taking care of the classroom pets, including: purchasing pet food, monitoring pet upkeep, cleaning cages once a week as needed, and making sure they are farmed out to good homes over the holidays, school breaks, and summer vacation. School will reimburse any expenses related to pet care, including veterinary.
- **Green Thumb**-The Green Thumb parent will make sure the classroom plants are kept healthy and that they are fed, watered, pruned, dusted and fertilized as needed.
- **Jack (or Jill)-of-all-Trades**-The Jack (or Jill)-of-all-Trades will assist with the general repair and upkeep of the classroom, furniture, materials and playground equipment as needed. Also helps with small-scale campus projects as a member of the Spruce-Up Committee.
- **Chef**-The Chef helps students in the class to prepare dishes for feast days and other celebrations, as requested by the teachers.
- **Safety Rep**-The Safety parent helps to monitor the parking lot before or after school to ensure the safe arrival and departure of students, parents, teachers and visitors to our school.
- **Materials Maker**-The Materials parent helps to create or refresh classroom materials, as requested by the teachers. Also helps coordinate and participates in Parent Work Nights to enlist other volunteers to fulfill teacher work orders for classroom materials.

## Important Contact Information for the School Year:

<b>Director/Principal</b> -Trish Nickerson	239-1765	trish@cottonwoodschool.org
<b>Office Manager</b> -Valerie Armenta	897-8375	val@cottonwoodschool.org
<b>Aftercare Building (BRICKHOUSE)</b>	<b>897-3544</b>	<b>kellienickerson@hotmail.com</b>
• <b>CSPA President</b> -Liz Sherman	610-8775	eart72@gmail.com
• <b>Diagnostician</b> -Carol Allen	296-1264	carols09smartcar@gmail.com
• <b>Events Coordinator</b> -Kir Kipness	470-7904	beansproutbean@gmail.com
• <b>Facility Supervisor</b> -Shanual Brown	975-3259	chillywillie17@yahoo.com
• <b>Family Coaching</b> -Danielle Cossett	615-0806	dcbalance@comcast.net
• <b>Garden/Chickens/Bees</b> -Becky Pierce	898-4668	beckypierce@ymail.com
• <b>Hospitality</b> -Tammy Jones	450-7360	golfrocks@comcast.net
• <b>Library</b> -Amy Appel	897-8375	amy.appel@cottonwoodschool.org

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## Pizza and Salad Potluck Mingler-September 12th at 6:00 p.m.

You're invited to a Pizza and Salad Potluck on Wednesday evening, September 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Cottonwood School. We hope you'll take time out from your busy schedule to come out and play with the Cottonwood faculty. We'll be greeting new families, introducing our wonderful staff, and setting up some new projects for the coming school year.

All you have to do is drop the kiddos off in the main

building for free babysitting with our accomplished staff (you may want to leave a pizza behind for them too) and then head on over to the multi-purpose room for some shenanigans. No slides or power points, we promise! Just some great team building and fascinating people who will



Bring your favorite pizza or salad to the mingler & we'll REVIEW THE YEAR!

be sharing their projects, programs and vision for the year ahead! What do you want to see in your school? Come out and tell us what more we can do to improve our services. **Last names beginning with A-K should bring drinks; L-S should bring pizza; T-Z should bring salad.** We'll provide the paper goods.

# Cottonwood School Parent Association

Last year's Parent Association very generously managed a children's carnival at the annual Fall Festival, scheduled monthly dinners at local restaurants, sponsored a Family Game Night, hosted a Staff Appreciation Luncheon, organized the end of year picnic, set up monthly coffee and donut days in the MPR, helped out with art shows, drama productions and field days, purchased robotics for the Senior Elementary, reading lofts for the Junior Elementary, and playground equipment for the Early Childhood.

The home/school and parent/teacher relationship is critical to student success so all of our families become members of the Parent Association when they enroll in the school. You are charged an annual membership fee of \$20 in September which helps to fund their events. All board members are parent volunteers, in good standing, who are elected by an open slate each spring. We urge you to get acquainted with your CSPA and join the fun. You are invited to contribute to the well being of our community by participating in the CSPA while making life-long friends, having a blast doing it, and truly making a difference in our school!

## **A welcome from our CSPA President, Liz Sherman:**

Hello Cottonwood Families,

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year. Your Cottonwood School Parent Association is already busy planning a fun year of activities for us all. You will hear from us via email, this newsletter, our CSPA board in the MPR, and event sign-ups on the class sign-in sheets. An activity calendar will be going out soon after school starts so you know what to expect in the coming months. Please stop us at Coffee in the Lane, Folklore and Snore, or in the drop off and pickup times and say hello. The CSPA looks forward to a fun year with all of you.

I can be reached at [ear72@gmail.com](mailto:ear72@gmail.com) if you have questions or want to volunteer.

Sincerely,

Liz Sherman ,CSPA President

### **The 2018-2019 Board is:**

Liz Sherman - President

Karen Davidson - Past President

Jeff Pontes - President Elect

Arthur Lucero - Treasurer

Jennifer Ickes - Secretary

Dikla Baranes - Events Coordinator

Jennifer McDaniels - Communication Liaison

Tammy Jones - Hospitality Coordinator