

## **K-6 Program**

### **Garrett Braun – PreK-6<sup>th</sup> Program Director**



Garrett attended Bixby School for preschool through fifth grade. He attended Soka University of America and graduated with a Bachelor's in Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Humanities. Since graduating, Garrett has worked at Bixby in a variety of capacities: kindergarten assistant, 1<sup>st</sup> grade science/geography teacher, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade History, and Summer Program Director. During the school year, Garrett operates two businesses he founded, The Kiva Center and Warrior Hearts Young Men's Mentoring. His passion for revealing each child's gift motivates him to lead summer camp in a way that gives autonomy and responsibility to each child.

### **Libby Williams – Student Teacher Lead**



Libby Williams is a Bixby alum and is currently attending Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. She loves hiking, camping, her dog, and Thai food. She is so excited to come back to such a wonderful place for a fantastic summer!

### **Micah Wilger – K-6 Theme Coordinator**



Micah Wilger is a Colorado native, born and raised in Lafayette. He graduated in June from Knox College with a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing, he has two younger siblings who are Bixby alums, one going into high school and one in middle school. His interests include storytelling, ancient history, vocal performance, metalworking and role-playing games. He's an international traveler (France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and most recently to the Middle East). He looks forward to joining the Bixby summer staff for the fourth year in a row and getting to know your kids, both new and returning!

### **Matthew Elliott – Environmental Education Coordinator**



Matthew Elliott is a college graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. This is his third summer camp as a coordinator at Bixby. During the School year he works in Kindergarten and the After-School Program. In his free time he enjoys music, hiking, sports, and board games. He is thrilled to be back for another great summer camp at Bixby!

## **Lynne Costain – K-6<sup>th</sup> Theme/Craft Coordinator**



Lynne graduated from Bixby Elementary, and has subsequently attended schools in several cities and states, including high school in Connecticut and the University of Chicago. She is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in education from the University of Colorado. Her interests include languages, astronomy, knitting, and reading. Lynne has been working in the Bixby After-school and Summer programs for thirteen years and counting!

## **Preschool**

### **Megan Srisamer – Assistant Summer Director/Preschool Coordinator/Billing Specialist**



After relocating to Colorado from New York, Megan began her career in Early Childhood Education in 1992. Once Megan earned her degree in Early Childhood Education from Front Range Community College, she ventured overseas to teach English in South Korea and Thailand for three years. While there, she earned her Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) credential from an intensive program on the gulf coast of Thailand while student teaching in middle school classrooms with local students. Upon returning from Asia, Bixby welcomed Megan into the community as Preschool Teacher in 2003. Since then, she took some time away to start a family and to teach in Boise and Austin. Megan currently holds a Large Center Director certification and an Infant Toddler Supervisor.

### **Taylor Strasburger – Theme Coordinator**



Taylor Strasburger came to Bixby School in the Fall of 2013. He graduated from Skidmore College in 2011 with a B.S. in Educational Studies and Creative Writing. He also earned his teaching certification for grades 1st-6th in NY where he completed his student teaching. After leaving college, Taylor moved to Colorado and spent a year working with toddlers at a small center in Boulder. In 2012 Taylor moved to NYC to work at the Bank Street Family Center, an inclusion special needs classroom, while taking classes in the graduate school. Then in 2013 Taylor made his way back to the mountains and found his way to Bixby School where he happily joined the preschool team. Taylor enjoys music and loves to sing and play the guitar with the students. When he is not in the classroom Taylor can be

found hiking, camping, skiing, climbing, and just about anything else outdoors.

### **Emily Wolfson – Craft Queen**



Hello Bixby families! My name is Emily Wolfson and I am excited to spend the summer playing and growing with your little ones. I grew up in Pittsburgh, PA and received my undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Services from Penn State. After undergrad, I was looking for change and found myself drawn to the mountains and sunshine. I have now been in Colorado for 8.5 years and think it was the best decision I could have made. After almost a decade of working with preschool aged children, both in a daycare setting and as a nanny, I decided to go back to school and recently graduated with a Masters in Social Work. I spent the past year interning with a preschool social worker in Jefferson County and loved being able to combine the joy I get from working with kids with my

new career path. I look forward to applying the skills and knowledge I gained this summer while I prepare for the licensing exam and take a break from the fast-paced world of graduate school. In my free time I like to Jazzercise, hike, bike, do puzzles, watch shows/movies and spend quality time with my friends. Let's get this summer of fun started!

### **Brooke Tye – Assistant Theme Coordinator/Craft Liason**



My name is Brooke and I am very excited to be working at Bixby School. I have been working in early childhood for over 20 years. I first discovered my passion for early childhood in high school where we had a working preschool to study and teach. I went to college to become an early childhood educator and did my student teaching in inner city schools for head start, second grade, and first grade. After college I taught kindergarten, preschool, mentored and tutored foster children and ran my own summer camp. My most rewarding (and challenging!) role is being a mother to my children who

are 13, 12 and 6!

My family and I are from northern Virginia, and recently moved to CO in September 2016. We live in Nederland and enjoy hiking with our dog Romeo, reading, movies, sustainability and traveling. I also enjoy organizing spaces in creative ways!

I look forward to getting to know you and your family.

### **PreK-6 Substitutes**

#### **Anna Walker**



Anna's appreciation of progressive education started during her days as a student at Friends' Seminary in New York City. She comes from a long line of teachers and "do-gooders." Intentionally following in their footsteps, Anna earned her M.S.Ed from The Bank Street College of Education, where she specialized in early childhood and special education. She taught 1st and 2nd grade at the Mary McDowell Friends School in Brooklyn, NY, where she also built a thriving practice as a reading tutor for students of all ages. Anna and her husband, Chad, have a son, a daughter, and an Arizona King Mountain snake named Pinky.

#### **Lisa Manko**



Lisa Manko has worked with children since the early 1990's. Graduating from Regis University in 2004, she also earned a teaching certificate in elementary education there. She was a Bixby preschool teacher for three years, leaving to stay home with her first child, Evan, who will be a second grader at Bixby this upcoming school year. She also has a three year old named Levi in Preschool. Returning to her teaching career, Lisa taught kindergarten for the past six years, two of those years were here at Bixby. She is thrilled to be a part of Bixby's community again!

Lisa believes it is important that every child recognizes and appreciates that he or she is unique, and has the capacity to accomplish goals through joyful learning and persistent effort.