



May 6, 2015

Dear Stanley Community,

This provides a follow up regarding several staffing positions in the Middle School that opened up as a result of Heather's new role in the middle school and Lee Lee's departure at the end of the year.

**Welcome Dalton McCurdy (6/7 Science and Homeroom)**

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Dalton McCurdy as a new member of our Middle School science department. Dalton has over a decade of teaching experience in numerous schools both in Connecticut and Vermont and was most recently a faculty member at Graland Country Day School. She has a BA from Middlebury College and a Masters of Science in Science Education from Montana State University.

Dalton will be teaching science classes for both sixth and seventh graders. Paige Romer, who currently teaches sixth and seventh grade science will now take over eighth grade science and will share responsibility for teaching seventh graders along with Dalton. Additionally, Art Gluck and Heather Graesser will be welcoming Dalton as an additional partner in their homeroom.

Dalton is excited about coming to Stanley and looks forward to the opportunity to work with students who so clearly demonstrate a love of learning. Please read the note below from Dalton:

*I am so incredibly excited to join the Stanley community next year. I have been in education for over a decade now and have taught at a variety of schools in grades 6-12, most recently at Graland Country Day School just a few miles down the road. After trying out both coasts, my family and I have called Denver our home for the past three years. With three young daughters (1, 3 and 5) we are looking to put down roots and commit wholeheartedly to a community that we feel resonates with our own approach to parenting and my professional beliefs as an educator. As my oldest daughter will also be attending kindergarten at Stanley next year, I am incredibly excited to dive in and throw down the anchor. I am passionate about teaching science and making it fun and approachable to all. I am confident that Stanley will provide an awesome environment to do just that. While I am not in the classroom, I enjoy doing anything that gets me outdoors and active in the Colorado sunshine with my kids in tow. I look forward to getting to know all of you and your children next year!*

*-Dalton*

**Welcome back Laura Gibson (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Drama and Middle School Homeroom)**

With the departure of Lee Lee Newcomb, we were afforded the opportunity to quickly re-examine the scope of our instruction in theatre and drama. Stephanie Collins and I are both excited to create greater continuity in our drama instruction and strengthen the bond between 3/4/5 and 6/7/8.

We are pleased to share that we have hired Laura Gibson, former Stanley student, teacher, Teacher Prep graduate and our current long-term substitute for the 3-4-5 music program in this new leadership role. As many of you may know, Laura previously taught in 3-4-5 for three years as a lead teacher and is currently completing her Master's of Educational Psychology at the University of Colorado, Denver.

As a full time drama teacher, Laura will be overseeing our key 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade theatre performances including the 5<sup>th</sup> grade musical, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Shakespeare, 8<sup>th</sup> grade musical and 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama classes. Laura is artistically talented and has been involved in music/theatre instruction and performance for some time.

Laura will also be joining David Marais as his new homeroom co-teacher. David is looking forward to this new partnership and we are confident that those children in this homeroom will continue to thrive. Please read the following note from Laura:

*I am so happy to be back at Stanley. For those of you who don't know, I taught a 3-4-5 classroom for three years, and then moved away to Uganda to manage a Denver based non-profit called S.O.U.L. Foundation. While in Africa, I was living in a rural village, managing a staff of 12, speaking Lusoga, community organizing, training teachers, and working with American Ambassador DeLisi to implement a maternal health initiative. However, after a wonderful year in Uganda, I missed my family and community back home. I returned to Colorado half way through the current school year and was able to temporarily fill in as 3-4-5 Music teacher and 5<sup>th</sup> grade musical director at Stanley. The last year and a half has been a journey and after considering many options, I am truly delighted to be able to come back to Stanley in this new capacity. I really cannot imagine a better position for myself: I am thrilled to be able to be rooted in the community as a homeroom teacher and to teach Drama and direct the plays. The arts have always been the most consistent of my many passions; I studied theatre extensively in college and have been involved in countless productions—as actor, musician, techie, and director. I am already daydreaming about the books I want to read, the professional development classes I will be taking this summer, and the curricular and production ideas I want to implement in the upcoming school year. I look forward to getting to know new faces and reconnecting with familiar ones.*  
-Laura

Please join the middle school staff in welcoming our new staff for next fall.

Best,

Matt Barber  
Middle School Head  
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