

Casa Department Staff 2022 - 2023

This year we are excited to have an incredible team for the 2022-2023 school year. We look forward to meeting you and sharing in your child's learning journey over the next school year. Please see below a list of our amazing staff assistants and our specialty languages teacher for the MSK Casa Department.

Casa Department Head - Ms. Amanda Elliott

Casa Assistant to the Department Head - Miss DiBenedetto

Casa Blue Team

Ms. Elliott

It is a surreal thing to say that this start of the school year marks my 17th year with MSK and 21st year teaching! My credentials were received from both Western University for BA in Political Science '01 and Sheridan College as a Postgraduate Certificate in Montessori Early Childhood Teacher Education- AMS '02. My first 4 years teaching in Montessori were with an amazing program in Arlington Virginia USA. Upon my return to Canada I have been with MSK since the fall of 2006. In that time I have made a solid foundation for the Casa program for the Casa Blue classroom and then received the title and position as the Casa Department Head. Each school year brings new excitement and learning opportunities for us all. When not spending my time at MSK I enjoy time reading, cooking, crafting and canoeing with my husband of 18 years and the unconditional love of our almost 13 year old Shiba Inu - Makita. I aspire to one day become a published author as well. I am looking forward to an amazing school year ahead and looking forward to meeting new faces and reconnecting with our returning families.

Miss DiBenedetto

My name is Dorianna Di Benedetto and I am 22 years old. I have been at the Montessori school of Kleinburg since September 2021. I began working full time in CASA Blue at the school as of the beginning of March 2022 and assisted in toddler lavender as well as rose. I have completed my 4th and final year at the University of Guelph Humber studying Early Childhood Education and received my Bachelor of applied science in early childhood studies as well as a diploma in early childhood education. I am so excited for another year at MSK and look forward to meeting the new students and families!

Ms. Zhan

My name is Jie Zhan, and I am the assistant teacher to follow Ms. Elliot and Ms. Dibenedetto in Casa Blue. I graduated from Seneca College and received my Ontario college diploma with honours in 2021, and I'm currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education at Brock University. I am also a member of the Ontario College of Early Childhood Educators as an Ontario Registered Early Childhood Educator. I'm really looking forward to working with the kids as co-learners and collaborating with them to help them build social, cognitive, physical, and expressive abilities as they explore the learning environment and the world of information. I will do my best to provide high-quality learning opportunities for the children, as well as to assist them in improving their well-being and developing a feeling of belonging in the classroom with their peers and teachers.

My teaching experiences include Mandarin language instruction, RCM piano instruction, and Chinese traditional dance instruction. I am excited to share my experiences and skills with your children, allowing them to learn about new cultures and expand their drive to learn. I am looking forward to meeting you!

Casa Red Team

Mrs. Pabla

Hello my name is Kirandeep Pabla. I am a Casa Directress in Casa Red. I studied and graduated as an RECE from Sheridan College in June 2007 and have been working as a RECE since then. I have experience with children of all ages including infants to school aged children for the last 15 years. I've been with MSK for 8 years and have assisted in all the programs. I am very excited to continue working in Casa Red with my amazing team. I also hold my diploma in Hair Styling and makeup. I am happily married with 2 children both girls who are 10 and 5 years old. I am very excited to welcome back our students and excited to see our new students! Feeling very happy to start a new and successful school year ahead.

Mrs. Wright

Hello I am Mrs. Lora Wright, 12 years ago I decided it was time to go back to school and fulfill my dream of being a teacher and received my Montessori Diploma. Prior to this I was an Esthetician, once I became a mother I wanted to stay home and raise my 2 beautiful sons, Noah and Joshua. My husband and I will be celebrating our 29 anniversary this year, time sure does go fast. It pleases me to tell you that this is my 11 year teaching at MSK and it's been a wonderful experience. I've enjoyed my time learning and growing with the children and my peers. Through my years at MSK I've had the pleasure to work with both Casa and Toddler Children, which both gave me great joy. This year I continue to teach in Casa Red. I'm excited to see familiar faces and looking forward to meeting new children and families.

Mrs. Shuri

Hi, my name is Maki Shuri. I am an assistant in Casa Red and Toddler Rose. I have a passion for supporting all children to reach their full potential. I studied Visual Arts at University in Japan. Also I graduated from Seneca College. I like to grow tropical plants and watch football.

I am looking forward to meeting the Casa Red and Toddler Rose families.

Miss. Orlando

Ms. Orlando has been teaching Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) to students aged 4 and up for the past 6 years. She has continued her passion and attended Berklee College of Music to obtain her degree in Music Studies. Her passion for singing began at the age of 4. She is currently an R&B/Pop recording artist, singer-songwriter and musician. Ms. Orlando has performed at various venues throughout the city such as Revival and MOD Club. She continues to collaborate with artists in Canada and the United States. She currently releases original music on all streaming platforms, and is the Founder of BlackStar Showcase - a music showcase for Toronto artists who are looking to expand their experience in performance and grow their audience.

Casa Yellow Team

Ms. Bruzzese

Hello my name is Alba Bruzzese (Calautti) and I have been with MSK since 2012. I began the Toddler Division in 2012 and I am now in Casa. I have my Montessori Diploma from MTC and I also have my level 6 in French. I am an avid artist and love anything to do with crafting. I have 3 children, 2 dogs, a rabbit and a bearded dragon so as you can see I love anything to do with children and animals as well. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and to having a great year ahead.

Mrs. Cassaro

My name is Connie Cassaro and I will be working at Montessori School of Kleinburg as a Montessori teacher. I have been teaching for 10 years and the last 3 years I have been teaching Montessori. I love working and guiding children. It is truly my passion in life. I hope to meet all of you during the year.

Mrs. Marra

My name is Donna Marra. I will be working as a classroom assistant at MSK this year in Casa Yellow and Toddler Lavender. In the toddler program I will be teaching the children both French and Italian. I originally started at MSK about 18 years ago and was working in the airline industry. I then became a Mother to my two beautiful children, Juliano, 13 and Sofia who will be turning 11 this year. I came back to MSK this past January and have had the great opportunity to work with the best and most professional teachers in the industry and amazing children. I am a very hard worker, have lots of patience, organized and love new challenges. I am looking forward to this new school year and ensuring that the students at MSK are safe and successful in their education!!

Khemie Marcelin

As the new school year approaches, I am so excited to be a classroom assistant at the Montessori school of Kleinburg. My name is Khemie, I will be an assistant to Toddler Lavender and Casa Yellow. I am very grateful for this opportunity because I actually don't have much experience with children. I am the eldest of two, I have always tried my best to be honest and responsible. I can be a perfectionist at times, overthinking and worrying to be the best I can be and do all that I think is right. I am happy about my job here because I get a chance to learn, grow, and become a better role model for others.

My education background is unique. I've attended many schools but prior to this position, I was a student at York University studying psychology B.A. I have a year left before I can graduate, I am looking forward to graduating at the right time. As for now, being a classroom assistant and possibly more is my main priority. My likes include time to myself, watching a good movie, relaxing and unwinding from a long day. I love to eat, cook meals, and spend time with my family and friends. Not to mention, I love to shop online when I am really stressed, retail therapy always helps. My interests right now are trying to maintain a healthy diet and exercising. A few months ago I signed up for boxing and muay thai classes, it has been really fun and effective to be active. That's all for now, thank you for taking the time to read about me. I am also eager to get to know more of my peers and co-workers! See you all soon.

Specialty Staff

Madame/Signora Giordano

My name is Madame/Signora Giordano (as the students refer to me) and it is with great enthusiasm that I want to express the wonderful experience I had teaching the 2-21-2022 MSK French & Italian class.

I believe that in order to build students' confidence and ease into learning new languages, strong foundations in oral communications are essential, and they should be made fun in order for the students to retain them.

A little bit about myself for the new students who will be attending MSK and their parents. I was born and raised in Italy. My family immigrated to Montreal Quebec where I lived for the better part of my life before moving to Toronto.

Prior to accepting this position, I have been employed by the York Catholic District School Board for the past 18 years. Those years of experience have allowed me to acquire the skills to qualify for this position.

I am excited to be working with a group of professionals who share the same enthusiasm I have about education and to be surrounded by ambitious students who want to learn.

I look forward to starting this new 2022-2023 school year and am happy to be a part of MSK!