

MOSAIC Instructor Bio's 2009

June 8-12 and August 3-7 from 9-noon

Entering (Fall 2009) Grades 4-8

Animation Celebration (4-6 graders)

Kim Pelt was born and raised in Texas, and attended UT Arlington receiving a B.A. with a double major in Communication, and Education. In Coppell, she has taught elementary and middle school GT classes, and she piloted the first Humanities class in the CISD. It is common finding Kim at the cutting edge of anything new in the area of education. She was named campus Teacher of the Year in 04-05. She has also taught 4th grade and served as GT specialist at Town Center Elementary. The love of education and children has always been first in her life.

Building and Structures

Grant Garner received his Civil Engineering degree from Texas A&M University in 2002. He worked as an engineer for 3 years doing land development consulting and design in Lewisville. He has been teaching for 3 years; first, at Lake Dallas HS and now at Coppell High School. He has taught Biology, Physics, and Engineering.

Calligraphy

Gail Cary has lived in Coppell for 23 years and is an art teacher at CMS West. Gail majored in art at Texas Tech University and she taught art for six years before taking a 16-year break to stay home with her children. She came back to teaching five years ago. While at home with her kids she learned calligraphy and started a little business creating cards, birth announcements, addressing wedding invitations, and many other things using her creative handwriting and art background. Gail loves teaching and is always excited to help students learn and expand their own creative talents.

Chess

Dr. Alexey Root has a Ph.D. in education from UCLA (1999). Prior to earning her doctorate, she taught high school social studies and English in Bakersfield, CA and substitute taught all grade levels. At the University of Texas at Dallas, where she began working in 1999, she taught education courses, tutored prospective teachers for certification exams, supervised student teachers, and created online education courses that explored the uses of chess in classrooms. She is a highly rated chess player and was winner of the 1989 U.S. Women's Chess championship. For more information about this talented teacher and author: <http://lu.com/authors/AlexeyRoot.pdf>

Creative Writing

Diane Ramsey, a Colorado native, attended Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona and received a B.A. with a double major in English and Social Science. At the secondary level, she has taught language arts in middle school, English I, English II, English II Pre-AP, English III, and Creative Writing I and II in high school. She has taught in the Coppell ISD for seven years, most recently at Coppell Middle School West. Her husband, Michael and she share the love of education and children. They adopted four boys from Penza, Russia and feel extremely blessed to stub their toes on Tonka Trucks, dodge light sabers, and continually find Lego's in obscure places. One day, she plans to be on the Oprah Show to debut her novel called I Couldn't Have Planned This.

For more information or to register: register@coppellgifted.org. When registering, please provide: student name, grade in fall of 2009, course choice(s) - up to two per week, and class time(s). See MOSAIC schedule to select course times appropriate for your child's grade. Early bird price per course is \$85 or \$150 for two courses taken by one participant in the same week.

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ECO-TALK - ECO WALK - ECO LIVE

Marcia Moore is currently a sixth grade science teacher at Coppell Middle School West. She has been a professional teacher in Texas the past 6 six years, the first four teaching solely gifted students. She brings a wealth of information and experience having been educated in home economics with an emphasis in nutrition and dietetics. A true child of the sixties from northern California, she has always been environmentally concerned. She earned her BA from San Jose State University and maintains professional licensing (RD, LD, CDE) having trained over 200 interns in her 30-year career as a clinical dietitian in California, Hawaii, Utah and Texas.

Shari Zoda teaches Sixth Grade Language Arts at Coppell Middle School West. She is a graduate of Baylor University and worked in the Sports Marketing field before becoming a “stay-at-home” mom. Shari loves working with students and felt a call to work with children through teaching. As a resident of Coppell for the past 22 years, she has been an active community volunteer, thinks that Coppell is the BEST place to live and is passionate about making our city the “best it can be”!

Engineering

Mike Yakubovsky is the lead engineering instructor at Coppell High School. He has been with the district since 2003. He has worked closely with TCU and SMU in the development of the Engineering program in Coppell. Mike played football at Austin College for 2 years and then moved to the University of Texas at Arlington where he earned his Bachelor of Science, his teaching certificate and began work on his Masters in Education. Mike currently gives

presentations for SMU, demonstrating what Coppell High School does in its Infinity Project class.

Puppetry

Amy Yakubovsky attended the University of North Texas where she earned a BS in Education and a Master of Education. Her teaching fields are Theatre and English. She just completed her 17th year teaching Theatre Arts in Coppell ISD. She was selected as Teacher of the Year for Coppell Middle School East in 2005-2006. She not only teaches theatre and directs plays; she also loves being on stage as well.

Rocketry (June only)

Tod Farrell, a Chicago native and Bears fan, received his BS in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his MS in computer engineering from National Technological University, a consortium of leading engineering universities in North America. He leads technical interactions with partners and customers at ATX Group, the largest independent telematics services provider. Farrell previously worked at Motorola, where he was on the Corporate Research and Development team that performed groundbreaking work on in-vehicle route generation, traffic sensitive routing, route guidance, and spoken language interface. The telematics protocol that he authored is currently implemented in millions of vehicles in North America. He and his wife have three children, and they cite the zone defense as their key parenting strategy.

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TINspire (entering 6-8 graders)

Bianca Coker has a Bachelors and Masters in Mathematics. She has taught at the college and high school levels. She has taught at CMS North for the past 4 years. She currently teaches GT Algebra I, Pre-AP Geometry, and GT Advanced Problem Solving eighth grade. She has been selected to the Texas State Panel to review middle school math textbooks and to NASA's Middle School Aerospace Scholars program. She regularly presents at state math and science teacher conferences.

Who's Behind the Mask?

Amy Yakubovsky attended the University of North Texas where she earned a BS in Education and a Master of Education. Her teaching fields are Theatre and English. She just completed her 17th year teaching Theatre Arts in Coppell ISD. She was selected as Teacher of the Year for Coppell Middle School East in 2005-2006. She not only teaches theatre and directs plays; she also loves being on stage as well.

World Music Tour (June only)

Eric Hanson holds a music education degree from the University of Nebraska, with an EC-12 teaching certificate. Currently he is a proud Ranger at Wilson Elementary, but was the music teacher at Lee Elementary when he first moved to Texas. He is an accomplished performer, working with symphonic choirs and esteemed conductors throughout the Midwest. He has performed twice at Carnegie Hall in NYC under the direction of John Rutter and Almeda Berkey, and has been invited to sing at Lincoln Center this June. At Wilson

Elementary, Eric directs the 110 member Ranger Chorale, teaches the love of music, and creates mischief.

Money

Stacy Cushing graduated in 1992 with a B.A. degree from The University of Michigan with a double major in psychology and communications. Stacy began her career with MACY'S after she was recruited to enter their prestigious executive training program in New York City. There she worked as a department manager, assistant buyer and associate buyer until she was recruited by Speedo to be the buyer of their Women's and Children's division. From Speedo, Stacy went to Fossil to be an account executive to run major accounts, and served as an integral part of the team responsible for launching new businesses. Following Fossil, Stacy worked in a family business where she managed various accounts while she pursued motherhood.

Shanie Gundy graduated from Manchester University, England with an L.L.B. and was sworn in as an Attorney in July, 2002. Throughout her studies, Shanie worked as a tutor for all age groups in different subject matters and eventually became certified as a Mediator as well. She then held the position of In-House Counsel in a real estate company prior to starting up FOCUS LLP. Shanie lived overseas for many years and served in the military for two years. Her international exposure and experience helps her relate, understand and communicate effectively with others, and provides her with a broad scope and knowledge.

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