



## Queen of Hearts, Balmy Beach



### Abigail Milliner – General Manager

Abigail started at Queen of Hearts in September 2020. Her background in childcare began in 2017 after completing her Degree in Youth and Children Studies at Wilfred Laurier. Since 2017 she completed her ECE diploma and gained employment experience in both preschool and toddler classrooms. In January 2021 she became Nursery Manager of Queen of Hearts, Balmy Beach being responsible for Customer Service and the Queen of Hearts Curriculum, Policies and Procedures. She has now taken extra responsibility of looking after the reservation needs of families.

#### A message from Ms Abigail

*I am lucky enough to have joined the Queen of Hearts team in September 2020. Although I am still relatively new, I absolutely love the nursery school. My enjoyment from this job comes from being able to interact with the children and watching them grow and develop. This creates a passion to do more for each child and shows it is the right choice for me to be working in this field.*



### Heather Funston – Nursery Manager and Lead Teacher

Joining Queen of Hearts in February 2021, Heather has brought lots of child care experience to our Nursery School. Moving to the area from Cambridge with her partner and young daughter she has made her home in our beautiful county. Graduating from Conestoga College and a registered RECE, her enthusiasm and warmth is enjoyed by the White Rabbits and Mad Hatters. Heather is expanding her duties to take on the management of the Nursery School and is looking forward to getting to know families more.

Heather will be taking maternity leave from September 2022 to September 2023 and her role will be taken by Abigail whilst she is away.

#### A message from Ms Heather

*Working with children feels like a vocation that was just meant to be. I have enjoyed moving into a more structured and calm environment at Queen of Hearts and thrilled to see the children grow in confidence and ability with each day.*



### **Mr Jesse Tilson – Science and Environment Teacher and Lead Teacher**

Jesse has many years of teaching and coaching children at Camp Presqu'ile located in Kemble where he coordinated, developed, and facilitated a Leader in Training/Counselor Training program as well as one to one support work for campers with special needs. Before coming to Queen of Hearts he worked at a local child care centre in their school age programs. Jesse joined Queen of Hearts in November 2020 to work with our preschool children and run the science and environment program.

#### **A message from Mr Jesse**

*My mission has and always will be that the care and compassion of every young mind that I encounter be given equal and the utmost attention. I have a gigantic heart for children, teaching, and coaching for as long as I can remember and am delighted to have the opportunity of sharing the wonderful world of science with our young people.*

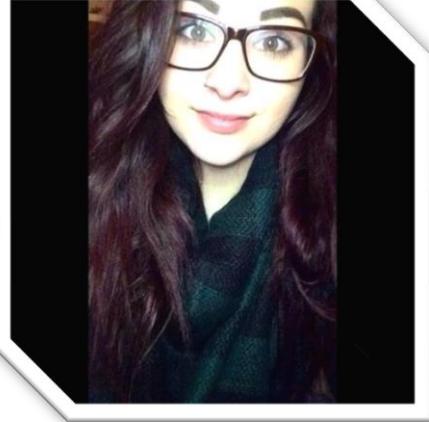


### **Kim Hawthorne – French Specialist and Lead Teacher**

Kim started with Queen of Hearts in April, 2021. She is currently completing the Early Childhood Education program online through St. Lawrence College in Kingston. Kim completed two years of the Concurrent Education Program through Nipissing University including French language courses. Kim is a graduate of the Ontario French Immersion program, completing placements in French Immersion classrooms at a French language childcare center. She has over twenty years' experience working with children

#### **A Message from Ms. Kim**

*I absolutely love watching the children grow and succeed. It is such a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow as a teacher alongside them. I am really looking forward to expanding the French language curriculum at Queen of Hearts. I look forward to sharing my knowledge, creativity, imagination and passion for education with the children and their families.*



### Jennifer Ferreira – Teacher Mad Hatters

Prior to working at Queen of Hearts Jennifer was employed at a Veterinary Clinic as well as helping many families and friends with the care of their children. Jennifer also looked after children for a local church group. She joined Queen of Hearts, Owen Sound in September and trained in all classrooms. Jennifer has now moved to Queen of Hearts, Balmy Beach and now spends her time with the Mad Hatters and Ms Heather.

#### A message from Ms Jennifer

*I simply love working with the amazing team and helping to expand the minds of the young children. Being part of their everyday learning and development is so rewarding.*



### Kelly Scott – Assistant Teacher White Rabbits

Kelly joined the Queen of Hearts team in June 2022. Originally working in a factory setting for over 20 years, Kelly has always enjoyed spending time with children and enjoyed seeing them interact and learn new things, and see how each child develops differently. Deciding that she needed a change in her career that better matched with her interest in child development, Kelly applied to Queen of Hearts and joined the team in the White Rabbits classroom at Balmy Beach. Outside of the school, Kelly pursues her enjoyment of gardening, family, books, and her dog.

#### A message from Ms Kelly

*Even though I have only been a part of Queen of Hearts for a short time. I have enjoyed being a part of the children's growth and development and being part of the Queen of Hearts team. I look forward to learning so much more and I like how every day can be so different and not always the same.*



### Raven Adams – Teacher White Rabbits

Raven joined Queen of Hearts in February 2022 after taking a year off work with her new daughter. Having always wanted to have a career in Childcare she signed up for the Queen of Hearts ECE apprenticeship with Georgian College and started working in our White Rabbit classroom. Raven grew up in Sauble Beach and even now spends a lot of time there with her family enjoying outside time.

#### A message from Ms Raven

*I am very excited to be part of Queen of Hearts and to start my apprenticeship. I have enjoyed watching the children grow in confidence as they are exposed to new learning and find you cannot help but love these little ones that have such an enthusiasm for learning.*

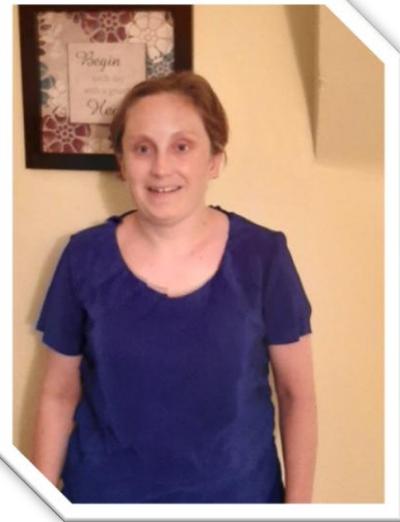


### Sharon Vanderschot – General Assistant

Sharon joined Queen of Hearts in May 2022. Formerly working for many years in real estate, Sharon made a career change to join Queen of Hearts as a General Assistant in Balmy Beach supporting staff and children. Sharon has become a much loved member of the team and is patient and kind to all.

#### A message from Ms Sharon

*I am so pleased to be part of the Queen of Hearts Team. It is very fulfilling engaging with the children daily in their activities.*



### Alesha Doran – Teacher – Supply for Balmy Beach

Alesha studied at Trent University and achieved a BA in Women's Studies before moving back to Owen Sound and joining the Salvation Army where she completed her ECE before moving to join the Queen of Hearts team in April 2015. With her wealth of experience and being a much loved teacher, Alesha leads a White Rabbit Classroom in Queen of Hearts, Owen Sound North but also supports the Balmy Beach and Owen Sound team when needed.

#### A message from Ms Alesha

*Working at Queen of Hearts I learn something new from the children every day and I love to watch them grow and develop throughout their time with us. I particularly enjoy our outside learning and how it's incorporated into the children's day.*



### Grace Holyome – Teacher – Supply for Balmy Beach

Grace started with Queen of Hearts in 2018. She is currently enrolled in Fanshawe College taking the online Early Childhood Education course. Her time is split during the week days taking part in the college program and working in each of the Nursery Schools and at the QYC Before and After School program

#### A message from Ms Grace

*There is so much I enjoy about Queen of Hearts. It is a wonderful place to work. My colleagues are amazing and the children and families are the best. I am so really lucky to be a part of this school.*