



Queen of Hearts, Balmby 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, Balmby 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 overseen 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.



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.



Carrie Blundell – Teacher White Rabbits

Born and raised in Owen Sound, Carrie attended Georgian College and received her diploma as a PSW. Working in long term care and doing housekeeping for the elderly, she became interested in doing an ECE apprenticeship and working in childcare. Carrie joined Queen of Hearts in October 2022 as a General Assistant, and in November transitioned to take over as a Teacher in the White Rabbits room. Having children of her own, she couldn't help but jump on the opportunity to join the Queen of Hearts team and be part of each child's development.

A message from Ms Carrie

I am very excited to be part of the Queen of Hearts team and to start my apprenticeship in the future. I am looking forward to learning more and seeing each child progress and grow as individuals.



Grace Holyome – Teacher White Rabbits and QYC

Grace started with Queen of Hearts in 2018. She graduated as an ECE from Fanshawe College. Her time is split during the week days 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 really lucky to be a part of this school.



Sara O'Leary –Teacher White Rabbits

Born and raised in Owen Sound, Sara joined Queen of Hearts in March of 2023. Always knowing she wanted to work with children, Sara began her journey working in local childcare centers, as well as a home day care for 6 years. As a mother of two boys, when not working Sara enjoys spending time with her family while camping, hiking and fishing.

A message from Ms Sara

I love what Queen of Hearts represents and how they're viewed in the community. I'm very excited to be a part of the team. Working with children is my passion. I love how their minds work and I'm so thankful to be able to teach and help them excel and grow. I'm so glad to be a part of the Queen of Hearts team.



Brooklyn Rouse –Teacher Mad Hatters

Brooklyn joined Queen of Hearts in September of 2022. A local of Owen Sound, she went to Georgian College for ECE and will soon complete her certificate. Already having a background in child care, Brooklyn joined Queen of Hearts to continue her pursuit of finding ways to bring music and learning into all parts of children’s lives. She is excited to make connections with all of the children and to help them learn and grow.

A message from Ms Brooklyn

I am beyond excited to start my work here and get to know all of the children I will be working with. Every child is an individual and I strive to make each one of them happy and safe.



Becky Gibbons–Teacher Mad Hatters

Becky started at Queen of Hearts in Balmy Beach in January of 2023. Born and raised in Owen Sound, she gained her ECE certification in 2019 at Georgian College and has worked in different childcare setting since 2017. Before coming to Queen of Hearts, Becky worked as an EarlyOn coordinator at the M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre. She also facilitated cultural programs at different EarlyOn locations in Grey-Bruce.

A message from Ms Becky

I am excited to be a part of the Queen of Hearts family community, helping bring excellent quality care to families. I cannot wait to get to know all of the children and their families. I am grateful for the opportunity to support, love and learn with the children every day as they engage their minds and ask questions. I look forward to supporting their struggles and successes, and encouraging them as they broaden their horizons and explore new passions.



Jennifer Mielhausen – General Assistant

Jennifer joined Queen of Hearts in January of 2023. Growing up in the Owen Sound area, she has three children, whom she loves to spend time with, and watch as they play hockey every chance they get. Originally working for a cleaning company as well as catering, Jennifer has had a passion for taking care of children from a young age. She is excited to be part of the team, watching the children learn and grow, knowing that she is a part of their wonderful journeys.

A message from Ms Jennifer

I have always wanted to be a part of teaching children the fundamentals of learning. I am new at Queen of Hearts and am looking forward to growing and expanding with them.



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.