New Staff/Administration

**Ryan Allen** will be joining our Middle School team in the newly created position of dean of students starting in July 2016. Ryan has been the dean of college guidance and multicultural literature teacher at Muchin College Prep from 2009 to the present. He earned his BA in Psychology at the College of Wooster and his Master's in Educational Leadership from Lehigh University. He has also been a basketball coach at Muchin College Prep and the Latin School.

**Michael Autrey** will be taking on the role of writer’s center specialist this fall. Michael is a graduate of the University of Chicago. He has been working part time as a writing specialist at the University of Chicago Laboratory High School since 2014. During 2015-2016 he served as a long-term substitute, teaching two sections of English. He is working towards an MFA at the Bennington Writing Seminars. Michael is a published author of *Our Fear*, his first full-length book, published by The Cultural Society in 2013.

**Justin Clark** joined the Information Technology team in June as a technical support specialist. He most recently worked as IT manager at the Onion, Inc and at the Apple Genius Bar before that. Justin holds a Bachelor’s degree in Audio Engineering from Columbia College.

**Kiel Gray** took on the role of executive assistant to the Director in May. Kiel has over 12 years of experience as an executive assistant. Most recently, he was director of administrative affairs at Lawrence Hall, a large not-for-profit child welfare agency, providing assistance to the CEO and Board of Trustees. Kiel is a graduate of the University of Chicago with a BA in Anthropology.

**Andrea Hite** will assume the new role of historic campus site coordinator with the Extended Day Program. She holds a BS in Youth Studies from the University of Minnesota and a MS in Child Development from Erikson Institute. Andrea served as an Extended Day intern in 2015-2016.

**Nicole Hood** will assume the role of director, all-schools programs and partnerships. Nicole has spent the last eight years at St. Catherine’s School in Richmond, VA, serving as an English and History teacher as well as department chair. She was responsible for the complete revision of St. Catherine’s X-Term, an experiential learning enrichment program in which students explore topics
outside of the regular curriculum. She also served as a mentor for new teachers, was a member of the upper school guidance team, coordinated international programs, and co-chaired the faculty/parent diversity committee. Nicole received her BA from the University of Virginia and an MA and PhD from the University of Michigan. Most recently she earned a graduate certificate in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Richmond.

Pam Nance joined the Finance & Operations team as sr. fiscal assistant in the Business Office in September 2015. Prior to working at the Laboratory Schools, Pam was the director of ticket operations at Grambling State University. She holds a BA in General Studies and a MS in Sports Administration both from Grambling State University. Pam is also a certified internal controls auditor (CICA).

Nicole Neal is our new director, student services. Nicole’s 19 years of service to students and families include English teacher, school counselor, cheer and dance coach, admissions director, and assistant principal. She has worked at Luther South High School, Proviso East High School, Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, and Shoesmith Elementary School. Additionally, she was adjunct instructor for the School of Education at Loyola University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from DePaul University and continued on to earn a Master’s of Education in School Counseling from Loyola University. She later completed the Educational Leadership program at Concordia University and earned the Illinois State Principal’s Endorsement.

Jayne VanderVelde joined the Finance & Operations team in the restructured position of executive assistant for finance & operations reporting to Christopher Jones in April. Jayne joins Lab having most recently administered several children’s programs for a non-profit organization in Tinley Park, IL. Prior to that she spent over a decade in publishing houses and freelance as a copy editor. She holds a BA in English from Loyola University.

Stephanie Weber will serve as our new High School principal. Most recently, she has served in a variety of increasingly senior leadership roles at New York City’s Hewitt School, a K-12 institution of 520 girls, including head of the upper school, assistant head of school, and most recently, strategic projects consultant, as well as teaching HS Math. Her decades-long career before Hewitt included leadership roles at independent schools, including director of upper school at the Westridge School in Pasadena, CA; director of studies at Kent Place School in Summit, NJ; and dean of students at Riverdale Country School in New York. She has taught math and history at the Spence School in Manhattan and at boarding schools abroad and in the US. Stephanie earned an MA in Liberal Studies with a mathematics concentration from Wesleyan University, has her MEd from Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, and a BA in history from Hamilton College.
Jiesi Zhao joined the Alumni Relations & Development team in February as assistant director, alumni relations. Jiesi trained to be an attorney at the University of Michigan but found her passion working in the not-for-profit world. She will be working with our alumni to help them re-engage with their alma mater and find ways to turn their affection into meaningful support.

NEW TEACHERS:

Beata Blaho will be joining the Middle School as a math teacher. Her most recent experience was teaching math and science at the Frankfurt International School for grades 7, 8, and 9. Previously, she was math department chair and Middle School math teacher at Redwood Middle School in California. Beata holds a BS in Mathematics from Elmhurst College.

Scott Budeselich is joining the Physical Education team this fall as a part-time PE teacher. He holds an MA in Sports Administration from Central Michigan University and a BS in Physical Education from Chicago State University. Scott has been working at the University of Chicago since 2002 as assistant baseball coach and assistant sports information director, in addition to teaching PE at Hyde Park Day School.

Carl Farrington will be the newest member of the 5th grade Lower School homeroom team. Carl comes to us from Las Vegas where he taught 3rd and 4th grade at The Adelson Educational Campus and 5th grade at Clark County School District. He holds a BA in Political Science from Marygrove College and an Masters degree in Elementary Education from University of Nevada Las Vegas. Carl is also a graduate of Teach for America program.

Emily Forrest-Mattfield will be working part-time in our Fine Arts department this year, teaching two sections of third grade Art and 6th grade Art in the Middle School. Emily has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the College of Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan, and a Masters of Arts in Education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has been teaching Art since 2008 at Bret Harte Elementary School here in Hyde Park. Prior to that Emily taught at Bouchet Math and Science Academy in Chicago.

Sari Hernandez will be teaching High School English this year. Sari holds a BD Ed Secondary Teaching - English from Northwestern University. She most recently taught English at Simeon Career Academy and New Trier Township High School. Sari will also be the assistant debate coach for our High School Debate Team.
Chantal Lambrìx joins us from the Canadian International School in Bangalore, India where she was a third and fourth grade teacher for two years. Prior to teaching in India, Chantal was a fifth grade teacher at Academia Cotopaxi in Quito, Ecuador. Closer to home, she has taught K – 5th grades in Chicago, California and Florida. Chantal has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from DePauw University, and a Masters of Education from DePaul.

Sushma Lohitsa will be a member of the Science Department teaching in the Lower School. She holds a BA in Elementary Education from Michigan State University. Sushma has been teaching elementary students for the past nine year at the Chicago Public Schools, most recently at Beulah Shoesmith Elementary. She is also involved in STEM afterschool tutoring for elementary students.

Erin McCarthy will be joining the fourth grade team after teaching third, fourth and fifth grade at Baker Demonstration School in Evanston, Illinois and most recently, Central Elementary School in Riverside, IL. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas and a Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary Education from National-Louis University in Evanston, IL.

Jay Nacu will be teaching Physical Education in the Primary School. He has been a member of our substitute teacher pool and has taught karate in the Extended Day Program. He is the co-founder of Enso Karate in Chicago with over 20 years of experience teaching martial arts to youth and adults. Jay holds a BS in Community Physical Education and a MS in Urban Youth Development from The University of Illinois at Chicago.

Naadia Owens will join the High School History faculty. She has taught history at the high school level at the Chicago Public Schools and Park School of Baltimore. Naadia holds a BA in the History of the Americas with a specialization in Urban History and a certificate in Civic Engagement from Northwestern University and a MA in the Art of Teaching-Secondary Social Studies with a certificate in Middle School Humanities.

Joy Parham will be teaching 8th grade Humanities the fall. Joy is an experienced teacher who has taught in the Chicago Public Schools since 2000. Her most recent work was at Arthur Dixon Elementary as a 5th-8th grade Language Arts and Social Studies teacher. Joy earned an MBA from Saint Xavier University and her BS in Education at Illinois State University.
**Ted Ratliff** will be joining the 2nd grade team as a homeroom teacher in the Primary School. He holds a BA in Human Development and an MA in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and an MS in Special Education - Learning Behavior Specialist from Northern Illinois University. Ted comes to Lab from Hyde Park Day School where he was a special education teacher for grades 1-3. Ted is also an assistant baseball coach at the University of Chicago.

**Teresa Serangeli** will join the Laboratory Schools as an academic specialist for the Lower School. She has been teaching students with learning need for 12 years. Her most recent experience includes special education teaching experience in the Chicago, Highland and Peoria Public School Districts. Teresa holds a BS in Education from Illinois State University.

**Lauren Snelling** will be a member of the NK/PS Learning & Counseling team as counselor for Nursery/Kindergarten students. She holds a BS in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and and A.M. in Social Work from The University of Chicago. Most recently, Lauren was a counselor at Horizons for Youth and a Trauma Therapist at La Rabida Children’s Hospital. Additionally for the last two years has been working at The University of Chicago Place Lab collaborating with a cross-disciplinary team to explore problems that exist within communities and coming up with concrete solutions.

**Christine Sullivan** joins our Learning and Counseling department as a third grade counselor. She has a Bachelor of Science from Indiana University, a Masters of Arts from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, and she is a licensed clinical social worker. She has worked at the Cooke Center for Learning and Development in New York, and at Gary Comer College Prep High School and CICS-Wrightwood Elementary School in Chicago where she served as a school social worker.

**Lindsey Swies** will be a member of the Science Department teaching science in the Middle School. Last year, she taught 7th grade Science and Social Studies at Rachel Carson Elementary School. Additionally, she taught a summer Ecology course at the Borevitz Lab at the University of Chicago and tutored with the Neighborhood Schools Program. Lindsey is a graduate of the University of Chicago and holds a BA in Environmental Studies and a M.A.T. in Secondary Education.

**David (DJ) Taylor** is joining the Music Department this year as a part-time teacher. As an accomplished trombonist, DJ is teaching 8th grade band, and
one class for the High School, Explorations in Music—a non-performance class. He received a Bachelor of Music in Music Performance from Northwestern University and a Master of Music degree in Music Education from Southern Methodist University. DJ’s most recent experience includes the Episcopal School of Dallas as Upper and Middle School band director and he also taught private lessons for several school districts in Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

**Katelyn Truscello** will be teaching Middle School Music this year. Her most recent experience includes orchestra director positions at Rotolo Middle School and Goshen Community Schools. Katelyn also was a violin instructor at the Des Moines Symphony Academy and string instructor at Des Moines Public School System. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from The University of Iowa and a Master of Music Education degree from VanderCook College of Music.

**Natalia Vergara** will be joining the 1st grade team in the Primary School. Natalia’s most recent experience includes teaching 2nd grade at the Graded School in Sao Paulo and 3rd grade at the Americal School of Brasilia. Natalia holds a BS in Early Childhood Education from the University of Illinois and an MS in Education Leadership from Concordia University. She is currently pursuing a certificate in bilingual education from the American College of Education.

**Iris Yin** will be joining the Middle School as a humanities teacher. Most recently, she has taught Social Studies at Baker Demonstration School. She also has experience teaching English in Changsha, China. Iris holds a BA in History and Gender Studies from Carleton College, a MA in History from Northwestern and a Masters in Teaching from the University of Washington.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS:

**Lisa (Piane) Harrison and Brandy (Wortinger) Wales** will be joining the Computer Science Department beginning in AY 16/17. Lisa will be responsible for teaching in the Primary School while Brandy will remain in the Lower School.

**Gerardo Galvan** has accepted the School's’ offer to become the first-ever Gordon Parks Arts Hall building manager. Many of you may know Gerardo from his integral part of the IS help desk team on the Historic Campus.