

Dear families,

Welcome to the 2016/2017 school year at Daniel Bagley Elementary. I am looking forward to beginning fresh with you this September, as your child's 1,2,3 level classroom teacher. As always, it is very fun to greet our returning families as well as to meet the new families that will be joining our classroom this year.

To tell you a bit about myself, for those who don't know me, I have recently finished my fifteenth year of certified classroom teaching and have spent the last seven years at Bagley. While most of my classroom experience has been with kindergarten and first grade students, I have also taught art throughout K-5 and for the last three years, a 1,2,3 grade level classroom. I hold both Washington state K/8 and Montessori lower elementary credentials with a university major in anthropology, as well as three years of international school teaching experience in Chiang Mai, Thailand. I am originally from Bellingham WA, where my first year of teaching was at the Lummi tribal school and the following four years were in Lynden and Blaine. From this you might be able to tell that I enjoy working within diverse learning communities and take great pride in providing a classroom environment that is based on appreciation, high expectations and respect. A sense of belonging, self-worth and understanding are common threads that continuously connect us in our classroom community and are characteristics that I hold dear as mentor and teacher.

Personally, some of my interests include reading, biking, gardening, paddle boarding and backpacking. My favorite season is summer and I love to travel. This summer has been particularly exciting as I began, for the first time, teaching Montessori teachers about reading and writing in the Montessori training program at MEIPN. My husband and I also went on a trip to Costa Rica which was amazing and so much fun! Some highlights were seeing all four species of monkeys in the wild, sloths and the blue jeans, poison dart frog! I can't wait to share more with the students when they return and find out about their summers as well.

I look forward to working with your child and getting to know you this year. Please feel free to contact me by email once the year gets started at [cdmessom@seattleschools.org](mailto:cdmessom@seattleschools.org). Meanwhile, enjoy these last summer days!

Sincerely,

Connie Messom