



JOWONIO

School News

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Thoughts From The Director

It's hard to believe the school year is almost over! With all its challenges, it has also been an amazing year!

This time of year always brings up mixed emotions for me. It is a time of transition, as some of our families prepare for their children to head to kindergarten in the fall, and other families and staff members leave us for retirements/other life adventures. Change, however positive, is always hard. Over the course of the year, we have come to know you and your children, you have become part of the school "family", and we will miss our regular contact. We hope you will stay in touch and continue to share the milestones of your children's lives with us as they grow and move on. We have loved having them with us, and you and they will always be in our hearts.

Mixed with the sadness of change, for me, is a sense of celebration and gratitude. The celebration is for the connections that have been made, the joy and laughter we have shared, and the incredible growth we have witnessed in your children. It always amazes me how much the kids grow and change over the course of the year, whether that is physical growth, expanding communication skills, development of friendships and social problem-solving skills, or growth in pre-academic skills. Our classroom graduation ceremonies are joyful celebrations of our year together; we hope you delight in them as much as we do.

My gratitude is for our incredible staff, and the skill and heart that they pour into their work each day, and for all the ways you have supported us as parents. Your choice to enroll your child with us is a leap of faith, and we are so grateful. Your ongoing communication with us and sharing about your child has been such a special connection, and has helped us provide the best program possible. Your patience and cooperation with ever-changing policies and guidelines has helped to keep us all safe, and is truly appreciated. Your donations of resources or materials to the classroom, and participation in classroom activities and events have all helped make the year a really special one for the children. And your contributions to the staff appreciation luncheon and gifts and words of support have all helped the staff to feel truly recognized and honored. It was wonderful to be able to have that fun and celebratory time with one another, and to enjoy the wonderful food, games, and gift card raffles. Thank you, for all that you do for us!!!

Some of you have also become involved in the school as a whole, through the Jowonio School Board, the Friends of Jowonio Board, and participating in various fund development efforts. This has been an incredible gift of time and skill. Jowonio has benefited from your wisdom, problem-solving abilities, targeted skills, financial contributions and connections, and time and effort. I am so grateful for your support.

Jowonio was started by a group of parents over 50 years ago, and the fact that it continues to thrive is testimony to the commitment, effort, and skill of staff members and families alike. Thank you and, whether attending Jowonio or not, we hope you have a wonderful summer!

~Lori

EVERY
CHILD IS A
different KIND OF *flower,*
AND ALL TOGETHER,
MAKE THIS WORLD
A Beautiful
GARDEN.

SUMMER SCHOOL FACT SHEET

- Summer School Dates are 7/5/22 - 8/12/22
- Many classrooms will use water when playing outside so be sure to send in extra clothes and/or bathing suits
- Bug Spray and Sunscreen will be regularly applied - teachers will send home permission forms allowing staff to apply both! Please send back the permission slip and the products!
- Ticks! Like most outdoor environments, finding a tick on your child while at school is a possibility. If this occurs, a teacher will notify you and remove the tick ASAP. It's always a good idea to conduct tick checks on your child each day.
- If your child is going to miss school, let us know! If they typically take a bus, let the bus company know!

2022—2023 SCHOOL YEAR FAQ

When does my registration packet need to be in?

- We need the paperwork completed within two weeks after your child receives the packet
- We are required to have a current (within one year) physical examination and immunizations on file before the first day of school

When will I know which classroom my child will be in?

- You will get a letter from your child's classroom team in August

Can I visit the school before the first day of school?

- Official Visiting days (orientation) will be included in the correspondence from teachers in August
- We will abide by whatever COVID 19 related guidance is in place at that time

What is the first day of school?

- September 12th is the first full day of school

Will there be before and/or after school programming?

- Unfortunately at this time there has been no change, we are not able to offer before or after school care for the 2022-2023 school year but we are actively working on a solution to make wrap around care possible in the future.

*"There are two lasting gifts we can give our children:
One is roots, the other is wings." —Holding Carter*

MEET THE TEACHER



Job Title: Program Aid

Jowonio employee since: 2006

Classroom (current): Star Room

Original Hometown: Syracuse

Something that or someone who inspires me is...

I find my biggest inspiration in musical artists.

Most inspirational artist for me is from Norway. Her name is Aurora. Her music changed my thoughts about myself, the world and why we all are here on this planet.

Simply put, it is to love and care for every human, to live free, and do all we can to take care of this planet and save it.

My favorite hobbies include:

Looking for antiques out in the world , foraging for mushrooms, taking pictures of fungi, reading and writing poetry, also reading fantasy and sci fi novels, studying and learning about the cosmos and the universe, hunting down record albums, hiking and getting lost in the woods (but not to lost), meditation, yoga, and much more but Ill keep the list short.

My favorite children books when I was a kid:

No Tooth, No Quarter

Nightmare In My Closet

Alligator Under My Bed

Any Berenstain Bears Books

A quote or motto I love:

"Stay Positive Stay Present" :)

" Never forget your potential, never forget our potential and how much we all matter"

" Maybe you're trying too hard. Sometimes you just have to listen"



Name: Jessica Pinneo

Job Title: Teacher

Jowonio Employee since: September 2021

Classroom (current): Kangaroo

Original Hometown: Penn Yan, NY

Something that or someone who inspires me is...children

A quote or motto I love:

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."
-Benjamin Franklin

My favorite hobbies include: running, hanging out with my family, lacrosse

My favorite children's books are: Dr Seuss books, Eric Carle books, The pigeon books (gets a cookie, takes a bath, drives the bus etc...), If you give a mouse a cookie...I love childrens books!

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Name: Joy Casey

Years at Jowonio: 39

Position(s) held: Resource Teacher, Lead Teacher, Evaluation Team Coordinator, Support Teacher

What have some of your biggest joys been? What have you loved/learned/lived at Jowonio?

Always, the kids! Kids and relationships are what Jowonio is all about :-). It's been awesome to get to know and love so many kids over decades - and to see some return as parents or teachers of a new generation, learning and valuing that differences make our community rich! I've also had the privilege to work alongside and learn from an amazingly talented and committed group of professionals over all these years. I'm very grateful for the inspiration and skills that my colleagues have shared :-)

What are your wishes for Jowonio's future?

Sustainability - in all senses of the word; from financial sustainability as an institution, to adapting to the changing regulations/expectations of the world in which we work, to balancing the commitment to Jowonio's mission and vision with appreciation of the importance of play for adults as well as children.

What will you do in retirement?

I'll definitely spend more time in my garden and kayak this summer! I'm joining a new book club, planning a little trip in the Fall, and will catch up on some delayed house projects. I want to hang out with my buddy (Danny), and maybe do a little bit of home-based teaching later in the Fall. Gotta stay connected to kids somehow!



Name: Sylvia White

Years at Jowonio: 19 years

Position(s) held: Physical therapist

What have some of your biggest joys been? What have you loved/learned/lived at Jowonio?

The people-the kiddos, their families and all of the amazing people who I have had the privilege of getting to know and work with over the past 19 years are the memories I will take with me. Jowonio is truly a family that for so many years was headed by Ellen. She taught me so much about really listening to people, remaining calm through a storm and valuing everyone's unique talents.

What are your wishes for Jowonio's future?

Balance and stability. In a world that is so challenging, Jowonio is a place of safety for so many families because it is filled with caring and dedicated people. However, because they care so passionately, their own life balance can be difficult to maintain. So I wish for everyone, a little more time for self care and doing what soothes your soul. For the organization, I wish for financial stability and a consolidation of regulations so that Jowonio can continue to move forward and be an innovator.

What will you do in retirement?

I have so many projects around the house and at our cottage in the Finger Lakes that there has never been time to tackle! I love crafting, making baskets for raffles for nonprofits, volunteering and reading trashy novels! Dave is retiring in November and our daughters live out of the area so I am sure there is some travel in our future too!

HAPPY RETIREMENT CONTINUED



Name: Gail Ensher

Years at SU (collaboration with Jowonio): 45 years

Position(s) held: Coordinator of the Masters Early Childhood Special Education/Severe & Multiple Disabilities Program @ SU, Professor, & Mother/Grandma to Jowonio kids (Kim, Lindsey, Jakey, Maddie, & Avianna)

What have some of your biggest joys been? What have you loved/learned/lived at Jowonio?

I have loved working with the dedicated staff, many who have become close friends. It has been a pleasure coming to Jowonio to hold classes and work with students in this special place. My students learned so much and grew from their experiences here. I also had the pleasure of seeing my kids begin as “Jowonio kids” and then become teachers at this school. My oldest, Kimmy, is still there as a lead and my youngest Lindsey started there but is now an assistant principal. In addition, I’ve been able to watch my grandkids enjoy all that Jowonio has to offer. I loved seeing them play with other kids and I loved being part of the family events! The inclusiveness and the emphasis on family was what made Jowonio unique for me. It was so special to have this “second home” since I didn’t have family around while raising my two girls. I can’t wait to see my youngest grandchild, Avianna thrive there in the future!

What are your wishes for Jowonio’s future? I hope that it continues to attract excellent, well qualified staff/teachers. I also hope it continues to be a “family-oriented” environment so that others can have a similar experience like the one I experienced over the years. I pray it continues to be a financially stable program as it is unique to our community.

What will you do in retirement? After spending most of my life devoted to work and writing, I look forward to spending a majority of my time with my kids and my grandchildren! I look forward to watching them all grow. I will continue to enjoy gardening and watching sports, especially SU Basketball!



THANK YOU!

Bunny



We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all our families for entrusting and sharing your child with us. It has been wonderful to watch everyone grow, begin to learn how to play with each other and to develop their independence. So much new learning has also recently taken place with discussions about the chicks hatching, butterflies emerging and plants growing in the garden. Although the pandemic continues to be a whirlwind for all of us, thank you for your flexibility with the sudden changes needing to be made with programming, and especially all of your communication. In September, each child will find a different classroom to call their home; please feel free to keep in touch with us in the Bunny Room.

Our best to you,
Brenda, Stephanie, Kara and NanRima

Kangaroo



To our Kangaroo families we want to thank you for an amazing year! We have enjoyed watching all the growth they have made, friendships built, discoveries made, play happen, and laughs had. Thank you for all the wonderful treats, supplies, wipes, tissues, fake brownies, tshirts, nails, flowers, knock knock jokes, and all your support! But thank you the most for sharing your beautiful children with us! You will always hold a special place in the kangaroo room!

Jess, Judy, Sara, and Cheryl

Wildflower



Thank you to all of the Wildflower Families for your endless support and understanding during yet another crazy year and for trusting us with your most precious gifts - your children! We have learned so much this year including how to negotiate with peers when we have different ideas and how to calm our brains and bodies when they are feeling out of control. We are finishing off the year enjoying as much outside time as possible, studying snails and butterflies and exploring the Jowonio campus. Teachers have loved watching friendships develop and listening to wildflower kids' conversations with each other. Best of luck to those of you heading off to kindergarten in the Fall and we can't wait to hear all about your kindergarten adventures. For those moving onto a different classroom next year, be sure to stop by and say hi - you are always welcome in the Wildflower Room!

Love,
Victoria, Robin, Fatima, Dakota, Christina

THANK YOU!

<p>Butterfly</p> 	<p>Butterfly Families, we love you! Thank you for sharing your amazing children with us this year. It has been an honor to watch them grow social-emotionally, academically and become so curious about the world around them. We have loved watching relationships grow and turn into true friendships. Thank you for your continuous flexibility as we navigated yet another year on ever-changing COVID guidelines. With your support, we have been able to remain in-person and together all year! For those moving on to Kindergarten, we will certainly miss you and wish you the best as you venture on to your new schools. We look forward to seeing our returning students in the hallways...don't forget to stop and say hi!</p> <p>Have a wonderful summer!</p> <p>Love, Amanda, Shannon, Amie, Shacarra and MIchelle</p>
<p>Star</p> 	<p>Thank you to all our wonderful families who have entrusted us with their most precious possessions so that we could witness all the growth and wonder that has happened this year in our classroom. Some of our successes include- increased communication with each other, learning how to play near and with each other even when our ideas were different, discovering and exploring our class pets (hissing cockroaches and snails) as they've grown, and seeing the beauty in our outdoor spaces through the seasons. Thank you to the parents that went with us on our first walking field trip, that donated materials and supplies when we needed them, that sent appropriate gear for us to be outside as much as possible and most importantly thank you for being flexible in this continued time of a pandemic that doesn't seem to end. We welcome back those that are returning in the fall and wish good luck to those that are transitioning to another program. Remember we are always here for you- once a star family, always a star family.</p> <p>Love, Anita, Bob, Chris, Ashley, Elizabeth & Hannah</p>
<p>Bumblebee</p> 	<p>Thank you so much to all of our wonderful parents and families for sharing your children with us. We have o loved making memories with each and every Bumblebee kiddo. We appreciate your flexibility and cooperation with another rollercoaster of a year! We have learned so much about the world and how to collaborate with others during play. We are so excited to finish our year with water days and all of our favorite activities. We hope that the friendships made this year will last a lifetime. Don't forget to stay in touch!</p> <p>Love, Margaret, Desiree, Mallory, Trish, Alasia, and Joy</p>

THANK YOU

Waterfall



The Waterfall team would love to extend our deepest thanks, love, and gratitude for the support that our classroom has had from our parents and families this year! We appreciate all of the cooperation and juggling you have done to help us remain learning in-person during another pandemic year - as well as the thoughtful gifts of materials, cards with kind words, and especially the warm relationships that we have built with you and your children! This has been such a special group of children, and we have loved watching them learn and grow - and they really did! We are incredibly proud of each of them in so many ways. We think of our class as a family, and we hope that you will remain in contact if your child is moving on!

"You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting... So get on your way!"

Love, Colleen, Rebecca, Celita, Riley & Tammy

Sunflower



Thank you, Sunflower families, for sharing your children with us! We have had a wonderful year exploring and growing together. It has been difficult to accept and adjust to this "new normal", which keeps families at a distance (at least physically) from the daily happenings within the classroom, and we have appreciated your flexibility and patience as we have tried to adapt! As teachers, we have had the unique opportunity to watch your children grow, not just as individuals, but as a unit. It has been a privilege to observe your Sunflowers learning and growing together, watching their amazing discoveries, and helping each other along the way. To our friends moving on to Kindergarten, please know that you are forever part of our Sunflower family. We hope you remember always that the world is brighter because you are in it, and our hearts are forever touched because you were here!

Ocean



Thank you Ocean Room families for a wonderful school year! Together we made it through all the ups and downs Covid dealt us this year. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with the never ending changing guidelines. Thank you for classroom donations and sharing your wonderful children with us. Good luck to those moving on to kindergarten. We hope you have a smooth transition. We are looking forward to many kido's returning in the fall. Have a wonderful summer!

THANK YOU

Earth



A big THANK YOU to all of the amazing Earth Room families and their kiddos for a wonderful year of learning and growing together. Despite the ongoing challenges the pandemic brings us, all of the families have been endlessly flexible and selfless to ensure that we can all continue to play together each day. We honestly couldn't make our classroom work without their ongoing support! Throughout the year we have watched friendships form and flourish, we have seen children find their words and independence through adaptive equipment, we have integrated our learning into our wonderful outdoor spaces, and have had a truly amazing time while doing so! We are so proud of each and every one of our Earth Room kids, and the unique journeys that they are on. We can't wait to hear of all the success that our friends leaving for kindergarten will have, and are excited to continue fostering love and learning with those we will see in the fall!!!

Love,
Ally, Jenn, Sarah, Valerie, and Steve

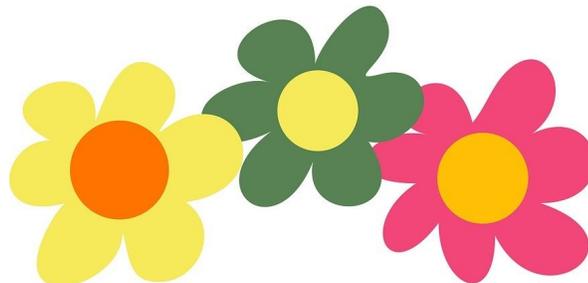
Rainforest



We have had an exciting year, despite the many challenges we've faced. Thank you for your collaboration and flexibility during quarantines and remote learning. We thank you for your commitment to keeping our classroom healthy. The time we've spent together has been wonderful. Kim welcomed a baby girl, we spent time with an amazing student teacher, and we introduced new staff members into the classroom throughout the year. Teachers and students have been supported by awesome therapists as well. The team would like to thank all of the families for trusting us to help your child learn to love learning. It has been a pleasure watching these little ones grow, and are so proud of them! We look forward to seeing returning students at Jowonio and wish all of our kindergarteners the best of luck next school year.

Kim, Kate, Hannah, Lucinda, Slavena, Jacinta, Gwen

Thank You



for your Kindness

PARENT PERSPECTIVE



Before Jowonio, Grant went to a conventional daycare in our neighborhood. One day, when I went back to drop off Grant's lunch, I saw him being gated in a corner in isolation while other kids played in open areas. The teachers explained that it was the easiest way to keep Grant safe from other kids, especially around mealtimes when the staff was busy. But the scene haunted me. I felt sad for Grant that he was not able to experience childhood as much as that is possible because the adults around him had limited bandwidth. Fast forward to 2022, Grant now weighs 42 lb, and he has been on a sled, tasted the snow, covered in leaves, grew a plant, and even rolled down the hill (many times)... all the experiences I struggle to bring Grant with my "working mom" energy. In addition to the physical activities, Grant was also engaged intellectually and was able to recite his learnings. Did you know hedgehogs hibernate?

Knowing that to bring Grant these experiences is no small task, we're so grateful for Jowonio's effort in making that happen. We came across many people through Grant disability service, and most of them do a good job. But the people at Sunflower room do more than that, they made a real positive impact on a young life. Through the video and photo updates, we can see he is loved in the Sunflower room, and to us, that is the most important thing.

Grant still has areas for improvement, but we know as long as he is supported by his Sunflower room community, we know he will try his hardest and is the best he can be.

Christina & Jon Trout



CLASSROOM SUPPORT PERSPECTIVE



When Grant joined the Sunflower Room in September, the team did not take their responsibility to fully include him in the physical, social and cognitive environments lightly. Gen was fearless in her commitment to get Grant in with the kids, in the snow, in the dirt and into the content. She and the team approached each situation with creativity and optimism. Grant wanted to draw, but struggled to hold a marker...so they taped markers to trains and trucks. Then they took it a step further and adapted a hand held massager to fit a marker; Grant put his hand in and was able to move it all around his paper with complete independence. As the Sunflower room support teacher, sometimes I had to slow them down - "don't hurt your back Gen!" - but most of the time my role was to join in team conversations to brainstorm how to adapt content so Grant could learn alongside his peers, what kind of equipment they should try and how to get to the next step. Supporting this team to support Grant and his family has been a bright spot during this challenging year. The mission of inclusion, fostering freedom to learn and grow, and granting kids access is alive and well at Jowonio!



FAMILY SUPPORT CORNER

We have missed getting to know families in person during the pandemic, and are excited to bring back some beloved annual events this spring. We are looking forward to adding more events for parents and families as the weather gets warmer and we can gather outdoors.

We continue to enjoy a collaborative partnership with our neighbor across the street, **Nottingham High School**. In March we revived our annual walking field trip across Genesee Street to attend an exclusive performance of Nottingham's spring musical. 4 classrooms made the trek this year to catch a sneak preview of "The Addams Family". Thanks to the **Syracuse police department** for assisting us to cross East Genesee and Meadowbrook streets safely, and to the **Nottingham theater department** for sharing their great show with us!



Thanks to **Maxwell's Restaurant** for hosting our annual **Parents' Night Out** in May, sponsored by **OPWDD**, where parents spent the evening dining and meeting other Jowonio parents and grandparents of children with special needs.

The Lions Club donated their time and equipment in April to offer **vision screenings** for all Jowonio students. This is a service we have greatly appreciated every year and this year it enabled us to provide over 100 screenings.

Maripat Murphy and **Kristine O'Brien** of the **SU F.A.C.E. Center** graciously shared valuable expertise and tips via zoom with a group of Jowonio parents whose children are getting ready to transition from preschool special education services into elementary special ed.

We were so fortunate to have the assistance of **Sara Hyams** this year, our social work intern from SU. Congratulations to Sara on her graduation and we know that she will be successful wherever she lands!

A huge thank you to all of our **Jowonio parents and grandparents** who have supported us in so many ways all year long, including donating to our Thanksgiving and Holiday Drives and currently for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Your help and support keep our classrooms and school thriving, even during a pandemic!

Keep an eye out for upcoming family events and we hope to get to see many of you in person over the summer and upcoming school year!



Jowonio

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