



# BOCA GRANDE PRESCHOOL

News about Early Education for Island Kids

## Season of Change



In June of 2022, BGP entered a season of change ...

Kellene (Kelli) Carpenter joined the Boca Grande Preschool team as Director. Early Childhood Education has been Kelli's passion and career path for over 30 years. She comes to us with a Bachelor's degree, Directors Credential, and Trainer Certificate for MMCI (Making the Most of Classroom Interactions). Kelli has held a variety of roles during her career including Teacher, Director, Regional Manager, and Early Childhood Coach. In each role, Kelli has worked with staff and families to provide children quality learning experiences with a focus on recognizing individuality, instilling positive self-esteem, and a life-long love of learning.

## Best Staff... Best Practice!

In July, our budget provided us opportunity to increase our staff. Hiring additional staff allowed us to meet Best Practice staff-to-child ratios as suggested by NAEYC (The National Association for Education of Young Children).

As of July 2022, we have 1 Teacher and 1 Teacher Assistant in each of our 3 classrooms!



Wendy Kelly  
Lead Teacher

### Preschool



Shelley Blankenship  
Assistant

We were also able to add a Resource Teacher position to provide additional support for children and teachers, and an Administrative Assistant who is overseeing accounts, maintenance of files and many other supports for the school!



Jackie Eby  
Resource Teacher



Laurie Burnell  
Administrative Assistant



Brean Strickland  
Teacher

### Early Learners



Tiffany Nazaro  
Assistant



Anja Sutcliffe  
Teacher

### Toddlers



Augusta (Gus) Sillwagon  
Assistant

### Did You Know...

The Boca Grande Preschool is open year-round and provides early education to 30 island children?

We provide developmentally appropriate experiences for children as young as 12 months old up to children turning 5 and transitioning to kindergarten!

## New Software App



We have implemented a childcare management software called Brightwheel. This software will allow families to make payments online, communicate with teachers & receive real-time photos and videos.

Brightwheel will help BGP with management of enrollment, wait-lists, billing, tuition and forms and documents required by state licensing.

During our closure due to Hurricane Ian, brightwheel provides us ability to communicate with parents consistently to share updates and news about the preschool..



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## BGP Web Page!

We have launched the Preschool's web page where you can learn more about our school, keep up with events and news, and can support our island pre-school online!

[www.bocagrandepreschool.org](http://www.bocagrandepreschool.org)

## Save These IMPORTANT Dates!

### 12/4 Christmas Tree Lighting

*\*BGP children will be participating as sheep for Nativity*

### 12/16 Visit from Santa

*\*Santa will be visiting with children at the Gasparilla Inn*

### 3/6 Beach Ball Event

*\*Join us for a fun evening of dinner, music & support for BGP at the Gasparilla Inn Beach Club. (Reserve early as this is a sellout event! More info to come January 2023)*

### 3/10 Staff Appreciation Lunch

*\*Help us acknowledge our wonderful staff and the work they do.*

### 3/25 BG Women's Club Spring Fair & Golf Cart Parade

*\*Join the staff, families, parents, and children for a fun parade*



# Open House 2022



Open House before school begins in Fall helps children and parents feel more comfortable and excited about the first day of school. In Early August, our preschool families came inside the school for the first time in over two years due to COVID. Parents were excited to see their child's classroom, meet teachers, and other families.



## First Day of School!

August 15<sup>th</sup> marked the First Day of the 2022-2023 school year. The first week was a time for getting to know each other and building relationships. This year we have 14 new enrollees joining our preschool family. We are looking forward to a great year!



## Playground Construction

Through your generous support we have funding for a beautiful new playground for our children. Construction has begun, with removal of a very large oak, fence removal and grading.



*The BGP Team is so thankful to be a part of such a caring and generous community.*



## Hurricane Ian

In preparation for the hurricane, we placed water barriers and sandbags on all of our doors to prevent water intrusion.

Despite our efforts, water made entry and our little school did suffer damages. We had water in all rooms, and underwent remediation.

