

## Meet our Trustees

### Kate Greene

Affiliation to Evergreen: Mom to Beatrice, 2<sup>rd</sup> year student in Mrs. Perrin/Ms. Conn class

Occupation: Program Manager, International Development

Board Member Since: 2015

Board Committee: Finance

Q. Why do you chose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen? I have been so appreciative of what Evergreen has done for my daughter, and I want the school to continue thriving for future generations of students.

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen? I think Evergreen is somewhat of a hidden gem but it's becoming more recognized as a great school in our community. We have a very dedicated administrative and teaching staff, and word is starting to get out.

Q. Why do you think other Evergreen parents should consider joining the Board? We're a fun, interesting group! It's gratifying to work with other board members to help strengthen the school and guide its strategic direction.

Q. What fun or interesting work have you done as a board member? As part my work on the finance committee, I take a deep dive into the annual budget once a year and also review the school's expenditures against the budget each month. The finance committee works very closely with John and Vipada to make sure that we're making the best use of tuition fees, donations and other revenue to provide a high quality Montessori education for students.

Q. What do your kids think of you being a board member? I think Bea enjoys her special one-on-one time with her Dad when I'm at the meetings.

Q. List a fun fact about yourself. Both John and I lived in Shanghai, China in 2000 although we didn't know each other then.

### Tanya Palacio

Affiliation to Evergreen: Mom to Isani, Mrs. Dias/Ms. Hodges

Occupation: Actuary

Board Member Since: 2015

Board Committee: Building and Grounds (B&G)

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen?

I am most excited that Evergreen has positioned itself as the one of the premier Montessori schools in the Montgomery County. We are a small, stable school and the word has gotten around that Evergreen's committed teachers, diverse student body and

Montessori implementation are top-notch. I look forward to the growth of Evergreen's 3<sup>rd</sup> year Primary (kindergarten) and Elementary programs. The future looks bright for Evergreen and I am thrilled to be a part of it!

Q. Why do you think other Evergreen parents should consider joining the Board?  
Parents should consider joining the Evergreen Board because we are a friendly and smart bunch of folks 😊.

Working on the Evergreen Board is the perfect opportunity to use your professional skills in a new environment and provide stewardship to your child's school. As an Actuary, my daily work involves calculating and valuing pension plan liabilities. However, in my work on the B&G committee, I utilize my analytical skills in a completely different way. I have learned more about building repair and maintenance during my tenure on the B&G committee than in the 10+ years as a home owner.

Q. What fun or interesting work have you done as a board member?  
Leading the team that negotiated the 10-year lease with Hughes Church was a rewarding project. As a result of the team's efforts, Evergreen has a home until 2026! Ensuring the stability of Evergreen's School facility and location allows us to focus on other strategic planning goals.

As the Chair of the B&G committee, it is purposeful work for me to be able to contribute to enhancing the play garden features, ensuring the school grounds are safe and operational, and improving classroom functionality and appearance. The new windows in the gym, upgraded electrical outlets in the classrooms and the netted fence around the play garden are just a few of the projects the B&G committee worked to make happen.

Q. What do your kids think of you being a board member?  
My children (ages 5 and 2) love the evenings when I have a Board meeting because they get ice cream after dinner.

Q. List a fun fact about yourself.  
I have a twin sister, her name is Tonya...yes, pretty confusing.

### Deepa Sundararaman

Affiliation to Evergreen: Mom to Arjun (alumni) and Anushka (current student), both in the Tobin / Sturdivant Primary class. My husband, Vikram, was formerly on the Board.

Occupation: Economic consulting

Board Member Since: 2015

Board Committee: Treasurer, Finance Committee

Q. Why do you chose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen?

Giving back to a school that is shaping my children into well-rounded citizens. As a working mom, the Board position allows me to utilize my skills to successfully contribute at a convenient time (evening meetings and some work done virtually).

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen?

Having a Head of School with a vision for the path forward most excites me.

Q. Why do you think other Evergreen parents should consider joining the Board?

There are so many reasons to join the Board... develop persuasive speaking skills, hone your leadership skills, leverage your professional expertise and enhance your time management skills all while giving back to the School in a unique way. And most of all, you get a nice dinner thoughtfully ordered by Vipada once a month at the Board meetings 😊

Q. What fun or interesting work have you done as a board member?

I helped the School set up investment reserves that provide funds for a rainy day and Capital improvement projects.

Q. What do your kids think of you being a board member?

Kids follow what we do, not what we say. They are proud that mom helps their School be "better." They see that I make time out of a busy schedule to do that, and that I am sincere about my commitments.

Q. List a fun fact about yourself.

I love traveling for fun. I am planning a trip to Hawaii with my 4 besties since elementary school in celebration of our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

### Virginia Spivey

Affiliation to Evergreen: Mom to Harry and Maddie White (Class of 2016)

Occupation: Art Historian and Educational Consultant

Board Member Since: 2016

Board Committee: Governance

Q. Why do you choose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen?

A: To give something back to a community that's been foundational in my kid's lives.

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen?

A: Montessori teaches a love of learning and cultivates intuitive inquisitiveness, thus responding to a significant need not found in other educational systems.

### Wendie Marsh

Affiliation to Evergreen: I am a Montessori teacher and director.

Occupation: Director of Education at Shining Stars Montessori Academy PCS

Board Member Since: 2015

Board Committee: Building and Grounds

Q. Why do you chose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen? I used to work at a similar sized Montessori School in McLean. The schools have similar issues. I am developing a new skill set by being on the board.

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen? I think John is an excellent leader with great ideas to move Evergreen forward.

Q. What do your kids think of you being a board member? I have a 5th grade son who went to a Montessori school for 7 years. He is proud that I am involved with yet another Montessori School.

Q. List a fun fact about yourself. I enjoy gardening and traveling.

### Abrielle Beaton Anderson

Affiliation to Evergreen: Mother of Abbott, 2nd year Elementary

Occupation: Attorney

Board Member Since: 2016

Board Committee: Governance

Why do you choose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen? I literally fell in love with Evergreen and the Elementary class when Abbott matriculated last year. I jumped at the opportunity to serve this amazing community in such an impactful way.

Why do you think other Evergreen parents should consider joining the Board? Not all Boards are created equal :-). We are a GREAT group of people to work with and while we are a "working" Board, the responsibilities never feel overwhelming.

What fun or interesting work have you done as a board member? As a board member parent, I had the unique opportunity to participate in a week-long brainstorming session out of which the Connections Program was created.

What do your kids think of you being a board member? "It makes me feel comfortable, because you're there." - Abbott

List a fun fact about yourself. I attended Evergreen Summer Camp in the 80's when the school was located in Temple Shalom on Grubb Road :-)

### Catherine Paschal

Affiliation to Evergreen: Board Member

Occupation: Development Officer

Board Member Since: 2016

Board Committee: Advancement Committee

Q. Why do you chose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen?

Now that my children are older, I felt that I had more time to become involved in something that is important to me. I have worked in the education field for my entire career as an administrator, but being a board member helps me to see another side of schools. Although my children did not attend Evergreen, I have worked at similar

schools and I know how important education is especially in the early years. It's wonderful to see the inner workings of a school like Evergreen where people are really passionate and committed to giving children the very best possible education and making it accessible for all families.

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen?

Seeing the improvements to the physical plant that school has been able to make through careful planning is inspiring. Those changes make the school that much more inviting at a time in a child's life when they feel joy in learning and want to soak up all the knowledge possible. I definitely would have sent my kids to Evergreen.

Q. Why do you think other Evergreen parents should consider joining the Board?

I think being on the board is a great way to demonstrate to your children that you are committed to their education and to model volunteerism to them at an early age. It's also a great way to give back to the school by providing your particular knowledge and guidance and to meet other parents.

Q. List a fun fact about yourself.

I have two teenagers, Cleo and Jack, and I spend a lot of time by the water watching my son row.

#### Erica Goldman, Ph.D.

Affiliation to Evergreen: Mom to Joshua Klein, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Elementary; and Emily Klein, Evergreen Alumna

Occupation: Director of Policy Engagement for COMPASS (a small science communication non-profit)

Board Member Since: 2013

Board Committee: Governance

Q. Why do you choose to volunteer as a board member for Evergreen? I love strategic thinking and long-term visioning and thought these skills could be useful to the Board. It is also a tremendous learning opportunity for me professionally. I have built a diverse skill set related to non-profit board governance that are transferable to other situations.

Q. What makes you most excited about the future for Evergreen? Fantastic teachers and administration and a diverse engaged parent and student body. Also, my son loves the new soccer net in the Playgarden!!

Q. Why do you think other Evergreen parents should consider joining the Board? Board service is a great way to invest in Evergreen's future. It is our job to ensure that Evergreen is a vibrant and productive place for all of the children yet to be born. Working to ensure that long-term viability feels very rewarding.

Q. What fun or interesting work have you done as a board member? I've helped develop board policies, supported recruitment efforts, and arranged for board development through our annual retreats.

Q. What do your kids think of you being a board member? They are proud that I work to support Evergreen's future.

Q. List a fun fact about yourself. I have traveled to Antarctica and have dived in a submersible to the bottom of the ocean.

### Margie Omero

Mom to Lucy (5, in Ms Bowen/Berrios). Also mom to Beckett (1.5 years old)

Occupation: Political pollster

Member since: 2016

Committee: Advancement

Why be on the board: to learn more about the school, and to give back to this great community.

What makes you excited about the future of Evergreen: Watching children grow and develop. Letting other people know about how great the program is here.

Why consider the board: It's a good way to help the school but also learn and challenge yourself.

What have you done as a board member: I'm new & still learning the ropes. I've enjoyed meeting other board members & introducing myself to more parents. (If you see me, say hello & introduce yourself!)

What do your kids think of you being a board member: Lucy: "Why do you need to go to the school? Are you going to go to the playground?" and Beckett: "bye-bye!"

Fun facts: I have a weekly podcast called The Pollsters. I live in Takoma Park, but I'm terrible at composting.