



More about your PTSA Board for 2016 - 2017



Katja Wright – Co-President - president@smithptsa.org

Hi! My name is Katja Wright and I live in Sammamish with my 9-year-old son, Alex, and my husband, Ben. I am German and I grew up in South Africa - it is a really long story. After a wonderful 11 year career in the tourism industry in South Africa, working for several large Tour Operators and traveling around Southern Africa, I turned my attention to fulfilling the most important and meaningful role of my life: giving birth and raising my precious boy. In 2007 we moved to Dubai for a year for my husband's work before relocating to the United States. We spent 5 years in Atlanta, Georgia and in 2013 relocated to Sammamish - and life is good. I have owned a photography business since 2011, which gives me great pleasure and I enjoy taking care of my family, and baking, a lot!! This is my second year on the Board and together with Swarnima I look forward to a fun, happy and successful year ahead, advocating for the safety, health and well-being of each and every child at our school.



Swarnima Aswinkumar – Co-President - president@smithptsa.org

Hello Smith Family members! My name is Swarnima Aswinkumar. I have lived in Sammamish for the last 7 years with my husband Aswin and son Divij who is now in 5th grade. Sammamish feels like having found our desired destination after a long journey. I grew up in India and after my degree in Engineering and a short stint in the software industry came to the United States as a graduate student in 1997. I studied and worked in the field of Materials Science obtaining a Master's degree and PhD along the way. A post-doctoral fellowship in Tokyo, Japan gave me the unique opportunity to work with a multicultural team of scientists. Now I continue to be a reviewer for scientific journals. Since returning to the USA in 2007, I have focused on being a Mom and a homemaker which has been truly rewarding. Samantha Smith has given me the chance to learn and grow in different dimensions. I have been an Explore art lead and Science Committee chair for 3 years and Membership chair for 2 years. Working together with the amazing staff, volunteers and community at Smith has been a great pleasure and participating in the enrichment of our students has been extremely gratifying. In the coming year, along with the whole team I hope to further enhance the bond between the parents, students and the school community. Looking forward to an exciting year!



Leanne Brodzinsky – Treasurer - treasurer@smithptsa.org

Hi – I'm Leanne Brodzinski – I moved to Sammamish 13 years ago with my husband Paul, I was born and raised in Bothell, WA and he's from London. I graduated from WSU and have been working in the computer industry since. Most recently I left Microsoft and am now an independent consultant, enjoying the flexibility that brings. We have 2 boys the oldest is in 8th grade at IMS after graduating from Smith. My youngest is in the 5th grade. Keeping up with my family and career keeps me hopping but I learned from early preschool days that the boys notice when I am part of their school life and serving on the PTSA has provided a great connection with the school and community. Looking forward to another year on the board.



Kirsten Rasmussen – Secretary - secretary@smithptsa.org

Greetings! My name is Kirsten Rasmussen and I am a new member of the PTSA board. I was born and raised in Denmark, and I never imagined I was going to live anywhere else, but then opportunity knocked, and my husband Brian received a job offer from Microsoft. Even though we felt we were too old to start a new life in a foreign country, we decided to try it out for just a couple of years... It has been five years now, and we are still here, because we like it so much! We have two sons, Asbjorn (grade 4) and Janus (grade 1), plenty to keep me busy. In my previous life, I was a research librarian and worked in a medical library, but in this life, I am a stay-at-home mom. Except when I am volunteering in the classroom or at the Elisabeth Miller Library, UW Center for Urban Horticulture, or organizing the book collection for the Northwest Danish Association. When I am not volunteering, I enjoy gardening, and I grow my own vegetables. I also have a very soft spot for growing orchids. I like to express myself through music and song, which is why I also sing with Con Brio Women's Choir. I look forward to being part of the PTSA and making things happen!



Tiffany Burton - VP Communications - communications@smithptsa.org

My name is Tiffany Burton. My family and I moved from Las Vegas in 2008, and it's proven to be the best. decision. ever. While the weather was our most motivating factor, the schools, neighborhoods, people, and most of all, nature, have kept us anchored. For the past 15 years I've been building, designing, managing websites in all shapes and sizes, and seized the opportunity to contribute to the Smith PTSA. I have one daughter entering 5th grade and another in preschool, so Smith will be a part of my life for the next 7 years, and I'd like to see it continue to flourish. I welcome feedback and support so reach out anytime.



Ferrol McCartney – Co-VP Fundraising - fundraising@smithptsa.org

Hi! My name is Ferrol McCartney and I have two daughters Kylie (4th grade) and Brooke (2nd grade) at Smith. I grew up in Sammamish, went to college in Arizona (U of Arizona) and made my way back to Seattle. My husband Damon and I moved back to where I grew up a little over 6 years ago. I am a CPA and have just celebrated 19 years at Deloitte & Touche LLP serving clients in the consumer business and technology sectors. Over the past 4 years I have served on the finance review committee at Smith and look forward to helping raise money for our great kids at Smith. I grew up playing sports and played soccer and ran track at Redmond High School. I also love to travel and snow ski and am excited that both my girls learned to ski last year with me. I have helped coach both my daughters' soccer teams the past 3 years and look forward to another fun year of coaching. I hope for a successful Dolphin Dash and school year ahead!



Sue Zanner – Co-VP Fundraising - fundraising@smithptsa.org

Hi! I'm Sue. I'm the mom of twin boys, Seth and Aidan, who are entering 4th grade this year, and my husband, Matt, and I have been married for 18 years. We've been in Sammamish for 4-1/2 years, moving up here from the Sierra Foothills in Northern California. I worked for GE and Cisco in engineering and program management roles for over 20 years before deciding to quit and pursue my passion. Now, I'm back at school working towards an M.S. in Nutrition. In my free time, I love to run and mountain bike on the local trails, and when winter comes, we hit the ski hill. I also enjoy exploring new places, near and far!



Kim Leskinen - VP Expenditures - expenditures@smithptsa.org

Hi! My name is Kim Leskinen and I live in Sammamish with my 10-year-old daughter, Raquel; my 8-year-old son, Sebastian; and my husband, Greg. After a 15 years loving my Sales and Marketing career, my daughter was born and I decided take on the role of stay at home mom and never looked back. We just moved to the Sammamish area four years ago and just love it here. After thorough introspection, I have come to the disturbing self-awareness that I am apparently a volunteer-aholic spending a ton of time on the soccer field coaching girls, at Smith like many of us, or doing work for my HOA. When I am not volunteering my time I am working toward finishing writing at least one of the four books that have started...er! I'm an Aquarius who enjoys long walks on the beach... oops, sorry, wrong kind of bio... Anyway, I hope to have a fun, successful year!



Neeta Vijay – Co-VP Programs - programs@smithptsa.org

Hi - I'm Neeta Vijay. I grew up in India and have been living in Sammamish for 6years with my son Anshuman Sen (2nd grader) and my husband Jaideep Sen. We moved here from Singapore and have been enjoying living in the Pacific North West. I have Master's degree in textiles and after 15 glorious years of work across various continents, I decided to go back to school. I finished my MBA from UW Foster School of Business Management in 2014 and same year gave birth to my Design Studio. I look forward to be part of such a fantastic team and contribute to our wonderful Smith Community.



Fiona Kotzenberg – Co-VP Programs - programs@smithptsa.org

Hi, I am Fiona Kotzenberg. I have a daughter in 4th grade and a son in 2nd grade. I am a transplant from South Africa, my husband and I move to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2000, then Bellevue, WA and most recently to Sammamish. I am fortunate enough to be a stay at home mom at the moment. Volunteering has been a way to keep busy/see other adults and be involved at the school. It is also a wonderful excuse to avoid all the household responsibilities that I really don't enjoy. Volunteering shows my children that I am invested in their school and interested in their world. It doesn't have to be time consuming. For years I only did take home tasks that could be accomplished while watching bad tv – possibly with a glass of wine in one hand ;-) I've decided to join the PTSA team for After School Programs, which I am passionate about. It is such a benefit to our school and community to have these enrichment opportunities presented so conveniently. I hope to get to know many more involved, interested and interesting parents over the next school year.