

Welcome to Profe Kaari's 5th grade class!

I am excited to be your fifth grade teacher this year. I have been a teacher for the last 20 years: first in a bilingual elementary school in Salinas, California, then working with Spanish-speaking preschoolers and their families in St. Paul. I have worked at LILA since it opened 15 years ago teaching second grade, coordinating Basic Skills support, and teaching 5th and 6th grades.

I grew up nearby in New Brighton, MN and attended Moundsview Public Schools up through 11th grade. Over the years my family hosted exchange students from Norway, Germany, Poland and France. My parents have also volunteered with refugee families for as long as I can remember so I grew up meeting families from many countries. As a high school senior I decided to travel and spent the year living with a host family and going to school in Brittany, France. It was the beginning of my interest in language, cultures and the many ways there are to gain an education.

I live in White Bear Lake with my husband and our two children. My husband grew up in Mexico, so people often assume we met when I studied there for a semester in college. We actually met here in Minnesota while at Macalester. Our daughter finished high school in White Bear Lake last winter and left in February for a year abroad in Argentina with AFS. She is living with a host family and going to high school. She will return in January. Our son is at Headwaters going into 7th grade this fall. He was in the first class of the Chinese immersion program at the lower school and will also be taking Spanish this year in 7th grade.

When not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, travelling, camping and canoeing. After a couple years of busy summer travel, we are stayed close to home this summer, camping and visiting family around Minnesota. I also love to read and enjoy fiction as well as science articles, current events and whatever interesting things I come across.

I love working with the students and families at LILA and look forward to meeting you all soon.

Sincerely,  
Profe Kaari

