

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 19 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 12 years ago teaching second grade, coordinated 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 is going into 11th grade this year and while she works to maintain her Spanish, she is also studying German. Our son will be in fifth grade this year in the Chinese program at LILA.

When not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, riding bikes with my kids, camping and canoeing. I also love to read and enjoy fiction as well as science articles, current events and whatever interesting things I come across. This last summer my family joined up with my cousin and family to camp across Idaho, Montana and visit Yellowstone. We survived the long hours of driving by listening to Harry Potter.

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

Sincerely,  
Profe Kaari