



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

Good morning,

I'm excited to introduce our staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year at Nauset Youth Alliance (NYA). As we continue to grow, we're thrilled to welcome new members while celebrating a strong returning staff of 15!

2024-2025 NYA Staff

Eddy

Katie Heller – Assistant Director and Site Coordinator

Katie Has worked with us the past three years during both the summer and school year. Katie started out as a Group Leader and was then the Site Coordinator for Stony Brook this past year. Katie has recently been promoted to Assistant Director and is now Site Coordinator at Eddy School. Katie is currently going back to school for Early Childhood Education at Cape Cod Community College to further her career. In her spare time Katie loves watching football and spending time with her family and dogs in Harwich. She is very excited on her new position and can not wait to see what the school year brings and the fun that we will have.

Alexis Charles

Alexis has a goal in life: to become the type of adult that she needed when she was a child. As a mental health and disability rights advocate, she is dedicated to creating safe, inclusive spaces where every child feels seen and heard. Whether it's teaching life skills or breaking down topics like self-care and mental health, Alexis ensures that kids leave with a smile and a sense of belonging. A lifelong learner, she plans to pursue studies in psychology or nonprofit work while continuing to uplift not only children but the entire community, ensuring that everyone feels supported and empowered in every way.

Important Dates

Sunday, October 6th
The Bash
4-7 pm

Pelham House



Friday, Oct 25th
Trunk or Treat
5:45-7 pm

Stony Brook Parking Lot

**Come dressed
in Costume**



Early Release

Friday, Oct 25th

**Not a typo. Same day as Trunk or
Treat**

NYA begins at 11 AM following
early dismissal. If your child is
attending NYA on that day, please
be sure to send a lunch as food
services will be closed



Audrey Harrington

Audrey Harrington is currently pursuing a degree in early childhood education at Cape Cod Community College. This is her second year with NYA and she moved to the Cape last fall to further pursue her studies. Originally from Nantucket, Audrey has worked with a wide range of children from ages 2 to 14 in different schools and independent settings over the past few years. She is very excited to be back and is looking forward to a fun year. Audrey works at Eddy.

Ian Prince

Mr. Ian was born and raised in South Hadley, Massachusetts and graduated with a bachelors degree from Ithaca College. Mr. Ian is 23 years old and has been with NYA for 11 months and enjoys physical exercise, spending time with family, and listening to audiobooks. Mr. Ian is looking forward to having a great school year working at NYA.

Josh Meritus

Joshua Meritus shared that the NYA program has become a significant part of his life due to the joy and relationships he has built with the children throughout the course of the program. He expressed that, out of all the jobs he has been involved with, this one is his favorite. Joshua enjoys working with the kids and has a lot of fun with them. He looks forward to coming to work every day, reflecting just how much he enjoys being part of the children's daily activities at NYA.

Sheila Smith

Sheila is a 70 year old mother who raised two wonderful boys ages 45 and 47. She is also the grandmother of an 11 year old girl and a 9 year old boy. Sheila was a kindergarten teacher's aid at South Yarmouth Elementary School. She was also a Campfire leader creating fun, educational, weekly activities for 8 elementary school aged boys and girls. This is Sheila's second year with 3rd 4th and 5th graders at Nauset Youth Alliance. She loves children and is fully invested in the positive, safe, fun, stimulating program that NYA provides.

Stony Brook

Aidan Kotoski – Site Coordinator

Meet our new Stony Brook Site Coordinator, Aidan Kotoski! He is local to Harwich and has been blessed to call the cape home for most of his life. Since joining NYA last thanksgiving, Aidan has established amazing connections with NYA participants. He is very grateful. Outside of NYA, Aidan is an independent contractor, or your local 'jack of all trades'. He is a farmer and also a grant consultant for the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation. Aidan loves his work and believes that we learn our passions through experience! He is an ambitious person and hopes to incorporate that within NYA! Aidan is grateful for your support and faith in the program and is very thankful to be a part of your child's growth!

Skylar Fones

Skylar is 23 years old and from cape cod. She enjoys sewing, writing, and playing piano. Something she truly cares about is the preservation of art. Skylar spent the summer working with NYA, and this will be her first school year at the program.

Rebeka Broitman

Rebeka Broitman is a former New Yorker from NYC. With a background in Hospitality Management and over 15 years of experience coordinating children's events, she has managed STEM and STEAM after-school centers on the Upper East Side and worked at Eloise at The Plaza, managing high-profile children's events. Rebeka has been working with children since her college years and truly enjoys it. This will be her second year with NYA, but her first at Stony Brook. She looks forward to an exciting year teaching fun after-school STEM and STEAM activities.

Elizabeth Grover

My name is Elizabeth, this is my second year working at Nauset Youth Alliance. I have 10 years of experience working with children in small and large group settings. When I'm not at Nya I enjoy exploring Cape Cod nature trails and beach's with my family and friends.

Judy Langelier

Judy has enjoyed being a preschool teacher for over 30 years, working in Yarmouth and Dennis schools. She and her husband reside in the Town of Brewster. Judy has three grown children and five grandchildren. Her greatest pleasure is spending time with them. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, taking nature walks, weekends in Maine and lunch with friends.

Barbara Mullen

This is starting Barbara Mullen's 8th year at NYA.

Barbara, her husband, and 2 little 'Westies' live in Orleans. They relocated there 12 years ago from Sandwich, where they raised their daughter. While in Sandwich, Barbara worked for many years at the Riverview School.

They moved to the lower Cape to be with her mother, who was in declining health. Finding work at NYA was a blessing to her. To be able to work with great staff, in a wonderful community, and with such sweet, innocent children...she is forever grateful.

Barbara's goal is to keep your children safe, happy, and feeling special ... because they are.

Bridget O'Meara

Bridget is a graduate student at UMass Dartmouth studying Professional Writing and Communications. She is originally from Fairfax, VA and has been a Cape resident since May of 2019. Bridget has always found joy in educating children and works hard to ensure they are in a safe, fun, and comforting environment. She spent the last school year and summer with NYA and is excited to continue on with the program! Outside of NYA she spends her time singing, doing lots of homework, driving back and forth to UMass D, and hanging out with her 5 pets. Bridget is looking forward to the school year and is anticipating positive growth for all students!

Mia Ridley

Mia is as a mom of twin boys, a certified nursing assistant, and a youth group leader at NYA. This will be her second year with the program, and she is excited to watch each student thrive throughout the school year. Mia has thoroughly enjoyed her time so far, learning not only about the students but also about herself, and she looks forward to creating more memories in the year ahead.

Bridget Swanson

Gigi is a group program leader who worked for NYA last school year and this past summer. This year, she is transitioning from Eddy Elementary into Stony Brook Elementary! Having moved from California to Massachusetts over a year ago, Gigi focuses on embracing a career path through childhood education. She is incredibly passionate about the arts, and hopes to spark some creative joy amongst the students in the program. She is eagerly looking forward to getting involved with the students at Stony Brook!

Mary Walker

This is Mary's second school year with NYA, and she also participated in the summer program. She has worked with intellectually disabled individuals both in their homes and in social settings. With over 30 years of experience working with children and adults in both the education and medical fields, Mary brings a wealth of knowledge to her role. She has two daughters, one aged seven and the other 23. In her free time, she enjoys taking nature walks with her dog, Trixie, and her daughter, Ella, as well as doing arts and crafts and watching good movies. Mary looks forward to a great year at NYA.

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Check our website's about page for bios!

Heather Sprague – President
Melissa Oomer – Vice President
Kelsey Ellis – Secretary
Pat Sylvia – Treasurer
Svetlana Gemborys – Treasurer

David Ayers
Sofiya Bailey
Ryan Bennett
Emily Gallagher
Anna Ramsay
Billy Weimer
Joshua Wile

Interested in becoming a NYA Board Member?

NYA was established as a parent-run organization. If you are interested in being an NYA Board Member please be in touch with David Rost. The NYA Board meets monthly to discuss and guide NYA. New Board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting in May.

As always, we know it takes a village to raise a child, and we're thrilled to be part of your village. Please reach out to Miss Emma with any questions, comments, or concerns about your child(ren). Here's to a fabulous year at Stony Brook and Eddy Elementary Schools!