

Megan Keil

I have been primarily working in the 4th grade, although I also assist in other classrooms throughout the Aikiyam school. Coming from teaching in NYC which is a completely different culture, I found immediately that the children were so open to me, new ideas, and enthusiastic about learning! The children along with Murugan have made me feel that the classroom is my home. Murugan and Mala also welcomed my ideas and suggestions and together we have created a dynamic curriculum. The children have studied all aspects of food, gone on field trips, are caring for their own plants in the herb garden, graphed data about vehicles on the road, put on the play of Alice in Wonderland, written their own stories and poetry- to name just a few things! As much as the children and staff may learn from me, I am also certainly learning equally from them and being a part of Aikiyam. Being in a new school and a new culture brings a fresh perspective to my view of the world and of teaching.

What I love most about Aikiyam is the children and the community that has been built to create the most warm, welcoming and exciting environment possible for them. In the mornings when I arrive at the school, the children from all classes and ages call out my name, the teachers' wave to me or have some piece of information to share. There are children already at work in the gardens. Other children play outside their classroom doors. I feel that I have truly become a part of the school and I am grateful to each child and staff member who has helped me to feel this.