

# Meet the New Tobin Montessori Staff Members

## Zakkiyya (Zakia) Witherspoon

### FAMILY LIAISON

Mother of two. I was born and raised in the midwest (St. Louis, Missouri). My family moved to the east coast in 2006 for work opportunities and better school systems for our children. I hold an MBA and was a 5th grade teacher for 13 years in a private school. I love working in the school but always thought of myself as more of an administrator. I am very happy to be a part of the Tobin community and look forward to working with all of you. I anxiously await better times and a more comfortable school setting for everyone after this pandemic!



## Ali D'Agostino

### SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Hi Tobin Community! I have spent the past four years in Cambridge upstairs at Vassal Lane Upper School. I am excited and ready to take on elementary speech and language therapy this year. Before coming to Cambridge, I got my masters' in Speech-Language Pathology at Northeastern University. I completed my clinical fellowship year in Bridgeport, CT, working primarily with students with Autism. It has been so wonderful to be part of the Cambridge community over the past four years. I am passionate about helping students communicate and expressing themselves to the fullest at school. Being a school-based SLP is so special because you get to work with students, families, and staff from all different grade levels. When I'm not at school, you can find me in or around the ocean. I love to cook, read, and play outside with my new puppy, Minot (who is named for a lighthouse in my town).



## Angelo Leone

### BUILDING SUBSTITUTE

My name is Angelo Leone and I am the new building substitute at Tobin. Originally from Leicester, MA, I have been in the after school program here since late 2015. Outside of teaching, I enjoy playing guitar, doing art and music projects and watching movies!



## Beverly Gordon, LCSW

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

I am new to Tobin this school year, but I have been with Cambridge Public Schools for the last couple of years as a School Social Worker (I also work at Graham & Parks Elementary School). I am beyond excited for the opportunity to be a part of the Tobin community and to build some new relationships with students, staff and families!



Although there is so much unpredictability and change happening in the world, I've found it helpful to focus on the things I can control. Such as staying active whether it's working out at home, going for a run or walk and kayaking on the river! Another thing that helps and I enjoy is practicing gratitude and I can tell you, I'm grateful to be at Tobin this school year and to have the chance to meet all of you!

## Bridget Kelley, Ed.S, NCSP

### SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Hello families of Tobin Montessori! My name is Bridget Kelley and I am a new School Psychologist for Cambridge Public Schools. I worked at Tobin as the building substitute a few years ago. I am now so excited to be back working with such wonderful colleagues and amazing students! I grew up in a very small town called Paxton in Central MA. I attended UMass Amherst for my undergraduate degree in psychology and education; and UMass Boston for my Ed.S in school psychology. In my free time, I love reading new books, spending time with my family, and completing puzzles (a new quarantine hobby!). I look forward to getting to know you and your family this school year!



## Courtney Patriacca

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Hello and I'm so excited to become part of the team at Tobin! My name is Courtney Patriacca and I am a physical therapist. I received my doctorate in physical therapy from Simmons College in 2017. I have been working at Woburn Public Schools in their preschool for the past two years. While this will be my first year working with Tobin students, I worked with Cambridge Public School students in the OSS summer program in 2018 and 2019. Prior to becoming a physical therapist I attended Massachusetts College of Art and Design and received a Bachelor of Fine Art. I previously worked in the film/television industry for eight years before leaving the computer screen for an exercise ball. In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my family, going for bike rides with my daughter, and participating in circus arts. I really enjoy the thrill and challenges of soaring high in the air on the flying trapeze!



## Krissie Collazo

### SENIOR CLERK

Hey Tobin Families! Most of you may already know me since I've been a fixture here at Tobin for the last 26 years. For our new families let me introduce myself. My name is Ms. Krissie. I was an Assistant Teacher here at Tobin for the last 26 years and I've enjoyed every moment. A little about me personally, I grew up in Cambridge and attended the Cambridge Public Schools. I have an amazing husband and 2 great children. In my free time I enjoy crafting, painting, and spending time with my family and friends. This past June I decided to take on a new role at the Tobin Montessori as the new Clerk. I am so excited about my new role and even more excited to continue working with our returning students and families as well as getting to know all our new Students and families.



**TOBIN MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
197 VASSAL LANE \* CAMBRIDGE, MA 01238  
617.349.6600 \* TOBIN.CPSD.US

