

## Pre-Kindergarten Program

### Bolinas-Stinson Union School District

Bolinas-Stinson School

Victoria Maier

*A tuition free, high-quality, Pre-Kindergarten program serving the needs of families in rural West Marin.*



Bolinas-Stinson Union School District operates a full-time tuition free preschool program for 4-year olds beginning in the fall term of the 2017-2018 school year. The program, in its inaugural year, was enrolled to capacity with 18 students, exceeding projections and highlighting the need for preschool in this remote location.

The preschool is located on the Stinson Beach Campus in a classroom that designed specifically for preschool use. All equipment and materials are new as of the summer of 2017 and were hand-selected by the District's Preschool Director/ Lead Teacher with input from the local Preschool Program Steering Committee. The indoor learning space is beautiful and provides easy access to the natural wonders that surround the campus. A new outdoor learning area and playground were constructed to meet the unique needs of younger children.

The preschool is staffed by the Director/ Lead Teacher as well as a second licensed and experienced preschool teacher, so as to create a staff-to-student ratio that surpasses licensing requirements and professional guidelines.

One of the objectives of a public preschool is the seamless academic and social integration with the Kindergarten program. The preschool room is adjacent to the Kindergarten and staff collaborates year round to ensure school readiness.

The Board of Trustees is understandably proud of seeing their vision for a local, free-of-charge preschool available to children in this community come to fruition. It is already providing an outstanding social and school readiness program with a high level of stability and predictability for families in our area and may serve as a model for similar school districts in other communities.