“Sig,” short for Signe, started her Stanley career in 1994. (Note: You should hear her pronounce her full name properly, as her Norwegian family members do. It’s lovely, “Signe’ pronounced Sing-na, with a lingering emphasis on the letter ‘n.’)

“When I walked into the Great Hall of our old building on 1301 Quebec St.,” says Sig, “I was so struck by the happy voices of the children engaged in learning and the teachers engaged in teaching. It was very warm and welcoming.” Sig began as a Science and Nutrition Resource Teacher in grades K-5 at Stanley, Steele and Ebert (now Polaris). Sig went on to teach 11 years in our Middle School: Science for 7 years (launching our science fair program during that time), PE for four, with a couple of years in a homeroom with Ted. Now she’s half way through her 7th year as a fixture of the 3-4-5 science curriculum where she formed another science fair program for our younger students, and is known for doing fun experiments (worm dissections and owl pellets to name two), asking lots of questions, and helping students to find their own answers – or better yet, more questions.

“While I have been teaching for more than 20 years now, I feel like I am still learning. Science is such a fun subject to teach because it is constantly changing, new discoveries are always being made and the children have such creative, curious minds. I appreciate all of the teachers and staff that I work with as well as the children that I get to teach. I feel lucky to come to work at my second home with my chosen family.”

Sig teaches science in every 3-4-5 classroom 2 times a week: 1 full-group and 1 ½-group class. She’s also certified in what Sig describes as a most successful 12-step program, the Wilson Language Training Program. She teaches one small group a week after school Mondays and Wednesdays (stay tuned for another group to be added next year). She went through the training several years ago and now works with 3-4-5 kids before they move on to 6th grade.

Sig is also a certified Iyengar yoga instructor (try out her free class on Sunday afternoons at the Iyengar Yoga Center on Broadway, where each month’s class donations go to a different non-profit – you’ll see some kindred Stanley Parents there.) She’s been practicing Iyengar yoga for 15 years, and has brought her love of the study to our PE classes off and on over the years. “It’s funny,” says Sig, “I think I’m free spirited, and then I’m drawn to programs like Iyengar and Wilson, which are rule and alignment oriented.”

Sig is one of a number of teachers who are also parents to current and graduated Stanley students. “Teaching and parenting is really fun,” says Sig. “I learned to appreciate how unique Stanley is, and I benefited from an inside view of what’s being taught at every level; for example, the amazing things offered in our choice periods. I found so many things to feel positive about this school.”

Sig sees her 3-4-5 science role as one of supporting the children’s natural curiosity in Science. (Note well: The only time Sig blushed in this interview was when asked how she keeps that natural joy of curiosity alive at home.) “Honestly, I encourage the non-messy science activities at our home – lots of discussions and YouTube sharing for example. School is the perfect place to conduct messy science, something I love to do in our learning laboratories!”

When asked for a personal quote, Sig offers, "What the world needs now is love sweet love. No not just for some but for everyone." (Sung by Dionne Warwick 1967, lyrics by Burt Bacharach and Hal David.) “I like this quote because it is so simple, and so true. Think about how much happier we would all be with more love (no hate, no war)?”

The professional accomplishment she’s most proud of? “The students I have taught over the many years who go on to make wonderful contributions to society. I have a special soft spot for the students who come back to Stanley to teach. I find that incredibly rewarding, to know that they so valued their time here as students that they want to come back and create that magic for our current students.”

Sig’s students come back because of the way she teaches: “I hope at least they’d say that science is fun and interesting and thought provoking,” she says. They would. They’d also say she’s an original (no smart-phone in Sig’s back pocket). And she’s patient, and un-flappable and adventurous. “I love the Colorado mountains and the
outdoors. And, of course, being a mom to two very sweet boys Keenan and Mateo, and a wife of my wonderful husband Art. I’m happy doing yoga and anything outdoors especially hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, canoeing, surfing, camping.”

Finally, we asked what represents Stanley to you and why? Says Sig, “Joyful lifelong learning. This part of our mission statement makes me think of the happy voices of children I heard when I first walked into Stanley over 20 years ago!”