



Teacher Feature

Lisa Kosnik received a pretty clear sign during her teenage years that she was destined to become a speech therapist. “During my sophomore year in high school, I took an interest test, and speech and language pathology came in off the charts,” she said as she marks her thirteenth year as Meadowbrook’s speech therapist.

Mrs. Kosnik was born in Wisconsin, and her family moved to Minnesota when she was 9 years old. Much of her childhood was spent in the pool where she was a competitive swimmer focused mainly on the backstroke. She started out on a club team and continued swimming through college. It’s a skill that also got her summer jobs as a life guard and swim instructor, experiences that helped her realize she enjoyed working with children. Then, along came the interest test and a class paper that sent her down the path toward speech therapy. Her sophomore high school English teacher gave the students an assignment to write about what they wanted to do in the future. She researched speech/language pathology and discovered it truly met her interests of working with people and interacting with others one-on-one. “I always liked teaching and medical things,” she added.

Augustana College offered an undergraduate program in speech/language pathology, so off she went to Rock Island, Illinois to earn her bachelor’s degree. Mrs. Kosnik went on to Northwestern University for her master’s degree, also for speech/language pathology, and then spent two years working as a speech therapist in a private clinic in Downers Grove. She loved the work, but she was doing a lot of in-home therapy and wanted a job that required less time on the road. Her mother-in-law was a Spanish teacher at NBJH and shared the news of an opening at Meadowbrook. Coincidentally, Mrs. Kosnik’s husband had attended Meadowbrook, and her grad school roommate was a violin teacher at the school, so she was familiar with it. Mrs. Kosnik was hired and now hopes to stay where she is for the long-term. She works consistently with about 50 students and also runs social groups with the school social worker treating children for anything that impacts communication.

When she’s not at school, Mrs. Kosnik is busy with her family. She and her husband and almost 4-year-old daughter, Louisa, live in Morton Grove. They enjoy the convenience of living right behind the public pool and walk there frequently. Mrs. Kosnik says her daughter loves to swim and calls her “a fish.” This summer, Mrs. Kosnik is also going to be able to call Louisa a big sister because she is expecting her second child at the end of June. They are waiting until delivery day to find out if the baby is a boy or girl. As for Louisa, Mrs. Kosnik said, “She wants to name the baby Louisa. She doesn’t fully understand how her world is going to change!”

Fun Facts about Mrs. Kosnik

- Won 50-yard backstroke at Minnesota state swim meet at the age of 10.
- Has traveled to all 50 states.
- Met her husband at church while both were students at Northwestern University.

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