



# LAGUNA DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

P.O. BOX 207 Laguna, NM 87026

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AUG. 2: No School - PD
- AUG. 15: No School - (Mesita Feast)
- AUG. 21: Nutrition Activity - Watermelon Pizza
- AUG. 22: S.T.E.A.M. - Using tools to Explore Nature



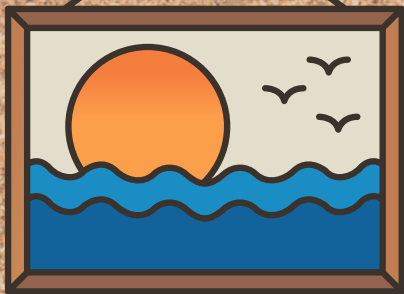
# August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

## REMHINDER

MONDAYS-THURSDAYS

- EHS: 7:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
- PHS: 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
- FRIDAYS-
- EHS: 7:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
- PHS: 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.



# Be Positive

1. Please abide by the posted speed of **5 mph** when entering DEC campus
2. Do **NOT** leave your vehicle running or leave any children unattended in vehicles
3. Use East entrance gates and parking lot when dropping off or visiting

**IMPORTANT**



THANK YOU



**MEET**



**OUR**

**TEAM**





Hello, my name is Andrea Lucario. I am from the village of Mesita, but I live in Acoma. I have been in the field of Early Childhood education for 23 years. I started out as a substitute teacher for one year, and then I was hired full time. This October makes 23 years that I have been with the Laguna Division of Early Childhood.

I have three AA Degrees: General Studies, Education Paraprofessional, and Early Childhood. "Let's learn and grow together and have fun in the process".

**Things to Remember:**

- Children start at 7:30 am to 3:00 pm.
- For the month of August, the theme is Seats, Routines, and Social-Emotional (Separation Anxiety). Please get adjusted to the new environment: staff, peers, classroom, and routines.

**Tips:**

Saying good-bye to your child as you are leaving. Reassure your child you will return. Send a family picture with your child for comfort. "Things to Bring": extra clothes, blanket, cup/bottle.

**About Me: (My Favorites)**

- **Teacher's Birthdate:** March 3rd
- **Favorite Color:** blue, black, and light, bright colors
- **Children / Family:** I have three daughters and four grandchildren (3 granddaughters and 1 grandson).
- **Pets:** I have four pets: a dog (Chase), two cats (Sebastian and Hugo), and a horse (Busha).
- **Sports Teams:** I am a fan of the Dallas Cowboys.
- **Pass Time / Hobbies / Collections:** I enjoy spending time with family, eating together and going places.
- **Music:** I like classic (Oldies) music: country, rock, oldies, but goodies (70's, 80's & 90's).
- **Season:** warmer seasons.
- **Food:** I like blueberry pie
- **Drink:** Pepsi and tea.

# hello



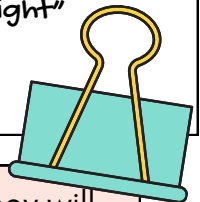
Gu wah zii. I am Caundice Deutsawe from the village of Paguate. I started working with the Laguna Department of Education in the Division of Early Childhood in 2000. I have 24+ years of experience working with children birth to 5 years of age. While working full time, I obtained my Associates and Bachelor of Arts in Early Education.



- I am a mother to a beautiful daughter who followed both parents and earned her degree in teaching Early Childhood. I love that we can talk "shop" and support one another.
- I was born in the Fall, which is my favorite season, because of the fall foliage and Dallas Cowboys football. Most of all, the climate is just right. I love camping, fishing, reading.

### Some of my favorite things

- Music: I listen to almost everything.
- Food: Steak and Birria Tacos
- Drink: Green Tea "Starry Night"



**Parent Tip:** I believe that if you show interest in your children's schooling, they will learn to love school. Ask them about their day and remember to hang up their art work.

**Class schedule:** We, as a class, are continuing to work on our class schedule and routine. We will make adjustments as needed. Once we have settled in and all children have arrived, we will post the schedule in the classroom.

# Meet the teacher

**ANGELA YAWEA**



## About Me

I come from the Village of Encinal. I have been a full time Multifunctional Educational Assistant, in the classroom, for one year.

## Fun facts

- **Teacher's Birthdate:** October 4
- **Favorite Color:** purple, grey, pink, and mint
- **Children / Family:** I have 2 children Jody-14 & Tayla-4
- **Clans:** Big Lizard
- **Pets:** I love animals. I have two dogs Chester and Pepi, and five cats! Their names are Brownie, Cutie/Fluff, Eddie, Minnie, and Tobias. I have my "foster/neighbor dogs" Scooby, Kora, and Arraign.

## More fun facts

- **Sports Teams:** Atlanta Falcons, Chicago Bulls,
- **Pass Time / Hobbies / Collections:** I enjoy are running, weight lifting, going to concerts, and spending time with my family.
- **Music:** I listen to EVERYTHING! Reggae and Heavy Metal. My favorite bands are Stick Figure and Slipknot.
- **Season:** Fall- I love Halloween and Thanksgiving
- **Food:** tacos, sushi, chicken, steak, and chocolate cake
- **Drink:** Dr Pepper, Ghost Mango energy drink, and Golden Eagle Chai from Dutch Bros Coffee.

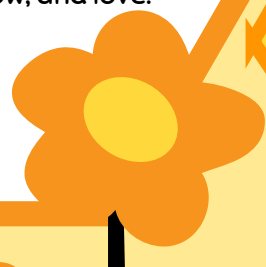
## My experience

I started working at DEC in December 2022 after working in the casino for 10 years as a slot host. My highest education completed was high school at Laguna-Acoma HS, class of 2007. I took some classes at New Mexico Highlands University and CNM. I hope to complete my higher education degree someday.

## Reminders & Parent tips:

If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home. Let them rest and get well.

My message to students, classroom, coworkers, and families is to be happy. Our happiness and well-being help our surroundings to be a better place, and therefore, a great environment for our children to learn, grow, and love.



# MEET THE TEACHER

## ● Mr Gabriel "Gabe" Levantonio ●



**Mr Gabe Levantonio**

## All About Me

- Village of Mesita. Pueblo of Laguna
- 19 years in the Early Childhood Education field
- AA Early Childhood Education, Meritoriously, NMSU

### Reminders to parents

After a two (2) year break, I am really looking forward to being in the classroom once again. It is my intention that our classroom (Casa Blanca) will provide the best learning experience for the children.

I hope to use all the curriculum (Teaching Strategies) themes in a manner that will interest and benefit the classroom learning.

My expectations are fairly simple. We will learn through respect, integrity, patience, and with as much fun as we can stand. Communication with families and teachers will be paramount.

Collaboration within the school will be key, as well. I am looking forward to this educational experience with the children, families, and my colleagues and staff.

## My Favorites

- **Birthdate** – May 22
- **Favorite Color** – Blue
- **Family** – Daughters Gabrielle and Alyssa. Grandson Liam Joel
- **Teams** – Dallas Cowboys and Laguna-Acoma Hawks/Lady Hawks
- **Hobbies** – Mountain biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, reading.
- **Music** – Heavy Metal/Hard Rock, Classic Country
- **Season** – Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer
- **Food** – Beef. Pork. Chicken. Vegetables
- **Drink** – Water

## Contact Me

**Email:** [g.levantonio@lagunaed.net](mailto:g.levantonio@lagunaed.net)

**Ph:** (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5114



# Meet the Teacher

# Mrs. Peacock



## About Me

Hello Guwa dzii sai hauba My name is Leona "Faye" Peacock, I am from the Village of Laguna. I live across the new Laguna Community Health Clinic with my family. I have been with the Laguna preschool head start program for 24 years. For the first two years I worked in the office. I really enjoy being in the classroom with the children and have been teaching for 22 years. Also, I am a bus driver and I have been driving for preschool head start 11 years. I have my AA Certification in Early Childhood.



## Fun Facts

- My birthday is January 8, me and my friend ELVIS
- I have two favorite colors RED and BLACK
- I have three children, that are all grown up, and six grandchildren.
- Two cats Soxs and Oreo/two dogs Obie and Bruno
- 49ERS, REDSKINS, DOGERS
- I like to sew, weave, bead, walk and go hiking, go on trips on the motorcycle.
- Music- I like to listen to anything
- I like fall and winter, being outdoors and in the mountains
- Green chili stews, traditional foods, Chinese foods, steaks, homemade cookies and breads
- Indian tea, hi yane, Dr. Pepper, Cherry Pepsi, coffee, Iced coffee's

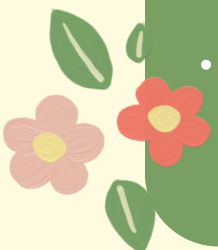
## Reminders to Parents:

Get enough rest (Get to bed early, get up and get ready for school)

Remind your child school with begin soon, making new friends, and having new teachers, riding a new bus

Don't forget your back pack, water bottle, extra clothes.

My message to my families is:  
We are all in this together and let's have a fun and exciting year.



# Meet the Teacher

Ms. Yvonne



## About Me

Greetings! My name is Yvonne Francis, I am a Laguna tribal member and I reside in Laguna village. I have been working at the Laguna Division of Early Childhood, as an Educational Assistant, and bus driver for 14 years!

## My Message

- My message for our children “Be kind, Be brave, Be honest, Be thankful, Be happy, and Be You!
- My message for my coworkers, I am grateful for all your help and willingness to help each other. You all have made a positive impact on my life here at work, Thank you all very much for your friendship! Let’s all have a great year!!



## Our Classroom Motto

Together we learn, grow, and succeed!

## Fun Facts



- I was born on January 27th
- My favorite colors are the colors in the rainbow!
- I have two beautiful daughters my first born is in the United States Airforce and has been active duty for 21 years, my second daughter works here at the Laguna Division of Early Childhood as a Program Assistant, and the Childcare Coordinator. She is the beautiful lady with the big smile in the front office that greets you all! Her name is Madalynne! I have two awesome grandchildren they both started school here at Head start but have grown and are now 17 years old and nine years old! Our children grow up so fast!
- I have one dog, his name is Oreo!
- My favorite sports are baseball and basketball. I don’t play but love to watch my granddaughter play!
- My pastime hobbies are playing bingo, watching old movies especially Christmas movies, and spending time with family.
- I listen to old songs from way back, lol!
- My favorite time of the year is the fall season. I love the chill in the air, the different colors that fall brings and the aroma of green chili roasting, and wood stoves burning in the village. This brings a warm cozy feeling and makes my heart smile, and the falling leaves, how they blow across the ground as if they are dancing!
- This is me in nutshell!!!



# MEET THE TEACHER



Teacher Juana



505.552.6544 Ext. 5110



j.natseway@lagunaed.net

## About Me

Guwazee. Welcome families and children to another program year!! My name is Juana Natseway and I am from the village of Laguna. My clans are Big Sun and Little Corn. I am the teacher in the Encinal classroom for the second year, teaching the transition children that will be going to kindergarten. I have been with DEC for 24 years as a teacher with Early Head Start and Head Start. I am looking forward to working with the students to help them reach the next milestone, which is kindergarten.



## Fun Facts

- Birthdate: July 30
- Drinks: Green Tea and 7-up
- Foods: Homemade baked goodies, almond joy, mixed nuts
- Colors: Red and Blue
- Children: three girls and one boy, five grandchildren-three girls and two boys
- Hobbies: working on puzzles, sewing, and playing board games with my family
- Teams: LA Dodgers and Lakers, San Francisco 49ers, Oklahoma Sooners
- Music: Country, Oldies, Rock, and Reggae
- Seasons: fall and winter



### Reminders to Parents:

- Please check the take-home folder, daily, for notes
- Read to your child, daily, and log the times on to the reading log
- Bring an extra set of clothes and a water bottle
- Have your child get rest, so they can be ready to learn
- Please keep toys at home



# MEET YOUR TEACHER



## ABOUT ME

- Hello, my name is Evelyn Garcia and I am from Seama village. I have my CIB with the Navajo Census—my father is Laguna and my mother is Navajo. I have lived here since I was five years old. With my dad's line of work we lived in Isleta (age 2-3) and Mescalero (age 4). I attended Head Start in both places. I attended Laguna Elementary from kindergarten through sixth grade and then transitioned into public school in Grants in the seventh grade.
- I have been a teacher for over 20 years and have been exclusive to the Laguna Division of Early Childhood, with a brief break to help care for my father in 2020. I began my LDOE journey in February of 2002 as a substitute and was asked if I wanted to become a teacher assistant in the infant room at Laguna Early Head Start. My answer was, "Yes!" At that time, there were nine infants/toddlers and three teachers in each classroom. I learned about the Head Start Performance Standards, Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) and meal patterns. I gathered on-the-job experience and training, which was intimidating due to the lack of time. Although I have lived here "forever", I don't know many people. It was hard for me to ask for help, which I think is very true for most people.
- What I have learned while working at DEC, is that we like helping people and we give support to one another.
- I have earned an Associate's degree in both Computer Science and Early Childhood Education. I am looking into getting my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Lately, I have been feeling motivated by my co-teachers' ability to achieve their degrees while working full-time. I would definitely qualify as a non-traditional student and I hope to overcome any obstacles (real or imagined).



## REMINDERS / PARENT TIPS:

My message to my students and their families is simply a huge THANK YOU! Thank you trusting us to care for your children and for inviting us into your lives. We will strive to keep your child safe and healthy, while in our care, and, give your children opportunities to learn and experience life skills with purpose and reason.

The Paguate classroom's daily schedule/routine will be sent home the week of July 29th, which will take some getting used to as the hours have changed. The Creative Curriculum theme will focus on Beginning the Year, which involves the children to learn the routines, follow the schedule, and names they will need to know. Please remember to look in your child's folder/backpack daily and to label their belongings.

## FUN FACTS

- My birthday is June 22.
- My favorite colors are black and teal (or turquoise). I live with my mother, son, and sister in the Seama Subdivision.
- I don't have any pets, but love dogs. My sister is the one with three chihuahuas and my son has one dog.
- I don't really watch any sports, but do like the Miami Dolphins.
- I love learning about behavior-language, which may have been ignited by my dad, who was a criminal investigator with the BIA in the late 1980's to 1999.
- I like different kinds of music, it depends on my mood.
- My favorite season is fall, I get excited to wear a sweater and maybe buying a new jacket.
- My favorite food and drinks are Mexican-food and Coca-Cola (though, I limit it as it isn't very healthy to drink sugary sodas).
- Being camera-shy, I chose this picture of a Matsumoto Hoji, Japanese Frog Art Print. When I Googled the meaning "What does the frog mean in Japanese style?"; the answer turned up as: "The word "Kaeru", or frog in Japanese, means return. Which is why the frog is considered a lucky animal in Japan. There is good fortune in things returning." I just think the picture is adorable and we do have many children who are returning to DEC, which is very fortunate. Also, I am from a water clan on my mother's side.

# MEET THE TEACHER



## Hi I'm Teacher Candice !

Hello Families of Turquoise Springs and DEC, my name is Candice Lucero aka Teacher Candice. I am half Acoma, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  Laguna. I reside in the Village of Mesita. I have been in the field of education for about 17 plus years and with DEC for about 12 years all together. I have a certificate in Early Childhood Development, an AA-Early Childhood Education, and BA in Multi-Cultural Early Childhood Education.

To my students and families all I want to say is "let's have a great year together, it goes so fast, and I want to be here to teach your child as much as I can." 😊 To my co-workers "we got this, and let's do it all over again."

Reminders to families is that we have a schedule to work with, let's try to stick to our schedule. Attendance is key. However, I understand we get sick or we have plans that may interfere with school, Please be mindful and let us know when your child may be absent. Again, as I have mentioned at the initial home visit, our monthly themes, will be posted in the classroom for you to view, but also in our monthly newsletter. We started off to a great first week of school. Let's continue on working forward. Please remember to bring a set of extra clothes, a blanket for nap time, and a water bottle for water drinking.

### Just to list a few of Teacher Candice's favorites.

- I am a December baby 😊 12/18 is my birthday.
- My favorite colors are yellow, purple, and blue, and of course anything with glitter. I have five children with my husband and one brand new grandson.
- We have three dogs "Charlee" "Porker" and "Pookie". I love the Dallas Cowboys, and the NY Yankees.
- I like to collect butterflies, sunflowers, and elephants. In my freetime, I am with my family, who all like to play sports, go to the movies, camping/fishing, when we have a chance, and drawing or working on puzzles.

- I don't have a favorite type of music, because I will listen to any kind of music.
- My favorite season is Fall, its not too cold and its not too hot, it is just right. My favorite type of food is seafood, sushi, and good ole steaks. I enjoy snacking on pumpkin seeds, pork skins, jerky, popcorn, and bubble gum.
- My favorite all time drink is Dr. Pepper.

# Meet the Teacher

## About Me

Hi! My name is Sandra Lewis. I am Navajo and I reside in Acoma with my children and grandchildren. I will be teaching infants and toddlers in Sunnyside Classroom with Ms. Andrea Lucario. I have been teaching at the Laguna Division of Early Childhood, for thirteen years. For the first three years, at the Laguna Division of Early Childhood, I was a home visitor with the home-based program teaching birth to three-year-old children. I have worked in various schools all together for more than twenty plus years as a teacher assistant. I have a 45 Hour Certificate in Early Childhood and an AA Early Childhood Education.



### ·Message to your students/classroom/co-workers:

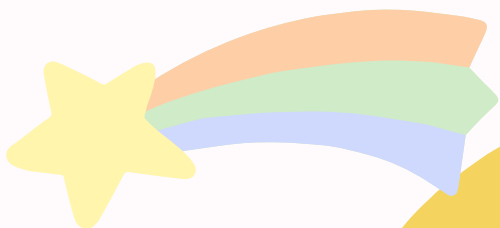
Welcome students and families: Let's get ready to learn, grow and have fun this year!

### Reminders to Parents:

- Start time for children is 7:30 AM and end is 3:00 PM.
- Curriculum Themes: Seats/Routine/Social Emotional
- Expectations: Separation Anxiety and Adjust to new environment (staff, peers, classroom and routines).
- Tips: Send a family picture with your child for comfort or security blanket.
- "Things to Bring" blanket, extra clothes, bottle/sippy cup.

## My Favorites

- Teacher's Birthdate: November 24
- Favorite Color: Turquoise
- Sports Teams: Denver Broncos, Phoenix Suns
- Pass Time / Hobbies / Collections: Long drives, watching movies, love tote bags
- Music: Classic Rock, Classic Reggae, Classic Country, Gospel songs
- Season: Summer, Fall
- Food: Seafood,
- Drink: Tea, Coca Cola



# Meet the teacher



## Ms. Marilou



### About Me

My name is Marilou Arkie and I am from Laguna Pueblo, I live in the Laguna Subdivision. I am originally from Paraje Village. My family consists of my husband, my three children and my granddaughter. I also have my fur babies (cats) Ziggy, Grim, Nikki, VooDoo, Dante, Ben & Finch. I enjoy sewing, reading, puzzles/sticker books and spending time with my family.

I have been in the Early Childhood field for about 5 ½ years and have been with DEC for about 4 ½ years. My current position is Educational Assistant. I have a Child Development Associate (CDA) in Early Childhood. I look forward to getting to know and working with your children this school year.

### Fun facts



- My favorite color: purple
- My favorite food: Korean BBQ
- My favorite drink: coffee and Coke Zero.
- I like different types of music mostly K-Pop.
- I like the LA Dodgers, Golden State Warriors and the Dallas Cowboys.
- My favorite season is spring.



### Expectations



This first couple of weeks we will be working on separating from parents and getting used to the routine. Our curriculum themes can be found online in our monthly newsletter and will be on our lesson plan posted on the class information board in our classroom.

Please remember to send your child with a blanket, extra clothes, a water bottle and hat for playground time. It is still very hot out.

# MEET THE Teacher



## About Me

- My name is Mariah Whitmore or Ms. Mariah
- I come from the village of Paguate but live in Paraje village
- I have been teaching at DEC for three years
  - I have worked at DEC for five years
- I have my high school diploma but currently I am working on my AA certificate at CNM.
- My message to you all is "Let's have a fun and amazing year."

## Favorites

- ·December 19.
- ·Favorite color is Army green.
- ·I have a four- year-old son who attends DEC and will be in transition this year. I come from a pretty big family, I'm the younger sister to "Coach Zay/Isiah!"
- · I personally don't have pets but my son has five horses, two ducks and eight chickens.
- ·My sports teams are the DALLAS COWBOYS, LOS ANGELES LAKERS and LOS ANGELES DODGERS!
- ·My favorite hobbies are playing sand volleyball at Charlie's, going to watch my younger siblings, nephew and son play softball, baseball and basketball, and spending quality time with friends and family
- ·Favorite music is a variety of genres such as country, R&B, 80's and 90's R&B.
- ·My favorite season would have to be FALL & WINTER. I love the chilly mornings. Also, I love going to the pumpkin patch, river of lights, and having a nice cup of hot chocolate binge watching holiday movies.
- ·Favorite foods include sushi, steak, Chinese, hot Cheetos, Reece's, or anything home cooked.
- ·Favorite drinks are Mt. Dew, Indian tea, Red Bull, Kool-Aid, hot chocolate, sweet tea, boba and Dutch Bro's!



# Meet the teacher

## KAYLA MARTINEZ

### ABOUT ME:

Greetings, my name is Kayla Martinez. I am from the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma. I currently reside in Albuquerque. I have been working at DEC for nine years. The time and dedication have given me some successful years. While at DEC, I obtained my Child Development Certificate, Associates, and Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. This year, I am in the Transition classroom and extremely excited to see the growth in our children.

To our students, this year let's try our best, work hard and have fun. This school year, I will be working alongside Ms. Carol. Ms. Carol brings great attributes to the room, patience, positive energy, and eagerness to help our children succeed.

To our parents, this year remember we are always open to communication, come visit us and let's have a great year.

### MY FAVOURITES

- Favorite Color Red and Yellow
- Children / Family I have one beautiful daughter who is nine years old and attends Laguna Elementary.
- Pets- Names, how many I have one small dog named Daisy.
- Sports Teams University of Arizona Wildcats
- Pass Time / Hobbies / Collections I enjoy outdoor time, taking walks, playing volleyball and baking.
- Music I love music but believe it or not country music is NOT on my favorites.
- Season I enjoy fall but I love the winter
- Food I enjoy eating fruit, my favorites are black grapes, mangos, and watermelon.
- Drink I enjoy drinking sweet tea, green tea, coffee, and Red Bull. My favorite stop for a drink is Starbucks.
- 

### CONTACT ME

505.552.6544 Ext. 5112  
ka.martinez@lagunaed.net

This month we will focus on learning all about our classroom: learning about expectations, rules, class schedules, and routines. We will be learning about ourselves and others. We will do art projects to help us describe "who I am". We will also be learning about where we come from and all about our families. I want the children to be comfortable and know that this classroom is a safe environment for them to come to every day.

Bring to school:  
Regular size backpack  
Two pairs for extra clothes  
Water bottle

# MEET THE TEACHER

“TEACHER KAYLA”



## About Me

My name is Makayla Sarracino or Teacher Kayla. I am from the village of Paraje I have been a Multifunctional Educational Assistant for a few months, but in August it will be one year that I have been working with DEC. I graduated High School a year ago, and am currently working on getting my certification in Early Childhood Development. I would hope that everyone has a great school year have fun.

## Fun Facts

- Birthday January 7
- Favorite color or colors are Red, Purple, Lime Green
- I have one dog and her name is Roxy
- My favorite sports teams are the Philadelphia Eagles and the Oklahoma Sooners What I like to do in my spare time is color and draw
- I like country, rock, RnB, and classic rock
- My favorite season is Fall
- My favorite food is Chinese and Mexican
- My favorite drink or drinks are sweet tea, Peach tea, Dr. Pepper, Cherry Dr. Pepper





Meet the Teacher



**Ms. Carol**

Multi-Educational Assistant

## About Me

Gu'wah'zee,

My name is Carol Day. I am from the Pueblo of Laguna and Hopi. I currently reside in the Laguna. My title at DEC initially is Multi-Functional Educational Assistant meaning I have multiple shoes to fill such as custodial, bus monitor, and a teacher assistant. I came to DEC in 2021 where I had my experience as an Educational Assistant in a transition class as a third person to help assist the classroom with children who needed extra support. Since then I enjoy what I do. I am excited to work alongside with teacher Kayla and to have another great year. Having the experience to watch and learn from her has made me think of some choices I would like to pursue. So stay tuned....

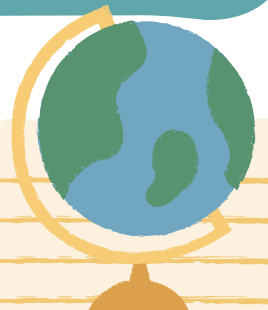
## Fun Facts

- Favorite Color- All red, maroon & black
- Children/Family- One boy(sweet 16) at LA high School and I am the youngest of 2 older sisters which one is my twin sister and are fraternal twins
- Hobbies- I enjoy taking evening walks and watching scary movies and anything with Bigfoot
- Music- I enjoy just about any type of music from country, reggae, & rock
- Food/Drink- Steak, chocolate, sunflower seeds and cliff bars.
- redbull, cherry coke and sweet tea

## Contact Me

✉ c.day@lagunaed.net

☎ 505.552.6544  
ext. 5112



# MEET THE NURSE



## About Me

Greetings families,  
I hope you are all doing well and I hope everyone has had a great summer so far! My name is Angelica, the Health Aide here at DEC. I am half Native American and half Spanish, and I am from the village of Paguate. I have been in the medical field for nine years. I look forward to getting to know all of you and your children in the new school year. Welcome back to the returning children! I wish everyone a blessed school year! As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns and I will do my best to be of assistance.

## Contact Details:

Angelica Baca  
Health Aide  
a.baca@lagunaed.net  
Office phone: 505-552-6544  
Ext. 5103

## Upcoming Events

Hearing Screenings- Aug. 14th & 22nd  
Vision Screening- Aug. 19th  
Dental Screenings- Sept. 4th-6th

## Reminders to Parents:

Friendly reminder: If your child is missing any health documents, (well child, updated immunizations, updated special care plans), please send them in as soon as possible. Thank you!

## Meet the Staff

# MS. MARGARET MACARENAZ

**Years Teaching:** I have over 47 years of teaching experience in public and private education, and in Head Start programs in Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. I have experience as a Special Education teacher for students with exceptional needs in grades Pre-K-8th grade. My experience in Head Start/Early Head Start includes serving as a Family Service Provider, Education and Center manager teacher, and various other roles in the Head Start programs in the three states listed above.

**Years at DEC:** I have had the honor of working at DEC over 20 years. Thank you.

More about me:

- I am a proud and grateful mother to one son and two daughters and a happy grandmother of two wonderful grandchildren
- Dancing and listening to music are a couple of my favorite pastimes.
  - I enjoy Herbal teas and coffee
  - One favorite food, I enjoy, are chicken enchiladas. "Christmas ", please!

Hello, my name is Margaret Mascareñaz.

Welcome to the DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD (DEC)! MY goal, as the Special Services Coordinator, is to provide support services in an environment where each child is nurtured, respected and valued, along with their families, where all children can learn and develop to their fullest potential. My role, at DEC, is to work collaboratively with educational partners that provide support services for children that may require support to reach developmental goals for their age. I plan to assure all children are provided endless safe and engaging opportunities to learn through daily routines.

- I am a proud and grateful mother to one son and two daughters and a happy grandmother of two wonderful grandchildren
  - Dancing and listening to music are a couple of my favorite pastimes.
    - I enjoy Herbal teas and coffee
  - One favorite food, I enjoy, are chicken enchiladas. "Christmas ", please!

Thank you for entrusting your beautiful, talented children to the Laguna Division of Early Childhood.

**NEED TO KNOW:** If you have any concerns regarding your child's development, please feel free to contact me anytime or let your child's teacher know so we can act quickly with providing supports.

**THANK YOU** for entrusting your beautiful talented children to the DEC program. Have a great year!

Margaret Mascareñaz: [mmascarenaz@lagunaed.net](mailto:mmascarenaz@lagunaed.net). 505-552-6544 Ext. 5104



**Ms.  
Kathleen  
Herrera**

## **ABOUT ME**

I am from the village of Mesita. I have been in Education, for 45 years. I have taught in the following grades, Home Base(babies) all the way up to the high school. I have been with the DEC Program since 2011. My current position, here at the DEC, is Family Service Provider. I enjoy meeting and visiting with families. I enjoy watching the children and parents grow during the school year.

## **FAVORITES**

My favorite colors are turquoise and black. I LOVE crab legs, mutton and Chinese food. My favorite drink is Coke Zero and coffee. GO 49ERS!!!

## **CONTACT**

**Email:** [k.herrera@lagunaed.net](mailto:k.herrera@lagunaed.net)

**Phone:** 505.552.6544 Ext. 5105

**Program Cell:** 505.290.9163

## **REMINDERS**

**ENCOURAGING WORDS:** Parents give your child(ren) a hug, encouragement and support every day. Your child is very "PRECIOUS", LITTLE ONE. Come to the school for a visit, check out what is happening here at the DEC Program.  
I am looking forward to meeting the children and families!

# MEET THE STAFF

## MS. SUSAN

Welcome Back children and parents/guardians!

I am excited for the beginning of the school year. My name is Susan Tharpe, Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and I am the Laguna Department of Education District Wide School Social Worker. This is my second year in this position.

I am from the Village of Laguna. I have three children and two grandchildren. I enjoy playing with my dog.

### CONTACT

505.552.6544 Ext. 5122

[s.tharpe@lagunaed.net](mailto:s.tharpe@lagunaed.net)

### ABOUT ME

- **I have worked with LDOE for 16 years since receiving my Master's Degree in Social Work in 2004. I also worked for Laguna Social Services a total of four years, beginning in 2004. I currently work with all LDOE schools from Early Head Start to Laguna Middle School. My title at DEC is Mental Health Consultant. This means that I do not work directly (provide therapy or counseling) with any children at DEC. My job is to provide consultation or support to the adults in children's lives so they can, in turn, better support the children. An example of this is if there is a child exhibiting aggressive behaviors in the classroom or is usually outgoing then suddenly withdraws, the teacher or parent/guardian will notify me and I will work with the teacher and parent/guardian to support the child both at school and at home. This support may be through training or by providing information, activities, or ideas to the parent and teacher. I am also a part of the Children's Support Team. This team convenes when a child requires extra support from outside DEC or if a Behavior Support Plan needs to be developed. This team is made up of pertinent DEC staff and parents/guardians.**
- **I would also like to take this time to invite all parents/ guardians to participate in the Conscious Discipline Curriculum parent training. It is a 10 session training on the curriculum that is being used in your child's classroom. Consistency is one of the most important factors in preventing unwanted behaviors children exhibit. For more information, please stop by and visit with me or contact me via email or phone. My office is located in the West Modular on the DEC Campus. I am on campus 2 and a half days a week. I will provide my schedule the first week of school.**



# MS. SUSAN

MEET THE STAFF

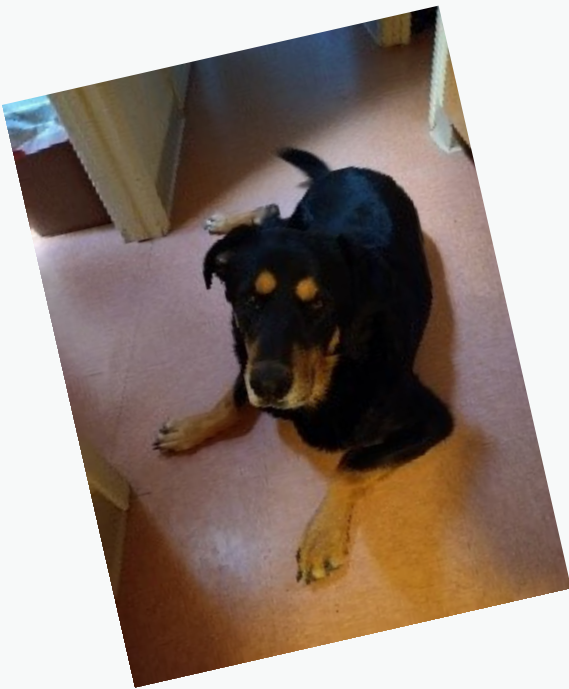
## CONTACT

505.552.6544 Ext. 5122

s.tharpe@lagunaed.net

## CONTINUED

## ABOUT ME



I GUESS THIS GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF MY FAVORITE GENRE OF MUSIC.

BESIDES CRUISING AND JAMMING TO METALLICA I LOVE TO WATCH NFL FOOTBALL, I AM AN AVID STEELERES FAN!



## Meet the Staff

# Ms. Melanie

## ERSEA COORDINATOR



Greetings Families,

Welcome to school year 2024–2025! We are happy you have joined the Division of Early Childhood family. My name is Melanie Sarracino and I am the ERSEA Coordinator here at the school. I am from the Pueblo of Laguna and affiliated with the Village of Laguna. I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of New Mexico in Business Administration. This is my 5th year with Laguna Department of Education. I began working in Payroll, then I obtained my CDL and assisted with bus driving, and now I work with Division of Early Childhood. It has been interesting working in a school environment. I have learned a lot about Head Start and I have lots more to still learn.

With the school year taking off, I would like to remind families to submit any missing documents for your students file. These documents would include a birth certificate for new students, updated income for the parents/guardians, current well child check and immunization record. It is important these documents are included with your child's school file. The Office of Head Start allows families 45 days to submit their documents from the first day of school. This deadline for the current school year is Friday, September 27th, 2024.

There are several ways to get your documents to us. One option is emailing them to me directly, another is stopping by the front office and Maddie or Iris can make copies. The doctors offices can also fax the information to the school directly. If you need assistance obtaining any of the documents, your Family Service Provider is there to help. Reach out to Kathleen Herrera for EHS students, and Tiffany Touchin for PHS students. A shout out to all the families who have submitted all their child's documents already, thank you!

Lastly, I would like to THANK all the families who have enrolled their children in DEC. This is the first school year we have had full enrollment on the first day of school! We are excited to have the students back on campus. Everyone is growing up so fast, and will soon be moving on to the BIG kid school.

If I can be of any assistance, feel free to contact me via telephone call or email. Here is wishing you all a wonderful school year.

Melanie Sarracino

Office: 505.552.6544, ext. 5004

Program Cell: 505.235.9286

Email: [me.sarracino@lagunaed.net](mailto:me.sarracino@lagunaed.net)

# MEET THE PROGRAM

## ASSISTANT *Ms. Iris Gallegos*

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome families and friends to school year 2024-2025.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and are ready to get back into the learning routine.

My name is Iris Gallegos. I am from the village of Seama, on the Pueblo of Laguna where I reside with my husband, our four sons and their families (11 grandchildren), all of whom I love very much. I have been employed at DEC for 25 years and wear many different hats within the program, but my title is "Program Assistant". My favorite colors are Navy Blue, Gray, Black and Purple. Sports teams of my choice are the Dallas Cowboys, New York Yankees, Los Angeles Lakers, Texas Longhorns, New Mexico State Aggies and the Laguna Acoma Hawks. I like to take drives in the mountains to go camping, fishing or hunting.

I would like to wish all the staff a happy and fun year with their students. I would also like to wish all the students a wonderful year of experiences and growing.

Parents if there is anything you need or anything I can assist you with, please don't hesitate to contact me, I am here for you.

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!!

### FAVORITES:



### CONTACT ME

email:  
[i.gallegos@lagunaed.net](mailto:i.gallegos@lagunaed.net)  
Phone: 505.552.6544  
Ext. 5100

Program Cell:



# Meet the Staff

Program Assistant /  
Childcare

## About Me

Welcome back everyone!

I am Ms. Maddie and I am so excited to be back and see some new and familiar faces. I am from the village of Laguna, I currently reside in New Laguna. I have 2 Children Zeke 17 who will be a senior this year, and Olivia who will be in 4th grade. I have 4 Dogs - 3 German Shepherds ("Gus Gus", "Ivy", "Charlie", & "Coco"-Chow Mix.) This is my 7th year with DEC (March 2025). I have been in the classroom for 5 years as an EA and here in the front office as a Program Assistant for 2. I am getting closer to getting my AA in Early Childhood Multi-Cultural Education recently changing my major to Program Administrator Concentration.



Ms. Maddie



## Favorites

**Food:** Pizza, Sushi, Birria

Tacos, Seafood Boils

**Hobbies/Collections:**

Going to the gym, walking my 4 dogs, painting. I like collecting coffee mugs & palm trees

**Children/Family:** 2

Children- Zeke 17 & Olivia 9

**Flowers:** White Daisies &

Red Roses

**Drink:** Coffee, Cherry

Coca-Cola, & RedBull

**Season:** Winter

**Sport:** SF 49ers, SF Giants,

SJ Sharks

**Color:** Black, Olive Green

**Animal:** Cats/Dogs/Owls

## Contact Info



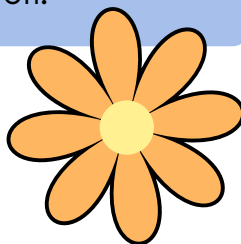
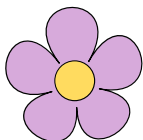
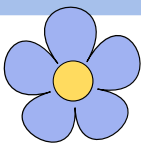
505.552.6544 Ext. 5005

**Program Cell:** 505.280.3656



**Email:**

m.francis@lagunaed.net

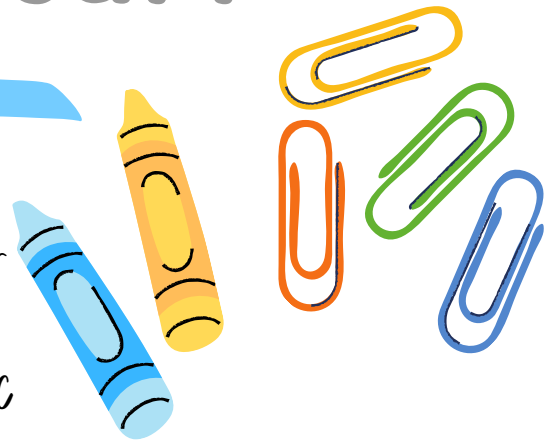


# Meet the Staff

## Ms. Jean Paquin

Gu'waa'zee sa'hoo'bah

I am Jean Paquin, the Program Manager for the Division of Early Childhood (DEC). I am excited to see all the children here at the DEC Program. Thank you, families, for allowing your (child)ren to attend our school along with our wonderful staff!



Best wishes to all families for a smooth and happy start to this new school year! I look forward to meeting you and developing an ongoing collaboration to ensure an engaging, happy, and successful school year for your child(ren).

Please feel free to contact me via email or telephone, if you have any questions.

Da'waa'ee

Jean Paquin,

DEC Program Manager

[j.paquin@lagunaed.net](mailto:j.paquin@lagunaed.net)

Work: 505-552-6544

Program cell: 505-290-9240

### A bit about me!

I am a Laguna tribal member from the beautiful Village of Old Laguna. My clans are Big Badger and Little Turkey. I hold a Master of Arts Degree in Family and Child Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood Studies, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Multicultural Education.



# Meet the Staff

## Ruth Hidalgo, Director

### About Me

Florida State University graduate. Highest degree held: PhD  
Born and raised in South Florida. Ethnic background is Cuban, Spanish, Chinese, and Ciboney (an indigenous tribe on the Island of Cuba dating back to the 1400's)

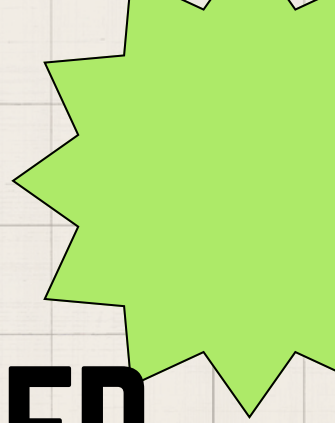
### Contact Me

Phone: (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5121  
Email: [r.hidalgo@lagunaed.net](mailto:r.hidalgo@lagunaed.net)

Message to all: Never give up, because great things take time. Jesus Mario Hidalgo (my father/papi)

### Fun Facts

- **Birth month:** March
- **Fav color:** orange, turquoise, blue
- **Children:** two daughters
- **Pets:** Duke, a red Doberman
- **Sports teams:** Florida State Seminoles, the Miami Dolphins, and the Atlanta Braves
- **Music:** Rhythm and blues, jazz, rock, salsa, hip hop
- **Season:** Growing up in South Florida, where the weather is hot and humid, the season I came to love is the Indian summer, a warm, less humid calm spell of weather occurring in October and November, with endless, cloudless, blue skies.
- **Food:** Cuban, southern cuisine of the U.S., Thai, South Asian, and German
- **Drink:** Starbucks nonfat latte, lavender lemonade, strawberry banana smoothie, Arnold Palmer



# STAFF NOT FEATURED



**VANESSA DEUTSAWE -**  
NEW YORK CLASSROOM



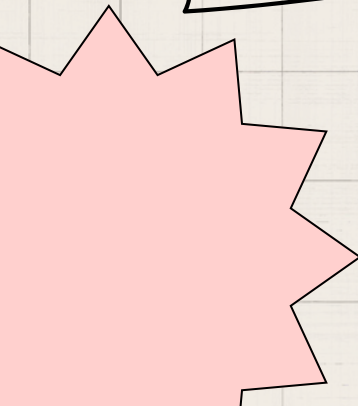
**MEREDITH KIE -**  
CHILDCARE

**TIFFANY TOUCHIN -**  
FAMILY SERVICE  
PROVIDER/BUS DRIVER

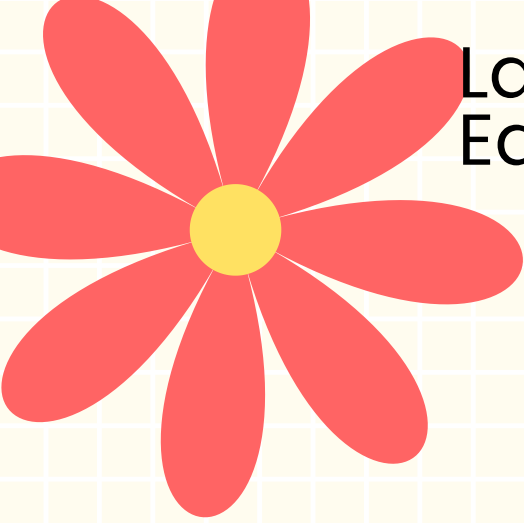
**MICHAEL ARAGON-**  
MULTI-FUNCTION  
EDUCATION ASSISTANT

**RAINA VICTORINO-**  
ENCINAL CLASSROOM

**ROYCE KIE -** CHINATOWN  
CLASSROOM/ CHILDCARE



Laguna Division of  
Early Childhood



Thank  
You!

