

LAGUNA DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

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December 2023

Alice Walker, an American writer, poet, and activist, once expressed that "Thank you" is the best prayer that anyone could say. As 2023 comes to an end, and we break for the winter holiday, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who make the Laguna Division of Early Childhood an amazing place to be. We are a community of abundant gifts and talents, which we share, every day with each other, and above all, with the children.

The collective efforts of parents, family members, staff, and the greater community of Laguna to raise the whole child overflow with devotion, faithfulness, and a willingness to make decisions, that will have a positive and enduring influence. A vital component of all we hope to accomplish begins when a child's family makes the decision to send their most precious gift to school. Thank you, for the opportunity you give us to spend time with your child. They make our day with their smiles, laughter, uninhibited hope, and inquisitive minds. Most of all, the children make us feel better.

In the spirit of this holiday season, I want to express my thanks to all of you for everything that you do for the Laguna Division of Early Childhood. A special thank you to our November volunteers:

Kris Koenig, Shaine Ansera, Coltyn Ansera, Renee Lopez, Trina Riley, Candi Scott, Lea Lorenzo, Justin Francis, Angeline Francis, Jaiden Shroulte, Tina Cheromiah, and Erica Jimmy.

It is my hope that you and your family receive a bounty of blessings and good tidings that will make the holidays joyful for you and your family. Have a safe holiday season.

Respectfully,

Ruth Hidalgo
Director

Laguna Division of Early Childhood

r.hidalgo@lagunaed.net

505.552.6544 Ext. 5121

505.321.8490 (cell)

December

Upcoming Events

* **12/12-** Seama Classroom @ 10:00 a.m.
Village Classroom @ 1:00 p.m.

* **12/13-** Encinal Classroom @ 10:00 a.m.
Casa Blanca Classroom @ 1:00 p.m.

* **12/14-** DEC Winter Wonderland 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

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* **12/20-** Traditional Cookie Baking in the PRC
EHS @ 9:30 A.M. PHS @ 10:00 A.M.

* **12/21-** **NO SCHOOL (STAFF ONLY)**

* **12/22-1/08**— Winter Break **(NO SCHOOL)**

* *Children and Staff return 1/9/2024*

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Families of DEC

Greetings and Happy Holidays! We are the Herreras- Brandon, Maureen, Jay Allen, and Luke. This year is Jay Allen's second year at DEC and Luke's first year. We are very proud of them for what they have learned in school. Luke began to walk, is starting to say more words, and is becoming very independent for a 22-month-old boy. Jay Allen is very smart, helpful, and a loving big brother. He likes to learn how things work and operate and also how they are made. As part of DEC's curriculum, both boys have made significant strides in their overall education, social skills, and Laguna language. We chose DEC because as a family we are strong supporters of our local school system and both boys have been in the DEC program since they were infants. This fall our boys blessed our home by bringing home a deer. Mom Maureen cooked it and invited the community to our home for our traditional deer dinner. We are looking forward to the holidays, spending time with family, and celebrating Christmas which is a very special and sacred time. Our sincere thanks to all the DEC Staff and Admin for their continued efforts and support in our young boys' education! A special thank you to Teachers- Candice, Marilou, Juana, Makayla, Mrs. Peacock, Teacher Nessa, and Teacher Jean! Our best wishes to the DEC community that we finish off this first half of the school year strong. We pray as a family that everyone has a blessed Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year!



Sunnyside Classroom

Teachers: Andrea Lucario & Sandra Lewis

Phone: (505) 552-6544 ext. 5201

Email: a.lucario@lagunaed.net /
s.lewis@lagunaed.net

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: Children explored a variety of bags, and played with straps, pockets, buttons, buckles, and zippers. They were shown how to open and close bags, fill them with objects, and learned IN and OUT concept. Weights and sizes were compared.

Conscious Discipline: The children listened to songs about Intention.

Cultural Lifeways: Children continue to learn the names of animals in Keres and English, by looking at pictures.

S.T.E.A.M.: Exploring Trees –children explored the trees outside, and listened to The Big Tree Count picture book.

Birthdays/Celebrations

12/20- M.C. Yay! Happy 1st Birthday!

P.H. took some steps without assistance, continues to walk with one hand held.

F.L. crawling faster and exploring the whole classroom.

M.M.-repeating words and gained more vocabulary words.

One child transitioned to drinking whole milk and another child in the process of transitioning from formula to whole milk.

D.T. clicking buckles on the high chairs.

Parent Tips:

The weather is colder so, please send a jacket, and dress your child/children in layers. Also if your child is sick please keep him/her home.

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum The theme is Paper. Children will explore a variety of textured paper, and learn how paper is used. Children will use their fine motor skills to paint, and hold markers, crayons, and chalks to make marks, and or jab on paper. Children will tear and crumple up paper, un-wrap gift boxes, and use their whole body to crawl through cardboard box tunnels, and stack a variety of different sized boxes.

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Love- we will learn to see the best in others, especially during conflicts and will continue our S.T.A.R. breathing (Smile, Take a deep breath, and Relax).

Cultural Lifeways: Children will create music using rattles, drums, and other instruments provided, while we sing the good morning song, nursery rhyme songs and while we listen to traditional songs. Children will learn the names of traditional foods in Keres.

S.T.E.A.M.: Sounds of our natural world. Children will listen to a variety of sounds and will learn that we listen with our ears and identify we have two ears during indoor and outdoor play.

Events: Nutrition Activity (in classroom)

Color of the Month: Green

New York Classroom

Teachers: Venessa & Miss Angela

Phone: (505) 552-6654 Ext. 5107

Email: v.deutsawe@lagunaed.net /
a.yawea@lagunaed.net

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: The children learned that bags are made to carry items of different sizes, school backpacks carry our classroom notes and reading books, and that we use plastic bags for trash.

Conscious Discipline: We sing our "Good Morning Song" to welcome everyone and get our day started. We do daily stretches, to get our bodies ready for activities we do throughout the day.

Cultural Lifeways: We explored how we plant, what is needed to plant in order to have a good harvest, why we plant, what we harvest, and what hunting means to our community. We also learned the names of certain vegetables and animals in the Laguna Language.

STEAM: We learned about the colors in nature: orange, brown, yellow, red, and green.

Visitors Events: New York Classroom teachers would like to thank parents and family members who were able to join us here at the center for November events and activities.

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum: The theme is Paper: where paper comes from, what can be made with paper, and how paper is used indoors and outdoors.

We will learn three of our senses: **listening** (how paper sounds when crumpled, or torn), **touching** (different textures of paper), and **seeing** (torn paper or paper cut into different shapes).

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Love: kindness, respect and sharing.

Cultural Lifeways:

- Music- different types of music and where music is heard
- Traditional foods – for different times of the year, special occasions, where traditional foods are seen, and who makes traditional foods

Color of the Month: Green

STEAM: Sounds of our natural world: Where natural sounds are heard, and if they are calm, loud, quiet, etc.

Nutrition Activity: Blue Corn Drink.

Blue corn is a nutritious whole grain, and is high in fiber and antioxidants.

New York Classroom continued....

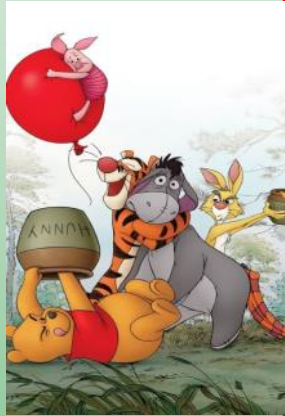
Birthdays/Celebrations

We would like to wish L.C. a very Happy Birthday!

We are happy to say that almost all the children in New York classroom are potty trained.

Our biggest celebration is we are ready for the next level of being independent with going to the bathroom.

Parent Tips: Practice patience, step back and take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate when your child has shown growth or achieved an accomplishment, big or small. This is an important moment for your child, especially when they share it with you. This helps your child to keep going and motivates them to learn more.



Upcoming Classroom Events:

As we feel and see the weather change, please dress your child according to the weather. In our classroom, we are still learning how to dress ourselves, so remember to let your child try to dress themselves. This builds their self-confidence, and is also a way to help with their fine motor skills (use of smaller muscles, specifically those in the hand and wrist to grasp; eye-hand coordination) and gross motor skills (use of larger muscles, specifically for balance and coordination).

PATIENCE, is our biggest helper. We want to carry out tasks for our children, especially, when in a hurry. Please remember that, if we want our children to learn a task, role modeling is an excellent tool. Teachers are here to assist them as well. Parents and guardians are a child's first teachers at home.

Merry
Christmas



Turquoise Springs Classroom

Teachers: Candice L. & Marilou A.

Phone: (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5202

Email: c.lucero@lagunaed.net or
m.arkie@lagunaed.net

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum—Children will learn about how paper is made, look at different types of paper, the uses of paper, and what is done with paper once we are done with it. Children will touch, feel and compare the different textures of paper.

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Intention. We will sing songs and recite rhymes during transition times (cleaning up, getting ready for lunch, waking up from nap time, etc.). If needed, children are given the opportunity to sit in the safe place and are given breathing exercises, utilized for calming down or preparing them to join the group again.

Cultural Lifeways:

- Music - looking at and listening to different musical instruments
- Traditional foods- seeing and tasting traditional foods for this time of year

STEAM: Sounds of Nature; Children will listen to different sounds of nature and try to recognize them.

Visitors /Events: Winter Programs

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: Children looked at different sizes, parts and types of bags, and the many uses of bags.

Conscious Discipline: Children were shown to take a few, deep breaths when becoming upset in order to calm themselves, while sitting in calm down area. Children and teachers continue to practice various breathing techniques. Children were given a choice to share their emotions and/or share what they can do differently when reacting to something that upset them.

Cultural Lifeways: Children learned, in Keres, words for different animals we hunt. When shown images, children were able to say the names of the animals in Keres.

STEAM: Children explored different trees, ones that grow in our community and some that do not, and the benefits that of trees.

Mesita Classroom

Teachers: Evelyn Garcia & Kay-Mani Riley

Phone: (505) 552-6544 ext. 5117

Email: e.garcia@lagunaed.net &
km.riley@lagunaed.net

November Highlights

Creative Curriculum: Our themes have been combined with PHS: They were bags and trees; though, more focus has been with trees. Although we have tried to separate the two curriculums, the younger children followed along with the older children and have stayed during our morning meetings to join in our discussions.

Conscious Discipline: Children are learning how to use their “Big Voice”—which is an assertive voice that children can use to help others know how to treat them. We want children to use their words to say how they feel, rather than their hands (pushing and/or hitting) to show how they feel.

Cultural Lifeways: Children and teachers are learning the names of bear, turkey, and antelope.

STEAM: Your children enjoyed visiting and learning about trees! The lesson was extended to create a forest in our classroom. Children created their own special tree.

Visitors /Events: Thanks to our families for meeting with us at our parent-teacher conferences. It is always nice to share information and stories with you on your children’s development. Da-wa-eh!

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum Our themes this month are Light and Paper. We will utilize the winter holiday to extend the children’s learning with experiences they may have in their personal lives. The light study can include lights on the Christmas tree or house. The paper study can include wrapping paper as they see their presents under the Christmas tree. The possibilities are endless!

Conscious Discipline: Children will learn from the Power of Love. It focuses on choosing to see the best in others by using skills of positive intent. We will choose to see kindness and record acts of kindness on a paper heart and add it onto the childrens’ tree.

You can find more information at <https://consciousdiscipline.com/seven-powers-power-of-love/>

Cultural Lifeways: This month, children will participate in baking traditional cookies and making mama dolls, and also learning about musical instruments and songs.

STEAM: Children will explore sounds they can hear in nature: The whoosh of the wind and the leaves that rattle, or the sounds of footsteps as you swish through the dried grass.

Visitors /Events: EHS will present a Winter Wonderland on 12/14. Families are welcome to join us at this event!

Birthdays/Celebrations

We are happy to announce our classroom has received two new students! Welcome A.T. and M.T. We’re so glad you’re here!

Parent Tips:

If you haven’t done so, please opt in to Messenger (found on page 5 in parent handbook). You will receive texts regarding if the school is delayed or cancelled due to bad weather. Reminders are also sent via text regarding holiday closures.

Casa Blanca Classroom

Teachers: Ms. Yvonne and Ms. Mariah

Phone: (505) 552-6544 ext. 5113

Email: y.francis@lagunaed.net

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: November's theme was clothes. We counted buttons, zippers, and pockets, and talked about the different colors on our friends' clothing.

Conscious Discipline: We learned how to calm ourselves down by using Stop, Take a deep breath, and Relax (STAR), breathing in and out slowly! Children really got the hang of this type of breathing, especially after movements and dancing, and it's a fun way to self-regulate our breathing.

Cultural Lifeways: Children learned to say corn, squash, pumpkin, chili and watermelon in Keres!

STEAM: Our outdoor activity involved looking for things in nature such as flowers, plants, rocks, sand, and twigs! The children all took a bag of sand or rocks home. Parents probably found some of the items in their child's backpack.

Visitors /Events: Children all wore their moccasins on Rock your Moc's Day. We also took a field trip to the pumpkin patch, where the children picked out a pumpkin, and participated in the scavenger hunt.

We had a visit from Smokey the Bear. The children were really excited to shake his hand and have their picture taken with him.

We had a visitor show us how to make traditional pies. The children all took one home to enjoy, along with a recipe.

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum: Lights. We will learn all about lights, how they work and how we use them in our daily lives.

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Love. We will talk about how the power of love is used in our daily lives, how it can heal, take away aches and pains, and how we use it for comfort.

Cultural Lifeways:

- Music - traditional songs and instruments
- Traditional foods

STEAM: Sounds of our natural world. We will learn about the natural sounds around us every day, becoming more aware of the sounds we hear, and where the sounds come from.

Birthdays/Celebrations

Dec. 19th - Ms. Mariah's Birthday!

We are well on our way to have all children potty trained YAY!!

Children are tracing their names with fewer and fewer flaws!! YAY!! Learning the three point grip!!

Wow! We are half way through the school year and children are really learning and growing it's so Awesome as a teacher to see this!!

Parent Tips: *Dress children in layers now that is colder, beanies, sweats, long sleeve shirts, etc..*

Please check take home folders.

Read books to children now that it seems we have more time in the evening.



Seama Classroom

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: Seama Room learned about the different types of trees, identifying items made from trees, and much more. Children took a walk around DEC, and the surrounding area to measure and observe trees.

Cultural Lifeways: Children learned the color brown, different tree names, seasons, and hunting (exploring nature, and the gift of life).

STEAM: As a classroom we were able to take a walk and observe trees at the beginning of the month. They got to learn why trees change color, and why leaves fall off trees. We took materials like magnifying glasses, tongs, and measuring tape for our hands-on experiences.

Visitors /Events: Thank you to our parents who participated in this month's Fall Festival, and the traditional pie making class. We like to see parents be involved. We look forward to seeing more parents in December.

Birthdays/Celebrations

12/21 Happy Birthday D.K

Parent Tips:

Make sure to send children with a jacket.

Stay warm and stay healthy.

Teachers: Kayla & Carol

Phone: (505)552-6544 Ext. 5112

Email: ka.martinez@lagunaed.net
c.day@lagunaed.net

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum: Light. Children will investigate different light sources. We have light that surrounds every part of us, indoors/ outdoors. Children will also use natural lighting and observe their shadows, and how the light shines in certain places. Children will learn through hands-on activities.

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Love. Children will choose to see the best in others. They will practice how to respond rather than unconsciously react to life's events.

Cultural Lifeways:

- Music – traditional songs during Christmas time
- Traditional Foods during the holidays

STEAM: Exploring Sounds of our Natural world



Encinal Classroom

Teachers: Juana Natseway and Makayla Sarracino

Phone: (505) 552-6544 ext.

Email: j.natseway@lagunaed.net, m.sarracino@lagunaed.net

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: The children learned about the different parts of a tree as they drew their own tree in their writing journal. The children learned what deciduous trees are and compared it to a cedar tree. The children learned what is made from trees and the animals that live in trees.

Conscious Discipline: The children continue to sing the Wish You Well for the children that are absent and use some of the breathing techniques such as the S.T.A.R. (Smile, take a deep breath, and relax), the balloon, the faucet, and the pretzel.

Cultural Lifeways: The children learned the Keres words for hunting, mountain, the four seasons, and the animals that are in the mountains that their family may hunt.

STEAM: The children explored the parts of different kinds of trees by using their magnifying glass to examine the parts more closely. Some of the children also looked for bugs that live in trees.

Visitors /Events: I want to thank all the parents that came out to join their child for the Fall Festival or helped out at a booth.

Birthdays/Celebrations

- **No birthdays for the month of December.**
- **All the children are to say the morning prayer with help from one another.**

Parent Tips:

Strategies to create strong readers

- ◆ **Read with your child every day**
- ◆ **Read your child's favorite book over and over**
- ◆ **Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.**

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum: Light is the theme for the month of December. The children will engage in hands on investigations to learn about what objects make light, how people use light, and what kinds of things block light or allow light to shine through.

Conscious Discipline: Children will practice breathing techniques, and have a class discussion on when we can use them. Our class will continue with wishing the children well, who are absent.

Cultural Lifeways: Music – Identifying musical instruments by listening to traditional songs.

Traditional foods- learning why traditional foods are used to feed the people during celebrations.

STEAM: Sounds of our natural world. The children will listen for sounds in nature that can be described, compared, and classified on the basis of their characteristics.

New Laguna Classroom

Teachers: Teacher Royce and Ms. Deutsawe

Phone: (505) 552-6544 x 5108

Email: r.kie@lagunaed.net and c.deutsawe@lagunaed.net

Last Month's Highlights

Creative Curriculum: Children explored physical properties of bags by observing their size, color, and textures. Children had hands on exploration of a piece of luggage and different types of bags. Children wrote on blank cards and placed them in the mail carrier bag and we delivered out 'Thank You' notes to staff.

Conscious Discipline: Intention. Teacher modeled breathing techniques during different times of the day such as coming in from the playground and for nap time to calm and regulate our breathing and bodies.

Cultural Lifeways: Hunting. Each child picked an animal and used their writing and drawing skills to decorate it, and used the Keres word for the animals.

STEAM: Exploring Trees. When outdoors, children picked up leaves, counted, and threw them in the air. Children crushed leaves into pieces, and collected twigs for the classroom.

Visitors /Events: Children met Smokey the Bear. Thank you for participating in the Fall Festival.

Upcoming Classroom Events:

December 6 Nutrition Activity—(Blue Corn Drink)

December 14 EHS Winter Program

December 17 Mama Doll Making

December 20 Traditional Cookie Baking

December Happenings:

Creative Curriculum: Paper. Children will investigate how people use paper, observe how paper is used, and learn about paper products at home and at school. Children will practice tear and scissors skills. Children will have paper items such as note books and plates in their dramatic play area.

Conscious Discipline: The Power of Love. Modeling to see the best in others. Selected I Love You Rituals. Continue modeling breathing techniques.

Cultural Lifeways:

- Music – The classroom will provide a variety of traditional instruments for children to use and explore. Continue to play traditional songs for the children.
- Traditional foods

STEAM: Sounds of our Natural World. Children will have the opportunity to go outdoors and listen. What are they hearing? Where is the sound coming from?

Birthdays/Celebrations

Happy 3rd Birthday!

B.M., J.B. and K.R.

Welcome to New Laguna Classroom

S.C., S.C. and O.R.

Family Service Providers

Tiffany Touchin (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5003

Program Cell: (505)220-2549

Kathleen Herrera (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5105

Program Cell: (505) 290-9163



Disabilities Coordinator

Margaret Mascarenaz

Email: m.mascarenaz@lagunaed.net

Phone: (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5104

As the Disabilities Services Coordinator for Laguna Division of Early Childhood, here are a few highlights I would like to share about the special services area:

- All children are fully included in every learning opportunity
- We value that family is the expert on their child

The Laguna Division of Early Childhood maintains strong collaborative partnerships with 1. The Native American Professional Parent Resources (NAPPR) and La Vida Felicidad who provide services to children up to the age of 3. These services are regulated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C.

2. Grants Cibola County Schools Special Services provides services to children ages 3 or older. These services are regulated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B.

- Implementation of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for children birth to age 3, are through NAPPR, and La Vida Felicidad

Implementation of the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) for children ages 3 to 5 or older are through Grants Cibola County Schools Special Services. Parents may refer at any time.

TIPS: These at-home activities are designed to help your child with speech and language skills:

*For infants and toddlers up to 2 yrs.- Talk to your baby a lot as you go about your daily activities: Example: “mommy is pouring the milk into the glass”, “daddy is buckling your seat belt.” Maintain eye contact with child.

*For children 2- 3 yrs.- Naming objects: When you are dressing your child, name pieces of clothing. Let your child find each thing you name and say the name back to you, “What are you holding?” Use complete sentences, “you are holding a red ball, can you say that now?”

*For children older than 3 yrs. - Descriptive naming by using 3–5-word sentences. Activity: put common objects into a bag. Ask your child to take them out one at a time and tell you something about each one, “what color it is, what do you do with it?”

Another activity: Parent models language: “I picked an apple, it is a fruit, it is red and you eat an apple.” “Your turn to tell me what you picked.” Child uses a complete sentence to talk about their “pick.” For example, child: “I picked a ball it is blue, you throw it.”

REMEMBER: Talk with your child - Play with your child- Enjoy your child!

UPCOMING EVENT: CHILD FIND SCREENING: For children over the age of 3.
January 18, 2024.

Families: If you have any concerns about your child’s development, please contact your child’s teacher or the Disabilities Services Coordinator for assistance.

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thank you.

Grants/Cibola County Schools

Free Developmental Screening

Ages 3-21years old

Your child's skill development will be screened in each of the following areas:

- Language and communication skill development
- **Cognition, problem solving, memory and thinking skills**
- Social Behavior
- **Motor (muscle and coordination) skills**

If you suspect your child has learning concerns or issues, including giftedness, and you would like to have your child's skills screened, please call **Desiraye Lopez 285-2643** to make an appointment.

Thursday, January 18, 2024
Special Education Complex
9:00 – 2:00

Please make an appointment. All screenings are free. Parents will be informed of screening results at the conclusion of the screening session.

The screening will be conducted by a team of G/CCS employees.

*Child find screenings do not take the place of MLSS (Multi-layers System of Supports) in the schools, but can be included in the MLSS process as a supporting document.



Health Aide

Greetings families,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break filled with many blessings! As we are moving into the colder months of the year we are seeing more illnesses on the rise, such as the common cold, Flu, and COVID. A friendly reminder to get your Flu, COVID and pneumonia vaccines to best protect yourself and your family from potential serious outcomes. Another friendly reminder to please keep your children home if they are not feeling well. A child who is ill is more comfortable at home where they can rest, and when kept home, they avoid spreading the illness to the other children in their classroom.

Everyday preventative actions

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- * • While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- * • Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw it in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.
- * • Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- * • Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- * • Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like Flu.
- * • CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protection.

Happy Holidays!

Angelica Baca

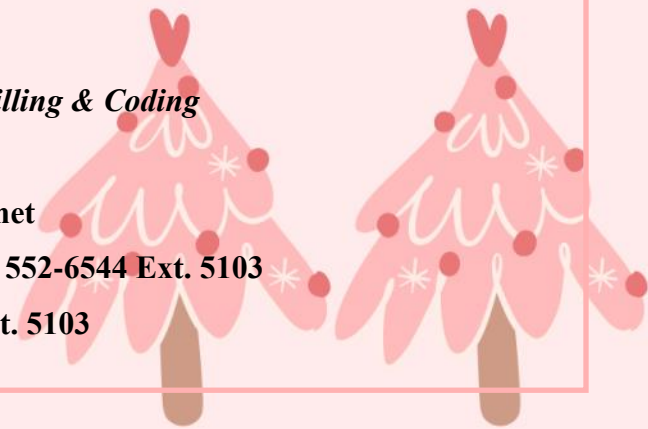
Associates in Science / CNA Medical Billing & Coding

DEC Health Aide

Email: a.baca@lagunaed.net

Program Cell: (505) 240-0793 Office: (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5103

Office phone: 505-552-6544 ext. 5103



ERSEA / Childcare Manager

Greetings Families,

Hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy, and well. The Holiday Season is upon us, not to mention the end of 2023 and soon the beginning of 2024. As we near the halfway mark of this school year, please remember to keep your children bundled up as the weather is cooling down. Attendance is important as we need our children healthy to attend school. However, if they do become ill, please contact the school to inform us of your child's absence.

Invoices for childcare have gone out and money order payments are due December 1st, 2023. You can drop your payments off at the front office Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. A receipt will be issued for receiving your payment and it will be placed in the childcare classroom for you to pick up. January childcare invoices will be sent out the week of December 18th, 2023. Payments will be due upon the childrens' arrival back to school January 9th, 2024.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me. Please note, I am also a school bus driver for LES and LMS. Therefore, I am in and out of the office in the mornings as well as the afternoons. However, I will respond to you at my first opportunity.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Melanie Sarracino

EARSEA Coordinator / Childcare Manager

Email: me.sarracino@laguned.net

Office: (505)552-6544 Ext. 5004

Program Cell: (505) 321-3409



Program Assistant

Greetings Families and Friends,

I hope this finds you all doing well and getting ready for the fast approaching Winter.

December is a short month with lots of activities. With that being said, these are a few guidelines to assist you when visiting the center.

- ⇒ DEC keeps a record of all the time you spend at the center with your child and working on projects for in-kind purposes. Please make sure to sign in and out so we can account for it.
- ⇒ If you plan to stay longer when dropping off or picking up your child, please do not block the drive through circle.
- ⇒ If you are on campus for a reason other than drop-off or pick-up, please sign in at the front office.
- ⇒ If your child is having symptoms of illness, keep them home and get them seen by a medical professional. Due to the highly contagious illnesses of COVID, RSV and the Flu, DEC is requiring a doctor's note be provided upon the student's return to school.
- ⇒ If your child will not be attending school, please call the front office @ 505-552-6544 to let us know and the reason why your child will not be in school. You may also leave a message on the answering machine, most staff arrive at 7:30 am and depart at 4:00 pm.
- ⇒ DEC does not allow picture taking or videos due to permission agreements with parents. We appreciate your compliance.
- ⇒ Please do not leave your vehicle running unattended.
- ⇒ Remember to close the gates when you go through them.
- ⇒ Practice pedestrian safety by holding your child's hand in the parking lot areas.
- ⇒ Adhere to the 5 MPH school speed zone.
- ⇒ DEC does not allow any outside food or beverages.

I would like to thank everyone for helping the staff to keep DEC a safe and fun place for your children to learn and grow.

I also want to wish all our children and their families a very happy holiday season. May you have the merriest Christmas possible and a joyful and prosperous New Year. See you all back in 2024.

Iris Gallegos

Program Assistant

Email: i.galleogs@lagunaed.net

Office: (505) 552-6544 **Ext.** 5100 **Fax:** (505) 796-6909



Greetings Families,

As we enter the last month of the year, it can be difficult to shift focus from the hustle and bustle of the holidays, and our endless “things to do lists” and hone in on quality time with family. Always remember when your world gets full and busy, that an act of kindness, no matter how small, can transform your worries and hurried mind into happy memories and sometimes new family traditions, without even realizing it.

Helpful tips to get you and your family to slow down and appreciate the smaller things during the holidays:

During this time let’s all remind ourselves to continue to fill our hearts with love, light, joy, and laughter as we gather with family near and far.

Take time to give extra hugs and kisses to your little one’s before they head out the door, spend time creating happy memories that will last a lifetime for them as they grow (baking cookies, cooking, decorating the house, playing board games, creating new family traditions), allow children to be involved and make mistakes, allow them to grow and learn without criticism, let them to be *children*.

Declutter your closets and make room to treat yourself to a new pair of clothes. As the winter can get cold and harsh here in New Mexico the nights can get cold and long for some, donating winter jackets, mittens, hats, and blankets that you no longer use or fit, may be just what some that are less fortunate than us need. This selfless act of kindness is humbling and gives children an insight on real world experiences they can reflect back on and helps them to becoming better human beings for our future.

We wish you all a safe and warm Holiday Season! See you all in the New Year!

Madalynne Francis

Program Assistant

Email: m.francis@lagunaed.net

Phone: (505) 552-6544 Ext. 5005



LAGUNA DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

PARENT

COMMITTEE MEETING



DECEMBER 05, 2023

PRC @ 11:00 A.M.



Topic: Planning for all December Events



All DEC Parents Welcome to Join



MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Tiffany Touchin or Kathleen Herrera
(505) 552-6544 EXT 5003 OR EXT. 5105





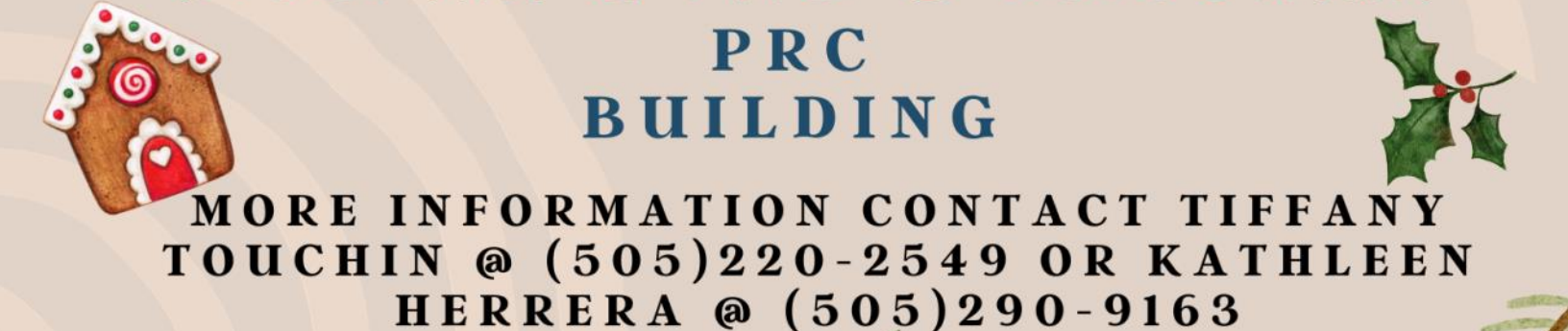
YOU ARE INVITED TO

CHRISTMAS BAKING



DECEMBER 20TH EHS @
9:30P.M. & PHS @ 10:00A.M.

PRC
BUILDING



MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TIFFANY
TOUCHIN @ (505)220-2549 OR KATHLEEN
HERRERA @ (505)290-9163

Laguna Division of Early Childhood

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Seama Classroom
@ 10:00 a.m.
Village Classroom
@ 1:00 p.m.

DEC 12TH
2023

PRC BUILDING

*PLEASE NO PHOTOS/VIDEOS DUE TO PARENT
CONFIDENTIALITY FORMS WITH DEC*

CAKE, HOT COCOA & PUNCH
FOLLOWING PROGRAMS

More information Contact:

Tiffany Touchin @ (505) 220-2549 or
Kathleen Herrera @ (505) 290-9163

dec.lagunaed.net



DEC PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

JOIN US FOR A JOLLY
GOOD TIME!

DECEMBER 13TH, 2023

PRC BUILDING

ENCINAL CLASSROOM @ 10:00 A.M.
CASA BLANCA CLASSROOM @ 1:00 P.M.

HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
CAKE, HOT COCOA, AND PUNCH
FOLLOWING THE PROGRAMS

PLEASE NO PHOTOS/VIDEOS DUE TO
PARENT CONFIDENTIALITY FORMS WITH
DEC

MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TIFFANY
TOUCHIN @ (505) 220-2549 OR KATHLEEN
HERERA @ (505) 290-6391

WWW.LAGUNAED.NET

WINTER WONDERLAND

ALL DEC FAMILIES ARE INVITED

14TH
DEC

BEGINNING AT 5 PM
ENDING AT 7PM

HOT COCOA AND TREATS IN PRC - LUMINARIA
WALK - CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS

**MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TIFFANY TOUCHIN @
(505) 220-2549 OR KATHLEEN HERRERA @ (505)
290-9163**



Merry

Christmas

And Happy New Year

May your days be merry and bright! Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year filled with blessings.

From All the Staff here at DEC

