

November 2025

Laguna Division of Early Childhood

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PROGRAM ASSISTANT

HEALTH AIDE

FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS

DIABILITIES COORDINATOR

ERSEA / CHILD CARE MANAGER



PHS

PAGUATE

VILLAGE

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ENCINAL

SEAMA

UPCOMING EVENTS

11.07 - Thanksgiving Activity

11.11 - Veterans Day (NO SCHOOL)

11.19 - Thanksgiving Dinner

11.19 - Nutrition Activity

11.20 - S.T.E.A.M. Activity

11.24 - 11.28 - Fall Break (NO SCHOOL)



DEC Director

Welcome Dr. Carla A. Spaniel

Email: c.spaniel@lagunaed.net
Office: 505-552-6544-ext. 5121
Program Cell: 505-321-6969

Hello Parents;

Very excited about joining your family. Just to let you know a little bit about me, my name is Dr. Carla Spaniel and I am the new Head Start Director. Actually my career began as a Head Start teacher at the age of 21 in the Dallas Independent School District. At the age of 26 I became the youngest administrator in DISD. Working to develop our children has always been my passion.

One thing that I want to make sure of is that we have open communication and work in the best interest of your child/children that are part of our program. We are encouraging all of our parents to get involved and volunteer (must pass background check).

Head Start is making sure that your students are prepared for Kindergarten. There are performance standards that are required to be taught within the classroom. Teachers should be sharing their lesson and weekly activities with you. We want to make sure that communication is a must.

We are also looking for Elders that would be in the classrooms, during center time teaching Keresan language to students.

Please call anytime to set an appointment to visit with me. Have a wonderful day.





SUNNYSIDE CLASSROOM



What We Learned

November: We made it through the month of October. The children have adjusted well to their new environment and are getting into the routines of the classroom. The theme for the month was clothes the children explored the different types of clothes and even got to try on different types of clothing.

Creative Curriculum: For the month of November, we are looking forward to exploring different types of brushes. What types of brushes are there, ...? How can we use brushes? Questions we will answer. The children will have hands-on learning with engaging activities. Home activities: Look around your house and see what types of clothes you have. Talk about what they are used for. For Social-Emotional: Still getting the children to adjust to the routines and also meeting more new friends.

Cultural lifeways: We are in the month of hunting this is when the children will learn the different animals. As well as know the different seasons.

Conscious Discipline: Wishing the children well with the song, I Wish You Well.

- Highlight student achievements/milestones accomplished

- We welcomed a few new friends to the classroom. We have a full class.

 - A.L- Taking steps on her own

 - A.P-Talking and saying more words

 - D.E-Walking While holding one hand

 - A.C-Walking around more and using the steps

 - M-N.L-Saying more words

 - A.V-New to the class

 - R.E-New to the class



Reminders

Check folders for any flyers and information

*As the weather is getting colder make sure the children have jackets

No birthdays this month

Parent Information

Parent tip(s): Be patient and understanding, during separation. Offer extra cuddles, reassurance, and saying good-bye.

Parent recognition: Thank you to our parents for bringing their children to school

Contact Info

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Makayla Sarracino

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CHINATOWN

classroom

IMPORTANT INFO:

Happy November DEC Families and Friends! Last month, Chinatown classroom helped transition two children into Laguna Preschool Head Start AND receive two children who were on our waitlist. We are happy to be a part of their school journey and hope they continue to learn and grow happily with their new teachers and classmates.

October was an interesting month, our children learned how to protect their clothing when painting or working with dirt by wearing a smock—which they wore when visiting the PRC for a greenhouse activity. They had fun painting their seed pots and planting seeds with our Greenhouse Project team. We were able to participate and see how the other planted seeds are growing. Our visits will happen on Thursdays at 9:00-9:30 a.m., unless it is rescheduled. Thank you to the Pueblo of Laguna Health Education Program for your introduction to healthy opportunities and experiences to our young children!

Our kids worked on using their self-help skills to pulling down and pulling up their clothing, seeing how to connect their zippers, and putting on their jackets. We are still working on picking up their toys and putting them away rather than leaving them on the floor; friendship skills by sharing and taking turns; and, using your words to say how you feel. Families, if you haven't read the poem titled "The Toddler's Creed" please do—it is a hilarious look into a young child's perspective.

This month we hope to promote your children's learning by introducing brushes. We use brushes for cleaning, self-help, cooking, and creating art. We will show the different types and uses of brushes (with clean and never been used brushes) for our kids to explore. They will grow independence by practicing to use brushes independently, increase fine motor skills by holding and manipulating a variety of brushes; build their vocabulary with the different types of brushes; increase their imagination by using real brushes in dramatic play and increasing their cognitive skills with exploring brushes with similarity and differences; and, show understanding of people who use brushes in their jobs and showing understanding of positional words. Our Culture Lifeways will bring a new look at forest animals and what hunting is: how animals bless us with food and materials (moccasins, drums). They will be introduced to Keresan words that are: deer, elk, turkey, mountain lion, antelope, bear, rabbit, blue birds, ducks, and mountain.

Please join us in celebrating the month of November! Thank you!

Teachers: Evelyn Garcia - e.garcia@lagunaed.net

Royce Kie - r.kie@laguaned.net



NEW YORK CLASSROOM

What We Learned

Creative Curriculum: Our theme for the month of October was clothes. Our children learned the types of clothes they wore as the weather changed. Our children are still in the process of learning how to dress themselves, especially putting on their jackets. This is helping them to develop their fine motor and problem-solving skills by working with buttons, snap buttons, zippers, etc. We have recognized and identified colors and patterns on our shirts.

Cultural Lifeways: Our children have been learning the process of planting through the Greenhouse project presented by the Laguna Health Education Department. Our children have tasted zucchini, squash, and beans. The ladies were gracious to cook and share with our children.

S.T.E.A.M.: Colors of Nature! What colors of Nature can we see out and around the school? Children went out in to the plaza area to name the colors of the flowers that are blooming and matched colors.

Nutrition Activity: Our children made Pretzel and cheese broomsticks. They mainly enjoyed eating the pretzels and the cheese.

November

Creative Curriculum: Brushes

Our theme for the month of November will be Brushes. Children will explore, identify, and recognize variety of brushes. The children will hold and manipulate variety of brushes and learn how to use brushes for different activities, e.g., paint brush, toothbrush, hair brush, broom, homemade brushes. Children will learn to be independent as they select brushes, they want to use and how to use them.

Cultural Lifeways: What is hunting? Children will learn that animals are a blessing that provides food, happiness, and blessings to the home. Mountains are sacred places where animals live.

S.T.E.A.M.: Exploring Trees. Our children will learn what animals live in trees, see and feel tree trunks.

Health / Nutrition Activities: Frozen Yogurt covered Blueberries

New York Continued

Parent Recognition/Well Wishes

We would like to commend our parents for being consistent with their child's attendance which are 85 % or higher. Thank you, Parents.

Achievements/Goals

Our word wall has been growing with new vocabulary words on a daily basis for each individual child. One child has started potty training.

Color of the Month

BROWN

Reminders

- *Check your child's folder daily for any flyers and information and sign reading logs.
- *The weather is getting colder please dress your child in layers and start sending them in jackets.
- * Please send extra clothes (cold weather clothes please).

Birthdays

- Happy Birthday to teacher Sandra 11/24

Contact Info

Sandra Lewis - s.lewis@lagunaed.net
Marilou Arkie - m.arkie@laguaned.net



PAGUATE

classroom

Greeting Family and Friends,

How time has been flying and now we are into the Month of November. This month we will be learning about Hunting and using the color Brown (Gu wii stii). Learning about the names of fall animals, the purpose of hunting, the blessings that it brings and what is used from harvesting a hunt. We, encourage family to talk and share their knowledge about hunting and using the color brown at home.



We, are happy to share that our children are learning our keres language. We, do our daily meal prayer and our morning prayer and the children are able to say the prayer. Encourage to ask them to say the meal prayer as you enjoy your meal at home with family and friends.

For the month of November, we will continue to follow classroom routine. We are happy to say that our classroom is growing, we now have 14 children and moving forward with our learning. We, are working on letter writing and pre-writing our name, shapes and numbers. With our new addition, we are happy to say that we are continuing practicing our Creative Curriculum, Cultural Life Ways, and Conscious Discipline.



We, would like to thank Parents/Guardians for your participation in the take home activities, that you assist your child and retuning your In-kind sheets. Please, continue to encourage your child and guidance with these activities. When they are returned back to school, it is so wonderful to see how proud your child is. They tell teachers that “my mommy or daddy or guardian, helped me”.

The Weather has changed and is getting colder, please dress your child in layers and continue to keep them safe. If they are not feeling well, please keep them home to get better or take them to the Dr. We, want to keep our children safe and healthy.

Teachers Contact

Venessa Deutsawe - v.deutsawe@lagunaed.net

Mariah Whitmore - ma.whitmore@lagunaed.net

VILLAGE CLASSROOM

November Greetings

Hello families and Friends,
We are very excited for the month of November our new Theme is Simple Machines. Simple Machines are all around us they make our work much easier. Let's get ready to dive into the world of levers, wedges, screws, pulleys, inclined planes, and wheels and axles. These machines can be found in everyday objects like playground equipment, tools, and even household items. Learning about simple machines is a fun way for kids to understand how things work and make connections to the world around them.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all our families in the Village Room and be safe.

Reminders

- Parents continue potty training at home, practice a consistent sleeping schedule, help your child at home with putting on clothing, plants, shirt, socks, shoes and jackets, also using zipper and buttons.
- It's getting colder, the weather is changing, please make sure you send your child with a jacket to school.
- Check your child's backpack daily and read to your child every evening.
- Again, if your child is not feeling well, runny nose, coughing and has a fever please keep your child home.

Contact Info

Leona "Faye" Peacock -
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Carol Day - c.day@lagunae.net

CASABLANCA CLASSROOM



Greetings Families

October is done and it flew by like a ghost in the night breeze. We are hoping that everyone is done with their trick or treating and are ready for the next big celebration in the month of November.

I would like to thank all the parents and family members that attended the Family Conferences. It is always good to see you and we hope that what we are doing with your children is benefitting your child here in school and at home. It is a team effort when it comes down to the education of your children. We are honored and blessed by all of our children in the classroom. Thank you again for entrusting us with your children's education.

On that note, I am keeping this short and sweet. We had a good month to work on buildings and the letters D and E. The children are beginning to become very comfortable in the classroom, as well as independent. As we had stated at the meetings, we will be working on expanding your children's learning as well as their social and emotional skills.

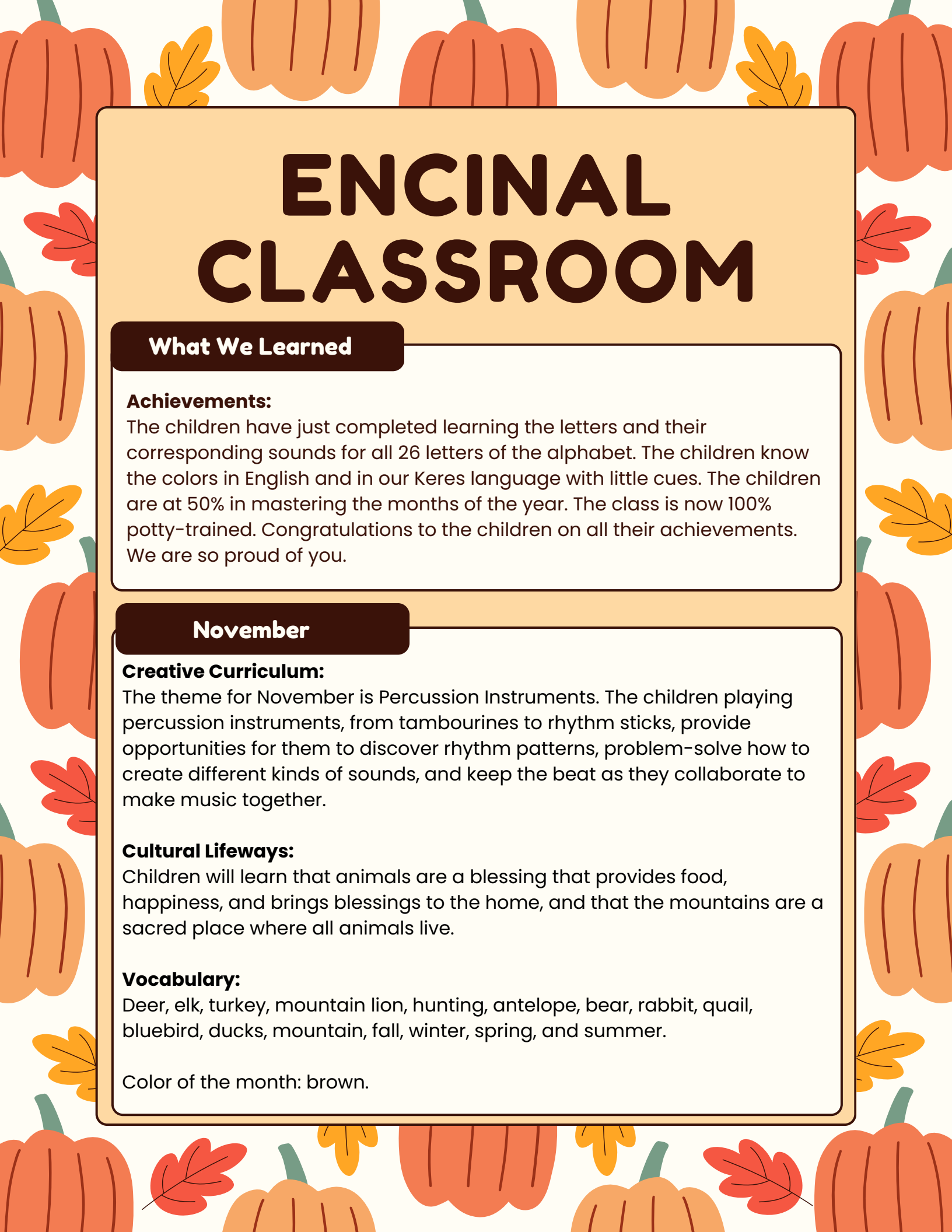
November is filled with some exciting activities. We will be celebrating Veterans Day with your children. We will send out some more information as to what we will do for that day before. We would like to honor all Veterans that have served in the military and Coast Guard. We will have a whole week of for family time during the Thanksgiving holiday. So we are hoping that you and your children will celebrate accordingly.

With the cold weather being here in the morning, please remember to send your children in warm clothing and with a jacket. We will make sure to keep you updated on any events or activities here in our classroom and in the school. Have a wonderful month.

Contact Information

Mr. Levantonio - g.levantonio@lagunaed.net

Mrs. Pedro - c.pedro@lagunaed.net



ENCINAL CLASSROOM

What We Learned

Achievements:

The children have just completed learning the letters and their corresponding sounds for all 26 letters of the alphabet. The children know the colors in English and in our Keres language with little cues. The children are at 50% in mastering the months of the year. The class is now 100% potty-trained. Congratulations to the children on all their achievements. We are so proud of you.

November

Creative Curriculum:

The theme for November is Percussion Instruments. The children playing percussion instruments, from tambourines to rhythm sticks, provide opportunities for them to discover rhythm patterns, problem-solve how to create different kinds of sounds, and keep the beat as they collaborate to make music together.

Cultural Lifeways:

Children will learn that animals are a blessing that provides food, happiness, and brings blessings to the home, and that the mountains are a sacred place where all animals live.

Vocabulary:

Deer, elk, turkey, mountain lion, hunting, antelope, bear, rabbit, quail, bluebird, ducks, mountain, fall, winter, spring, and summer.

Color of the month: brown.

ENCINAL CLASSROOM CONT.

Reminders

- PLEASE** check your child's bag/folders **DAILY** as notes are sent home.
- If your child is sick or becoming sick, monitor symptoms, and keep them home until they feel better. **PLEASE** be mindful of other children and teachers in the classroom.
- PLEASE** continue to read to your child for at least 15 minutes and log the time onto the reading log in your child's folder.

Parent Tips

When reading to your child,

- point to the first and last words in the sentence
- clap out the syllables in words
- point out the words that rhyme

*THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO
SHOWED FOR PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCES. YOU ALL ARE ROCK
STARS!!*

Upcoming Events

- 11/7 - Take Home Activity:
Thanksgiving placemats
- 11/19 - Nutrition Activity: Frozen
Yogurt Covered Blueberries
- 11/20 - STEAM: Exploring Trees
- TBA: Thanksgiving Dinner

Birthdays

- A. Deutsawe - 11/1
- Z.Wade - 11/4
- J.Day - 11/15

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRIENDS!!!

Contact Info

Ms. Juana - j.natseway@lagunaed.net

Ms. Yvonne - y.francis@lagunaed.net

SEAMA CLASSROOM

Ms. Deutsawe - c.deutsawe@lagunaed.net
Teacher Raina - r.victorino@lagunaed.net

November Theme

Color: Brown
Culture: Hunting
Curriculum: Percussions
Nutrition: Frozen Yogurt Blueberries
STEAM: Exploring Trees

Happy Fall

I don't know about you but I sure enjoy the fall weather. Cool mornings and mild afternoon. End of 2025 is rapidly approaching.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Seama room parents for taking time to come into the classroom and meet with me about the progress we are making in the classroom to get the children ready for kindergarten.

I send some "homework" home so children can practice writing their name at home, in a week I have seen improvement in letter recognition and writing, to those families thank you for your at home support.

In November our area of study is Percussions. Percussion is a JUICY word for your child to learn. Percussion refers to musical instruments that produce sound when struck, shaken, or scraped, such as drums, cymbals, and shakers. In class we will have an opportunity for hands on experience with some percussion instruments that we have. We will make a hand drum for children to make and take home to share their musical abilities. We will take some time to listen to different types of percussion instruments to compare their sounds. We will even have a chance to paint while drumming along to some music, so stay tuned to wear some clothes for messy play.

Teachers would like to wish our school families a very happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy time with your family.

We will celebrate our first birthday in Seama classroom this month, Happy Birthday Aurora!

Congratulations to Teacher Raina for the new addition to her family, welcome baby girl!

School Closures

11/11 - No School Holiday
11/24-11/28 Thanksgiving Break

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Greeting Families and Friends,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the cooler weather.

I want to thank all the parents and family members the participated in our October activities. It was very evident the children enjoyed your assistance and presence from all ther stories.

For the month of November our highlight will be the Thanksgiving Dinner on Novenber 19, 2025. Look out for an RSVP/Invitation, please return no later than Friday, November 14, 2025. Guidelines for the day's event will be forthcoming.

Friendly Reminders:

1. Please adhere to the 5 MPH school speed zone.
2. Practice pedestrian safety by holding your child's hand from the parking lot to their classroom.
3. Do not leave your vehicle running unattended.
4. Do not leave children alone in a vehicle.
5. Use a car seat while transporting your child to and from school.
6. Outside food or drinks are not allowed on DEC campus, thank you for keeping children free from allergens.
7. DEC will be closed on November 11, 2025 for Veteran's Day Holiday.
8. DEC will be closed from November 24 through November 28, 2025 for Fall Break

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Veteran's for your service, Whether past or present may you be celebrated abundantly for your dedication to our country. Wishing all our families and friends a very special and heartwarming Thanksgiving holiday, may you have much to be thankful for. Enjoy the company and warmth of the holiday as you make 2025 memories.

Until next time, should you need assistance feel free to contact me I will be happy to assist you or point you in the right direction.

Iris Gallegos, Program Assistant
i.gallegos@lagunaed.net
505-552-6544 ext 5100

Health Aide

Angelica Baca - a.baca@lagunaed.net

505-552-6544 ext 5103

Strategies for a Healthy Fall

As the days get shorter and the season changes, here are some strategies to help prevent illness and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

- Get your vaccines- speak with your family's healthcare provider about getting your family vaccinated for the flu, RSV, and covid.
- Wash your hands- wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Sleep- aim to get at least 7 hours of sleep each night.
- Preventive care- visit your healthcare provider and dentist for your regular checkups and preventive services.
- Eat Healthy- try to include more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, and low-fat dairy products in your diet.

National Health Observances for November

- Diabetes Awareness Month- American Diabetes Association provides awareness, education, and resources across the country.
- Great American Smokeout- American Cancer Society's campaign to help give up smoking.
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month- This a time to educate, advocate, and support people living with epilepsy and their families. Epilepsy is a brain disorder that causes seizures, affecting about 2 million people in the U.S. and 65 million worldwide.

Friendly reminders:

- As temperatures drop, please remember to send your child to the program with weather appropriate clothing.
- Practice with your child coughing/sneezing into their elbows when they need to cough or sneeze to help reduce the spread of germs.
- Continue brushing your child's teeth in the morning and before bedtime, consistency is key to forming healthy dental habits.
- If your child is sneezing, coughing, or has a runny nose; your child's teacher may choose to have your child wear a mask while at the program. If so, you will receive notification.
- Please get all your child's required health documents in as soon as possible.



Family Service Providers

November
2025

Greetings!

Thank you! to all family members for coming out and joining us with our Pumpkin Carving. The kids had a great time!!

As we are moving into the cooler months, please send your child with a jacket. The mornings are very cool and to prevent any further illnesses we encourage you to dress your child according to weather.

Family Service Providers will continue to check in and follow up on Family Partnerships. For any goals that have been completed, a new goal will be created. Remember, goals are create for the well-being of your family.

Upcoming Events

Take Home Activity: November 07

Thanksgiving Lunch: Nov. 19

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 24-28

Contact Info

Tiffany Touchin

Email: t.touchin@lagunaed.net

Phone: (505)220-2549

Reminders

DEC NO OUTSIDE FOOD POLICY

- With holidays coming up, please remember DEC is not able to offer children outside food, treats or candy.
- Please see the Family Handbook

Re: School Readiness Nutrition Goal pg. 29

Contact Info

Kathleen Herrera

Email: k.herrera@lagunaed.net

Phone: (505) 290-9163

SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Information:

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDANCE

Research and experience have shown that to improve results for children with special needs, programs must:

- Have high expectations for all children regardless of abilities
- Meet each child's needs to enable the children to access, participate and progress in the regular curriculum to the maximum extent possible -complete inclusion.
- Ensure that special education is a **service**, rather than a place
- Provide appropriate special education services and supports in the general education classroom (IEP) & IFSPs (or home - IFSPs)
- The Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP—developed for children birth to age 3) and the Individual Education Plan (IEP—developed for children age 3 and older) are the tools that are used to document how each child's needs related to his/her special concerns will be met within the setting of an educational environment or for infants/toddler services will also be provided in the child's home environment.

Please contact the Support Services Coordinator – Margaret Mascarenaz, or your child's teacher if you have any questions /concerns about your child's development.

Tips

FOSTERING EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH

Early Childhood is a delicate period where brain development is at its peak, making it a time of opportunity and understanding.

With this in mind, parents and other adult care-givers, need to understand how every little action they carry out can impact their children's understanding of the world.

*If parents/care-givers respond in a healthy, supportive way when children are struggling, their children in turn will show themselves this same understanding, patience and love when they struggle with "upsets" and anxiety as they get older.

*Positive interactions in time of trouble, whether it's reading to a child to help them calm down, stroking their hair when they're crying, or even just sitting with them while they work through their own problems, "**Helps the brain wire itself for RESILIENCE!**"

Catch children being "GOOD"—meaning to notice & praise children for "things they are doing well that are easy to miss because we expect them to happen.

Margaret Mascarenaz, Support Services
Coordinator

mmascarenaz@lagunaed.net

505-552-6544 Ext. 5104



ERSEA/CHILD CARE MANAGER

ERSEA Coordinator/Childcare Manager

Hello everyone!

Division of Early Childhood is currently recruiting for new students. Our Early Headstart Program, serving ages 6 months to 3 years old, classrooms are currently full but we are still accepting applications. Submitted applicants will be put on a waitlist. In our transition classroom (EHS to PHS) we will have children transition out to Preschool Headstart (when child turns 3 years old) so there may be a slot open if your child is on the waitlist.

Pre-School Headstart, serving 3 years to 5 years old, classrooms are not full, so all applications are considered.

As stated in the October newsletter, I am giving shout-outs to the classrooms who have 86% attendance or higher. The classrooms are:

Pre-School Headstart – Casa Blanca classroom – 91%

Paguate classroom – 86%

Although we only had 2 classrooms above 85%, hopefully that will change. I understand we had a lot of children miss school due to illness. As a reminder, parents please call the school when your child will be absent.

If anyone has any questions regarding enrollment, attendance, classroom placement, please feel free to give me a call at 505-552-6544 ext. 5004 or 505-235-9286 (program cell). Or stop in to visit – work hours are from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Thanks,

Patricia A. Charlie

Division of Early Childhood – ERSEA Coordinator/Child Care Manager

