

FEBRUARY 2026

Newsletter



P.O. Box 207 Laguna, NM 87026

Phone: 505-552-6544 Fax: 505-796-6909



Dear Parents:

Hello to all of the wonderful families that we have here at Laguna Division of Early Childhood. This school year is really moving quickly. They say the older you get the faster life passes you by. This is the month of love and reflection. How do we guide our children as they are growing and learning? The best part of being in Head Start or Early Head Start is that every day your child is learning a new life skill. Being prepared on a daily basis, as they come to school. As parents, you can help by making sure that your child has an extra change of clothing with them. Please send them to school with a warm jacket for outdoor play. Send items labeled with the child name. We want all the students to understand that procedures are in place for a reason. Communication is the key in any successful program. We want to make sure that you are informed as well as heard. Parents please continue to read at home with your children as you are assisting in building that foundational reading skills.

Thank you for being a part of our Division of Early Childhood family. I feel so blessed to work in an organization that supports cultural and family legacies.

Dr. Carla A. Spaniel, Director

Laguna Division of Early Childhood
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New Experiences + Teaching Applications x Love = Growth



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/13 - Policy Council Meeting 9:30am
- 2/16 - President's Day Holiday No School
- 2/18 - Nutrition Activity



CHINATOWN CLASSROOM



Evelyn Garcia - e.garcia@lagunaed.net

Royce Kie - r.kie@lagunaed.net

January News

This month we added a new child to Chinatown, her initials are AP and she will be with us until she turns 3 in March! We also hope to fill our classroom with an older toddler from Turquoise Springs, it will make our classroom fully enrolled. Our children are beginning to vocalize their wants and needs and have conversations with one another. They still need adult help with labeling what they need and encouragement to "use their words" rather than reacting with pushing or hitting. Teachers are able to acknowledge when these scuffles happen and help our children to let out frustration and problem-solve how they can 1) calm themselves and 2) get validation. Sometimes a simple, "I don't like it when you do that" or "can I play with you?" will help scale down a situation.

EHS Containers

Learning objectives: Children will continue how to manage their feelings and grow their independence as they learn to open and close containers. By carrying and filling containers, they will also exercise their small and large muscles and learn how to problem solve and work together. Teachers will also use a variety of words to relate to the different types of containers and how we use them. By playing together and using new vocabulary, your children will be engaged and pick up new skills as they attend early head start daily.

CLASS Positive Climate

Our CLASS focus this month is to review on-going emotional and behavioral support for our two-year-old children. We will look into the dimension of "Positive Climate"; which is how we help our toddlers develop nurturing relationships with teachers and peers. The bottom-line? A positive climate in toddler classrooms help them to feel secure, safe, and cared for—that they are important to us and that they have a safe place to explore and learn. The Positive Climate dimension for toddlers have the following Indicators: relationships, positive affect (how we respond/react), and respect.

Conscious Discipline: Power of Unity

With this Power, we have the idea that "we are all in this together" and the goal is to create a caring culture and realize that what we offer to others, we experience within ourselves. We will teach encouragement and acknowledge each child's uniqueness and what they bring to play, learning, circle time, etc.

Parent tips:

Please continue to read to your child, they very much love hearing different voices when reading. During story time, look at the pictures and notice the colors and amounts of items. Emphasize the words BIG and small and ask questions such as, "can you find something big? Can you find something small?" Reading can be very enjoyable for both parents and children; you'll give your child a wonderful memory of the times you have shared together.



NEW YORK CLASSROOM

What We Learned

For the month of January our Creative Curriculum theme was Paper. We discussed and showed the kids different kinds of paper and the different uses for them.

Cultural lifeways theme for the month of January was the new officials/traditional foods.

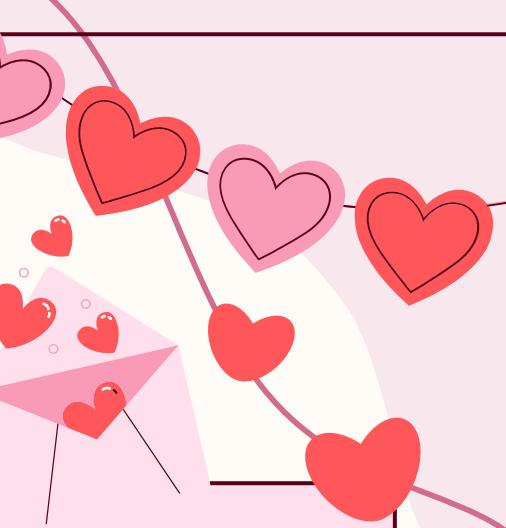
In the month of January we have seen some progress in the children. They are becoming a lot more verbal and improving in fine and gross motor skills. A couple more of our kids have begun to potty train.

Our creative curriculum theme for the month of February will be Containers. We will bring in and show the children all sorts of containers and see what they are made from and how we can store items in them. The children will also be able to play with them.

Cultural lifeways for the month of February is Pottery. We will show some examples of pottery and maybe even mold our own out of clay and make designs on them. Our color of the month is Red.

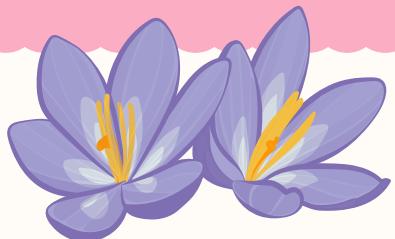
The nutrition activity for this month will be Frozen yogurt hearts. Our STEAM will be Exploring rocks. There will be a couple of take home activities sent home as well.

Happy Birthday to
our Friends:
2/14 - N.T.
2/19 - M.M.



Reminders

Again please make sure to dress your children accordingly, please send a set of warmer extra clothes to swap out with the previous set and please make sure to check your child's folder and send it back daily.



Contact Info

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SUNNYSIDE NEWSLETTER

ANDREA LUCARIO - A.LUCARIO@LAGUNAED.NET

MAKAYLA SARRACINO - M.SARRACINO@LAGUNAED.NET

We made it through the month of January. As we came back from Christmas Break the children adjusted back into the everyday classroom routines, the children have also grown and showed that they are becoming more independent we are ready to welcome a new classmate as well let's wish our new friend well and lets all have a great school year!

Creative Curriculum: For the month of February, we are looking forward to exploring different types of containers. What types of Containers are there, ...? How can we use containers? 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 containers you have. Talk about what they are used for.

For Social-Emotional: Mornings are still a little challenging but teachers as well as parents are here to give comfort to the children.

Cultural lifeways: Pottery, the children will learn what pottery is made of and how we use pottery in our cultural ways. Children will get to experience what it will feel like with playdough

Conscious Discipline: Using songs to have our bodies engage through music.



- Highlight student achievements/milestones accomplished
- We welcomed a few new friends to the classroom. We have a full class.
- A.L- Making small sentences
- A.P-Being more open with classmates and making sentences
- D.E-Walking on her own
- R.P- Learning to stand on own
- A.C-Walking around more and holding onto one hand
- M-NL-Making small sentences and becoming more open with classmates
- R.E- Learning to walk while holding hands
- N.V- New to the class but adjusting to the new environment

Birthdays

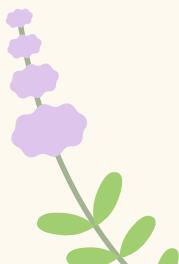
2/17 - R.P.



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

REMINDERS

- Check folders for any flyers and information
- *As the weather is getting colder make sure the children have jackets, please call to let us know if child will be absent
- Parent tip(s): Be patient and understanding, during separation.
- Offer extra cuddles, reassurance, and saying good-bye.





Turquoise Springs Classroom

REFLECT BACK ON January

Creative Curriculum: Paper. We explored many different types of paper, the textures, the sizes, many different colors, and we made our own shapes, as well as drawing on many sheets of paper. We sent home an activity to create with paper.

Cultural Lifeways: New Officials. We are hoping that you all got out to your villages to see or hear who your newly elected officials are. 😊 May they all have a great year in their positions.

Color of the Month: Blue. We named our color blue when looking at the crayons on the wall, whenever someone wore the color blue we would talk about it, we would walk around the classroom pointing to the color blue or if they would see it in the books, they would say blue.

Conscious Discipline: Power of Acceptance. We have been working on getting back into our daily routine of doing as we were before we went on break; for some it took some time and for some they are moving along with a few reminders, but we are getting better at accepting redirections when given.

Health / Nutrition Activities: Staying healthy is a tough one, especially when it is the season of illness. Thank you for keeping your child home when they are not feeling their best, as always continue to call, text, or email when your child will be Absent for the day or number of days. Our Nutrition Activity consisted of making a snowman with crackers. It is always a "oooh aahhh" moment at first then it turns to a very enjoyable snack.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday to our friend P.R. on 1/6 May you be blessed with many more!!!

Parent Tips

Parent Tips: Reading books really enhances their vocabulary, repeating words, naming items and explain what they are used for. Encouraging "independency"; we can help them to do things but we want to build those fine and gross motor skills as well and have them try to do for themselves first.

Parent Recognition / Well Wishes: Thank you parents/families for doing your best for your child, I know some days it can be hard and tiring, don't give up, keep moving forward and working hard for you, your child, and your families. Some days can also be fun, and rewarding with those little hugs and smiles and I love yours, just remember they are watching you and they are your biggest cheerleaders in all that you do. We Wish you Well!!!

February

Creative Curriculum: Containers. We will get to explore the uses of containers; we can build towers, we can work on our fine motor skills by taking off and putting the lids back on containers. Not only will we be handling the small containers but we will also look at pictures of the BIG containers that are used for many other different things. We will use our imaginations to play with all the containers that we collect, so feel free to send a container that you would like to share with the class (note: it will be used to play with, and no guarantee it will be returned 😊)

Cultural Lifeways: Pottery. Children will learn to observe the use of pottery; looking at pictures first, then we will have a day with a hands-on observation of a pot and water jug, talking to the children about how these are used; we will have the chance to create our own molding of an item when we play with salt dough (clay). Our vocabulary for this month: pottery, water jug, clay, paint, and yucca

Color of the Month: Red. Again, looking throughout, the classroom for the color red. Naming the items that are in red and talking about their uses. Look out for activities that we may send home in their folder, as always fill out the in-kind sheet and return, along with their finished artwork.

Conscious Discipline: Power of Unity. It says that we are all interconnected. The importance of connection and compassion are key tenets of Conscious Discipline. Connection is an essential impulse that is needed for survival. It keeps us in an optimal brain state that facilitates learning and problem solving. The big idea is that we are all in this together, we want to encourage your child -Dr. Becky Bailey.

Health: We did get the chance to talk with your child about using a tissue to wipe their nose when they have boogers; lets try teaching them to cover their coughs/sneezes as a new skill.

Nutrition Activities: We will have the opportunity to make some Frozen Hearts using strawberries and yogurt; of course, our favorite part is enjoying the treat when it is time.



Contacts

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Angela Yawea - a.yawea@lagunaed.net

Casa Blanca classroom

Gabe Levantonio - g.levantonio@lagunaed.net
Carol Pedro - c.pedro@lagunaed.net



Greetings families and friends.

It has been a cold winter and it is good that we have made it through. We are looking forward to the upcoming spring time and warmer weather. As we do move forward, make sure you remember to continue to dress your children for cold weather. We do go to the playground when the weather allows and sometimes the breeze can be a bit chilly. So keep sending your children with jackets and hats. Also, as a reminder, if your child is sick, please make sure they get well before returning to school. We have been going over washing hands, using tissue to wipe noses and covering our sneezes and coughs as a precaution. However, small children still tend to put their hands, fingers, and toys in their mouths even with reminders. So let us all be safe and healthy.

January was a fairly busy month in our classroom. Our study for the month was Pets and let me tell you, your children have plenty of information about their pets. We are still working on acquiring a classroom pet. The children have given their opinion and it looks like the easiest pet we could have is a goldfish. So, hopefully soon, we can add a new family member to our classroom.

As January moved on, we also had a lot of traditional and cultural activities in and around our homes. We have had the installation of new religious officials and village officers. Here in our classroom, we have talked about what is happening and would discuss all the dances that have been happening. The other aspect is all the delicious foods that our families have prepared. It is always a good time when January comes around. So make sure to take your children to the dances that will be coming up in the next month and beyond.

So for the month of February, we will be starting with a new curriculum study: Clothes. We will be visiting all the different aspects of clothing. Sometimes we take for granted the small things, like clothing. We will look at contemporary clothing as well as the traditional clothing of our people.

With our Cultural Lifeways curriculum, we will be looking at what it takes to make and design pottery. If any of my families make traditional or even non-traditional pottery, or know of anyone else that does make pottery, please contact me so that we can talk about a classroom visit to show us the basics. The only thing I know about pottery is that I don't know how to make them, much less paint the pots.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all my families for all you do for your children. Please remember to continue to read to your child. This is the first stepping stone for your child to become proficient at literacy. It is also a great way to sit and bond with your child about what you are reading. With that in mind, please make sure you sign the paper in the folder after reading the book to your child. Have a great February, and we will see you once March comes around.

Mr. Levantonio
Mrs. Pedro



ENCINAL CLASSROOM

Juana Natseway - j.natseway@lagunaed.net

Yvonne Francis - y.francis@lagunaed.net

Cultural lifeways: Potterytime! Children will learn and observe the use of yucca, sand, and other materials in the natural environment. Showing the children pictures of our ancestors making and holding pottery, and how modern pottery looks in today's world. Asking the children questions like "Where do you think pottery comes from?", "Is there one color of pottery or more?", etc. Children will identify different ways pottery is used: drinking, storing seeds, serving, and eating. For our activity, we'll be using Air Clay to make our own pottery and take them home. 😊

Creative Curriculum: In February, the theme is Architecture. At home, at school, at the playground, and around the community, children interact with architecture in nearly every aspect of their lives. The children all live in different types of buildings and see different types of buildings around the community and surrounding cities. The children will have opportunities to examine different types of structures, experiment with building materials and principles, and explore their communities.

Nutrition Activity: We will be making frozen yogurt hearts! Yummy! The ingredients we will use are low-fat or fat-free yogurt and fresh or frozen berries—strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, or blueberries. Have your child show you how to make them at home as you help them make these delicious hearts.

Student achievements/milestones: In the Encinal classroom, 50% can spell their first and last name without looking at the letters in their name. 20% can recognize all the letters in their first and last name without any help. 30% can recognize the letters in their first name and some of the letters in their last name. Four children can count to 100 with little or no clues from us teachers. Two children can count by 10s with little or no clues from teachers. All the children know most of our Keres vocabulary with little clues from teachers. YOU ALL ARE SMARTIES!

Reminders

- PLEASE send your child in a warm/thick jacket and a hat if they don't have a hood on their jacket, or send your child in layers. The weather is still very cold in the morning, and warms up in the afternoon.
- If your child is sick or showing symptoms, PLEASE keep them home or take them to the doctor. Don't forget to get an excuse to return to school. PLEASE be mindful of other children and teachers in the classroom!
- Continue to check your child's bag/folder DAILY as notes are sent home.
- Continue reading to your child for at least 10-15 minutes and write the time on the reading log. When reading, it helps your child recognize the words, learn that we read from left to right, and from top to bottom.

Parent Tips

- Practice writing their names using capital and lower-case letters. Talk with your child about which is their first, middle, and last names.
- Have conversations with your child about anything. It helps expand their thinking skills, vocabulary, and sentence structure.
- If your child is not going to be in school, please notify us so we can make your child excuse.

Parent Recognition

We would like to thank R. Silva-Martinez, S. Ahgoom, and C. Barrera's parents for reading to their child daily. We appreciate you! 😊



Paguate Classroom

VENESSA DEUTSAWE - V.DEUTSAWE@LAGUNAED.NET
MARIAH WHITMORE - MA.WHITMORE@LAGUNAED.NET

Hello Paguate Families,

Happy New Year! May all of you and your families, have a blessed and prosperous New Year.

As we get our New Year started, we teachers are happy to see all the children return from the Winter Break. My goodness how they have grown and are more ready to learn and have fun for the remainder of the school year.

For the remaining school year, we will be focusing on our letters, numbers and keep practicing our daily classroom safety rules, classroom routines, using and implementing our learning skills and getting ready for the next level of learning. The children are getting good with tracing their name, letters, shapes and numbers. We, will also continuing practicing using our Creative Curriculum, Cultural Life Ways, and our Conscious Discipline.

This Month for February, we will be learning about Pottery in our Cultural Life Ways, along with the color RED (ku gun ii). We, teachers in Paguate classroom are very happy and proud of your children learning the Keres language. Please, continue to encourage your child to say the Keres prayer during family meal times. They, are also able to say our morning prayer to get our day started, knowing the direction to face, when asked. The simple daily basic Keres words are used daily. Ask your child what they are learning, continuing using the language at home. What little you know is a lot for your child.

The Creative Curriculum, we are going to be exploring with clothes and for our STEAM is Exploring with ROCKS. Look out for the Classroom Calendar with fun Activities to do with your child.

Thank you, Parents/ Guardians, for sending your children back to school. We, are looking forward to an awesome finish. Thank you for your support from home, please continue to support your child when they have rough days. Weather is still cool, please dress your child according to the weather.

Reminder: please call, email teachers or the school if your child is not attending for the day or at Dr. Appt., so they will be excused for the day. Please, check your child's Back Pack daily, there are notes or information that you need to know, to keep you in the Loop.

Thank you all for your support and assistance with your children, we are looking forward to finishing strong and being ready for the next learning level.

Paguate Classroom Teachers



NEWS FROM SEAMA CLASSROOM

Hello parents and guardians

The first month in the year has come and gone... we were happy to see the children back in school. In that short winter break it seems that the children have grown, soon they will be off to the "BIG" school.

In January, LIGHT was our study. We were able to identify some light sources around our classroom and school. The biggest source of light being the sun. We are aware that when there is light it creates a shadow of our bodies and objects. Recognizing lights that communicate information: Stop Light, exit lights, message lights. Children had the opportunity to use flash lights and create shadows on the wall.

In February, we will be studying Architecture. Children will learn about features of different type of building inside and outside and how the architecture meets the need of people who live in different places. Children will look at some blueprints. Children will have opportunities to build different structures using different materials.

For our stem activity, we will be exploring rocks. Teachers will send a home a "Rock Hunt" activity which will include finding different shape, color and/or unique rocks. You can get head start on your search. (Taken pictures of the rocks is fine, or collecting them will give your child a chance to share your wonderful rock finds with the class.)

Although Valentine's Day falls on a weekend we will have a home activity for parents and children to create a Valentine Box. They will be due on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Seama classroom will exchange cards on Friday, February 13, 2026. Teachers will send a list of names of children in our classroom.

Accomplishments: We have 6 children writing their first and last name. 2 children writing their first name. 4 tracing over their name.



THEMES

Color: Red
Culture: Pottery
Curriculum: Architecture
Nutrition: Frozen Yogurt Hearts
STEAM: Exploring Rocks

TEACHER CONTACTS

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the teachers. c.deutsawe@lagunaed.net and [\(505\) 552-6544 extension 5200](mailto:r.victorino@lagunaed.net)

A graphic of a top hat with the colors of the American flag (red, white, and blue) and the words "Happy President's Day" written in a stylized font.

EVENTS

2/11 No sew Heart Pillow/Card Making
2/16 NO school President's Day
2/13 Take Home Activity "I love...." mobile



Program Assistant

Iris Gallegos - i.gallegos@lagunaed.net



Greetings Families and Friends,
I hope everyone is doing well and settling into the New Year 2026.

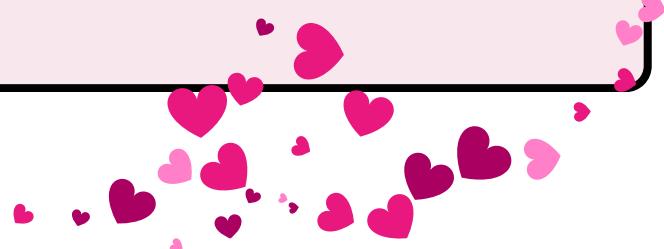
I want to thank all the parents for your understanding when we had to double up bus runs. The buses will run like this until further notice. We will give our best efforts for notification on double bus runs when we are short a driver. We are working very diligently to find more drivers. If you have a CDL driver license and would like to apply, you may go to the LDoE website and fill out an application or come in to the front office and an application can be provided to you.

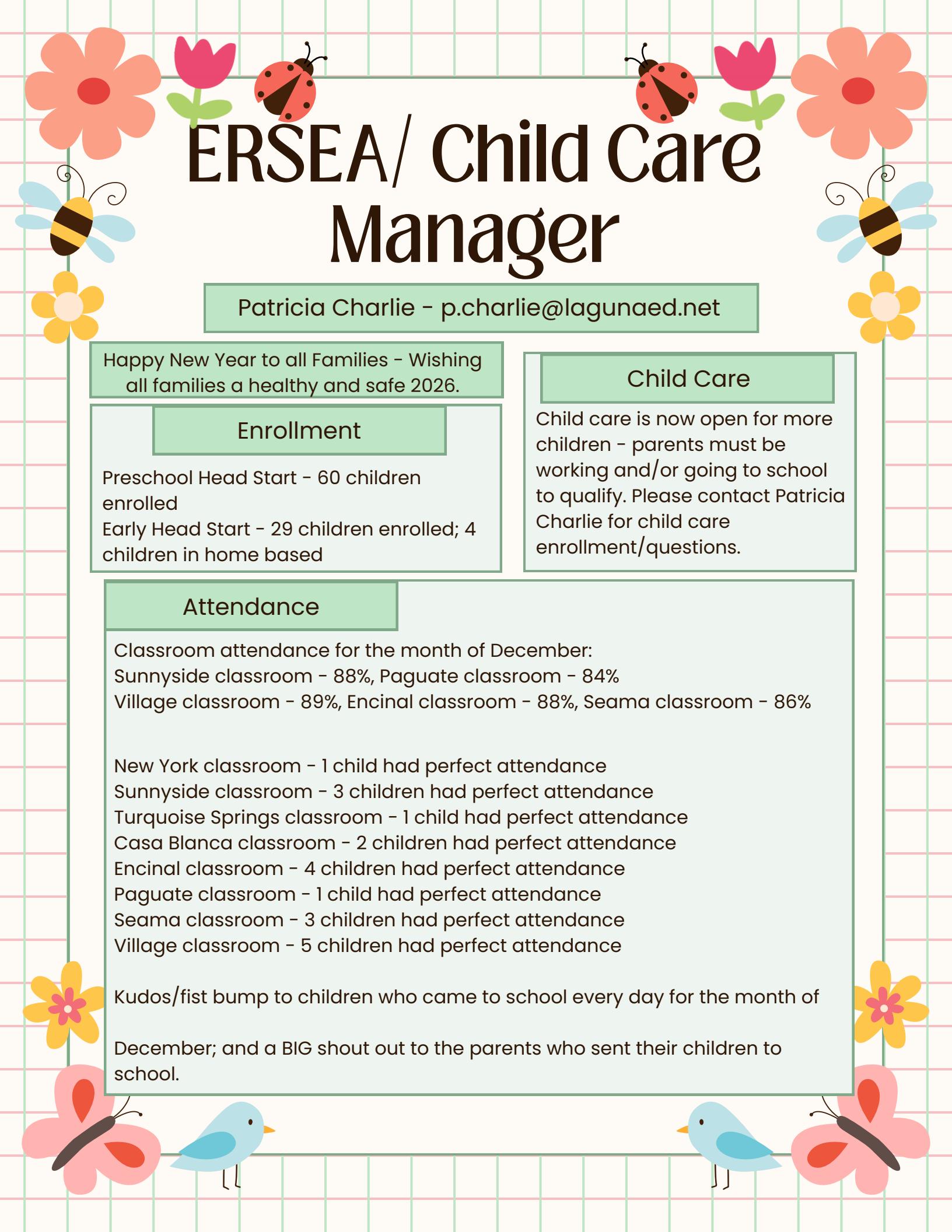
As we embrace the month of February there are a few reminders for parents and families.

- Please fill out the parent survey on the LDoE/DEC website. If you do not have access to the internet, feel free to come into the front office and we will be happy to assist you.
- The weather is still chilly in the mornings, please dress your children accordingly and in layers.
- If your child is sick, please keep them home to avoid the spread of illness.
- Notify program if your child will not be attending school. The machine will allow you to leave a message with the reason for absence.
- Adhere to the 5MPH speed limit while in the school zone.
- Practice pedestrian safety by holding your child's hand in the parking lot, to their classroom and vice versa.
- Utilize the front office gate when dropping off or picking up your child.
- DEC does not allow outside food or drink on campus, we thank you for keeping all our children free of allergens.
- Turn in In-Kind forms once activities are completed and reading logs every Friday.
- Keep your contact lists up-to-date. Forms are carried on the buses, in the front office and can be emailed.
- NO SCHOOL on February 16, 2026. We will be closed for the President's Day Holiday.

Should you need assistance at DEC, feel free to contact me, I will be happy to assist you. Until next time, take care and love each other, you all have a great month of February!!!

Iris Gallegos, Program Assistant
Laguna Division of Early Childhood





ERSEA/ Child Care Manager

Patricia Charlie - p.charlie@lagunaed.net

Happy New Year to all Families - Wishing all families a healthy and safe 2026.

Enrollment

Preschool Head Start - 60 children enrolled

Early Head Start - 29 children enrolled; 4 children in home based

Child Care

Child care is now open for more children - parents must be working and/or going to school to qualify. Please contact Patricia Charlie for child care enrollment/questions.

Attendance

Classroom attendance for the month of December:

Sunnyside classroom - 88%, Paguate classroom - 84%

Village classroom - 89%, Encinal classroom - 88%, Seama classroom - 86%

New York classroom - 1 child had perfect attendance

Sunnyside classroom - 3 children had perfect attendance

Turquoise Springs classroom - 1 child had perfect attendance

Casa Blanca classroom - 2 children had perfect attendance

Encinal classroom - 4 children had perfect attendance

Paguate classroom - 1 child had perfect attendance

Seama classroom - 3 children had perfect attendance

Village classroom - 5 children had perfect attendance

Kudos/fist bump to children who came to school every day for the month of

December; and a BIG shout out to the parents who sent their children to school.

HEALTH AIDE

Greetings DEC Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful month of January! A kind reminder that we are in the middle of Flu season. Please monitor and check your children for symptoms and keep them home if they are not feeling well or if they have a fever.

Take these steps to increase your chances of staying healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Try not to touch eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill
- Get vaccinated
- Clean or disinfect shared surfaces frequently

The New Mexico Department of Health is urging residents to get vaccinated as flu cases climb across the state and nation.

NMDOH recommends yearly flu vaccinations for everyone 6 months of age and older each flu season, which runs from October to May. Vaccination is especially important for high-risk groups including:

- Children younger than 5 years old, but especially children younger than 2 years old.
- Pregnant individuals up to two weeks postpartum.
- People aged 50 and older.
- People of any age with chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, lung or heart disease.
- People who are immunocompromised.
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The flu vaccine will continue to be covered by Medicare Part B, New Mexico Medicaid (Turquoise Care) and all private insurance.

Public health offices offer flu shots to all children and underinsured or uninsured adults. Anyone having trouble scheduling a flu shot can call the NMDOH Helpline: 1-833-SWNURSE (1-833-796-8773) for assistance.

P.S. Thank you families for being your child's best advocate!

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to me at 505-552-6544 ext. 5103.

Angelica Baca
DEC Health Aide
a.baca@lagunaed.net

SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR

<u>Information:</u>	<u>Services</u>
<p><u>Understanding the word DISABILITY</u></p> <p>In Early Childhood Programs, professionals often use terms like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Developmental Delay*Developmental differences*Support Needs <p>· A disability label is often used to <u>qualify children for services</u> Not to limit them.</p> <p>· Labels can change over time as children grow</p> <p>· The Goal is SUPPORT, not a Stigma.</p> <p>If screening shows possible concerns, families may be offered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Further evaluation for their child2. Early Intervention (birth to age 3)3. Preschool special education services (ages 3-5)4. Referral to specialists (speech therapist, physical therapist, occupational therapist) <p>Parents must give consent before evaluations or services begin.</p> <p>Our goal here at our Laguna DEC program, is for all enrolled children to improve their communication, learning and social skills in order for them to succeed in school. As research has proven, children who get early help usually need fewer services later.</p> <p>CONTACT INFORMATION</p> <p>Margaret Mascarenaz Support Services Coordinator (SSC) 505-552-6544 Ext. 5104 mmascarenaz@lagunaed.net</p>	<p><u>Laguna DEC program does have wonderful partnerships with the following programs/school to provide services for children as needed for any developmental concerns.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For infants and toddlers ages birth to 3ys of age currently the following two programs work collaboratively with DEC:<p>Community Programs Ø Native American Professional/Parent Resources (NAPPR): 505-345-6289 Ø La Vida Felicidad: 505-287-5118</p>2. For children ages 3 and older, we are very fortunate to have <u>Laguna Dept. of Education-Student Services/Special Education Dept.</u> now providing services for our children here at DEC. All evaluations are done here at the DEC. In-person therapists provide services here at DEC for any child who qualifies for special services. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and continued support for all DEC preschool children who are needing special support services. <p>If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's development, please let the teacher know or you may contact me, Margaret M. Support Services Coordinator at the contact information.</p> <p>PEACE AND LOVE!</p>

Education Manager

Fine Motor

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn

Your child is learning to hold pens, crayons, and markers with her thumb and two fingers just like adults do. She has learned to make scissors open and close and can make snips in paper when you hold it. She can use her two hands together with small toys, such as interlocking blocks or stringing beads. She can put together puzzles with five or more pieces.



Yummy Puzzles

Cut off the front part of a cereal box. Now cut this into four or five puzzle pieces. Your child will have fun putting this simple puzzle together. He may need a little help at first.

Little Writer

Show your child how to make lines and circles or even simple shapes. Circles and straight lines will be easiest for your child to copy. Your child may want to learn to write the first letter of her name. Keep it fun! It is okay if your child's marks don't look much like real letters. Encourage her attempts: "You're a good writer".

Tong Time

Give your child a pair of small kitchen tongs, children's chopsticks, or tweezers. See if he can move cotton balls or dry macaroni from one container into another. Then try something heavier such as walnuts, spools, or small stones.

Junior Mechanic

Collect large bolts, matching nuts, and even washers. Your child will enjoy matching the bolt to the nut and twisting them together.

Little Flicker

Make little balls of newspaper about the size of marbles and show your child how to "flick" a ball across a tabletop or space on the floor into an open box or at a target. Use thumb and index finger to "flick." See how far your child can flick the paper balls or hit the target. This game can bring lots of laughs!

Bubbles!

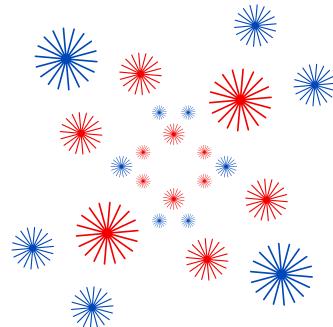
Let your child use washable crayons or markers to draw bubbles on paper. Let him draw as many as he wants and color them in. Show him how to draw big bubbles and little bubbles, purple bubbles and green bubbles. Now that he has drawn so many bubbles, maybe it's time to blow some real bubbles.

Notes:



Don't Forget! Activities should be supervised at all times by an adult. Any materials, food, or toy given to a young child should be reviewed for safety. Make sure your child does not put any objects in her mouth.





Family Service Provider/ EHS Home Based Kathleen Herrera

Gu wa zee Ho Ba!

I hope everyone is off to a GREAT start for the New Year. Many blessings, happiness to ALL FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

Reminders: Attendance is very important for our early learners. My hats off to the children and their parents who get their child to school on time and come to school every day. YOU ARE AWESOME!!

If your child, is going to absent for any reason, contact the school, teacher or myself. You may also text to my program phone, 505-290-9163. I will inform the teacher(s) and the front office.

FYI, Tiffany is longer with the DEC program as a Family Service Provider. If you have questions, concerns, need information or help, please contact me. I will help you as much as possible. My Ext. is 5105, program phone, 505-290-9163 and my email is k.herrera@lagunaed.net. I hope to contact more families during the New Year.

TAKE CARE, BE SAFE AND BE HAPPY!!

