

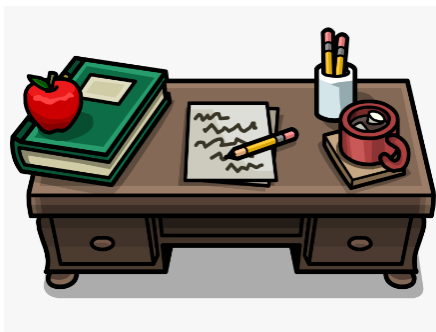
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HAAK'U LEARNING CENTER
HEAD START & CHILD CARE
15 TURTLE SHELL ROAD
P.O. BOX 428
PUEBLO OF ACOMA, NEW MEXICO
87034
PH: (505)552-6959

Aa K'ume Iyaatra Uubetaani (Acoma Children's News)

A Message from the Director's Desk....



Happy September Haak'u Learning Center (HLC) Families! As we all get acclimated to the Learn-at-home Model and familiarize ourselves with technology, I am happy to report that we are almost to our enrollment goal here at the HLC. Our Head Start program is funded to enroll seventy-two (72) children for the 2020-2021 school year and each year thereafter. With the help of all HLC staff, we have enrolled many Acoma children, as well as children from our neighboring communities. By using the Learn-at-Home Model, we can continue our services to children who do not reside on the reservation. Although I realize that the Learn-at-Home Model is not the best fit for the ages of the children we serve, the Learn-at-Home Model was the safest decision for my staff and your children. As the Director of the program, it is important to me that families and staff can trust that my decisions are made from a health and safety perspective. For now, our staff are adjusting to the new norms of teaching and instruction through Zoom, Class Dojo, e-mail, phone calls, and text messaging. One of my recent reflections involved teacher

feedback about new skills that are evolving because of the Learn-at-Home Model. Learning – at the heart of our work as educators – is happening program-wide. I am pleased with the progress we have made as a program and in this article, am happy to introduce the HLC staff. Please take the time to read about our wonderful staff by reading their responses to the following questions:

1. What are your hobbies and interests when you are away from work?
2. Where are you from?
3. Tell me about your family.
4. What higher education degrees do you have and/or are currently working on?
5. What is your favorite food?
6. What is your favorite quote and why?

Continue to be well and safe.

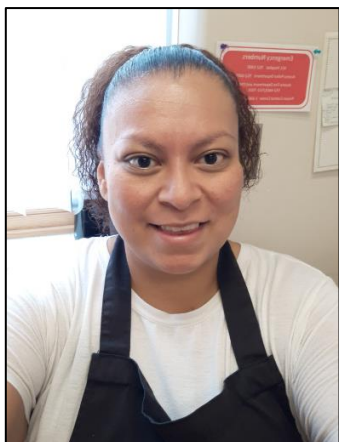
Pictured Below:

V. Vallo in her home-made school bus.



Introductory of Staff

Kathleen Clemons
Cook



Guwaadzi! My name is Kathleen Clemons. I am a cook at the Haak'u Learning Center. I grew up in the village of Acomita on the South side of the church. I was raised by my great grandmother, Agnes Sanchez and my mother, Robin Clemons. My father is Edward Valley. My clans are Big Sun and Little Oak. I attended Laguna-Acoma High School and graduated with my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Haskell Indian Nations University. Growing up I always had a passion for cooking. I have been a cook here at the school for 5 years. It has brought so much joy to my life to be cooking for children in this age group. I am looking forward to a happy, fun, and safe school year.





Haak'u Learning Center NOW ENROLLING!

We are now accepting enrollment applications for the
2020-2021 School Year.

Come by the center to pick up an enrollment application between
the hours of:

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Monday thru Friday

****Child must be 3 yrs. old by August 31, 2020, thereafter
application(s) will be waitlisted. Children with disabilities are
encouraged to apply. ****

Eligibility Documents Needed:

- Proof of child's age (NM or State birth certificate)
- Income Verification of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of child (i.e. current check stub, signed 1040 tax form, or public assistance benefit document)
- Or Notarized letter for proof of unemployment

If needing any assistance or clarification regarding the enrollment process, contact the center at (505)552-6959. Thank you!



Kylie Patricio
Floater

Hello Everyone. My name is Kylie Patricio. My role at HLC is a Floater, which means I help out all teachers with tasks that they need or be in the classroom with the children and help them learn. I rotate from classroom to classroom to allow a teacher to work on tasks that they need to do. I also deliver lunches and activities to the children's homes each and every day of the week. My favorite things to do while I'm away from work are going fishing and camping with friends and family to enjoy the great outdoors. I also like to play video games with my boyfriend,

watch Netflix, and enjoy my days off of work. I come from a family of 6 sisters with no brothers. I am the 2nd oldest out of 6 siblings. My parents are Robert and Melanie Patricio. Me and my family enjoy making pottery together which we were taught by our father.



Clarice DeArmond
Child Care Provider



Hello, my name is Clarice DeArmond and I am the Provider in the Daasrka classroom along with Dolores Victorino. We will be working with the 2 to 3-year old children this school year. I am from the village of Mesita, on the Laguna reservation. I have 2 children of my own. They are going to college and getting educated. They make me a proud mom! I currently have an associate degree in Early Childhood Education. I graduated from NMSU Grants in the year 2012.

Some of my hobbies include, collecting things like Lighthouses, (pictures, electric light up lighthouses, calendars and mini lighthouses). I also love collecting BTS Merchandise, I am a fanatic for the K Pop group. I am hoping to see the east coast to visit the real lighthouses and I am especially wanting to visit Maine. I am also hoping to see BTS once this pandemic subsides!

Our goal for our children in Daasrka Classroom is to get them ready for Head Start. I would appreciate your help to reach that goal. I am excited to teach them their numbers, letters and words that



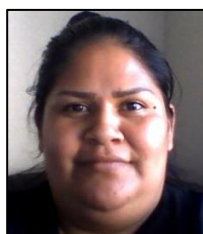
they use in their daily lives. You can help them to listen to and appreciate books and can teach them how to take care of themselves and their needs. I am looking forward to helping your children grow and be ready for Head Start.

Hopefully soon, I will see and teach your children in the Daasrka classroom. Right now, we just need to stay safe and healthy by washing our hands, wearing a mask and doing our physical distancing of 6 feet.

I appreciate your time and hope to see you soon,

Thank you, Clarice DeArmond.

Dolores Victorino
Child Care Provider Assistant



Hello, my name is Dolores Victorino I'm a Childcare Provider Assistant in Daasrka classroom. I have been working here for 4 years. I was a cook when I first started and moved into childcare. I have been in Childcare for 2 years I started in the infant room and moved to the toddler room. I love my job and working with the toddlers. I am a mother of 3. I have an 11-year-old daughter, 6-year-old son and a 1-year old little girl. I love being home with my family. I like to try different recipes and I love going on walks with my kids. I am from The Pueblo of Acoma. I also live on the reservation. My favorite food would have to be wings, Chinese food and seafood. My favorite place to eat is at Wingstop. I can eat there anytime. My classroom goals for my families would be to have good communication and to have fun this year.



Roberta Charlie
Teacher



Guwaadzi Hauba!
First of all, welcome families and children to Haak'u Learning Center. This year is going to be a different way of

learning for both you and your child. However, learning goes on and you will be your child's primary teacher for the Learn at Home Model. We can do this together! My name is Ms. Charlie or Kuwaaita. I come from the Kuhaya clan. I have been teaching for the past forty years with the Head Start Program. I have taught many of you parents and your child in my classroom.

Wow, is this amazing! I am happy to share that I am finally a grandmother of a two-year-old. He will be celebrating his birthday virtually this year. He is the light of my life, plus my daughter Michelle (his mom), and my son Aaron. Both are amazing in my eyes and are making a difference here at Acoma. Let's make this an awesome year to learn despite the pandemic. We can survive this pandemic!



KatieAnn Juanico, HLC Director

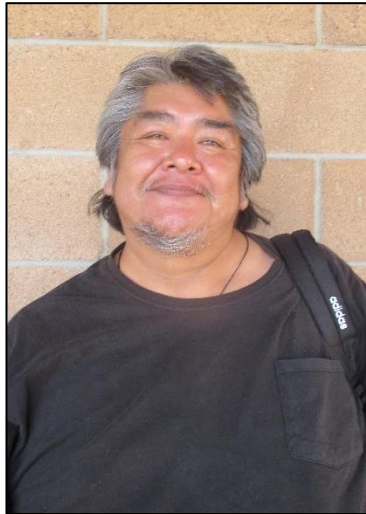


1. What are your hobbies and interests when you are away from work?
Sewing and working out (most days) ...and like everyone else, eating and watching movies. I also like reading.
2. Where are you from?
Happy to report, I am a home-grown product of the Pueblo of Acoma.
3. Tell me about your family.
My parents are Melvin and Marietta Juanico. I have three siblings, Joshua Juanico, MaryHelen Rock, and Jordan Patricio. I also have a fur baby, Dex. I have many extraordinary nieces and nephews...and five loving god-children.
4. What higher education degrees do you have and/or are currently working on?
With blood, sweat and tears...a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Language Arts, a master's degree in Educational Psychology. I am currently a doctoral candidate for Educational Psychology at the University of New Mexico (Everyone's a Lobo! Woof, woof!). Doctoral candidacy means that I have completed all the coursework that I ever can and if I want to be Dr. Juanico, I better shape up and do my research.
5. What is your favorite food?
ALL foods! But my favorites are tacos, pizza, oysters, and pickles.
6. What is your favorite quote and why?
After being a graduate student for quite some time, there are many. One of my favorites is: "Stick it out and persevere more than anything else." If I gave up on myself throughout all my years in school, I am positive I wouldn't be where I am now. Sometimes you just "gotta fall, but don't fall too hard" - cry, feel sorry for yourself for a bit, but...get up and keep on keeping on.

Haak'u Learning Center Staff & Titles



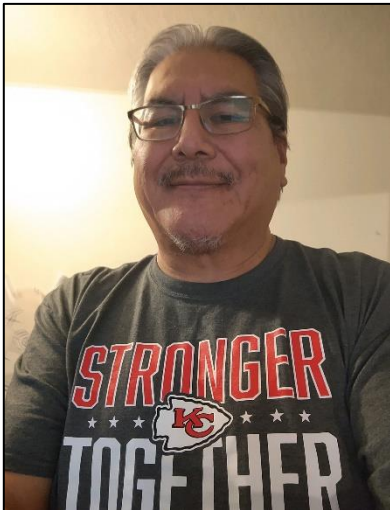
Kelly Joe
Administrative Assistant



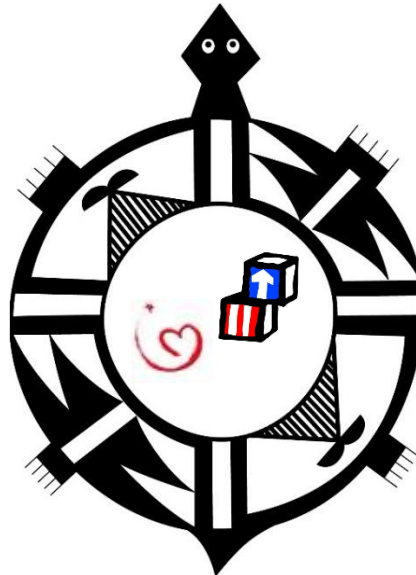
Victor Valdo
Custodian



Theresa Salvador
Custodian



Duane Mousseau
Facilities & Transportation Manager



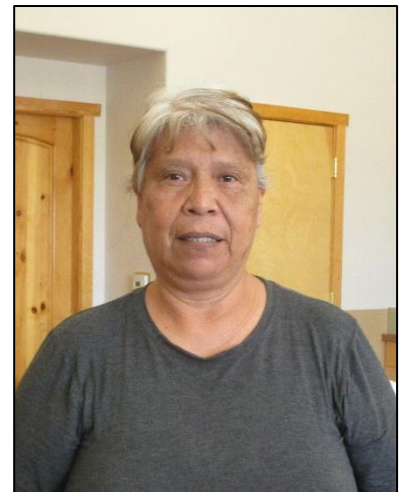
Nolan Garcia
Bus Driver



Barbara Antonio
Disabilities Manager



Nissa Valdo
Custodian



Freida Sims
Bus Driver

More Staff Introductory

Catrina Louis
Health Manager



Greetings Head Start families,

My name is Catrina Louis. I am the Health Manager for the program. I am from the Pueblo of Acoma and have lived here all my life. I have three children, Lawrence Jr. most people know him by "Shayaika" or "Jellybean", and Stephanie, who just started her first year at Grants High School as a freshman. I also have my little boy, Fredrick or "WaaWa'a", he has one more year in Head Start. I also have my granddaughter, Layla and her mother, Raelynn who are also part of my family. In May, we lost my husband due to health issues and it has been very difficult to deal with each day. I thank our creator for my children and family members who keep me looking forward to another day. My days have changed since the passing of our loved one, I no longer watch Lifetime or Family Feud as much, but have spent more time playing board games with my family. I also enjoy sitting outside in the evenings watching Stephanie, WaaWa'a and Layla ride their bikes or jumping on the trampoline. A few times when the swimming pool was set up, I enjoyed watching all my children sitting in the swimming pool enjoying the hot sun.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, our school days are different for everyone. It is still my goal to ensure our children are in good health and

have health insurance. Our children need to be up to date with their immunizations, lead and hemoglobin screenings, a well child exam, dental, hearing and vision screenings. I will do my best to in work with families to get this in place. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the Haak'u Learning Center if you need assistance in scheduling appointments. I look forward to working with all families. Please stay safe, continue to follow Acoma and New Mexico state orders and we will be able to cease the COVID-19 pandemic we are currently facing.



Antoinette Thompson
Teacher



Gu w'aa dzii Haak'u Learning Center Families! Duu shi nu mee, T'ii trA tai ts'a ee see shI, Dyaa mi haa nu sə da. My name is Antoinette Thompson and I am one of the Lead Teachers in Ka dzii ma Class. I pray you all are doing well and are excited for the new school year. I currently have my Associate of Arts degree in Early Childhood Multicultural Education from CNM. I plan to continue working toward my bachelor's degree in the same field at

UNM. When I am not focused on work, I like to sew. It is a new hobby that I have acquired while working remotely and I have created numerous traditional dresses & shirts, tote bags, and face masks. I am sure your family has learned something new during all the time spent together at home. One of my favorite quotes is, "Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching." I like this quote because it reminds us that there is always something to learn as a parent, a child, an employee or in many other capacities. For example, the changes that this pandemic bestowed upon us has challenged us to discover new talents, hobbies, skills and new ways to communicate with one another.

One of my goals for families in my classroom is to help them become more familiar with the types of activities children do at home and how they align with developmental goals. Learning for preschoolers is more than just learning the letters in the alphabet and potty training. When we see a child playing outdoors in the mud and making mud pies, we don't always see that child strengthening their small muscles in their hands when they squish the mud or pack it into small cups or containers. The messy mud activity has a role in the way a child holds a pencil or a scissor. It sounds like a lot to take in for our youngest learners, but I assure you that they will surprise you with how quickly they reach their goals. We are all here to help make your school year enjoyable and beneficial. There are lots of new things to learn and lots of milestones waiting to be accomplished!



LouAnn Tenequer
Child Care Manager



Welcome to Haak'u Learning Center. My name is LouAnn Tenequer – K'uuchininaaku'u eese, k'uu de yah muu nish Dyaami hanu sōda. I am the Child Care Manager with Haak'u Learning Center – I am in my eighth month of this position. My husband Bob Tenequer, Jr. is from the Village of Pagate. In years past, my family has been Bob, myself and our dogs – Spryaaku and Kuhiya, but now we have added three beautiful children to our family. We have a five-year-old who is in Kindergarten, a 3-year-old who is in Head Start and a soon to be 2-year-old who is in childcare. It has been a joy having the children in our lives but I'm not going to lie – parents you all know this – it can be a “whirlwind” at times. Right now, we are all adjusting to the “learn-at-home” model of schooling, which at times has been a little challenging but we are all coping as best we can.

Outside of work my interest are gardening and making pottery – although I have not had much time to make pottery – I have had time to tend to my plants and garden in my backyard – it is my sanctuary. I am always up early on weekends (when everyone is still sleeping) watering my plants, hoeing weeds or just sitting on the patio drinking coffee watching the hummingbirds chase each other from their feeders. I have planted Xeriscape plants (they survive on

limited water). I like to see the flowers when they bloom on these plants and they also attract hummingbirds. Some of the plants I've planted are Yellow Bird of Paradise, Yarrow, Agastache and Penstemon. I have also planted tomatoes, jalapenos, yellow-hots, bell peppers and edamame beans – these are planted in our raised-garden beds. We have recently picked the jalapenos and the yellow hots which are indeed hot.

I do love eating chile – we love making “spicy” salsa with our jalapenos and yellow-hots. Because we enjoy the spicy of food - this might be a reason I enjoy eating Thai food – it is hot and spicy. A couple of my favorite dishes are Yum Pla Muk which is a spicy squid salad and Red Curry Chicken – although it's not food per say, I also like drinking Thai Iced Tea. Oh gosh, just talking about the food is getting me hungry for Thai food. If you have not tried Thai food – give it a try.

As I move forward in my position of Child Care Manager, a goal that I have is to offer childcare services to the families who have children at Haak'u Community Academy. The type of program would be similar to the wrap-around services we offer our families at Haak'u Learning Center. We offer before and after school childcare services for parents who work or are in school. We would offer the same services at the Haak'u Community Academy. Hopefully as school begins to transition back to on-site learning, I can work on this effort.

I hope you enjoyed reading a little about me and my interests. I do look forward to working with our families this coming school year – I know it will be different but if we all support each other, we will make it through these challenging times. Da waa' ee.



Kristine Vallo
Teacher



Hello, Haak'u Learning Center Families! My name is Kristine Vallo or Kaashdya ts'I tyaits'a. I am the lead teacher in Kaweestima Classroom. I am from the Pueblo of Acoma and the Pueblo of Laguna. My parents are Thomas Vallo and Frances Vallo. I am the second oldest of 6 siblings. All my brothers and sisters mean the world to me. We all have completely different personalities but one thing we all have in common is we enjoy teasing each other and laughing together. A couple of my interests when I am away from work are playing volleyball and going on outdoor adventures with my significant other and our husky named Boston.





Brittney Concho
Teacher



One goal I have for the families in my classroom is to have great communication. I believe if we keep our communication open with each other we can have a great and successful school year together. Another goal I have is providing a welcoming environment for us all. I feel this is very important because I do not want my families to ever hesitate about asking me questions or providing feedback. It's important to me that the families in my classroom feel comfortable and welcomed. I pray we all have a great school year and that we work together to help your children grow in their education while here at the "Turtle School."



Guwaadzi Hauba/ Yá át ééh. Duwa shinume'e Shpiyakatuwitsa esse. Tiné hanu ee Shawiita waashti suda. I am Brittney Concho, a proud tribal member of Dine'/Navajo and Acoma Pueblo. My maternal clan is Tlogi (Zia/Weaver) and paternal clan is Little Parrot. My parents are Veronica Burbank Concho and Raymond Concho Jr. My mother is originally from Tohatchi, NM; she was born and raised on the Navajo Nation Reservation. My father is from the Pueblo of Acoma and is the transportation planner for the tribe. My childhood upbringing was in Tohatchi with my siblings. I am the second eldest of four children. My older brother, Joshuaa, has two children, my godson Kaleb James and my niece Kateri Ałkinibah. Josiah is my younger brother who continuously stays busy with his beautiful artwork. Lastly, the youngest, my dear little sister, Kamrynn is pursuing her education at Haskell Indian Nations University. I love, enjoy, and embrace family time. I have great interest and enthusiasm to go biking, hiking, traveling, and exploring new things. My passion is

teaching, and my motivation is seeing every child smile and to be proud.

This school year, I am the Lead Teacher in the Diitsiyaama classroom, and my assistant is Mr. Antonio. I have worked with the Haaku Learning Center for four years, prior to my current time here. Overall, I have 9 years of teaching experience in Early Childhood Education. This school year is a trying time and challenging with the pandemic. Things are not the same but with a positive mindset, I am excited to do the best of my ability to create lessons and activities to align with your child's individual goals. I want to share with the community my desire to be supportive and encouraging. I am here to support, encourage, guide and teach you and your children with a whole new way of lifestyle and way of learning. We can all do it together to be safe and protected at home. I strongly encourage family involvement and engagement in your child's learning environment. Every family member needs to play a role to help with activities. I encourage your child to maintain family and cultural ties with family and relatives living nearby or afar to learn and grow every day. We may be distanced but let's work together and make this school year successful. Guumeh, Hush the meh, "Hágoónee" (See you).





Bea Smith
Cook

Hello Haak'u Center Families, my name is Bea. I am a cook at the Haak'u Learning Center. This is my third year working in the kitchen preparing nutritious meals for our children. I'm from Laguna, Pueblo affiliated with the village of Paraje. I live with my husband Ric. We have four children and are blessed with thirteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I love spending time with my grandchildren, we watch



Disney movies like Moana, Frozen, and Inside Out. These are just some of my favorite movies. I also like reading books like Mulan

and Aladdin.

Working in the kitchen, Miss Kat and I prepare different types of meals with nutrition as our goal to healthy eating. We are adding new vegetables, meats and fruits to our meals such as fish, mushrooms, asparagus and quinoa. In our breakfast meals we cook muffins, biscuits, pancakes and waffles with whole wheat flour. We also purchase bread and pasta with whole grain.

Thank you for enrolling your children in our program. Continue to be safe, wear your masks, wash your hands and take care of one another.

Cook Bea



Kailyn Antonio
Teacher



Hello Families,

Welcome to another school year! My name is Kailyn Antonio. I am the lead teacher for the Haak'u Classroom. I come from the Pueblo of Laguna. My parents are Pearline Antonio and Mienrad Arnold Antonio Sr. I am ¼ Acoma and ¾ Laguna. I hail from the Chinos, Garcias, and Lowden's in Acoma. I am a New Mexico State University graduate. I have an Early Childhood Education with a minor in Social Services. I am setting my mind on receiving my bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.

I have been in the education profession for five years. Before I came to teach at the Haak'u Learning Center, I attended college for a summer course at the University of New Mexico. I worked at Laguna Head Start for three years. When I first started, I was a substitute teacher at the Early Childhood building. I have worked with babies and children through age 5. My favorite age group to work with is the babies because you get to see them sit up, crawl, walk, and talk.

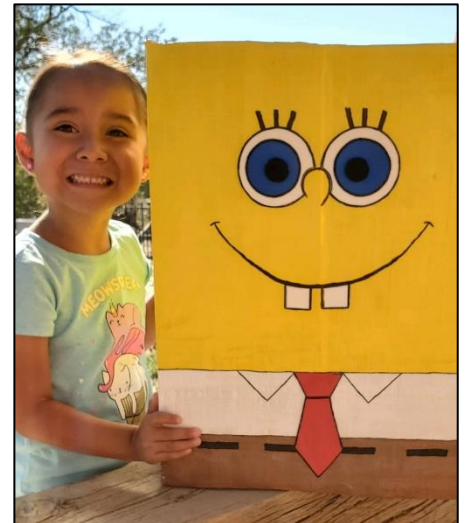
One of my goals is to have fun in my classroom. I choose this as my first goal, because learning should be fun. My second goal is to be open to learning new things. I personally have never used Zoom but this school year, that is what we are using for communication. Also, google duo is really new to me. I didn't know there was anything like this application. My third goal is being kind to others. I

will give each parent/ guardian my upmost respect because I know the learn at home model is something to get used to. My fourth goal is to challenge your child. I believe that all children possess great potential in whatever they do.

T. Creager – Meal Delivery Box



L. Vicente – Meal Delivery Box



L. Platero – Meal Delivery Box



HLC Meal Delivery

Haak'u Learning Center – No Contact Meal Delivery Procedure to a Bus Stop



Step 1: Drive up to the bus stop.



Step 2: Place the meals on top of the car. Families must stay in vehicle.



Step 3: All HLC staff must get in the vehicle.



Step 4: When HLC staff are in the vehicle, family can retrieve the meal.

Haak'u Learning Center – No Contact Meal Delivery Procedure to a Home



Step 1: Drive up to the home



Step 2: Place the meals outside the door



Step 3: All HLC staff must get in the vehicle



Step 4: When HLC staff are in the vehicle, honk the horn



Step 5: Family can retrieve the meal

information

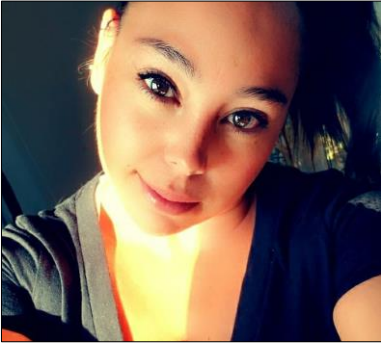
Pueblo of Acoma Behavioral Health Services

Group	Day/Time	Facilitator
Monday		
Financial Literacy (Closed)	8:30 am – 10:30 am (3 weeks)	Karen Tenorio, LMSW
Emotional Regulation (Open)	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (12 weeks)	Karen Tenorio, LMSW
DWI (Closed) \$40 Fee	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (6 weeks)	Troy Weeldreyer, LMSW, MPH
Tuesday		
Substance Use Education - Adult (Open)	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (12 weeks)	Brandon Pasquale, CPSW
Women's Wellness (Open)	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Shelby Bobelu, LMSW
Men's Process Group (Open)	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Stuart Jones, LSAA, LMHC
Wednesday		
Recovery Addictions Group (Open)	8:30 am – 9:30 am	Shelby Bobelu, LMSW
Self-Care and Relaxation Group (Open)	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Troy Weeldreyer, LMSW, MPH
Grief Support Group (Open)	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Troy Weeldreyer, LMSW, MPH
Acoma Cultural Enrichment (Open)	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (8 weeks)	Brandon Pasquale, CPSW
Wellbriety 12 Step Group (Open)	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Phillip Garcia, CCSS
Thursday		
Keres Language Class (Closed)	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Brandon Pasquale, CPSW
Motherhood Group (Open)	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Shelby Bobelu, LMSW
Acoma Traditional Wellness (Open)	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Brandon Pasquale, CPSW
Positive Indian Parenting (Closed)	5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (8 weeks)	Brandon Pasquale, <u>CPSW</u>
Friday		
Gambling Education Group (Open)	10:00 am – 11:00 am	Troy Weeldreyer , LMSW, MPH
Reoccurrence Prevention Group (Closed)	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Stuart Jones, LSAA, LMHC
Healing Arts (Open)	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Karen Tenorio, LMSW
NA Meeting (Open)	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Phillip Garcia, CCSS

Unless otherwise stated, individuals may not enter any ABHS group session without first completing orientation paperwork & completing an assessment.
 All groups are held over Zoom video and voice conferencing. Please call 505-552-6661 for Zoom meeting log-in information and instructions. Schedule is subject to change.
OPEN - members can join at any time
CLOSED - all members must begin & end at the same time

Updated on: 8/28/2020

Brandie Morin
Teacher Assistant



Hello, my name is Brandie Morin. I will be the teacher's assistant this year in Diyabunishu'ku class. I live in Cubero, and I graduated from Laguna-Acoma High School in 2004. I enjoy running. I run a minimum of 8 miles a week. I live on a small ranch on the Cubero land grant. I enjoy riding horses and doing cattle work. My family and I have three dogs, 3 horses, 10 cows, 15 chickens, 3 pigs, 1 sheep and 15 fish. Above all, I am a mom of three awesome kids. Joseph is 14 and goes to LAHS. Annalisa is 7 and Alexandria is 3. Spending time with my kids is my favorite thing to do. We love hiking and exploring new areas. My favorite colors are red and mint green and I love spicy food. I have been working in Early Childhood Education for 4 years and am currently enrolling for Physical Education classes and Early Childhood Development. Before working in Early Childhood Education, I was a sergeant at the CCA prison in Milan N.M for 7 years. I have been working at Haak'u Learning Center (HLC) since November of 2019. I am incredibly happy to be a part of the HLC family and excited to assist in your child's learning experience.



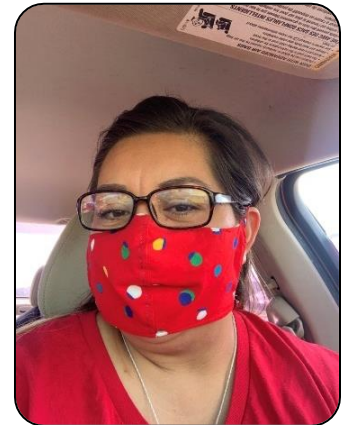
Jacquelyn Sanchez
Teacher

Guwaadzi. Duwa shinume'e Yaasii eese. Dyaami hanuu svda ee ts'itsi waasti svda. My name is Jacquelyn Sanchez, I am from the Pueblo of Acoma. I am one of the lead teachers in the Kadziima class. I have been with the Haak'u Learning Center for 6 years. Currently, I am working to achieve my Bachelor's Degree in Bilingual Elementary Education. In Kadziima class, we look forward to families gaining more knowledge in their child's education with the Learn at home model. I look forward to working with my co-teacher Ms. A Thompson in helping our students achieve new academic goals. By creating beneficial synergetic lesson plans for families, we can inspire our children to learn at home.

I would like to leave you with my favorite quote: "Life has a way of testing a person's will, either by having nothing happen at all or by having everything happen at once." - Paulo Coelho

The reason I love this quote is because as a mother when I'm away from work, my three children keep me busy with either school-work or physical activities. My oldest is 9

years old and my twins are 5 years old. In everyday life, we might think of struggles as life putting us down, however through every struggle or tough time all coming at us at once, we will get through this. Take a breath and know there is a light at the end and it will be a better day tomorrow.



Jolynn Sandoval
Teacher



Hello Families! My name is Jolynn Sandoval (Kuwe'ethdyuwits'a). I am very pleased to be working as a teacher at Haak'u Learning Center. I would like to begin by telling you a little about myself. I have worked as a preschool teacher for fourteen years beginning at Grants Head Start, then Laguna Preschool Head Start before coming to Haak'u Learning Center last November. I have five children; Zabrina who is a freshman at Santa Fe Indian School, Nicholas who is a seventh grader at Laguna Middle School, Genesis and Evelyn (my identical twins) who are in the first grade at Laguna Elementary School and Landon who will be in kindergarten at Laguna Elementary School. They keep me very busy with their energy and curiosity to learn about new things or go on adventures.

Teaching is a passion of mine. I am so excited to see what the year has in store for us. I am looking forward to a year of fun and many new learning adventures in teaching virtually. I am also hopeful that we will eventually get to work with the children in our classrooms. I am hopeful of being able to play in our play hubs that have been created in our classrooms and have more of a personal connection with our children and families. I believe this is the age where teachers

have the advantage to be able to work with children at a young age and help them develop a desire to become life-long learners and instill a passion for learning. I truly believe in the Chinese proverb in teaching our young learners, "Tell me and I forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I will understand."

When I am not working remotely from home or doing online schooling at Haak'u Learning Center, I enjoy going for long drives in the mountains, listening to music and going on nature walks with my children. I like the smell of the fresh air in the mountains, the sound of water flowing in the rivers and how the air whistles through the trees. I could spend my time laying on a big rock for a long time and watch the clouds move through the sky or the tall trees sway back and forth with the breeze. That is my form of enjoyment. It allows me to think and reflect on many things in life.

A few of my favorite things:

Restaurant: Olive Garden

Dessert: Strawberry cheesecake

Fast Food: Lotaburger

Drink: Sweet Tea

Sport to watch: Basketball, volleyball and softball

Store: Any furniture store

Color: Hot pink

Snack: Cherry Piccadilly or green chili jerky

Team: UNM Lobos



Cassandra Sanchez
Education Manager



Guwaadzi! K'uikatra eega dyaami hanu ee tsitsi washtsi. Hello! My name is Cassandra Sanchez. I am from Aak'u (Acoma Pueblo). I am big eagle clan and my little clan is water. I am the Education Manager at the Haak'u Learning Center. My job consists of providing coaching, mentoring, and supervising the teaching staff. I am also a case manager for Haak'u Classroom. As a case manager, I will work closely with the families and teachers from Haak'u Classroom.

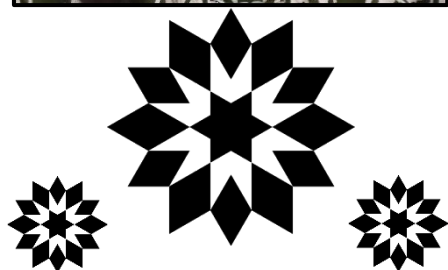
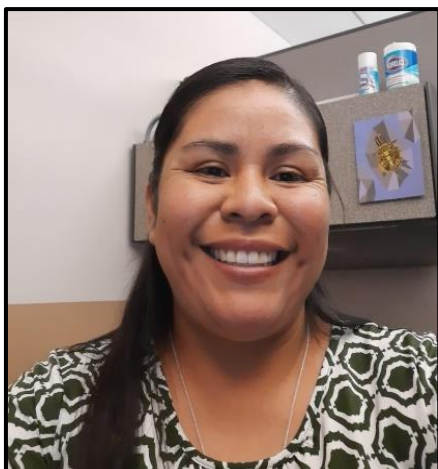
In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my two daughters Alana and JayCee. I also love spending time with my nieces and nephew. We have a pretty LOUD and busy household, but without them I find it being too quiet. I also love to bake, sew, cook, paint, draw, and everything else in between. I feel I never have "free time" because I am always busy doing something. Two of my passions are sewing and baking! I've received plenty of compliments so I must be doing something right!

One of my goals for the children, is to find a love for learning. I strongly believe that passion and love for learning are the foundations of an educational journey of a lifetime. I have confidence that our teachers at the Haak'u Learning Center have a gift to help children find that passion.

In turn, your children will continue to strive and love education as well. In the end, we know that some of the benefits that come from higher education are job opportunities, careers, etc. On that same note, one of my goals for the teaching staff is also to further their education. We currently have one teacher with a bachelor's degree, and seven teachers with Associates degrees. We would like for all our staff to reach goals of obtaining bachelor's degrees. Teachers with higher degrees will increase the quality of education provided to our very own Acoma children and surrounding communities.

Although things are not what we want them to be, I continue to try to look at the glass half full. In time, we will return to the center to enjoy special moments with your children and create unique memories along the way. As for right now, SAFETY is our top priority. I hope the services we provide continue to help in your child's education journey. Continue to stay safe!

Cassandra Sanchez
Education Manager



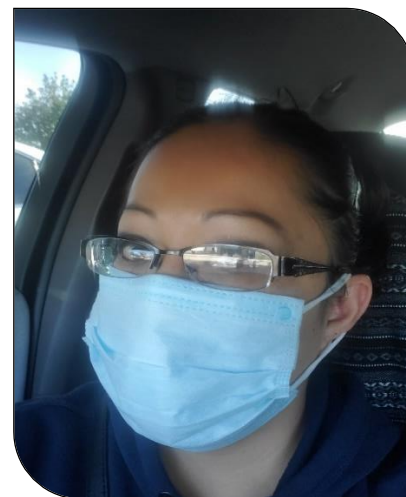
Kristen Pino
Child Care Provider



Guwadzi!! Welcome back students, teachers, and parents. I am Mrs. Pino and I will be the Child Care Provider in the young toddler class. I am Navajo and am from a little town called, Sanders, AZ. I have 4 children and I am married into the Laguna tribe. My husband is from Pagate, NM. I met him in Albuquerque, while working at Sandia Head Start where I was also a Child Care Provider for toddlers. I attended Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, also known as SIPI. I received my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development. I have a lot of favorite foods, but if I had to choose one, I think it would have to be oven bread toasted with butter, mmmm!

I am extremely excited to have our young toddlers back in the class. I am sure they cannot wait to start school again. Do not worry families, we will be wearing our masks, washing hands and physical distancing while at Childcare. We are taking this virus seriously while your child/ren are in our care. When we do go outside, we can take our masks off, and I will remind the kids to physical distance. I will redirect when needed. We will also wash our hands before and after meal and outdoor times. This is to ensure their safety during their time

here at HLC. I do hope you are all ready to come back to Childcare. I cannot wait to see how tall and big you all have gotten since March. I am also extremely excited to have you back and ready to learn again.



Virginia Baughman
Teacher

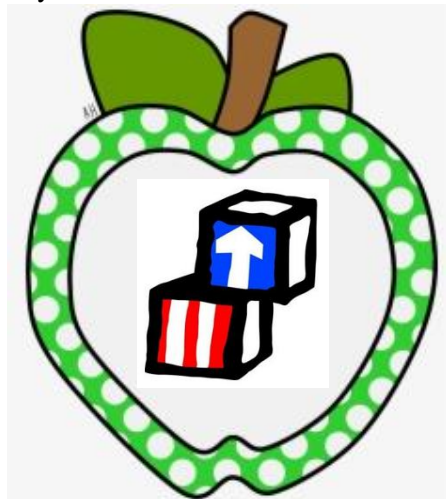
Guwaadzi Hauba! Duwa shinume'e Maityits'a eese. Usraatra hanu ee Shaask'a waashti suda. Hello HLC Families! My name is Virginia Baughman, my clans are Big Sun and Little Roadrunner. My parents are Patricia and Joseph Routzen, Sr. My own little family consists of my husband Ray, my two kiddos Ethan & Jozie, and our pets Chico (our dog) and Charm (our cat). I am a graduate of New Mexico State University and received a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Some of my favorite things to do are sewing &





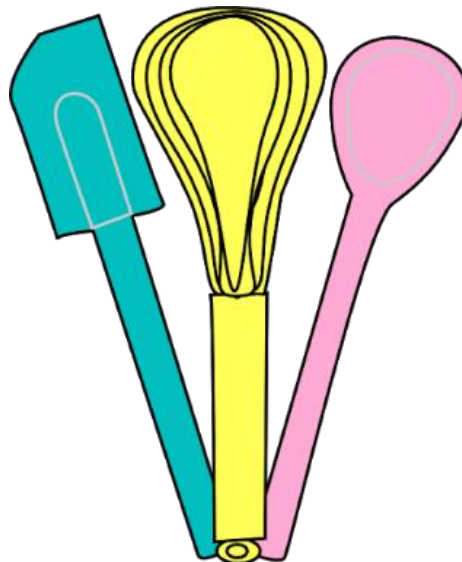
crafting, online shopping, and spending time with my family.

I have just celebrated my five-year anniversary as a teacher with the Turtle School! I am happy to have the continued opportunity to be working with our families in Acoma and the surrounding communities. This year I will be co-teaching in Kuweeru classroom with Ms. Jolynn Sandoval. Although school is starting out differently than years before, we are excited to be meeting with our children and families using more of today's technology. I want to encourage our families to do your best while engaging and working with your children. Children's first learning experiences start in the home, so remember that you have already taught your child so much since they were babies! Let's work together and stay optimistic for a wonderful school year ahead. Guu'meh~Hatr'saimeh...Lots of love to you all!



Cook's Corner

Kathleen Clemons, Cook



Greetings from the Haak'u Learning Center Kitchen.

I hope this newsletter article finds all our students and parents happy and in good health. As you are aware, we have been delivering breakfast and lunch while the students are learning from home. We follow (Child and Adult Care Food Program) CACFP recommendations and guidelines for planning healthy meals to the children. Kitchen staff have decided that instead of preparing sandwiches only, we would rather provide a healthy home cooked meal. The meals come cold and need to be reheated before served (Unless it is a cold meal- i.e. salad/sandwich). At times the meal may even come frozen. For example, items that are fully pre-cooked will remain frozen for safety purposes. We can guarantee that all meals are fully cooked and that you do not have to worry about the meals being undercooked or partially cooked. We do our very best to cook majority of the meals from scratch however, in order to provide a variety of options, we sometimes include meals such as chicken nuggets, steak fingers, fish sticks etc. We do our very best to remain happy, as well as, pray when we do prepare these meals.

We do hope you encourage the children to eat everything and if there is something, they avoid eating, please encourage your child to try a small sample. If you come across any issues, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please continue to be safe, wash your hands, wear your mask and have a fun school year.

Cook Kat



Marietta Juanico

Keres Teacher

Guwaadzi Hauba!

Kiwiatyuwits'a eee sa, Kuhaya hanu e'e Uraatra washti suda. My name is Marietta Juanico, my clans are Big Bear and Little Sun. I reside in the village of Daasrka. I am married to Mr. Melvin Juanico. We have three children, Joshua Juanico, KaiteAnn Juanico and MaryHelen Rock. Along with three beautiful grandchildren ages 13, 8, and 2. Within our home we also have two pets, a parrot named "Perry" and Yorkie dog named



"Dex", whom we have grown to love as family.

My role here at Haaku Learning Center is, Keres teacher and Childcare provider. I am going on my sixth year of providing the Keres language to our infants to preschool children. I enjoy learning and teaching the Keres language because this is who we are and born into as Acoma people. I teach and assist the classroom teachers with the Keres language when they are in school. When children are leaving for the day, I then provide childcare for children after their day at Head Start.

Apart from being a Keres instructor my hobbies are running and making traditional handmade pottery. Before the pandemic, I ran every now and then but now I run or walk daily. The outdoor environment helps me to get started for the day and allows me to pray for all good thing to come to our people and my family. Making pottery is something I hold dear to heart because I was taught this trade from my grandmother, Helen Patricio. I know it is lot of work but when you complete a pottery that was just a vision in your mind it is an accomplishment. I hope to pass my skills on to my granddaughters.

The goals I have for this school year is to help and assist families with the new norm. As we all move forward with the language, I will be making short video sessions for families and especially for children of the Haak'u Learning Center. The video sessions follow along with the Keres lessons that have been provided for families. Since our Keres language is not written we must identify ways of teaching the language until it is safe for our children to come back to school. If you need any assistance with pronunciation of words that are provided in lesson plans, please do not hesitate to call me and I will be here to assist. Good Luck and

remember, the staff are here for you all.

Dawa e'e Kiwaityuwits'a



Johnica Antonio
Teacher Assistant



Guwaadzi Haauba, Gaitsityaits'a e'se, Haabani Hanu washtii. Hello, my name is Johnica Antonio. I am from Acoma and Santo Domingo Pueblo. I am the Teacher Assistant for Haak'u class. I have been teaching here at the Haak'u Learning Center for 6 years. I am currently working on achieving my Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am enrolled in my last class at CNM. I am expecting to receive my diploma in December of this year. I have recently received an Associates of Applied

Science degree in Integrated Studies. I love going to school and learning new things.

I am a mother of three amazing girls. Izzie is a Sophomore at Grants High School. Our favorite thing to do is play volleyball. Irisa is a 4th grader at Haak'u Community Academy (HCA). We love being silly and our hobby is drawing and painting. Aliana is also at HCA, she is in the 2nd grade. We love singing and dancing together.

I like to believe that a new school year is like starting the New Year. Although 2020 has shown us its hardships, I have set three goals for myself, students and families this school year. 1. Be a positive light in your students' lives. 2. Build a strong relationship with students, teachers and family. 3. Do not overwhelm yourself, ask for help.

I look forward to a new and interesting school year. I am excited and eager to work with your child virtually and hopefully in the classroom in the future. I am an academic resource to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me for assistance. Here is to a great school year!

Be strong, Be happy, Be resilient.





Mienrad Antonio, Jr.
Teacher Assistant



Guwadzi Haak'u Learning Center Families,

My name is Mienrad Antonio Jr. My clans are big turkey and little water. I am the second eldest of five siblings, all of whom are sisters. There is Racheal (the eldest), me, Mary (the middle child), Kailyn (the second youngest), and Krystal (the baby of the family). I will respond to Mr. Antonio, Tsa' Sae, or Jai Antonio. I am of Laguna Pueblo and Acoma Pueblo descent. My parents' names are Mienrad Antonio Sr. and Pearline Antonio. My grandparents are Harry and Ruby Antonio from my father's side, both Laguna members. My grandparents from my mother's side are Robert and Lupe Chino Sr. My grandpa Robert is of Acoma descent and my grandma is from Laguna. I currently live and reside on the Laguna Pueblo. I have four god children, Darian who is 19, Nevi who is 17, Derek who is 10, and Deja who

is 7. I love to attend Comic Cons. The photo below was one of the last Comic Cons I attended with my god son Derek.

This school year will be my fourth year working as a teacher assistant. I have a certificate in Early Childhood Education from New Mexico State University. I really enjoy the work environment here at HLC. I like how helpful all my work colleagues are. I hope everyone is doing well, by wearing your face masks, staying healthy and washing your hands. Haak'u Learning Center's new school year has started differently and our tribal leaders have ensured the safest way for your/our children to return back to school. I know it may seem somewhat difficult at the moment, but we are here for all families. Don't fret

we are all here to help each other navigate through the new way of our current school instructions.

The goal I have envisioned for all at HLC is to be technologically savvy. I have knowledge of certain apps, websites, and how to troubleshoot simple problems when it comes to using technology. I would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who may need help with the use of technology. If I don't know the answer I will find it and get back to you immediately. Please don't be afraid to ask or reach out for help, we are all in this together.

Mr. Antonio
Diitsiyaama Classroom
Teacher Assistant

