

# Sunshine Cottage™

SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN

# Listen!



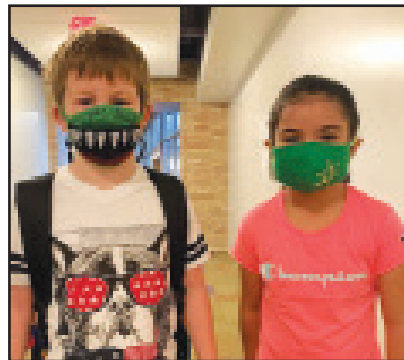
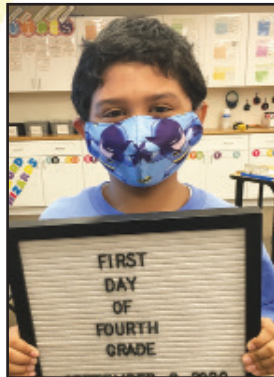
## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

As the school year began, many parents wondered what this school year would be like. We started virtually and slowly brought children back to on-campus learning. Despite the uncertainty faced by our world today, one thing was certain, Sunshine Cottage staff was going to do everything possible to not only keep students safe, but to have fun while we do it!

Every day, when our children walk through our doors, we compliment their masks and take pictures. It's quite a fashion show around here. We also introduced our Mask Up! challenge. We ask parents to take pictures of their child wearing their masks and submit them.

We want to celebrate the changes our students have made in order to stay safe.

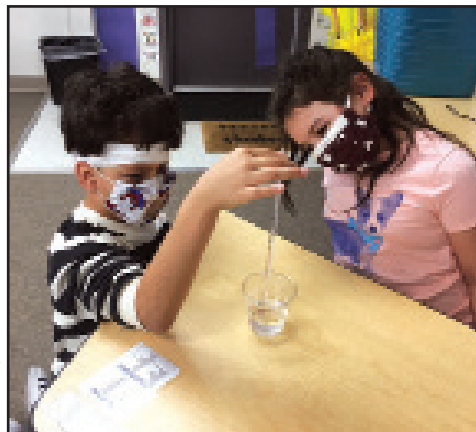
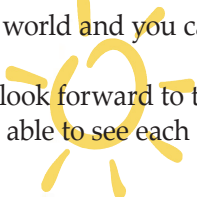
Our students wear their masks in the classroom, on the playground, and in the hallways. We talk to them about how to care and clean their masks. Our fantastic teachers find funny and creative masks to keep their students comfortable and engaged.



Thank you parents for sending your children to school with masks. We know it is one more thing to think about, but we could not do this successfully without YOUR help.

We strongly believe that we can teach our children to be safe through reward, encouragement and celebration. During a time when bad news seems to flood our world and you can't find the sunshine, be the Sunshine!

We look forward to the day when we are all together again on campus and able to see each other's smiles. But until that day comes, Mask Up!



### Alumni Scholarship Raffle Hopes to Raise \$3,000

This year's annual Alumni Scholarship raffle on December 10, 2020, will be a *virtual live event*.

All proceeds will support a one-year scholarship for a currently enrolled Sunshine Cottage student. To view prizes and purchase your tickets go to <https://sunshinecottage.ouraffle.org> The top prize is the coveted \$2,500 Americus Diamond Circle of Support diamond pendant!

We will not have physical tickets this year. When you purchase tickets, you will receive an email receipt identifying your raffle ticket numbers. Winners will be drawn live at 5:30 p.m. on December 10 and will be listed next to the prize won on the raffle website. All winners will be contacted by Sunshine Cottage following the raffle.

Please email [lwalter@sunshinecottage.org](mailto:lwalter@sunshinecottage.org) if you have any questions. **Good luck!**

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John H. and Dela White

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## Executive Director

Mark E. Eads

*Listen* is published quarterly by Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children, 603 E. Hildebrand Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78212-2693. Periodicals postage paid at San Antonio, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address change to Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children, 603 E. Hildebrand Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78212-2693. USPA - 019806

# Sunshine Cottage Continues to Shine during Challenging Times



On August 11, we opened the doors virtually to just under 200 children from Early Childhood to 5th grade. Another 110 children ages birth to three are enrolled in our Parent Infant Program. Sunshine Cottage is serving a record number of children this year. On September 8, we opened the doors to families who selected face-to-face instruction, and we are currently seeing almost 100 students daily. It is a true blessing to have students back on campus and to hear the joy of little ones learning.

The COVID-19 protocols we have in place allow for a safe and secure environment for staff and students. I want to thank parents and grandparents for honoring our request to protect everyone by not entering the building. Your patience each morning as we check temperatures and wash hands is appreciated. Team members have gone above and beyond what is requested without hesitation to serve our children. A special shout out to our friends, Circle Bar Foundation, for funding the installation of an advanced air filtration system as well as additional equipment to help keep our campus safe.

The Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language and Speech (CASLLS) developed by the late Dr. Beth Wilkes was recently used by audiologists halfway around the world in the Philippines. What an incredible legacy for our founder, Mrs. Dela White, as her desire was to create a school to help children who are deaf and hard of hearing learn to listen and talk. Sunshine Cottage's powerful impact is felt by students near and far.

Recently we were blessed to receive a donation from the estate of Mrs. Louise Simmons Branson. We are exhilarated to have friends like Mrs. Branson who continue to support us and make it possible to provide services and programs to those in need. Your gift makes it possible for our students to learn to listen and speak. Because of you, we are able to positively change the lives of children and their families.

It is my honor to be part of such a wonderful school. Thank you.

Mark E. Eads  
Executive Director



## *In Memoriam*



Over the past 70 years, Sunshine Cottage has had many special friends who gave their talents or financial support to our programs. We are sad to note the passing of one of our long-time dear friends, Mrs. Elsie Steg.

Her gentle nature and caring heart endeared her to two generations of Sunshine Cottage staff. Elsie came to know us, as many of our early friends did, through her friendship with our founder, Dela White. Like all Sunshine Cottage friends, Elsie cared for and was delighted by our children. Before the COVID pandemic changed our lives, Elsie was hosted by our children to celebrate a special birthday at Sunshine Cottage with a cupcake party. We will always remember Elsie's smile.

Perhaps Elsie's most lasting gift to us was because of her desire to provide enrichment for our staff in the form of training. This began our program to provide certification training in Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) for Sunshine Cottage educators.

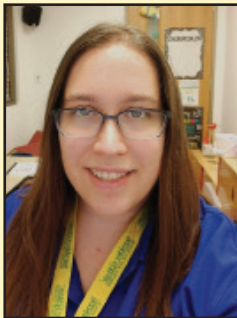
# The Sun Shines On...

## Sunshine Cottage Teacher Presents at an Alexander Graham Bell Symposium

### New Employees

Sunshine Cottage is happy to announce three new staff members: **Kristie Olivares**, **Ciara McDaniel** and **Mercedez Mendoza**. They join us as Associate Teachers. **Kristie** and **Ciara** will be Associate Teachers in preschool and **Mercedez** is an Associate Teacher in pre-kindergarten.

**Kristie** is from Charlotte, Texas, and received her undergraduate degree from Texas State University. She is currently attending UT Health San Antonio and majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies.



**Ciara** is from Austin and attended Trinity University where she majored in music education. She hopes to continue in

the education field as a music teacher to students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

**Mercedez** is a San Antonio native who attended Our Lady of the Lake University where she double majored in Communication Sciences and Disorders and Psychology.



*We welcome you to the Sunshine Cottage team!*



Recently, Sunshine Cottage Preschool Teacher Sarah Carpenter presented a session at the Alexander Graham Bell Global Listening and Spoken Language Symposium along with renowned deaf educator, Carol Flexer. The session was titled, "How to Engage Preschoolers Using Chapter Books."

The session was presented virtually to Listening & Spoken Language Specialists, Deaf Educators, Speech Pathologists, Audiologists and parents from around the globe. The purpose of the session was to demonstrate the importance of introducing and reading chapter books aloud to three-year-old children who are deaf or hard of hearing. By the end of the session, attendees were able to organize a list of chapter books that would be appropriate for preschoolers, explain the process of introducing chapter books, and describe how chapter books can be used to teach continuity and sequencing of a story over time.

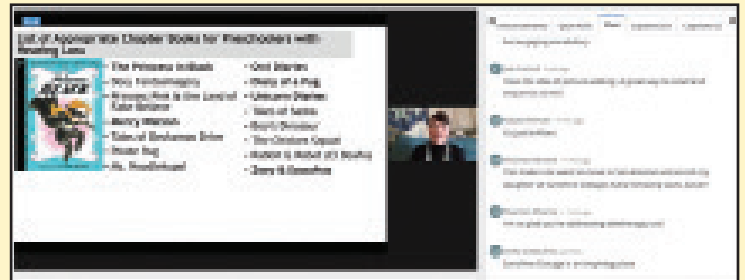
Reading aloud is an important developmental step because it raises grade-level competence in literacy, which is a desired outcome for all children.

Carpenter said, "It was an honor to not only present with Carol Flexer but also to have planning sessions with her each week leading up to the presentation. This was valuable time to discuss our current project while also being able to pick Carol's brain about topics ranging from deaf education to the current climate of our world." Carpenter hopes that the techniques she and others have learned over the last several months can help teachers continue to reach families of deaf or hard of hearing children across the country and even the world. There are many families in need of tele-therapy who are not able to access it. "I hope these families will benefit working together with specialists in the field to help their children and loved ones succeed."

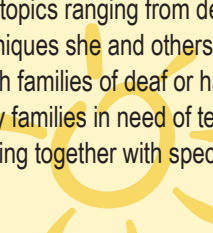
Carpenter is currently teaching her preschool class virtually. She loved working with families and their children when virtual learning was mandatory and continues to enjoy it now that it is an option. She is continuously reminded how hard Sunshine Cottage families work each day to promote listening and spoken language for their children. Being able to coach parents not only in weekly sessions but also daily morning message or during language activities, is truly inspiring. Children are with their parents so many more hours than they are at school. She appreciates that this is a time unlike any other where she can also really coach parents five days a week. "It's September and I have already coached a few families on the benefit of reading chapter books and that topic usually is not discussed until the spring."



*Shown clockwise: Sarah Carpenter, Carol Flexer and Jonie Alberg, AG Bell Moderator.*



*Screenshots of the presentation.*



# Helping Across the World

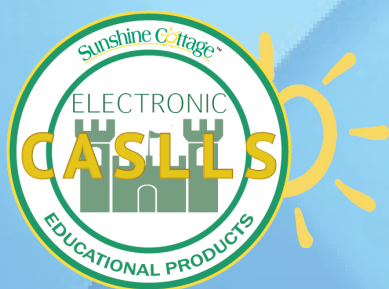
Our founder believed that if given the opportunity, children who are born deaf or hard of hearing could learn to listen and talk and live a full, self-reliant life. The Sunshine Cottage professionals constantly work to fulfill Mrs. White's dream in many areas, one of which is the development and publication of numerous educational resources, particularly the The Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language and Speech (CASLLS). CASLLS was first published in 1999 and gave professionals a developmental roadmap for learning listening and spoken language. A few years ago, an electronic version (eCASLLS) was created and is making our resources accessible to professionals around the world.



The Welcome Home Foundation Inc. is a nonprofit organization in the Philippines with a mission to help children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Within the Welcome Home Foundation, children in need can benefit from their Educational Resource Center and Literacy Program, both providing individualized instruction and speech and hearing services. Jill Smith, a speech-language pathologist from Australia, volunteered her time to work with the teachers at the educational resource center on how best to teach speech and language to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Many of the children had no prior schooling before the age of 5 and were lacking in proper audiological equipment. After much research, the CASLLS was believed to be the perfect tool to help them. Smith reached out to Sunshine Cottage for help, and we were happy to assist with the eCASLLS and the Speech That Works App, another tool developed by Sunshine Cottage professionals targeted to improve phoneme production.



As the Welcome Home Foundation acquires more technology for their students and teachers, Sunshine Cottage will continue to offer complimentary subscriptions to the eCASLLS and Speech That Works. By using these tools, teachers in the Philippines continue to monitor the progress of language and speech acquisition of the deaf and hard of hearing students in their programs. Smith contacted Sunshine Cottage again to express her gratitude on behalf of the Welcome Home Foundation and share some stories of success. Today, Mrs. White's vision has expanded beyond the halls of Sunshine Cottage and continues to shine all over the world.



**For more information on the CASLLS, eCASLLS, and Speech That Works App, visit our website or contact the Educational Resource Department at Sunshine Cottage.**

# Gifts, Grants, Honors & Memorials

April 1 – July 31, 2020

## Sunshine

Auditory Learning Foundation

## Sunburst

Roberta Wright Reeves Trust

## Sunbeam

Mr. & Mrs. Bartlett Cocke, Jr.  
Myra Stafford Pryor  
Charitable Trust

## Sun Ray

Alliance Data

## Sun Glow

Victor & Peggy Creighton  
Charitable Trust  
PTG Parent Teacher Group  
Worth & Associates

## Sun Dial

Mr. & Mrs. John Kauth  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Jaiden Rangel  
Robert Stevener  
Vulcan Materials Company  
Whole Foods Market  
Mr. & Ms. Pete Wilson, Jr.

## Sun Dance

Mr. & Mrs. Jason Bartels  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Ms. Helen K. Groves  
Mr. Jim T. McDonald  
OPTION Schools Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. Armistead Powell  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul B. Ritter, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian S. Santos  
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Schneider

## Sunny Day

Anonymous  
Col. (Ret.) & Mrs. Guy M.  
Huskerson, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Leven  
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Lupe  
Ms. Tracey Siebold  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Young

## Sunflower

AmazonSmile Foundation  
Anonymous  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Arias  
Ms. Kristi Butler  
Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Christian  
Carol Grammer  
Dr. & Mrs. William W. Hinchey  
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Mr. & Mrs. Orlando Januario, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Kirkwood  
Ms. Brenda Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert O'Neil  
Mr. Steven O'Shields

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pasquale, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Patton  
Mr. & Mrs. David Rodriguez  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven A. Waters

## Sunny Friends

Ms. Kristen L. Anderson  
Anonymous  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Balzen  
Mrs. Walter J. Buzzini III  
Mr. & Mrs. Ryan David  
Ms. Yvette M. Domenech  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael G. Elizondo  
Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Escobedo  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Franklin  
Ms. Marilyn Gilbert  
Ms. Gomez  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hernandez  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Hollimon  
A. Homan  
Ms. Jerilyn Keller  
Elaine Knighten  
Shang Lee  
Dr. Graham Hall & Dr. Deborah McNabb  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy E. McReynolds  
Ms. Connie Munn  
Mr. & Mrs. Keesey H. Nixon  
Mr. Joseph O'Brien  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith O'Gorman  
Mr. Christopher E. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stark  
Mr. Patrick H. Swearingen, Jr.  
Ms. Marilyn E. Thompson  
Sue Vasquez  
Lisa Vigil

## In Honor of:

**Paul W. Becker**  
*In honor of Paul's Birthday*  
Mrs. Emma J. Becker

## Briana Bustamante

Mr. & Mrs. Michael G. Elizondo

## Mary Carter

*In honor of her retirement*  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Patton

## Cavender Toyota

Alliance Data

## Sabrina Dannheim

Mr. Joseph O'Brien

## Ava K. Dimich

Sue Vasquez

## Isela Fennell

Mr. Joseph O'Brien

## Susan Guadarrama

*In honor of her retirement*

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Patton

## Amber M. Hawkins

Mr. Christopher E. Smith

## Linda Judson

*In honor of her birthday*

Mrs. Lita Anderlitch

## Meagan R. Keller

Mr. & Mrs. David Rodriguez

## Donna Kramer

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan David

## Gabriela Landa

Mr. & Mrs. Michael G. Elizondo

## Camila M. Lucio

Anonymous  
Ms. Yvette M. Domenech  
Ms. Maria delCarmen Gomez

## Estella Munoz

*In honor of her retirement*

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Patton

## Belinda W. Pustka

*In honor of her retirement*

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Patton

## Amanda S. Segovia

Mr. & Mrs. Michael G. Elizondo

## Sunshine Cottage Faculty & Staff

Mrs. Mary Bordelon  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Ms. Connie Munn  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Patton

## Sunshine Cottage Parent Infant Program Staff

Anonymous

## The 2020 Graduating Class of Sunshine Cottage

**Emma Berman**  
**Ava Dimich**  
**Leticia Huerta**  
**Joaquin Januario**  
**Aiden Mata**  
**Mateo Reyna**  
**Genesis Salazar**  
**Brayden Barajas**  
**Ella Shell**  
**Mariella Stevener**  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

## William E. Waters

Mr. & Mrs. Steven A. Waters

## Trish White

Mr. & Mrs. Michael G. Elizondo

## Tuleta C. White

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hernandez

## Dylan L. Young

Mr. & Mrs. Jason Young

## In Memory of:

### Kelly M. Alvarado

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

### Theresa M. Barnhart

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

### Dorothy M. Bates

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

### Brent Boller

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

### Erin Bowman

Mr. & Ms. Pete Wilson, Jr.

### Marrs M. Bowman

Mr. & Ms. Pete Wilson, Jr.

### Aubrey S. Carter

Mrs. Walter J. Buzzini III

### Constance Casseb

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

### Christopher S. Clark

Mr. & Mrs. Keith O'Gorman

### Mary Lynn Estes

Mr. & Mrs. Keesey H. Nixon

### Augustine P. Estrada

Mr. & Mrs. Keesey H. Nixon

### Jenny Finch

Mr. Kenneth P. Finch

### Lois C. Gates

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Franklin

### Thomas L. Hennig

Mr. Steven O'Shields

### Peggy Jaskinia

Ms. Marilyn E. Thompson

### Martin G. Leal

Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

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**John F. Loyd**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Hollimon

**Leo Rose**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman

**Eduardo (Eddie) Sanchez**  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

**Clayton Shelley**  
Ms. Marilyn E. Thompson

**Earl Siebold**  
Ms. Tracey Siebold

**Beverly R. Smith**  
Dr. & Mrs. William W. Hinchey  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman  
Mr. Patrick H. Swearingen, Jr.

**Reeves L. Smith**  
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Neuman

**Elsie G. Steg**  
Mrs. Sarah C. McLinden

**Emily D. Thomas**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis M. Kirkwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Armistead Powell

**Patricia Wurzbach**  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Balzen

**In Kind:**  
PPEfinders  
Phil and Lee Zinn  
Fannie Thomas



## Event Updates

**Champions fore Charity** is a fundraising program that provides Sunshine Cottage and other participating charities and schools the opportunity to generate contributions through the Valero Texas Open. Formerly known as Birdies for Charity, **Champions fore Charity** is a no-cost program that **gives 100% of the funds back to Sunshine Cottage**, plus fun incentives including a 7% match by Valero!



You can pay in advance or be billed after the tournament. Donations can be accepted from anywhere around the world and are tax deductible. The 2020-2021 fundraising campaign will launch in October 2020 and will close in April 2021 after the Valero Texas Open.

**So keep checking your inboxes and social media for the October launch date!**



## Kinder Fun at Pet Week

During pet week, Pre-K dives into the homes and habitats of pets and learns what it takes to keep our animal friends happy, safe and loved. They discover

similarities in the needs of pets and their own needs. The students compare animals that would or would not make good pets at home, as well as learn who a veterinarian is as a community helper. Pre-K not only gets some special pet visitors, but also gets to create a habitat for their own classroom pet! Just like Freddy, our new pet fish!



All donations impact the lives of our children. Thank you for your continued support of Sunshine Cottage. Due to COVID-19 and the STAY HOME WORK SAFE city order, any gifts received after July 31, 2020, will appear in our next newsletter.