

Sunshine Cottage™ *Listen*

SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN



WHO SAID FIESTA WAS CANCELED?

This year, we celebrated Fiesta differently than ever before. Everyone was royal, even staff. On Monday, April 19, students wore their uniquely-created crowns and their best Fiesta attire. They paraded on the campus and did the obligatory wave to the crowds of staff and fellow students along the royal path.

Sunshine Cottage's Fiesta traditions have deep roots beginning in 1952 when King Antonio XXX, David P. Steves, made the Texas Cavalier's first visit to campus. Since then, our campus has celebrated Fiesta every year with colorful streamers, pinatas, confetti and a royal court. We were not about to let that tradition slide this year. Fiesta is one of the most memorable and anticipated traditions at Sunshine Cottage, and when we say ¡Viva Fiesta!, we mean ¡Viva Fiesta!

Besides honoring our 182 Royal Kings and Queens of 2021, we want to celebrate last year's royal court, whose reign began right in the middle of the pandemic lockdown. Let's salute The Court of Festivals, 2020.



2020 Court of Festivals

King of the Court of Festivals

Jacob Alexander of the House of Alvarado

Queen of the Court of Festivals

Ella B. of the House of Shell

Prince of St. Patrick's Day

Brayden Marciano of the House of Barajas

Princess of Carnival

Genesis Edilia of the House of Salazar

Duke of Dia De Los Muertos

Tyden Jase of the House of Ellis

Duchess of Holi (Hindu Festival)

Mariella Grace of the House of Stevener

Duke of the Balloon Fiesta

Santino Miguel Angel of the House of Rodriguez

Duchess of the Taiwanise Lantern Festival

Emma Renee of the House of Berman

Page of Invaluable Service

Margarita Marianna of the House of Cleto

Page of Cheerful Consolation

Clara Marley of the House of Carpenter

Representing the explorer in all of us

Mateo Pedro of the House of Reyna

Aide of the Court of Festivals



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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

Message from the Executive Director



Here we are almost one year exactly after words like “social distancing”, “mask-up,” and “virtual learning” became part of our school’s terminology in our little part of heaven. We have accomplished so many wonderful things despite all of the challenges we had to face. Enrollment is at an all-time high and students continue to thrive. We adjusted as parents and staff members worked together to ensure our children did not lose momentum. I believe we came out of this past year with flying colors.

As you know Sunshine has amazing traditions and this year we celebrated those traditions in more creative ways. A virtual Christmas Sing-Along warmed our hearts this year. In February, our Snow Day was taken care of by Mother Nature in a much bigger and longer way, actually for a whole week. We still had tacos at Cowboy Breakfast and a week-long Fiesta with a Royal Parade for All.

Next August, we expect more than 200 children to be enrolled when the doors open for the first day of school. As an organization we are growing and serving more children as we are modeling the expertise in the field of deaf education. We are educating all children to the highest academic standards. Our in-house developed assessment instrument Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language and Speech (CASLLS) is being used throughout the largest districts in the state and expanding in most states throughout the U.S. We are proud of our work and extremely proud of our staff for all they do for our children at Sunshine Cottage and beyond.

I am quickly approaching my first-year anniversary at Sunshine Cottage, and I have been able to witness firsthand the incredible accomplishments of our staff and positive parent involvement. I understand why people come to Sunshine Cottage and don’t leave because this is a place where dreams come true. We use the word “future” around here a lot, and with parents’ support we see a bright future for their children. This was the same hope our Founder, Dela White, saw for her daughter, Tuleta. Every child should have the opportunity to live in a listening and spoken language world.

I am blessed to be part of the Sunshine Cottage Family and see our wonderful children daily. Thank you for believing, understanding, and supporting our mission.

Mark E. Eads
Executive Director



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the amazing Texas Cavaliers for the years of support. Your generosity and friendship has allowed us to continue serving children who are deaf or hard of hearing. ¡Viva Texas Cavaliers!



Correction: Winter 2020 Edition of the *Listen* Newsletter, front page article editorial error. Corrected statement: Mr. Aspen Monts remained at Sunshine Cottage until the second grade when he transitioned into his neighborhood public school, Woodlake Elementary in Judson Independent School District. *He did not attend St. George’s Episcopal School, as stated in the newsletter. We apologize for this error.*

The Sun Shines On...

Farewell & Welcome

This year, Sunshine Cottage said goodbye to long-time Social Worker **Angela Legarreta**.

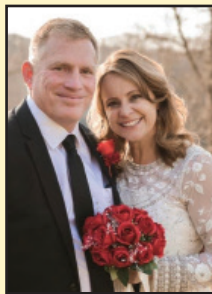
Angela worked at Sunshine Cottage for more than 16 years. Her role in supporting our families and their needs was vital in the success of each of our children. She was instrumental in creating a solid volunteer and tutoring program and creating a strong family network among Sunshine Cottage parents,

including our Spanish-speaking parents.

Each week she and a group of parents, grandparents and friends of Sunshine Cottage would gather and work on teacher projects needed for classroom instruction. However, these volunteer meetings were more than helping teachers with projects. Angela created a place where parents got to know each other, learn each other's stories, and build friendships. One of the most anticipated and memorable events was the parent's Christmas ornament exchange. Angela kept the traditions of Cowboy Breakfast and Snow Day alive and fun-filled. Students loved seeing her every day, and parents knew they could rely on her support and guidance. **She is greatly missed, and we wish her and her husband well.**

"For more than 16 years I had the pleasure of working with parents who sacrificed every day to bring their children to school despite distance and difficulty. They took the hard road to create a better life for their children, and for that they are an inspiration to us all."

Angela Legarreta



Pat Hughes and Angela Legarreta Hughes

We are happy to announce our new Social Worker, **Haydee**



Sierra-Santos. Haydee previously worked with the University Health System as a service coordinator supervisor for the Medicaid Star Kids Program. She earned her Master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix and a Master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California.

Haydee discovered her passion for social work when she joined Child Advocates San Antonio to fight against child abuse and neglect. She served as a court-appointed special advocate for almost four years. She is also a proud military veteran who served in the Army for eight years, including a tour in Iraq. She is a proud wife and mother of two children. **We welcome Haydee to the Sunshine Cottage family.**

Events



SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2021

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Miriam Elizondo at (210) 824-0579, ext. 211 or via email melizondo@sunshinecottage.org

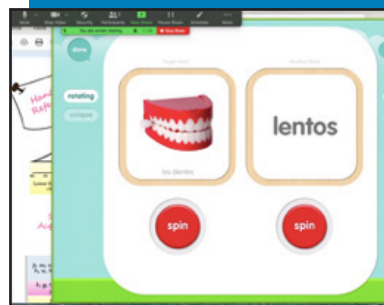
CHAMPIONS FORE CHARITY

This year we raised \$40,579.75 through Champions Fore Charity, the most we have ever raised! It is because of your support that this campaign was successful. Thank you for supporting the hearing journeys of so many children. **You are our hole-in-one.**



MAKING AN IMPACT

Alexander Graham Bell International is an organization based in Madrid, Spain that focuses primarily on informing and assisting professionals involved in the diagnosis, amplification, intervention and education of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. It also offers training through virtual workshops and conferences to professionals, parents



and individuals with hearing loss. In March, Brenda Zapata M.A., CCC-SLP, bilingual Speech Language Pathologist at Sunshine Cottage, presented information through a webinar. There were more than 64 Spanish speaking attendees from nine different countries (Spain, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, Germany, Costa Rica, Moldova and the United States) viewing the presentation. "General Considerations in the Assessment of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in the Context of Tele-therapy." explored the use of standardized assessments

that provide virtual materials, the use of tracking tools such as the Spanish Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language and Speech (CASLLS), Speech That Works, and other speech therapy related apps used in a variety of virtual platforms. Sunshine Cottage provides formal and informal speech and language evaluations in the context of tele-practice when necessary. Sunshine Cottage speech therapists provide annual evaluations for every enrolled student. The assessments show how speech and language has developed.

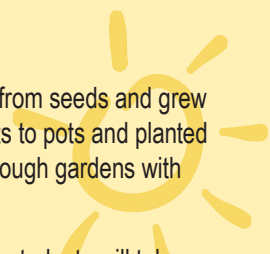
SNOW DAY (WEEK)

An unprecedented snowstorm moved across Texas in February of this year. This snowstorm took the whole city and most of Texas by surprise. Typically, during January, our Early Childhood students learn about the weather as part of our instructional learning curriculum. Children discover how cold it must get to make water freeze. They learn how to dress for the cold temperature and how to enjoy and play in the snow. Traditionally, the academic unit culminates with 9000 lbs. of snow (shaved ice) being dumped on the upper-level school grounds for children to enjoy by sledding and building snowmen. For the last ten years, between two to three inches of snow has been specially brought onto campus so students can experience snow up-close and personal. We didn't have to do that this year because Mother Nature brought us the real deal, leaving a winter wonderland for all of the city to enjoy.

We may not have had our traditional Snow Day at Sunshine Cottage this year, but students and families enrolled in our programs found ways to enjoy two days and five inches of snow that fell heavily from the sky throughout Bexar County. It was the most snow San Antonio has experienced at one time since 1986. We will definitely cherish these memories for a lifetime, but the next time we want to see that much snow we hope it comes by truck and not by Mother Nature.



Oh How Our Garden Grows



Third-grade students have been busy sowing seeds. They began by planting bean plants from seeds and grew them in the classroom under gardening lights. This month, students moved the bean plants to pots and planted a blooming flower next to them to encourage pollination. They also filled the elementary trough gardens with flowers to attract pollinators!

Later in the month, they will plant tomato and pepper plants in pots. At the end of the year, students will take home their bean and vegetable plants and start their own home garden.

Now that is food for thought.



Gifts, Grants, Honors & Memorials

December 31, 2020– March 31, 2021

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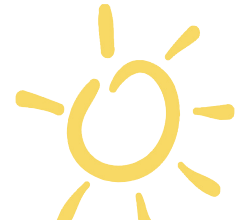
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In Kind:
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Mari Rabinowitz
Kathy L. Ruiz

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of names referred to in this publication. If you note any errors, please contact Elizabeth Smith at esmith@sunshinecottage.org



All donations impact the lives of our children.

Thank you for your continued support of Sunshine Cottage.

Due to COVID-19, any gifts received after March. 31, 2021, will appear in our next newsletter.

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www.sunshinecottage.org



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MORE FIESTA SNAPSHOTS, VIVA!



Sunshine Cottage Girl Scout Troop 1517



Girl Scouts are back at Sunshine Cottage. In 1982 retired teachers Ann Deatherage, Sarah McLinden and Caroline Jett led the first Sunshine Cottage troop, Troop 319 and recently staff members Emily Stark and Miriam Elizondo re-established a troop which includes Brownies and Juniors. Recently Troop 1517 earned their Hiking Badge, and they are excited to accomplish so much more this next school year.