



La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool

Preschool Team

2022-2023



Mrs. De La Loza

Preschool Director

Barbara is honored to serve as the Preschool Director of La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool. She possesses an Associate's Degree in Child Development from MiraCosta College, a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and a Master's Degree in Child Development and Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College in Boston, MA. Before becoming the La Jolla Pres Preschool Director in 2014, she obtained twenty-three years of experience as a preschool teacher, Early Childhood Education consultant, interim preschool director, and college professor teaching Child Development and Early Childhood Education at MiraCosta College. Throughout her twenty-three years of experience, her journey has led her through many years as a Sunday School volunteer, nine years as a Children's Program Coordinator for the YMCA, over ten years as an Early Childhood Education Instructional Specialist for MiraCosta College, a year as a full-time assistant director for Shandon United Methodist Church Preschool and Kindergarten in Columbia, SC, and a lifetime of loving and caring for children. She is passionate about working with children and feels blessed to be able to learn from them each day. She says, "I am committed to carrying on with our 65-year legacy and will work diligently to carry us into the future. Our preschool will serve as a beacon in the community which reflects our profound respect for children, unwavering faith in God, and dedication to developmentally appropriate practice." In her spare time, Barbara's most cherished time is spent with her husband and family!



Ms. Gibbs

Preschool Administrative Assistant

Julie Gibbs has been a member of La Jolla Presbyterian Church since 1980 and began working at the Preschool in 1997 as the Administrative Assistant. She previously served as the Early Childhood Coordinator for the church, managing the nursery through preschool age programs on Sundays. Julie has also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School Fun Week. Prior to joining LJPC Preschool, she taught preschool in Mississippi and then was a substitute teacher for all ages in the San Diego Unified School District. Julie graduated from the University of Mississippi with a B. A. in Sociology and Social Work and earned her Teaching Credential from San Diego State University. Her three grown sons all attended LJPC Preschool, as well as her two precious granddaughters. Her daughter-in-law followed in her footsteps and also works at the church. Julie loves to read, go on long walks and spend time with family and friends.



Mrs. Korsin

Preschool Administrative Assistant

Angie is grateful to begin her 5th year serving the children and families at La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool. Her passion for the field of Early Childhood Education began at an early age when she would spend summers and time after school helping out at her mother's Reggio inspired preschool center. After obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary/Special Education from New York University Angie taught preschool for 5 years while taking on many of the administrative duties within the small school in New York. Being an educator has also allowed Angie to travel while teaching English to young children in Kenya and Guatemala. Since moving to sunny San Diego she has had the opportunity to work in a variety of educational settings with children of all ages. Angie's natural enthusiasm for creating systems and organizing environments make her a strong addition to the admin team within LJPCP. Angie's family recently grew with the addition of her daughter, Juliette. Being a mom is her greatest joy.



Mrs. Duty

Resource Specialist

Nancy is very excited to be a part of the excellent staff here at La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool. She has been joyfully working in the field of early childhood education for over 32 years. Nancy and her daughters have taught children's church and Sunday school. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Cal State University East Bay with a specialty in Early Childhood Education. She has worked in a variety of children's programs teaching children from three to six years of age. Working with preschool children has been Nancy's life work and she learns something new with each child she is privileged to meet. Nancy is an avid Padres' fan and loves to attend games with her husband and her daughters Amber and Elisabeth.



Ms. Fowler

Fours/TK Lead Preschool Teacher, Room 4

Theresa feels blessed to return to La Jolla Pres Preschool and happily awaits the opportunity to teach in the Fours/TK classroom this new school year. She has spent over 45 years of her life working with young children and has loved every precious moment. Theresa graduated from Grossmont College with an AS Degree in Early Childhood Education and graduated from SDSU with a BS Degree in Child Development. She has volunteered as a Sunday School Teacher and presented 27 years of Summer Vacation Bible School. She is a native of San Diego and has a large loving extended family. Theresa is proud of her two daughters who have recently returned from Chicago. She is excited to share in the daily wonder, growth and development of each individual child, on this new exciting journey of Kindergarten preparation and as they share the love and joy of learning, in this wonderful Christ-centered learning environment.



Miss Villa

Fours/TK Assistant Preschool Teacher, Room 4

Allison has always had a passion for working with children. Previously, Allison worked as a Lead Teacher in a Christian Preschool where she planned theme-based curriculum and activities according to specific developmental stages. Allison also served as a Kindergarten Teacher's Aide with a local school district. She is excited to work with the precious four-year-olds in an environment where she feels inspired to continue to grow and flourish as an early childhood educator here at La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool. When asked about her favorite activity with children, music and movement stands out as her all-time fun favorite! Outside of work, Allison is continuing her education towards a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development. In addition, she enjoys hiking, reading, and spending time with her friends and family.



Ms. Shannon

Threes Lead Preschool Teacher, Room 1

Stephanie discovered her love for teaching and working with children early on when she was 12 years old while babysitting and volunteering in her church's nursery. Her mission is to impart a love for learning so children will become lifelong learners. She appreciates each child's uniqueness and strives to provide a loving Christian environment where children can develop at their own pace. Stephanie has over 25 years of experience working with children in various settings and cultures – the US, Argentina and Mexico. She was born in Argentina, grew up in Florida and moved to San Diego after high school. She worked for Pan American Airlines that gave her an opportunity to explore many countries and cultures. Stephanie has one son, Kyle, a graduate of UCSD who works in science and research. Stephanie enjoys spending her free time with family, friends and her dog Basil and keeping active with a fun game of volleyball on the beach. She has an associate degree in Early Childhood Development and a Bachelor of Science in Human Services as well as a teaching permit. She has a lifelong dedication to serving God, and being an active member in her church's community.



Mrs. Parr

Twos Lead Preschool Teacher, Room 2

Belane is truly excited to be part of the La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool family. She has been caring for children for the past 13 years. Belane is extremely passionate about what she does and considers it a blessing to be able to assist in the growth and development of children. Belane was raised in Orange County, before moving to Ethiopia for High School. After receiving her diploma, Belane returned to California to continue her higher education. She first attended the UCSB and completed her education online and received her B.A. in Child and Family Studies from American Public University.



Mrs. Miller

Twos Assistant Preschool Teacher, Room 2

Brittany is very excited to be a part of the La Jolla Presbyterian Preschool family this year and honored to be working with this amazing team. Brittany was born in California, and her father was in the Navy so she moved around a lot. She considers North Carolina home. Brittany's husband is an active duty diver in the Coast Guard and together they have two children. Brittany's oldest daughter will be in the 3rd grade and her youngest daughter will be in the 1st grade this fall. Brittany and her family moved to San Diego in 2019 from North Carolina and are experiencing all that San Diego has to offer. Brittany also has a dog named Luna and enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and friends. In her free time Brittany can be found reading a book with a good cup of coffee, listening to music and playing kickball.



Mrs. Frankel

Outdoor Classroom Teacher

Erin is very excited to be a member of La Jolla Presbyterian Church Preschool. She has enjoyed working with children from the ages of newborn to kindergarten for over 30 years. Erin finds that children learn best when they are in a loving, creative environment. She loves talking about the wonder of children and is very interested in new ideas and expanding her practice in the Outdoor Classroom. She is all about the whole child and how they learn best. She loves innovation and the creative process. She has lived in San Diego all of her life and is married with 2 daughters and 2 grandkids. Erin loves music and theater, reading, gardening, light construction and is interested in learning new creative ideas. Her New Year's resolution has been year after year: Make sure to do something fun each day!



Ms. Finnerty

Debbie enjoys working in a Christ centered environment, sharing a love of the Lord with children each day, and supporting little ones' love of learning through play. She is thrilled to return to La Jolla Presbyterian this year. Prior to joining the team at La Jolla Presbyterian, Debbie previously taught for over two decades as a lead teacher at College Lutheran Preschool in San Diego, where she also served as an in-class Mentor Teacher for the California Early Childhood Mentor Program (CECMP). In recent years, Debbie has continued her support of early childhood students as the CECMP's sole Virtual Mentor, and child development instructor for the community colleges, sharing her knowledge and joy of teaching young children.