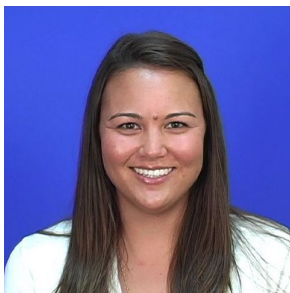


2016-2017 DMUSD Site Classified Employees of the Year

After School Programs – Leslie Palac, Assistant Manager



Leslie began her DMUSD journey as an After School Programs Worker in 2006. Through her amazing work ethic and forward thinking, Leslie has worked her way through the ranks and into her current leadership position as Assistant Manager for the After School Programs. Leslie handles the challenges of this job with poise and professionalism. She is there to support her team, taking on any role necessary to get the job done-worker, team leader, manager, coach, mentor-champion. Of Leslie's work with the school sites one principal writes, "Leslie is a hardworking, reliable, and proactive Assistant Manager of the ASP. Leslie is always willing to go above and beyond to support a student and ensure that their needs are being met. She provides consistent communication with the schools when appropriate and is always there when needed." Mrs. Palac is an amazing leader and you would be hard pressed to find a staff more deserving of this honor. We are excited to honor Leslie Palac as the ASP Classified Employee of the Year.

Ashley Falls School – Pauline LaBarge, Librarian/Instructional Aide



Congratulations to Mrs. Pauline LaBarge Ashley Falls Classified Employee of the Year!! Pauline goes above and beyond in so many ways that it is hard to capture it all. She is not only the Librarian, but she is also an Instructional Aide in our SDC classroom. This year, she also stepped up and took over our Safety Patrol. Pauline loves every aspect of each of her roles and is always asking what more she can do. Mrs. LaBarge is here past school hours on a daily basis putting in her best effort to ensure our students have an amazing school experience. We are very grateful for all that Pauline does for Ashley Falls!

Carmel Del Mar School – Tracy Berger, Health Technician



Congratulations to Tracy Berger, CDM's Classified Employee of the Year! Tracy Berger is diligent in all aspects of her job as a Health Technician. The student's health and safety are of the utmost importance to her and she maintains systems and procedures that reflect this passion. Tracy maintains positive relationships with our staff and community. She interacts with parents in a caring manner and they look to her for the care of their children. Tracy demonstrates leadership skills by analyzing our systems and structures while looking for ways to improve them. She proactively responds when she sees a need in our school. Tracy's high organization skills make her an asset in helping the school office run smoothly. She is an active member of our Social Committee and ensures the safety of our students as our Crossing Guard. And....she just returned from a week at 6th Grade Camp! We love Tracy's commitment to our entire Carmel Del Mar community. Thank you, Tracy, for all that you do at CDM!

Del Mar Heights School – Desiree Keeter, Special Education Aide



Desiree is an incredible asset not only to her classroom, but also to the entire Del Mar Heights School community and our district as a whole. Her wonderful demeanor and upbeat attitude support positive relationships with everyone on our campus and throughout the district. Desiree is professional, personable and is invaluable to the routine and atmosphere of the classroom and the school as a whole. Desiree is a leader, not only in the classroom to which she is assigned but also as in the instructional assistant community within the district. Congratulations Desiree!

Del Mar Hills Academy – Jose “Luis” Casas, Night Custodian



Jose is hard working, professional, and responsive to everyone's needs. On any given day he is confronted with completing a variety of tasks and does so in such an easygoing, systematic manner. Jose is committed to his work, takes a lot of pride in the look of our school campus, and holds high expectations for himself. Our classroom teachers frequently share how grateful they are to Jose for the cleanliness of their classrooms when they arrive to school each morning. There is no doubt that Jose supports our school's efforts to ensure students are working toward college and/or career readiness by making sure all of them have safe and clean environments in which to learn. Jose is a team player who is always willing to go above and beyond to help anyone in need. Jose's "can-do," "happy-go-lucky" attitude, and positive energy permeates throughout the Hills' campus every single afternoon/evening.

District Office – Stephanie Tobin, Behavior Specialist Assistant, Student Services



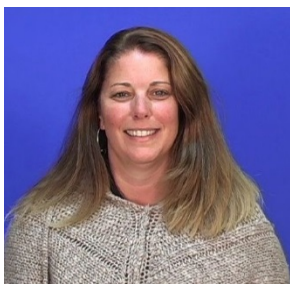
In her role as ABA/Behavior Specialist Assistant, Stephanie assists the Board Certified Behavior Analyst with a multitude of tasks in support of instructional programs for students with behavioral needs. Some of her duties include, setting up data collection systems, analyzing these data, and training team members to effectively implement behavioral intervention strategies. Stephanie is incredibly hardworking, is an excellent communicator, and provides exceptional care her clients.

Early Childhood Development Center – Christina Mendelsohn, Special Education Aide



Mrs. Mendelsohn is an exceptional educator, supporting our youngest students with special needs in all areas of development. She is collaborative and gets along easily with all colleagues. Christina goes above and beyond to meet the needs of students and brings a sense of warmth and love each day. She continues to attend professional growth trainings in order to serve her students best. Christina frequently assists in orchestrating team activities and celebrations. She cares about the program and will do anything to improve it. Mrs. Mendelsohn is committed to her job and truly cares about making an impact for students AND their families. She will go the extra mile to make a student feel special or share a special event about the day with the family. She takes the lead with new staff and finds ways to help them feel welcome, even if they are only with the program temporarily.

Ocean Air – Yvonne Rons, Health Aide Technician



Throughout her years at Ocean Air, Yvonne has been a positive and steadfast presence in our Health Office. She has cultivated relationships with students as well as parents with her warm and supportive demeanor. She truly understands the needs of every student she encounters and finds a way to put students' fears to rest with her witty humor which can turn any frown upside down. Yvonne adds that mom touch to the Health Office to help ensure every child receives what he or she needs. Her encouraging attitude and willingness to go above and beyond to support both our students and teachers, makes her an irreplaceable presence at our school. In addition to her excellent work performance, it's her care, sense of responsibility, and attention to detail that truly sets Yvonne apart. Congratulations Yvonne!

Sage Canyon – Amy Cooper, Special Education Aide



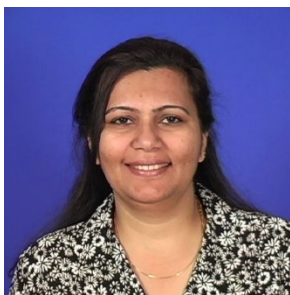
Amy is an exceptionally hard worker. She works with some of the highest needs students and works tirelessly to help each one progress. Known for her knowledge of solving behavior-related challenges, she is often consulted as a problem-solver and makes time to help others. Amy shows leadership in the special day class setting. She helps other aides identify strategies to bring out the best in their students benefiting all. Amy's positive attitude when working with students goes above and beyond. She is a role model for others and Sage Canyon students benefit from the way she empowers the students she works with.

Sycamore Ridge – Jennifer Good



Sycamore Ridge School is pleased to announce Jennifer Good as our classified employee of the year! Jennifer joined the Sycamore Ridge family in August 2013 as our Library Media specialist. Since her arrival, our school library has become a student-friendly environment with book organization and displays that encourage student independence. Mrs. Good does an amazing job working with individual students to help them find books that are “just right” and of high interest to the student. Jennifer is a proactive initiator that develops and creates learning experiences for students that peak their natural curiosity while requiring them to think critically and creatively. Jennifer's knowledge and skill with internet research greatly benefits students. While in the library, students frequently engage in thought-provoking inquiry-based lessons using their Chromebooks as a tool to support their learning. During the 15-16 school year, Jennifer worked closely with the San Diego County library system to implement a school-wide program resulting in all students obtaining public library cards, which, in turn, gave them access to high quality digital media and books at home and school. Jennifer is an outstanding colleague. She works collaboratively with classroom teachers in identifying and gathering resources to support the curriculum. Jennifer has a working knowledge of all students and meets their social and emotional needs whether on the playground or in the library. Students on campus also know her as “Mrs. Good” a kind, caring adult that helps them be safe during lunch and on the playground. Congratulations Jennifer!

Torrey Hills – Bina Anjaria, Special Education Aide



Mrs. Anjaria works tirelessly to support all students to ensure they will be successful. She attends additional training and classes to make sure she is always implementing current best practices. Mrs. Anjaria supports students both academically and socially to ensure they are thriving. She collaborates well with both the general education classroom teachers, and special education staff to do what is best for students. She attends students' concerts, awards assemblies, and activities outside of school. Mrs. Anjaria reaches out to families and wishes students a happy birthday even when they've moved on to middle school. She took on a very important role in assisting with the development of our newcomer welcome program. Her insight and expertise helped our committee move forward with plans to help new students and families adjust to life in the U.S. and at Torrey Hills. Mrs. Anjaria takes special care to communicate with all teachers and staff who support our students. She looks after the smallest details for our students. She implements new learning in the classroom and understands the importance of helping each child become an independent learner. Additionally, Mrs. Anjaria understands the importance of building a community of compassionate and empathetic students who will support each other. She takes pride in her work, works well with everyone, and gives her all each day. Mrs. Anjaria is part of an amazing team who make a significant difference for our children. She is warm and friendly to all of our families. She is a very important part of our Torrey Hills' community.