

August 2023



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Greetings Plaza Team,

I'm hoping this little note finds everyone well and staying cool with the summer heat. Just as there have been staffing changes at sites and with classrooms, the Board has also experienced some changes. In June, we had four members transition from the board to pursue other life-related endeavors and in July, we welcomed three new members onto the board. I'm excited to say, that several of our previous board members will still stay involved and share their expertise with us through community membership on our Board Committees. It is great to know that there are folks like them who remain committed to Plaza's mission and our success.

Our new board members are **Jennifer Blades**, a Child Development Administrator, **Ruby Duron**, a Community College Instructor (ECE), and **Manuel Carrasco**, a former Head Start Child, a longtime Head Start Manager and now a Public School Administrator. I'm hoping that some if not all of the Board will be able to attend the September All-Staff Day and have an opportunity to meet the great Plaza staff, because you are the ones who help make this a great place for children and their families to thrive.

As always, please contact me when needed. I'd love to hear from you. My email is boardchair@pdlr.org In closing, on behalf of the Board, Welcome Back and Here's to a Great Start to a Fantastic Year!

Be Well,

Debbie McBee, Board Chairperson

A MESSAGE FROM THE POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Welcome back!

We, the Policy Committee Executive Team, hope that everyone had much-needed time off, although for some shorter than others, productive, fun, and relaxing.

Our children are under the best care thanks to your expertise, knowledge, and professional skillset. Without you, achieving their educational goals or milestones would be a challenge. We appreciate all that you do.

Your time, your support, and dedication are what makes parents feel at ease when leaving our children under your tutelage!

Respectfully,

Maria Riley, Policy Committee Chairperson

Early Head Start Starting Strong

Kuddos to the Early Head Start and Home Based staff. They began the year at 100% full accepted on July 3, 2024.

As of July 5, 2023 we've welcomed back Apollo 01-03, Maizeland 05-14

Families participated in an orientation and will take part in their first Group Connection on August 4, 2023.

Head Start Here we go!

The Family Child Care Providers will start the month with services beginning August 7, 2023.

August 16, 2023, there will be smiles and there will be tears, but above all there will be a team of teachers ready to receive children as the doors open.

Cultivating relationships with families and children begins by providing:

- Acknowledgement
- Comfort
- Reassurance

School days are here for everyone!



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WHILE YOU WERE AWAY



DANIELLE WATSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM SERVICES

Plaza is in the process of partnering with Baby2Baby for the 2023-2024 school year. Baby2Baby is a mega diaper bank and nonprofit organization who provides families with diapers, wipes, clothing and all the necessities our children and families need and deserve. Baby2Baby will work with Plaza to ensure we can provide essentials for our families in their time of need.

Family Service Assistants, Home Base Visitors, and Teaching Staff will be able to advocate for our families by sharing data that informs us of the needs of our families. This will enable us to respond by requesting supplies from Baby2Baby.

We look forward to this partnership and the positive outcomes it will bring

MaintainX - Operations Made Easier

Omar Barragan - Business Operations Manager

The facilities team is happy to announce that we will be installing brand new, automatic soap dispensers, rubber floor mats, and rugs at every site.

We have also rolled out a new work order system called MaintainX! This is state-of-the-art user-friendly software will allow anyone to submit a work order for facilities or IT. This system has the ability for you to upload pictures and engage in messages with the Maintenance team. It is compatible with any cell phone, tablet, or computer. This will help us react quicker to any work orders submitted so that our classrooms get the attention they deserve.

Furthermore, through this new system we have begun to implement a totally new way of ordering supplies. In the near future supplies will be ordered via MaintainX and delivered to your site by someone from the Maintenance team. So be on the lookout for that!

Optimizing Technology ANDY CASAS, IT SPECIALIST

Technology is ever changing! As the new year begins, here are a few highlights of what the IT team has been working on diligently in efforts to ensure tools are readily available and services are up and running for a smooth flowing connectivity. Here are a few of the updates completed and in progress:

- Teachers will receive keyboards to use with iPad, Bluetooth mice, and stylus pens.
- Agency cell phones are in the process of being updated.
- AppRiver, a spam filter, will help stop any suspicious emails coming into our network and will soon be applied.
- All desktops and laptops are being updated.
- Microsoft Office licensing for all teachers which provides the ability to use Word, Excel, PowerPoint on the iPad will soon be available.
- Internet access points upgrades at the Maizeland site have been strategically added with additional access points (APs) throughout the site.
- Upgrades to other sites with additional internet APs are in progress.



AS WE START A NEW



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

MAGGIE SALAS, GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

On Wednesday, August 9, 2023, the Santa Fe Springs Town Center will serve as the hosting venue as LACOE recognizes parents who have participated and successfully completed the required coursework and on-site hours to receive their Associate Teacher Permit through the Career Development Initiative (CDI) Pathways program. This year the Assistant Teacher Pathway Recognition Ceremony includes five of Plaza's parents. Maria Riley, Policy Committee Chairperson, also took part in the Pathways program and was nominated to be the speaker at this celebratory event.

Congratulations to all!

A very special thank you to the staff at Lakeview, Lincoln, and Trinity for their guidance and support.

We invite our amazing team of teachers to share your expertise and carry on with the support to this year's group of participants. For more information on how you can be a mentor, contact Gloria Mejia or Ruben Simental.

WELCOME TO PLAZA

Michelle Arevalo, Family Services Assistant, has been part of the Plaza family as of June 2023.

Job Openings

Applications are currently being accepted for:

- Accountant III
- Family Services Assistant
- Substitute Early Head Start (EHS) Teacher
- Substitute Head Start (HS) Teacher
- Early Head Start Teacher Aide

For details, visit the website at: www.plazadelarazacds.org

Happy Birthday!

Mina Rodriguez - 2
John Gonzalez - 4
Esther Gomez - 9
Angela Mesa - 9
Filiberto Rosales - 11
Patricia Flores-Montero - 14
Karla Cruz - 22
Catherine Gaeta - 23
Ann Marie Cornejo - 28

