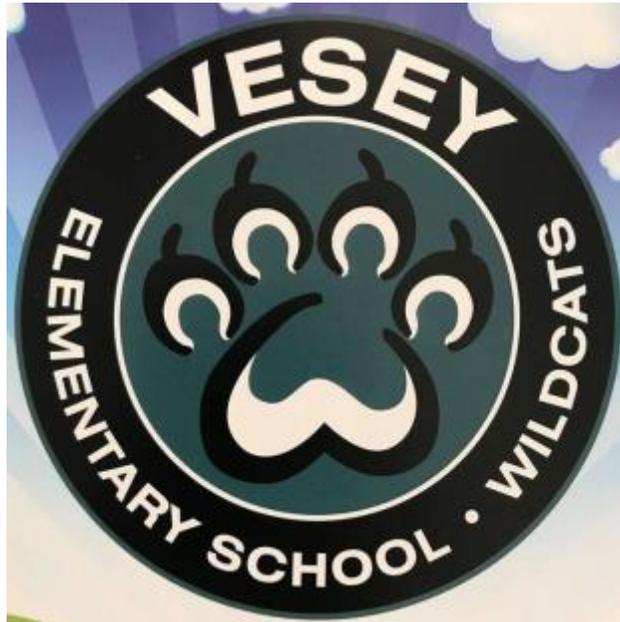


# Vesey Elementary News

August 2020



## In this issue

### Welcome Back Everyone!

In this first edition of school year 2020-2021, we have included the following information for you that we hope you will find useful.

- **Principal's Welcome**
- **Introduction to new staff**
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## Principal's Corner

Welcome Vesey Families to Our 2020-2021 SY!

I hope this time finds you and your families safe and well. I know this past spring and summer have been difficult and filled with uncertainty and anxiousness. The time spent away from each other and from our students has been difficult and lonely. We are waiting for the August 7th CDC report to see if TUSD will begin in person learning spaces or if we will push that date back until a safe return can be facilitated. We know that we are starting virtually online on August 10, 2020. Our Professional Development trainings start on August 3, 2020 and we will host our Vesey Professional Development training on Zoom on the 6th and the 7th. In addition to our Zoom trainings scheduled for the 6th and the 7th we will have an opportunity for you to come to the site to prepare your rooms in the afternoons on those dates. Covid-19 has been an immense imposition on all of our lives but I wanted to congratulate all of you on how well you have served our students here at Vesey. I took immense pride in the fact that our teachers and support personnel went above and beyond to teach and support our students in a virtual setting and on site to our families. We really set ourselves apart with our actions and how we took care of our own when the crisis arose and we shined in every aspect as we prepared for coming back this year. I am proud to be your Principal.

Please know that each and every one of you is valued and our main goals this year center on our ability to keep every one safe and to deliver stellar education to our students.

As we enter this new school year, I want to embark on our new learning environment as we are all entering a “new normal” as we experience “Pandemic School!” Everything that we have learned and been taught to reflect effective teaching will be challenged as we face an industrial type learning environment for the forthcoming future until we can return to a post Covid-19 learning environment. I want to encourage you to remain positive and to really lean on your flexibility and passion for anchors that will see us through this unprecedented time. Please continue to engage in conversations around a “growth mindset” both for our students and for ourselves.

Jeffrey Uhrig

Vesey Very Proud Principal

## Vesey's Newest Staff



### **COUNSELOR**

Hello Vesey families! My name is Allie Kerr and I am Vesey's new counselor this year. I am very excited to work alongside Mrs. Lofgreen to help you and your students. Before I talk about my role here at Vesey, it may be helpful for you all to know a little bit about me. I grew up in Waukesha, Wisconsin (a town close to Milwaukee) and got my bachelor's degree in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015. I went on and obtained my master's degree in School Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, finishing my program last May after completing a year-long internship process. That makes this my first official year as a school counselor! I am very passionate about equity and justice, and these are some of my top priorities when working with your children. It is my belief that every child should learn essential social and emotional skills in school and emerge from the education system ready to lead and succeed! I enjoy baking, reading, and taking my pup Mo outside for long walks (though we've had to hold off for a while with how hot it is here)!

I know that many of you and your children have faced challenging situations since our schools have closed last year and that things will likely continue to be difficult until our community becomes safer for all of us. These situations can lead to our students experiencing stress and anxiety. With this in mind, I want you all to know that I am here for you and your children. I will be conducting regular classroom lessons to help your kids learn resiliency, coping strategies, positive communication skills, problem-solving skills, and empathy. These are skills that will help them not only to get through this challenging time, but will serve them as they grow into successful adults. I will also be offering small group sessions for children who are experiencing similar concerns. Research has shown that group work like this can be

very effective at helping children understand that they are not alone in the difficulties they face and that there are ways to cope with and navigate difficult feelings and situations. In addition to classroom lessons and small groups, I will also be working with some students one-on-one to help them process challenging situations and emotions. Working in a digital space will be a challenge, but we are adaptable and will be able to find new ways to engage in meaningful work with your kiddos.

If you think your child would be a good candidate for group work or one-on-one work, or even if you would simply like to touch base with me, please do not hesitate to reach out! I am here for you and for your kids.

You can reach me at

[Alexandra.kerr@tusd1.org](mailto:Alexandra.kerr@tusd1.org).

You can also access my Virtual Counseling Office at <https://tinyurl.com/y5jz6ljo>

### **SOCIAL WORKER**

Hello Vesey parents/guardians and students! My name is Rachel Lopez, and I am your new school social worker. I have worked with youth and families for over 15 years and love the work I do. Before coming to Vesey, I worked at Valencia Middle School for two years. As a school social worker, I am available to help with finding needed community resources, with providing support to students who may be showing behaviors of concern, with teaching social, parenting, and conflict resolution skills and with helping to support with crisis situations.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to speaking with you and your student!

You can reach me at [rachel.lopez@tusd1.org](mailto:rachel.lopez@tusd1.org) or at 908-4691.

Please visit my virtual social work office at <https://tinyurl.com/y4op8tou> for information about community resources.

### **HEALTH ASSISTANT**

Hello, my name is Luz Clara and I am the new Health Assistant at Vesey Elementary School. I moved from California to Tucson in 2005. I started working for the district that same year at Hohokam Middle School for seven years. After that school was closed, I went to work at Lawrence for another seven years until now. I was given the opportunity to work here and I took it. I feel so happy being at Vesey as this was my daughter's first school. I feel as if I am coming back home. I am so excited to be working with all of you. I am more than willing to help with what I can.

### **TEACHER**

Hello,

I have been in the United States Air Force for over 22 years, both Active Duty and now Reserve; currently holding the rank of E-9 and manage Paralegals for the largest Numbered Air Force in the Air Force Reserve. I am a proud mother of 3 amazing daughters and married to an outstanding man. Becoming a teacher has been one of my childhood dreams; this is my very first year as an "official" teacher and have enjoyed every second of it.

I can't wait to also learn from my students as we embark in this year's virtual learning environment.

Ms. Gavino 4th Grade

**TEACHER**

Hi Vesey Wildcats!

My name is Mrs. Clark and I am so excited to be your new Second Grade ELD Blend teacher! I graduated from the University of Arizona and will forever be a Wildcat at heart. In my spare time I enjoy riding my horse and spending time with my family.

I look forward to being a part of the Vesey family.

BEAR DOWN!-Mrs. Clark

**TEACHER**

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Ramirez and I am so excited to join Vesey!

I am looking forward to working with your children and I believe that a positive mindset will get us through. I am here to help and support the students in anyway possible. I am excited to get to know you all and learn together.

Ms. Ramirez 5th Grade

## Counselor's Corner



Welcome back Vesey Community. It is so wonderful to be back seeing your faces and hearing your comments.

I love my Vesey family. I am so excited to welcome new members in our counseling department. Ms. Allie and Mrs. Lopez are here to support and work with you this year.

I have a new virtual classroom [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YOMHUqkYp0FHilAbny-sNpWHM\\_UM7optnWHAZJ-gCqk/present?slide=id.p](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YOMHUqkYp0FHilAbny-sNpWHM_UM7optnWHAZJ-gCqk/present?slide=id.p).

My email is [sheila.lofgreen@tUSD1.org](mailto:sheila.lofgreen@tUSD1.org) and the link to the counselor corner is <http://www.tUSD1.org/vesey/Counselors-Corner> where you will find links to Ms. Allie and Mrs. Lopez as well.

I wish you the happiest of days ahead and invite you to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Thank You!

Sheila Lofgreen

Vesey Elementary Counselor

## Student Support



### **Mrs. Troia-Vesey's MTSS Facilitator**

Hello families! My name is Kristen Troia and I am in my 2nd year of being the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) facilitator here at Vesey. You may recognize my name- I've also been a 3-5 grade teacher at Vesey for a number of years. My job is to support teachers with their students that are struggling academically and or behaviorally. I visit classrooms (now on Zoom) and work with students to determine their strengths and weaknesses in reading and math and work with teachers to determine appropriate interventions for the student. I will also work with some MTSS students in targeted groups where we focus on specific reading or math skills.

I'm excited to be working in this same position for a 2nd year and am aware of the challenges we are all facing with having to do remote learning.

Please call (908-4600) or email ([kristen.troia@tusd1.org](mailto:kristen.troia@tusd1.org)) if you have any questions or concerns- I'm even sometimes able to help with technology... (sometimes!)

## Vesey Family Engagement



## Family Resource Centers

### Who to Call

We offer so many services here at Tucson Unified, that sometimes, you might not know who to call! You can always call the Wakefield Family Center at (520) 232-7058, and we'll be happy to help!

The following list might also be helpful to you.

- Before and after school care Start by checking with your school to see what programs they offer. We provide a list of [before/afterschool programs](#) on our website. You can also call Tucson Unified's Community Schools programs at 731-5205 to find a program near you.
- Clothes, shoes, and uniforms for my child. The [Tucson Unified Clothing Bank](#) provides clothing and some school supplies. Call (520) 232-7058 to make an appointment. The [Wakefield Family Center](#) also offers some clothing and school supplies.
- Enrolling my child. If you wish to enroll your child in your neighborhood school, simply drop by the school with the required paperwork. Information about what to bring with you is available on our [enrollment page](#). To enroll your child through the Magnet program or open enrollment, stop by School Community Services at 1010 E. Tenth St. Call 225-6400 or email [scs@tusd1.org](mailto:scs@tusd1.org) for more information.
- Exceptional Education. To find out about services for your special needs child, start by talking to your school. Then, if you have more questions, you can call Exceptional Education at 225-6610.

## Library News



Hello Vesey families!

My name is Mr. Munoz and I'm the library assistant at Vesey. The best part of my day is getting to read aloud to our Vesey students and fortunately I can do that with each class this quarter! See you on Zoom!

If your student has any Vesey library books at home, I do need those back! If I don't get those back, a fine gets assigned to your child's account and no further checkouts will be allowed once we are back to campus.

Please bring any Vesey library books to the school and drop them off at the front office whenever you get the chance, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

Thank you!

Mr. Munoz

## Community Resources



**Parenting Support:**

<http://www.tusd1.org/Portals/TUSD1/District/docs/Announcements/toptenforparents.pdf>

**Rent & Utility Assistance:** <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/rent-help>

**Community Food Bank:** <https://www.communityfoodbank.org/>

**Behavioral/Mental Health:** <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=51815>

**Community Wide Resources:**

<http://www.tusd1.org/Portals/TUSD1/District/docs/Counseling/CommunityResources.pdf>