

Gilbert Barraza,
Principal

Rebecca Polidano
TOSA~Student
Achievement
Teacher

Dina De La O,
UPK Leadership
Team, NPDL & C-
STEM

Joy Palacio
1st G Leadership
Team

Elizabeth Girvan,
NPDL, C-STEM
2nd G Leadership
Team

Shannon White
3rd G Leadership
Team, NPDL, C-
STEM

Joanna Palatto,
4th G Leadership
Team

Lana Willis,
5th G Leadership
Team, NPDL &
SSC Chair

Tiffany Kugelman,
EL K-5 Facilitator
& Leadership Team

Kim Baez,
Leadership Team &
6th G EL Facilitator

Monica McEvoy,
School Office
Manager

Dennis Hisamoto
School Psychologist

Genesis Stoll,
School Counselor

Sara Cendejas,
Speech Therapist

Analouse Gomez,
Cafeteria Manager

Elizabeth Girvan,
2023 Teacher of the
Year NPDL & C-
STEM



Hacienda La Punete Unified School District

Sparks Elementary School

*A Learning Community Dedicated to
Student Achievement*

March 19, 2024

Congratulations to Ms. Makenzie Di Pietro, our 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year!



She is a proud graduate of Carnelian Elementary, Alta Loma Jr. High, and Alta Loma High School in Alta Loma, CA. Ms. Di Pietro has an impressive educational background. She holds both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of La Verne, along with a multiple subject teaching credential and a Master's in Education.

Most recently, Ms. Di Pietro shared her enthusiasm for teaching: "I have a new favorite moment in teaching every day. I'm learning as the kids learn. Every day we do something better than the day before. It's so fun to watch the littlest learners (TK) grow tremendous amounts each day and I feel lucky to have landed at Sparks ES which has a positive culture that makes working fun. I have learned so much working with my UPK Team.

Her colleagues at Sparks Elementary hold her in high regard, and the Spark's community of students, teachers, and parents absolutely love her! As she continues to inspire young minds, let's remember the wise words of Fred Rogers: "There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind."

Eagles For Life...Go Sparks Eagles!

Principal G. Barraza