



TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

# Falcon Community Connection

**STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!**



Dear Fiesta Gardens Families,

Welcome to the new school year!

As a reminder, class assignments will be posted today at 2:00pm today.

Kinder and TK Back to School night is tonight at 6:00pm in the Kinder and TK classrooms.

Tomorrow, August 14, is the first day of school! It will be a **minimum day and free dress day** (dismissal times may be found below under important reminders).

Bermuda street will no longer be used for pick up and drop off. All pick up and drop off will take place in the front entrance.

Remember to stay after drop off for our first Cafecito of the year in the MPR. Kinder parents, we will also have the Kinder flower project waiting for you all.

Lastly, students will no longer need to bring their Chromebooks to school as they will become for home use only. During the school day a classroom Chromebook will be provided.

I wish you a wonderful 2024-25 school year!

Director Robles



# *Big Announcement*



**Announcing our new 2024/25 FGIS Staff**



**Amy Wilson**

**Kindergarten**

Hello!

My name is Amy Wilson and this will be my sixteenth year teaching in the San Mateo Foster City School District. I am so excited to be returning to Fiesta Gardens to teach Kindergarten where I started my teaching career in 2007. For the last five years I was teaching newcomer and ELD students at Bayside Middle School. My passion is teaching foundational literacy skills and supporting bilingual students. I look forward to meeting new students and families and also seeing lots of familiar faces. It is all of the students, families and staff that make Fiesta Gardens such a special place. Thank you for welcoming me back to this extraordinary community.

Maestra Amy Wilson



**Maria Skinner**

**1st grade**

Quick Facts:

- Born in Los Angeles, CA
- Raised in a bilingual household: My mother was from El Salvador, my father was born in Arizona , but his parents were both Mexican
- BA in French, Occidental College in Los Angeles; earned my Teaching Credential at Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont, CA
- Taught English, French, Spanish, at Poly Languages Institute in Pasadena for 10 years; Worked in K-12 Dual Language Immersion at Cabrillo Unified in Half Moon Bay for 17 yrs, & 2 yrs at Burlingame Intermediate teaching Dual Language Humanities.
- I have lived/ worked/ studied in Mexico, France, Italy, Germany and speak 5 languages
- I have 2 grown children, Anya (29) and Noah (26) both of whom went through the Dual Language Program at Cabrillo Unified

I am so excited to be working at Fiesta Gardens this year! I look forward to working with some of my former colleagues from Cabrillo Unified, to

working in an all Immersion school, and to getting to know my students and their families in the community. I want to be an active member at Fiesta Gardens, as it defines its role as a "community school"!



**Anita Sol**

**3rd grade**

I am excited to be a part of the Fiesta family. I previously worked at Fiesta Gardens for 7 years. I have one child entering 2nd grade at Fiesta. I have 18 years of teaching experience and I am happy to be starting my 19th year with our children at Fiesta Gardens.

Bilingualism is a special gift you can provide your student. It will prepare them for their future endeavors. Knowing a second language will help foster a deeper understanding about the world. English is my second language. Being in a bilingual classroom helped me maintain my native language.

I have a B.A. in Liberal Studies and a BCLAD from CSU, Sacramento. I have taught first grade, second grade, and third grade. In 2017, I completed my National Board Certification for Teaching in English as a New Language and in 2022 I recertified. As a Dual Language Immersion teacher, it is my goal to create a safe and joyful learning environment where students feel safe with a sense of pride and ownership to learn and grow in both languages. It is my hope to continue to support children academically, socially and emotionally at Fiesta Gardens. As both a parent of a bilingual student and a teacher I am thrilled to return to work with our Fiesta Gardens community.



**Tania Renteria**

**4th grade**

Hello! My name is Tania Renteria. This is my first year teaching at Fiesta Gardens and I am very grateful and excited to join this wonderful school community as a 4th grade teacher.

I went to San Francisco State to receive my Bachelors in Child Development and continued my multiple subject credential program there as well. Since 2018, I have previously worked in the South San Francisco Unified School district working with a range of students from Prek to 5th grade. During that experience I have had the opportunity to work with multilingual students and developed a deeper understanding of the strengths of speaking more than one language.

As a child my first language was Spanish. At the time I didn't realize how valuable it was to speak more than one language. As I continued my education preparing for a teaching career I realized the importance of multilingualism. That is when I decided to become a bilingual teacher and use my knowledge of both languages to support my students in continuing their bilingualism and guiding them in being equally strong

in both English and Spanish. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and making it a great year!



**Rosa Alcalá**

**RSP Teacher**

Hello,

I am Rosa Alcalá, and I am very excited to join the FGIS team as the RSP teacher. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all the amazing students, parents, and staff.

I speak both Spanish and English. I believe bilingualism is important because it allows us to understand, communicate, and interact with more individuals. As well as, creating more opportunities to get to learn more about a person's background and future goals.



**Geovanni Marroquín**

**PE Teacher**

Hello my name is Coach Geovanni. I am excited to be joining Fiesta Gardens for the 24/25 school year. I am looking forward to getting to know the Fiesta Gardens community. There are a lot of interesting events throughout the year like Carnival, Fiesta Hispana and the jogathon that I am looking forward to. I look forward to getting to know the students and getting them excited about movement in a variety of ways.

The dual immersion program at Fiesta Gardens is particularly special. Communicating in different languages fosters a deeper understanding of various cultures. A recent trip to Italy and Portugal highlighted how much easier it is to navigate with the help of multilingual speakers.

This school year marks my 10th year as a PE teacher, and joining Fiesta Gardens during this exciting new phase brings the same enthusiasm I felt during my first year of teaching.



**Luisa Hernandez**

**Restorative Justice ToSA**

My name is Luisa Hernández and I am thrilled to be part of the Fiesta Gardens community as a Restorative Justice Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA).

I grew up in Bogotá, the beautiful capital of Colombia. I graduated from the National University of Colombia with a bachelor's degree in Philology and Languages. I came to California in 2014 to work at Cabrillo Unified School District first as an intern, and then as an Elementary teacher in 2016. I received my masters in Educational Technology in the Tecnológico de Monterrey in 2021. I also received my Experienced Registered Yoga Teacher (E-RYT 200) certification in 2023.

I have more than 10 years of experience working as an educator. I am passionate about education, mindfulness, and bilingualism.



**Ramón Macías**

**6th grade & Dual Language Immersion ToSA**

My name is Ramón Macías and I am thrilled to work at Fiesta Gardens as a 6th grade teacher and teacher on special assignment (TOSA).

I grew up in Zacatecas, México, but moved to California with my family almost 30 years ago. I have been living in the Bay Area since 2008. I graduated from Stanislaus State University with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and a BCLAD credential in Spanish.

I have more than 16 years of experience working as an educator in Spanish Immersion Programs. I have worked for the Redwood City School District (2008-2011), the San José Unified School District (2011-2012), and the Cabrillo Unified School District (2012-2024). I have experience teaching first through eighth-grade students. I am passionate about education and believe that every student deserves a positive and engaging learning experience.

I am looking forward to meeting you and being part of the Fiesta Gardens team!

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part of the Fiesta Gardens team!

**We are very excited to announce our new Community School Specialist**





**Karina Contreras**

**Community Schools Specialist**

Hello Fiesta Gardens Community!

My name is Karina, I was born and raised in the Bordertown Calexico, California and Mexicali, Baja California. I grew up in a bilingual community from an early age, which opened my mind and perspective to the world, and gave me the beautiful opportunity to experience life in two cultures as well. My love of reading and learning only grew, and eventually led me to find my passion for working in education! I found my way to the Bay Area when I started college and fell in love with the people, culture, and sights it has to offer.

I earned my B.A. in Sociology from UC Berkeley and my M.Ed. in Leadership at the University of Washington. Throughout my career in the Bay Area for the past 8 years, I have grown my passion for education and resource access for students and families throughout the Bay Area.

I am excited to be joining the San Mateo- Foster City school district and the Fiesta Gardens International School community to continue learning and growing my passion of working with students and families. I am looking forward to an amazing year with you all!

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Karina will be working alongside Isabel Centeno, our Community Service Specialist, in room 20.

**Important Reminders**

- **Wednesday, August 13 is the first day of school**

- Please join us after drop off in the Multi Purpose Room for Cafecito con los directores, the Kinder Flower Project, and for information regarding how you can volunteer and be involved here at FGIS
- **It is an early release day**
  - **Tk & K will be out at 12:35pm**
  - **1st-6th grade will be out at 12:49pm**
- Wednesdays are Free Dress Days, but students should come to school in their uniforms on all other days
- **Back to School Nights**
  - Tk/K, Tuesday, August 13, from 6-7pm
  - Grades 1-6, Tuesday, August 20, from 6-7pm