

Dear families,

I am very excited to be your child's fourth grade teacher next year! Many of you already know me from when I did my student teaching in Mr. Dave's second grade class and I'm so happy to have the opportunity to spend my year with this amazing group of kids. This will be my second year teaching at La Tierra Community School and I feel so fortunate to be able to work with such incredibly children, families and staff. I absolutely love my job!

A little bit about me...I have four children (25 year old twin daughters, a 20 year old daughter and a 17 year old son) and two gorgeous grandchildren. I talk about the babies a lot, so I'm sure you will hear about Myla and Alejandro regularly. My family is the light in my life. I recently graduated from NAU after twelve years of schooling, working and raising a family. I am a perfect example of being able to do anything, at any stage in life. After working for twelve years as Director of Religious Education at the local Unitarian Universalist congregation I have transitioned to teaching academics and find it immensely fulfilling.

This summer I will be spending a week at Newport Beach, as I do every year, in our family beach "shack". I will also be spending two weeks in Spain hiking the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrimage trail. I'm really looking forward to the meditative, grounding trek along the coast of this beautiful country. The rest of the summer will be spent working on projects and preparing for the upcoming school year.

Our fourth grade Expeditions are "Voices for Change" and "Remembering Something Ancient". "Voices for Change" includes two segments, the first being civic rights and responsibilities and and importance of voting, which works out perfectly with the upcoming Presidential election. The second segment is reducing our carbon footprint and how we can use our voices to change our community and world. Our second semester expedition "Remembering Something Ancient" is an in-depth look at the Southwest, including ancient tribes, landforms and Arizona's transition from territory to statehood. Our big trip at the end of the year will be a trip to the Grand Canyon, which is always amazing.

I am always available for any questions, comments or additional information.

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My best,
Ms. Barbara

