



# Student Spotlight

Gracie is 11 years old and is a student at Murrieta Unified School District. She loves her friends and her teacher has described her as, “best friend to all.”

Recently Gracie got to attend Pathfinder Ranch with her 5th grade class. She was very excited for the opportunity to make new friends and have new adventures. Gracie has severe learning disabilities and special medical needs, and going to camp required a lot of support and careful planning, but she doesn't allow these challenges to slow her down.

While at camp she enjoyed archery, horseback riding, canoes, basketball, and team building. Gracie was able to enjoy time outdoors while making friends with her peers.



**Everyone is  
different, that's  
what makes you so**

**Special!!!**

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# President's Message

Let me begin with Thank You. Thank you to all of the parents, employees and community partners. I am both grateful and honored to serve as the President of the CAC for the next two years. My Name is Jennafer Griswold and look forward to working with all of you to improve access to services for all students in our SELPA.



The first area I would like to address is the participation empowerment of families of students with special needs. As the mother of two students with unique needs and as an employee of Special Education at a high school, I can speak both personally and professionally that families need the tools and resources to ensure the best possible outcome for their students.

I often say families have 1 or 2 students with special needs while Districts have hundreds, so I believe it is up to the family to play a huge part in the process. I believe it is a huge mistake for families to view their school district as an adversary or problem. Through education and training, parents should come with an open mind and a positive attitude to craft a plan that facilitates the best outcome for their student.

I would like to invite all families and advocates to our CAC meetings. We have a great schedule of speakers and resources to share. Please consider the CAC as a place to find answers, connections and resources that will improve the lives of all students. Please also encourage teachers, families and students to attend so they can access all the amazing resources we have to offer ~ *Jennafer LaPaglia Griswold*

"Some of the most wonderful people are the ones who don't fit into boxes."



## District/Teacher/Student Shout Out



This is Roman Medina with his teacher, Ms. Arocho from DeAnza Elementary School in the San Jacinto School District. Ms. Arocho and her team are just fabulous. . . .she truly goes above and beyond for her

students. Ms. Arocho made Roman a Mystery Machine, on her own time with her own supplies, to go around his gait trainer. Ms. Arocho and his aides dressed to match him on Halloween.

This was Roman's first time walking in a parade. San Jacinto district also got Roman his gait trainer so he can practice walking at school. Every person including administration are so supportive and inclusive with the special needs students. They do art classes and playground play time with their typical peers.







# Parent Power Network Meeting Lake Elsinore USD

**Parent Power Network** was created by Lake Elsinore Unified School District in September of 2017 to offer support and provide resources to parents of students in special education settings. Although it was initially created specifically for parents of students with Individualized Education Plans, it was expanded to include parents of students in general education settings during the 2018-2019 Academic year.

This has allowed all parents in our district to access resources, receive current information from the district, and to be part of a support network. The initial meeting in September 2018 served as a meet and greet for parents to establish connections, to learn about self-care, and about ways to support their children in school. For the month of October, the district saw greater turnout and provided parents with information about community resources and ways to access them. District staff provided step-by-step navigation through useful websites that would allow parents to access services directly without waiting for referrals.

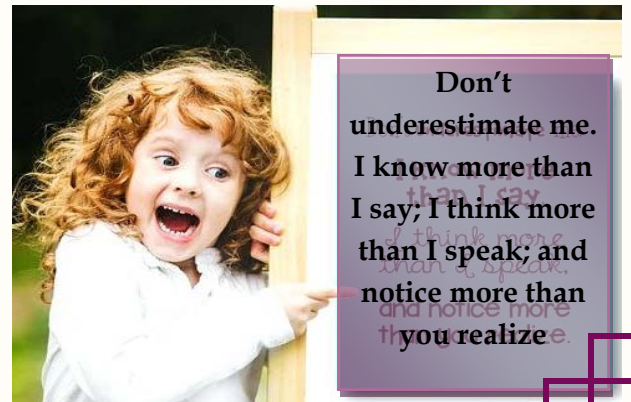
For the month of November, presenters from Riverside University Mental Health will provide information about their services. It is our mission to ensure that all parents are provided access to resources and are empowered as they continue to support their children in learning.

For more information, please contact Mirna Escamilla at 951-253-7159 or [mirna.escamilla@leusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mirna.escamilla@leusd.k12.ca.us)

## Want to Give your District, Staff, Teacher or Student a Shout Out?

Email ~ Denise Solek at [denise.solek@gmail.com](mailto:denise.solek@gmail.com) or  
[delores@rcselva.org](mailto:delores@rcselva.org)

Shout Out!





2017-2018  
CAC  
RECOGNITION  
EVENT  
PICS



## FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Supplemental Security Income** ~ Provides cash assistance & medi-cal to low-income disabled individuals (all ages) 800-772-1213 ~ <http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>

**Women, Infant & Children (WIC)** ~ Provides nutrition, diet evaluation for all participants', high-risk participants receive dietary counseling. Breast pump loans to low-income nursing women ~ 800-455-4942 ~ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>

**Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF)** ~ Temporary assistance for families of Riverside County ~ 951-358-3000 ~ <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/>

**Community Action** ~ Provides assistance to low-income families for their utilities ~ 951-995-4900 ~ <http://www.capriverside.org>

**Riverside County Office on Aging** ~ Provides family assessment, referrals & follow-up services to grandparents raising grandchildren in need ~ 800-510-2020 ~ <http://www.rcaging.org>

**Alternatives to Domestic Violence** ~ County-wide services for victims of domestic violence including 24-hour **crisis line** to victims of domestic violence. Access to all services through the **crisis line** ~ 800-339-7233 ~ <http://www.alternativestodv.org>

**Child Care Referrals (Riverside County Office of Education)** ~ County-wide child care referrals ~ 800-442-4927 ~ <http://www.rcoe.us/children-family-services/early-care-education/child-care-resource-and-referral-and-resource-lending-library>

**Child Protective Services (CPS)** ~ Department of Public Social Services investigates reports of child abuse ~ 800-422-5553 ~ <http://www.dpss.co.riverside.ca.us>

**Early Start – Family Resource Network** ~ Provides information through parent library, advocacy & parent-to-parent support for children with disabilities and/or special health care needs (ages 0-3) ~ 800-974-5553 ~ <http://www.esfrn.org>

**Injury Prevention Network** ~ Low cost car seat program for children with special needs ~ 800-774-7237 ~ <http://www.rivcoips.org>

**The Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Children, Youth & Families** ~ Provides quality, accessible & affordable child care services & therapeutic pre-school services ~ 951-683-5193 ~ <http://www.wyliecenter.org/>

**Riverside County Hospital ~ Loving Support** ~ Breastfeeding support & early follow-up of the mother and newborn ~ 888-451-2499 ~ <http://www.rivco-nutrition.org>

**Riverside County Dept. of Mental Health Children Services** ~ (0-5) Provides socio-emotional screening & mental heal treatment services ~ 951-358-6357 ~ <http://www.rcdmh.org>

**Riverside County Dept of Public Health of Immunization Program** ~ Provides mobile immunization outreach clinics in geographical pockets in need, countywide. ~ 951-358-7125 ~ <http://www.rivcoimm.org/services/infantschildren>

**Riverside County Regional Medical Center ~ First 5 Dental Program** ~ Provides dental screening & oral health education.~ 800-266-3880 ~ <http://www.rccfc.org>

**San Geronio Memorial Hospital** ~ Prenatal support, breastfeeding support & early follow-up of mother & newborn. ~ 951-846-2877 ~ <http://www.sgmh.org>

**Early Start (ages 0-3)** ~ Case management services, parent education, referral & coordination of medical care & purchase of needed services for children with disabilities and/or children at high risk of disability ~ 800-515-2229 ~ <http://www.esfrn.org>

**Infant Circle (ages 0-3)** ~ Public education, home & center-based programs for children with disabilities and/or special health care needs case management for children with low incidence disabilities such as hearing, visual & orthopedic disabilities ~ 951-826-7100 ~ <http://www.rcoe.us/student-program-services/special-education/infanttoddler-programs>