

Meet Our Director:

Jean Wilson

My name is Jean Wilson and I am very excited to be part of the Junior Jaguar Preschool Program. Being part of the staff is like "coming home" for me.

I started working at St. Joseph back in 1988 in the Extended Day Care as an aide and later the director. I worked there all through college while I was receiving my degree in Child Development and my Teaching Credential. Upon completing school, I started my teaching fourth grade here at St. Joseph. I taught fourth grade for three years before starting my own family.

After being home full-time for a several years, I started back to work part-time at Wilson Preschool in Santa Clara as a Parent Education Preschool Teacher. Raising my own children as well as my work at Wilson Preschool helped me to fully appreciate the importance of Early Childhood Education. I have taught at all age levels at the preschool from Toddlers to Pre-K.

I also have experience as Resource Specialist in Parent Education. I worked at Choices for Children in San Jose. In that role, I organized and presented workshops for parents on topics related to parenting including Positive Discipline, Taming Temper Tantrums, The Five Keys to Raising Healthy, Happy Eaters and Kindergarten Readiness. I also trained childcare providers on best practices with children in group settings.

On a personal note, I have been married for 16 years to a wonderful man named Mark. We have two children. Sam is 12 and in the 7th grade. A.J. is nine and in the 4th grade. Both boys attend St. Joseph of Cupertino (of course). In my free time, I like to watch SF Giants games, read and work on my scrapbook albums.

Meet Our Teachers and Aides:

Maria Deguara

My name is Maria Deguara and I am so excited to be one of the teachers for the St. Joseph of Cupertino Junior Jaguar Preschool Program.

I am an SJC alumna, attending St. Joseph of Cupertino School from kindergarten through eighth grade. While attending Saint Francis High School, I worked at St. Joseph's Extended Care program and I continued to work there during college.

I started my college career as a Nursing major, however I soon felt a passion for Child Development. I have an Associate of Science degree in Biological Science, an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts (with an emphasis in Math, Science, and Engineering), and I am currently finishing the Child Development Program to obtain my Associate Teacher Certificate.

I worked as the Co-Director of St. Joseph's Extended Care Program as well as the P.E. aide for the primary grades. I was married here at St. Joseph of Cupertino in July 2009 to my high school sweetheart, Matt. We just welcomed our first child, Mason, to the world in June.

Rosa Wilbanks

My name is Rosa Wilbanks, and I am a proud member of the Junior Jaguar Preschool staff.

During my earliest work years, I served as a preschool aide at Pioneer Montessori School, working with two-and-a-half to five-year-olds. I then entered the business world and became National Field Training Coordinator for Sony Electronics' Broadcast Division. I coordinated Broadcast Training programs throughout the country. I also spent some time as a Junior Achievement volunteer, visiting low income schools as a mentor. It became one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. I was fortunate to have supervisors who told me that I was a "natural teacher," which awakened in me a desire to pursue a career as an educator.

In 1998, I left Sony to pursue an opportunity at St. Joseph of Cupertino School as the Fifth and Sixth Grade Teacher's Aide, the Primary Science Instructor, and the Primary Computer Instructor. In 2002, as my family continued to grow, it became time to focus on raising my young children (all five of which now attend SJC!). Those early years with my kids were filled with so many moments I will always cherish. But as they grew older, I began to miss my "other family" at Saint Joseph's. In 2005, I was thrilled to return to SJC as the Primary P.E. Instructor.

When the school began plans for a new preschool, Mary Lyons invited me to join the staff as well as the preschool planning committee. I was thrilled to be part of such an exciting new program. I returned to school to complete the Early Childhood Education courses necessary to become a preschool teacher. I have since finished but because I enjoy this field so much, I am continuing with my studies with the goal of attaining an advanced teaching certificate. I feel privileged and grateful as I look forward to taking on the splendid task of teaching our next class of Junior Jaguars!

Lauren Cashman

My name is Lauren Cashman and I feel very honored and blessed to be part of an amazing team of teachers and excellent preschool program for the Junior Jaguars Preschool at St. Joseph of Cupertino.

I believe that as a woman of faith my goal is to express my beliefs in my community through the education of children. I have had the pleasure over three years experience successfully planning, conducting and supervising activities with children of various pre-school and school ages. I enjoy creating exciting and enriched environments to enhance curriculum and quality learning experiences.

I have an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and I am working towards a Child Development Permit. I have also completed coursework in American Sign Language.

My passions have always been art and photography and in the last few years scrapbooking. I combined my teaching, art, photography and scrapbooking skills and recently created and taught a kids camp where children were enriched in art and crafts at a local scrapbooking store.

My dream has always been to work at St. Joseph School. It is so exciting to be living my dream and I look forward to inspiring our students to start creating their dreams.

Angelina Gonzales

I have been in the education field for over 30 years. I'm thrilled to be returning to Saint Joseph of Cupertino's Junior Jaguar Preschool. The students and staff are amazing and I am sure every day is going to be a joy and adventure. I feel blessed to be a part of Saint Joseph of Cupertino's preschool.

I have a master's degree in education, multi subject teacher's credential, preschool's site supervisor permit, post graduate education in teaching English as a Foreign Language, and true passion for teaching.

My pastime includes: gardening, reading, playing with my dog and watching the cat observe the bird through the window.

Peggy Pacis

Hello! My name is Peggy Pacis, and I will be teaching at SJC preschool in the fall.

I have been a teacher for nine years. I started teaching in the Catholic elementary schools in San Francisco. When I moved down to the South Bay, I taught second grade here at St Joseph of Cupertino for a year. Since then I have taught in various sites, including preschools and teaching Mandarin classes. I am very excited to be back teaching at St. Joseph and be a part of the SJC community.

On a personal note, my family and I just recently moved back to the Bay Area. We lived in San Diego for four years, where we enjoyed the weather and beaches nearby. Now we are happy to be back home, close to our relatives and friends, as well as enjoying the diverse culture and exploring the Greater Bay Area.

Kim Boyd

My name is Kim Boyd. I am married to Rob and have two beautiful girls Callie, 7 and Chloe, 9. We have been part of the SJC community for two years. I can't tell you what an answer to our prayers this school has been. We found everything we wanted in an educational place for our girls and a family community to belong to. I have worked with children for many years in the mental health field. I am so excited to be part of the preschool staff as a Teacher's Aide. I am looking forward to helping make your child's preschool experience the best it can be.