



Dear Parents and Staff,

My name is Vanessa San Martin, I am the new Director for the Culver City Unified School District, Office of Child Development. I am excited to get to know you, the program and community. I genuinely look forward to having the opportunity to meet you in person as I visit the classrooms. I am equally excited to lead a supportive teaching team who is committed to guide, encourage, and establish deep relationships with children and families. Culver City Unified School District prides themselves in preparing the students to be successful after graduation and committed to teaching excellence in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts. The district takes the Whole Child Approach and we at OCD build the foundation for the Whole Child. We foster the children's social emotional wellbeing, exercise their cognitive skills, practice problem solving, become self-sufficient and develop a sense of self. Creating a safe nurturing environment is what I see teacher pride themselves in. Office of Child Development curriculum is guided by the California Preschool Learning Foundation and Curriculum Framework. We use the Desired Results Developmental Profile to observe, document, and reflect on the learning, development, and progress of children. For program quality and improvement we assess our learning environment twice a year using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale and School Age Environmental Rating Scale. As a lifelong early childhood educator I am committed to students, teaching staff and families. I believe in Maslow's Hierarchy of needs and learning where children need be fed, feel safe, a sense of belonging, and high self-esteem in order to focus on learning. I believe in on going professional development for staff and a sense of community for families. I look forward in working with all of you to make this school year a continual success.

In Partnership,

*Vanessa San Martin*