



Durango Early Learning Center

THE DELC DIGEST

JANUARY 2023

IMPORTANT DATES



- Board Meeting 1/10
- NO SCHOOL - MLK DAY 1/16
- Staff meeting 5:30PM 1/17
- Dress Up Day & Sing-a-Long 10:00AM 2/3

Happy BIRTHDAY

- 1/4 Ruby
- 1/5 Edison
- 1/7 Alden
- 1/10 Carter
- 1/12 Spencer
- 1/18 Ellis
- 1/21 Talia
- 1/22 Sophia
- 1/30 Max



Thank You!



Colorado Gives Day

We raised a record amount, exceeding our goal, and more than doubling the number of donors! Thank you to all the families, staff, and Board of Directors that donated and shared our amazing school with their network and also to our fundraising committee - Paige DeNier, Chris Hughes, and Callie Rickerman for all their hard work and strategy planning!

DURANGO EARLY LEARNING CENTER Board of Directors 2022-2023



**Jessie Christiansen -
President**

Jessie was born and raised here in Durango and joined the DELC board in 2020. She earned both Accounting and Art degrees from Fort Lewis College which has provided creativity and a love for numbers into her current job as a Payroll Specialist. Since 2010, she has been helping hundreds of employers in Southwest Colorado (including DELC) ensure payroll tax compliance. Outside of the office, she loves spending quality time with her son and simply being in the mountains. From cross country skiing in the winter, to mountain biking in the summer, and traveling whenever she gets the chance, she's up for any adventure with her family. She has always wanted to give back to the community which shaped who she is today and has found a wonderful fit to serve with the DELC board family.



**Malia Bowkett - Treasurer/
Immediate Past President**

Malia joined the DELC Board of Directors in November 2019, having fallen in love with the school through her son Oliver's experience and wanting to contribute to the success of the program. Malia moved to Durango earlier in 2019. After nearly 20 years living abroad - mostly in the UK, and most recently in Kurdistan (northern Iraq), she and her husband James longed to be closer to family, and love being neighbours with her sister and family (the littles of whom also went to DELC). Professionally, Malia spent 16 years working in research and communications. She currently leverages those skills to help people with their real estate needs, as a broker with Coldwell Banker. She holds a BA from Smith College (Economics) and an MSc from the London School of Economics (Local Economic Development).



Sara Tippie - Secretary

Sara is a longtime Durango resident, originally from Oregon. Sara's teaching career started at DELC in 2002. Sara has a degree in Elementary Education from Boise State University. Sara worked in various capacities in 9R and spent 10 years teaching for an online K-12 school. Sara is passionate about education, especially early childhood and the importance of a strong foundation to encourage a love of learning. Sara enjoys running, hiking and all the Durango area has to offer. Sara's three children; Avery (16), Mena (11) and Rocket (4) have all attended DELC and she is delighted to have joined the board of directors in December 2021 to continue to be involved in education in Durango.



**Chris Hughes -
Vice President**

Chris is a local teacher that appreciates DELC's focus of the whole child. Currently working as an educational consultant, Chris spent his first years of teaching at DELC from '03-'05. Chris vouches that his time at DELC was the spark that pushed him to pursue the study of education. Chris attended Fort Lewis College for his BA of Education and High Tech High's Graduate School of Education for his MA in Educational Leadership. When away from work, Chris enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and two girls, Eleanor and Raleigh. He feels honored to be a part of the DELC team.



**Torrey Baldwin
Board Member**

Torrey is a DELC parent who works locally in education and social work. She deeply appreciates education that focuses on whole-child development and support and views DELC as a shining example. As a public educator, she also values DELC's nonprofit status and commitment to serving families at differing income levels. She most recently has been working as a case coordinator for the San Juan BOCES "BETA program," having most previously taught Math and Psychology at Animas High School. She holds a BA from Williams College and a MA in Teaching from Simmons College. Outside of work, Torrey enjoys curling up with a book and spending time in the mountains and on her bike with her husband, Zach, and their two sons, Amias (4, enthusiastic Rainbow-roomer!) and Kestrel (7). She appreciates this opportunity to support DELC - an institution that provides such an amazing early foundation for the youth of Durango.



**Jessica McCallum
Board Member**

Jessica McCallum is a local educator and parent of a DELC alum and a current Green Roomer. She has been working at Animas High School for 12 years, where she is currently teaching 11th grade Humanities and Journalism and advising the student media, including the school paper the Animas Quill. She thrives in the creative environment of project-based learning, where she is able to empower youth to do authentic work and find their voices. Some years, she gets to teach Spanish as well, an opportunity to share the passion and benefits of a bilingual life. She and her family are living the dream between Durango and her husband's native Costa Rica. She is a two-time Fort Lewis College graduate, most recently having completed an MA in Education in 2015. Jessica is thrilled to serve on the DELC board and give back to an organization that has helped her children grow into their best young selves!



**Paige DeNier -
Board Member**

Paige is a local business owner and the mother of a DELC student, with another child starting soon. Paige grew up in Durango as did her husband whose family has lived here for 3 generations. She has a degree in Interior Design with an emphasis in Sustainable Design. She and her mother own {re}love Consign and Design, a gently used home furnishings store. They will be opening {wee}Love Consign in the fall of 2022 selling children's clothes and decor. When not working, Paige can be found with her family skiing, hiking, camping or playing in the river. Paige is excited to be a board member and to contribute towards the continued success of DELC.



**Savannah Porter -
Board Member**

Savannah is a Colorado native and joined DELC's Board of Directors in December 2022. She received her undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology at CU-Boulder and then her Master's degree at CU-Denver. She currently serves the children of Durango as a Pediatric Physician Assistant at Pediatric Partners of the Southwest and wants to continue her advocacy role through DELC's Board of Directors. Durango has provided a sense of community for her and her family since moving here in 2015, and she continues to recruit her family members to join (one sister and mom here, two sisters to go!). Outside time continues to be her happy place through hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and camping, along with any chance at traveling internationally. Savannah is thrilled to be given the opportunity to repay some of the love and support DELC has given her two sons, who are currently thriving in the program.



**Lisa Sifrit -
Board Member**

Lisa is a Durango local who started her career working with children at DELC in 2005. DELC provided Lisa with the strong values of respecting children and collaborating with families to enhance a child's well-being, which eventually led her to pursue a master's in social work at MSU Denver. Lisa is currently a behavioral health counselor at Pediatric Partners of the Southwest and a child and family investigator for the court. Lisa is excited to be able to engage in the policies, strategic planning, and fundraising that allows the DELC staff to be successful in their amazing work with children. Lisa and her husband love enjoying all of the outdoor activities the southwest has to offer with their Orange-roamer son (Beckett) and twin daughters (Hayden and Parker).

Meet our Board of Directors!

As a non-profit 501(c)3, DELC's Board of Directors is responsible for the financial health of the school and propelling big picture changes and improvements! Our BOD is comprised of current DELC parents, alumni families and teachers. The BOD also has working committees to support specific areas of growth such as fundraising, finance, and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). We are so grateful for all the hard work our BOD has done for DELC as well as Callie Rickerman, our staff representative on the board.

Check out our current strategic plan that goes through August 31, 2023 at <https://www.durangoearlylearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/DELC-Strategic-Plan-2020-2023-5.pdf>

Dress-Up
Day
&
Sing-a-Long
Friday, February 3rd



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

City Market

Have you linked your
amazon and City Market
rewards account to DELC
yet?

In 2022, DELC received
over \$100 back from
families' purchases on
amazon and over \$200
from City Market!

Registration for the 2023.2024 school year will come out
in February! Please contact Becca ASAP if you are not
returning or if you are wanting to change/increase days
for your current schedule for next school year!



Durango Early Learning Center Land Acknowledgement

Welcome to the Durango Early Learning Center. We respectfully acknowledge that the school is located in Durango, Colorado, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Ute (Núu-agma-tx̂n̂-ṙ̂), Diné (Navajo: Naabeehó Bináhásdzo), Hopi (Hopituh Shi-nu-mu) Pueblos, Apache and Zuni (Shiwi'ma) People who have been stewards of this land throughout generations. As early childhood care providers and educators of our future generation, it is our responsibility to acknowledge the impacts of the unkind acts that have led to the unfair and inappropriate treatment of people that traditionally lived here and still live here today. We lead by example and share stories of this land that are respectful to the people and the real history of this region. As we teach our children, we strive to nurture a culture that takes responsibility for our actions, and is curious, honest, and inclusive to the diverse backgrounds in our community. #HonorNativeLand