



Spring Newsletter 2023

The Scottish Rite Learning Center Of West Texas

1101 70th. St. / Lubbock, TX 79412 / (806) 765-9150 / info@srclwt.org

www.srclwt.org

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An IMSLEC Recognized School



Take Flight Graduation Speakers 2023



Being able to serve, advocate for, and represent our students with dyslexia has been rewarding in more ways than I can count.
— Liana Garcia



Serving as a special education teacher for fifteen years at Kansas Elementary School has been a blessing.
— Shonda Foreman



I am honored to have been able to complete my training through the SRLCWT and feel confident and prepared to continue providing services to our special students.
— Elsa Martinez



Esme is a student of Mrs. Sue Rodgers. She is enthusiastic and loves dance. Her beautiful smile lights up the world.



Being a Homeschool parent and mom to graduate, Jackson, and foster mom to many dogs has enriched our lives.
— Shawanna Pratt



Jackson is an 8th grade student in Amarillo. Jackson's hobbies include: basketball, martial arts, as well as being very involved with the youth group at church.

SCOTTISH RITE CAR SHOW

Join us for this Family Friendly & Free Event!

April 22, 2023

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Scottish Rite | 1101 70th St | Lubbock

Car Registration begins at 8:00 am

Car Entry Fee \$25

Awards Presented at 2:00 pm

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Featured Graduation Speakers



Liana Garcia is currently serving students at Brownfield ISD, where she has entered her 14th year of teaching. She has taught grades 1st and 3rd and has also served as a Principal Fellow for one year at Brownfield High School. She is currently teaching eighteen students at Brownfield Middle School, and seven students at Oak Grove Elementary.

I have been blessed to serve as a special education teacher for 15 years at Kansas Elementary School, a rural school in Kansas, Oklahoma. My teaching certifications include Early Childhood, Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Mid-Level English, and Reading Specialist. I have two grown children, my daughter Shania, 26-years old, and my son, Hayden, 22-years old. When I have spare time, I enjoy baking, gardening, planting flowers, and searching for treasures at flea markets. —**Shonda Foreman**



I am employed with the Lubbock Independent School District. I have been with the district since 2014 and have taught grades 1-4. I am a dyslexia interventionist at Alderson Elementary and am serving 12 students in grades 3-5. I began my role as a dyslexia interventionist in August of 2021 after beginning the first year of my training with the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas (SRLCWT). The training provided by the ladies at the center was vital in my ability to provide dyslexia intervention services to my students. I am honored to have been able to complete my training through the SRLCWT and feel confident and prepared to continue providing services to our students with dyslexia here at Alderson. —**Elsa Martinez**

Esme, speaking on behalf of the 2023 graduating class, is an enthusiastic 7th grader with a bright future. She is home-schooled and her favorite subject is science. While Esme is actively involved in church activities and soccer, her passion is dance. She is a member of Ballet Lubbock and was cast in the 2022 Nutcracker as a Chinese Parasolle. Esme enjoys crafts and traveling with her family. Her favorite destinations have been Hawaii and New York. She is the daughter of Brad and Aimee Phipps. **Brad Phipps** earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and Physics from Midwestern State University and a Master's of Science in Applied Physics/Electrical Engineering from Texas Tech University. Later he earned a Master's of Business Administration in Management and Entrepreneurship from Texas Tech's Rawl's College of Business. Brad is the Managing Partner of Caprock IT, LLC — a Lubbock-based firm specializing in providing technology and support for regional small and mid-sized businesses. He serves on several nonprofit boards in West Texas.



I'm a stay-at-home mother of 2 boys, Jackson, 14 years old, and Jasper, 11 years old. I grew up in Seattle, Washington where I got my degree in Nutrition from Bastyr University. My husband, Todd, and I moved to Amarillo seventeen years ago. I have been homeschooling our two boys collectively for over nine years. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family outdoors, camping, hiking, etc. We also have four rescue dogs and have worked in the foster and rescue world for the past 15 years. —**Shawnna Pratt**

Jackson is a homeschooled 8th grade student. His mom, Shawnna teaches Jackson and his younger brother Jasper. His dad, Todd is a personal trainer. Jackson's hobbies include: basketball, martial arts, as well as being very involved with the youth group at church. —**Jackson Pratt**



Congratulations Lubbock Graduating Students



Lydia



Lyndie



Esme



Natalie



Alexis

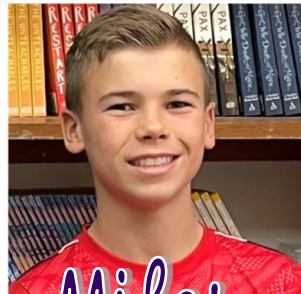


Mia

Congratulations Amarillo Graduating Students



Maggie



Miles



Kolt



Brody



David



Fisher



Jackson



Shelby Hendrick Receives Generous Scholarship

I am grateful and honored to receive the Mitchel J. Gregg Scholarship.

My teaching career consists of teaching Prekindergarten and Kindergarten for the past 15 years. I have always loved teaching foundational reading skills to young learners. This past year I had the opportunity to work as a traveling Dyslexia Therapist for Lubbock Cooper ISD. I am currently serving three campuses and seventeen students.

I am pleased for this opportunity to be trained by The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas. I am devoted to the Dyslexia Training Program and excited to help students read more accurately, efficiently, and with a better understanding.

Amarillo Scottish Rite Learning Center Receives Generous Donation

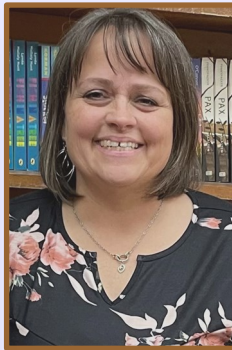


Thank you Amarillo Education Credit Union FOUNDATION for your generous donation and spotlighting SRLCWT Amarillo campus on your Facebook page and website on **Read Across America Day, March 2nd.**

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
- Dr. Seuss



Melissa Presents Changes to Dyslexia Handbook 2021



Melissa Espino, CALT-QI, from the Amarillo Learning Center, spoke at the WTAMU Center for Learning Disabilities monthly community workshop meeting on February 6, 2023. She presented the "Texas Education Agency Dyslexia Handbook 2021 Update". Thank you, Melissa for informing the attendees on the important changes in teaching students with dyslexia.



The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) 2022 ANNUAL READING, LITERACY & LEARNING CONFERENCE, was held this year at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, in San Antonio. Toni Parrish, Associate Director of Therapist Training in Lubbock, and Cindy Sallee, Qualified Instructor, were able to attend this year's conference through the generosity of the Lubbock Scottish Rite Masons. The goal of IDA is "Connecting a global network of researchers, educators, families, and people with dyslexia..." "Until Everyone Can Read". The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) is the oldest organization dedicated to the study and treatment of dyslexia.

At the conference, Toni was able to secure one of the most sought-after speakers for the upcoming 2024 Lecture Series, Mrs. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, Ed.D., CCC-SLP, CDT, CALT-QI. More information about Dr. Hagen is found on page 9 of this newsletter.

Attending the IDA conference was a great learning experience. Toni and Cindy are grateful for the opportunity to attend.

Lubbock New Students

Amarillo New Students



Ava



Mary Abbot



Maddison



Seth



Bella

The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas Parent and Masons' Day October 26, 2022

The Lubbock
Learning Center
welcomed Parents
and Masons to a
day of learning.



Students in the Spotlight

Mrs. Hester's Former Student 'Takes Flight' in New Career



Hello, I am Kathryn Montgomery. I am twenty two years old and I am the co-owner of Volée Fitness Studio here in Lubbock, Texas. I am the only Certified Antigravity Fitness instructor in Texas with five stars and nine certifications.

I began classes at the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas in 2013 and graduated from the *Take Flight* program in 2015. My mother and I were honored to be the speakers

at the graduation. We started Volée before I graduated High School, in 2019.

I have learned so much during the past few years running our small business, and am grateful for my time at Scottish Rite with my teacher, Olive Hester. Through my time at the Scottish Rite Learning Center, I began to enjoy learning. I saw that reading was enjoyable, and I found my confidence!

The Scottish Rite program has inspired my teaching skills. I have created fitness programs for kids that assist them in balancing the two hemispheres of the brain and I love to watch and teach the kids to express themselves with creativity and movement.

Before Scottish Rite, the anxiety and pressure I would feel when I had to read or speak out loud was challenging. After completing classes with Mrs. Hester, I have done several presentations and read a devotional out loud in my classes without

anxiety! I enjoy reading more than I thought was possible.

Self-esteem was a big challenge for me before the program. I now have the confidence in myself to reach for the stars. My dyslexia can not hold me back and is not a disadvantage, it is a gift that I can use to make the world a better place.

The kindness and encouragement from everyone at the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas is something I will never forget. I hope to bring the confidence and creativity I found in the program into my business.

Volée means 'to fly' in French. Kathryn uses her confidence and skills to help others enjoy fitness and fly to new heights.



Our work at the Learning Center would not be possible without generous donations from our contributors. Thank you:

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The Venal Family:
Vicky, Heidi, Bobby, Shanna,
Ethan, Elliott
Susie and Riley White
The Wischkaemper Family

Mrs. Rodgers's Former Student Leads the Way in Engineering

We are happy to hear from our former parents. One proud mother was excited to share news about her son, Kevin.

A note from his mother, Jane Bash: As a proud parent, I wanted to update you on Kevin and share his success. He graduated from Lubbock High May 2022 as a High Honors Capstone graduate.

He was the robotics captain for two years while he was there.

He is now a freshman at Colorado School of Mines as a mechanical engineer and robotics automation engineer major.

He is part of the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers and ran and presented for the lead position on the team at the end of his first semester.

He is now the lead for the power-train system of the formula car that the SAE team builds each year.

I am so proud of his work ethic, which he attributes to his dyslexia. Nothing has been easy, so he is not afraid of hard challenges. I remember when he was diagnosed with dyslexia so many years ago and wondered how he (and I) would get through school and that 12 years seemed like such a long time until he graduated. When he graduated, we had a celebration that both of us had completed a major feat! I still do some editing for him via discord and google docs, but his intelligence level is so high, I merely scribe for him or correct his spelling.



For those parents who are just starting this journey, and feel overwhelmed, there is light at the end of the tunnel, and it is glorious! I am very grateful for the Scottish Rite Learning Center and especially Sue Rodgers who was so very patient with him!!

Student Super Stars

We are proud of all of our students. These are a few that we would like to spotlight.

Lexi excels in ballet and track. She has won several 1st place medals, and has performed in over 20 CITA ballet productions.

Seth dressed as 'Father Seth' for Vocational Day at his school in Amarillo.

Brayden demonstrates great culinary skills when competing in the Lynn County 4H at the District 2, Food Challenge.

Hope showing off her great acting skills in a Christmas play at her church.

Esme put on a great performance as a Chinese dancer in the Nutcracker performed at the Buddy Holly Hall. She has also been accepted to the Joffrey Ballet School.

Mrs. Olive Hester Appointed to IMSLEC Board of Directors

The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas is pleased to announce that Olive Hester, Director of our Learning Center, has been appointed to The International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC) Board of Directors. She will serve a three-year term and will attend board meetings twice a year. The IMSLEC Board determines the policies and procedures of IMSLEC and directs and supervises its affairs.

Olive began teaching at the SRLCWT in her advanced year of training in 2001. She became a Qualified Instructor in 2008 and has been a shining star in the Dyslexia Therapist Training program. She is the model teacher to whom trainees look to as an example of excellence.

She is pleased to be nominated and appointed to the board. Olive will continue to carry out her work here as Director of the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas, and is looking forward to her new responsibilities as an IMSLEC Board member.

Congratulations to our new Certified Academic Language Therapists



Roberta Hagen



Jan Lapilio-Smith



Alicia Smith



Melissa Triplett



Lanau Simmer



Dana Rogers

2023 C.J. Davidson Memorial Lecture Series

Karen Avrit, from Scottish Rite for Children in Dallas, was the featured speaker. Over one hundred and fifty attendees came to hear her speak on topics ranging from the history of dyslexia to the best practices in teaching children with dyslexia. The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas continues to bring relevant speakers annually to share knowledge and expertise in the area of dyslexia.



THE SCOTTISH RITE



Save the Date!

The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas
C.J. Davidson Lecture Series: Advances in Literacy
 February 16, 2024

Dr. Cardenas-Hagan

is a sought-after speaker and author. She has written scholarly articles, curricular programs, and book chapters related to literacy development among those learning to read English.

Her newest book: **'Literacy Foundations for English Learners: A Comprehensive Guide to Evidence-Based Instruction,'** is a resource for understanding how to teach language skills to English learners.



Featured Author and Speaker:



Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan

Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan, Ed.D, CCC-SLP, CDT, CALT, - QI, is the Director of Valley Speech Language and Learning Center in Brownsville, Texas which was established in 1993. She also works with Texas Institute for Measurement Evaluation and Statistics at the University of Houston. Dr. Cárdenas-Hagan is the author of **Esperanza (HOPE)**, a Spanish language program designed to assist students who struggle with learning to read.

Learn how to meet the needs of your ELL students.

Topics Include:

- Research on Structured Literacy for English Learners
- Language and Speech Development
- Language to Literacy Connections
- Foundational Skills of Literacy
- Oral Language Development
- Comprehension
- Discussion and Closing Thoughts

Make plans to attend.

Date:
February 16, 2024

Time:
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00
5 ALTA Credits

Location: The Scottish Rite Building, 1101 70th Street, Lubbock, Texas.



Scottish Rite

Car Show



**Music &
Food Trucks**



Awards

- * Class Awards
- * Fan Favorite
- * Best of Show

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

Registration Beginning at 8:00 am

9:00 am - 2:00 pm The Scottish Rite Building - 1101 70th St. Lubbock, Texas

Proceeds Benefit Students with Dyslexia at The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas. The registration form can be downloaded from the Center's website at srlcwt.org. Entry Fee is \$25.00. Limit 100 cars.

FUNDRAISER FOR THE SCOTTISH RITE LEARNING CENTERS OF WEST TEXAS

The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas, a charitable endeavor of the Lubbock Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, provides reading, handwriting, and spelling therapy for students with dyslexia. No charges are made for the services of the Learning Center to students or their parents. The Center is a 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization.

Take Flight: A Comprehensive Intervention for Students with Dyslexia Training Dyslexia Therapist Training

The Dyslexia Therapist Training Course provides an opportunity for teachers to learn curriculum and strategies that are recognized as effective for teaching basic language skills to students with dyslexia.

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Lubbock Location
1101 70th St. Lubbock, Texas 79412
Office (806) 765-9150 info@srlcwt.org
Website: srlcwt.org

Amarillo Location
211 SE 17th ST. Amarillo, Texas 79102
Office (806) 350-7669 Cell (806) 584-0247
info@srlcwt.org

Please contact Matthew Reynolds @ 806-781-4041 for more details about donation packages.

Scottish Rite Learning Centers 2023 Calendar

- March 24** Amarillo Advanced Seminar #8
Lubbock Introductory Seminar #4
- April 7** Good Friday – **Lubbock and Amarillo Centers closed**
- April 9** Easter Monday – **Lubbock Center closed**
- April 14** Amarillo Introductory Seminar #4
- April 22** Lubbock Center – Car Show
- April 27** Amarillo Center – Last day of classes
- April 30** Amarillo Center – Graduation
- May 4** Lubbock Center – Last Day of Classes
- May 7** Lubbock Center- Graduation
- May 29** Memorial Day – **Lubbock and Amarillo Centers closed**
- May 30 – June 16** Lubbock Center – Introductory Dyslexia
Therapist Training
- June 5 – 10** Amarillo Center – Advanced Dyslexia Therapist Training
- June 19** Lubbock Center – Staff workday
- June 20-30** Lubbock Center – Advanced Dyslexia Therapist Training
- June 12 – 24** Amarillo Center – Introductory Dyslexia
Therapist Training
- September 15** BUILD Training at Lubbock Center
- October 8** High Noon Tea Fundraiser 12:00-3:00 – Lubbock Center

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas is to *establish, maintain, and promote* the premier dyslexia education program in West Texas, the Panhandle, and Eastern New Mexico for the purpose of *training and assisting* individuals with dyslexia.

Any student aged 6 through 18 who satisfies the entrance requirements is eligible to enroll in the program.

No child or parent is ever charged for the services provided by the Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas.

The funding of the Center is achieved through contributions from generous people like you.

Amazon Smile

If you shop on Amazon, there is a simple way to donate to Scottish Rite philanthropies without additional personal cost. The process is simple. Go to smile.amazon.com where you will be directed to select a possible charity. In the “pick your own charitable organization” box, you will need to type *The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas*. Once you have done that, you may continue to shop on Amazon. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of the purchase price for every eligible purchase. (Products that are eligible for donation to the Learning Center will be marked “Eligible for Amazon Donation”).



Donating to the Learning Center just got easier. Use the QR Code to take you directly to the donation page.



The Scottish Rite Bodies
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Lubbock, TX 79412
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please send your request and email address to info@srlcwt.org

The Scottish Rite Learning Center of West Texas

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IN HONOR OF _____

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS _____

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Director

Sue Rodgers, LDT, CALT-QI
*Associate Director of
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Toni Parrish, M.Ed., LDT, CALT-QI
*Associate Director
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