

THE DELLA LAMB JOURNAL

Building a Kinder Kansas City Since 1897

#KinderKansasCity #WeTheCity

Looking Ahead to 2021

Della Lamb and the KC Pre-K Cooperative

Early education has been the lifeblood of Della Lamb since we were founded in 1897. In more recent years, we have built upon the need to not only care for and love the children we serve, but to ensure they are prepared for the next big jump: Kindergarten.

In order to do so, Della Lamb joined the KC Pre-K Cooperative at the beginning of the 2020 school year. The Cooperative was formed to improve kindergarten readiness by ensuring equitable access to high-quality education. By joining forces with other early education centers and primary schools, we have access to additional resources; better equipping us to provide quality Pre-K for students in our underserved communities. Other members of the Pre-K Co-Op include Operation Breakthrough, The UpperRoom, United Inner City Services and the Emmanuel Child and Family Development Center.

Della Lamb's Pre-K Co-Op classroom is led by a certified teacher and we currently have 14 students enrolled. It truly is a gift to see these children thrive everyday and witness their growing desire to learn. To top things off, we plan on opening another classroom later this year!



Program participants Manuelli, Betha and Jeanne, along with program leader Suzanne, during a group outing to the local Concourse Park.

NEW: Youth Mentor Program

January kicked off our first Youth Mentoring program and we currently have 7 newly resettled high schoolers participating. Each participant is paired with a mentor who not only assists academically, but is truly there to connect and help them adjust to their new home and school while developing lasting life skills.

This month's focus has been on forming successful habits. Program participants are learning how to create schedules, effectively communicate with their teachers and to set goals. Along with mentor check-ins, we also get to see our teens throughout the week! Della Lamb's Learning Lab is utilized for both tutoring and remote learning during the COVID-19 crisis.

Want to help our program's teens? We'd love to stock their Learning Lab with snacks and water to give them an extra boost to power through their school day! Send us an email at help@dellalamb.org if you're interested.



Let's Play Ball!

Youth sports have been a long-running tradition at Della Lamb and we've seen many of our kids become first-generation college students stemming from athletic scholarships. While some do benefit from scholarships, all kids in the Youth Services program benefit by developing life skills like perseverance, conflict resolution, discipline, and teamwork.

We are more excited than ever to get outside this spring and have our 5-14 year olds participate in baseball, track & field and flag football! If you'd like to volunteer as a coach/manager or sponsor a low-income child this spring, please email us at help@dellalamb.org.

Learn more about our Youth Services or register your child for a Spring sport here:
www.dellalamb.org/services/youth-services/

Employee Spotlight: Rocio Ramsey

Rocio will be celebrating 20 years with Della Lamb this upcoming November! She was born in Guadalajara, Mexico where she was a Pharma-biological chemist and a professional Opera singer. Check out the Q&A below to learn more about the lovely Rocio Ramsey!

Q: What is your favorite thing about Kansas City?

A: The Chiefs and the Royals teams, it's fountains and BBQ places.

Q: Why is Della Lamb important to you?

A: Della Lamb helps people/refugees achieve personal goals through education. We see education as a tool for building self-confidence, overcoming socio-economic barriers and exploring identity and creativity.

Q: How did you first get involved at Della Lamb and what do you do here?

A: "I started as a volunteer teaching English to Spanish speakers. I (now) provide Cultural Orientation classes for individuals and groups. I prepare lesson plans in accordance with students' learning needs, I design and present educational material, and I tailor lessons to accommodate differences in learning style and speed.

Q: If you could meet anyone living or dead, who would you meet?

A: Jesus Christ, I think he was a wise man.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie quote?

A: "After all, tomorrow is another day."

Q: How do you spend your free time?

A: I enjoy walking and listening to classical music and opera. I love to spend time with my husband, my three dogs and my cat.

