



**Darla John**  
**Pre - K &**  
**Kindergarten**

**Hometown:** Kirkland, Washington

**Graduated from:** Walla Walla University, BS in Elementary Education; Western Oregon University, Master's coursework in Early Childhood Education, Early Intervention/Special Ed

**Hobbies:** Nature Photography, listening to kids share their thoughts, appreciating God's love and His creations, playing the piano and flute

**Secret/special talent:** Finding humor in simple things, being patient when things get tough, encouraging others to look on the bright side!

**Favorite thing about being a teacher:** Sharing my days with kids! The classroom is my happy place...I love the hum of activity! I enjoy celebrating new skills and helping kids become friends with Jesus and each other! I love seeing kids growing "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

**Why do you love teaching at AJA?:** This school has so much potential for good in our community! Our three new teachers this year bring years of experience and have formed a strong team to bring AJA success this school year and in the future. I'm looking forward to seeing how God will work in each life at our school this year!



**Katie**  
**Richmond**  
**Grades 1 - 4**  
**Principal**

**Hometown:** Anchorage, Alaska (born)  
Santa Rosa, California (raised)

**Graduated from:** Pacific Union College, BA in Elementary Education & Masters of Education in Teacher Leadership

**Hobbies:** Reading great books, using my imagination when doing arts 'n crafts, watching hockey games, trying out new recipes on family and friends, playing with my dog

**Secret/special talent:** You may not know this, but I love to sing and listen to music! My family also tells me I'm an excellent cookie baker.

**Favorite thing about being a teacher:** My favorite things about being a teacher are creating a school environment where kids want to be! I love doing art lessons alongside my students, watching them crack the code of reading, and conquering a difficult math idea. Most of all, I love to bring my students into God's presence daily while reminding them of Jesus' love and plan for their lives.

**Why do you love teaching at AJA?:** I am so excited to be teaching at AJA this year! I was born in Anchorage, but don't remember living here. I'm looking forward to making my own Alaskan memories while serving the great families of Anchorage.



**Jeanie**  
**de la Torre**  
**Grades 5 - 8**

**Hometown:** Chowchilla, CA

**Graduated from:** Walla Walla University, BA in History; La Sierra University, Masters of Education in Leadership and Administration

**Hobbies:** Reading, riding my bike, playing racquetball, trivia, watching football, and sitting on my deck watching beautiful sunsets as I mammal watch.

**Secret/special talent:** My secret: I LOVE Far Side cartoons! I have all the books if you would like to come and share a laugh with me. My special talent is finding a spark of humor even when a situation is bleak.

**Favorite thing about being a teacher:** The kids of course! Their laughter, smiles, that moment when they learn something new. It goes beyond just teaching the material...the very best part is making a personal connection with each of my students. The bonus: Every day is different. Life is never boring in a classroom.

**Why you love teaching at AJA?:** I may be just starting my first year here at AJA, but I already know that it is going to be a wonderful place to be.

## THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2018-2019

Kindness Counts Olweus  
Bullying Prevention  
Program

CREATION kids Health  
Curriculum

Fall Festival Fun

Chili Cook-off

Fall and Spring  
Weeks of Prayer

Yearly Spiritual Theme  
and Theme Song

Fun...Fun...Fun

So glad you've chosen to  
partner with AJA for  
your child's education!

## OUR MISSION

Anchorage Seventh-day Adventist  
Junior Academy exists to introduce  
each student to Jesus Christ. Our  
desire is to develop this relationship so

that each student will love their Creator and  
choose to spend eternity with Him.  
Through academic excellence, we will provide  
the tools needed for each student to achieve  
all that God has created them to be.



## Meet our Teachers at AJA

2018-2019

## OUR MISSION

“To increase in  
wisdom and  
stature, and  
in favor with  
God and man.”

*Luke 2:52*