

# THE PINWHEEL POST

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER OF GREATER WEST TEXAS

VOLUME 1, EDITION 1: BACK TO SCHOOL

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Newest CASA Volunteer

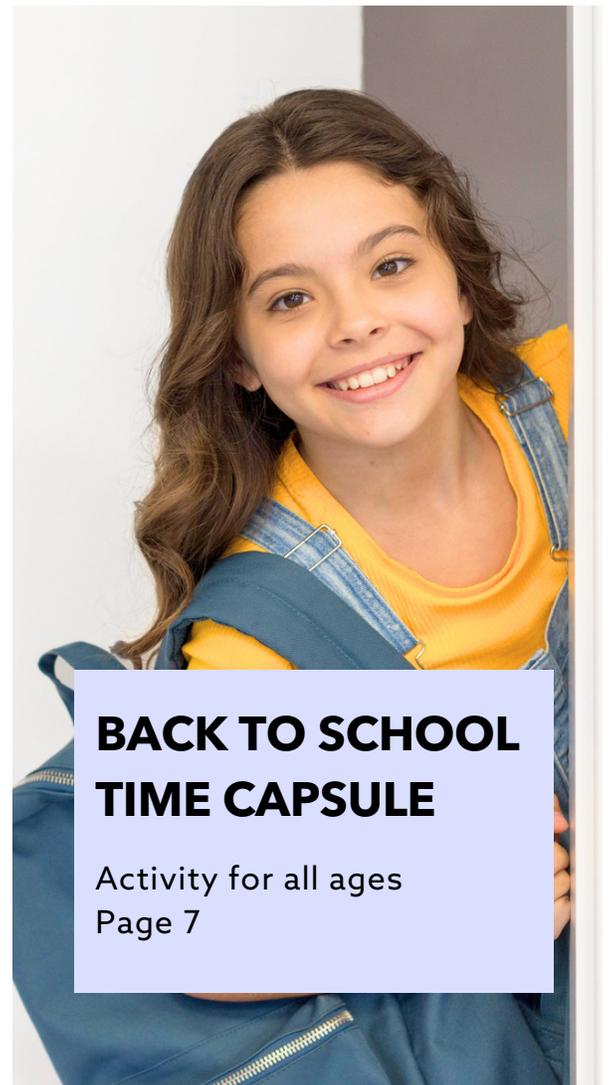
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## BACK TO SCHOOL TIME CAPSULE

Activity for all ages

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# DIRECTORS MESSAGE

## Message from the CEO

Happy "Back to School" Season from the CAC!

This is always an exciting time for children in our community as the school season resumes and a new school year and adventure begins. I sort of feel like I too am headed into a new grade/new school as I step into my role as Chief Executive Officer of the CACGWTX. I am humbled and honored to have this opportunity and continue to be excited to work with San Angelo and the Concho Valley as we continue to work together to ensure every child a safe and nurturing home!



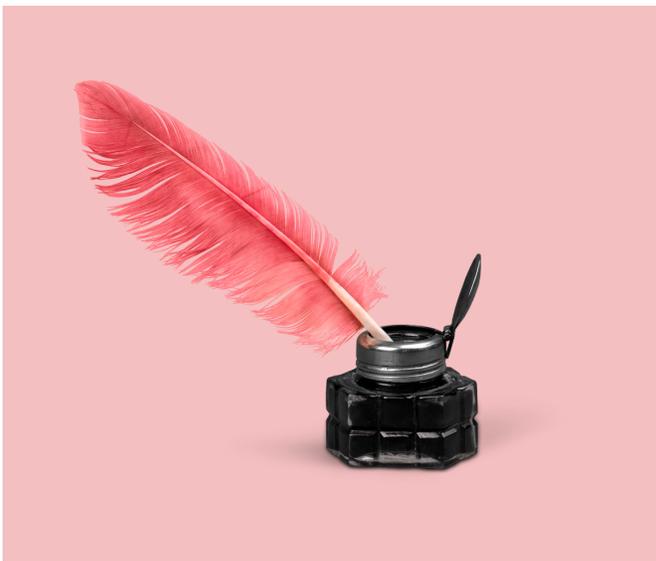
Most kids as they return to school have certain feelings and ideas about the new year. Some anxious, some excited. Some will be looking forward to learning more about the grade-level studies for the year and others will be struggling to keep up. What we all must remember as advocates for children is to meet a child where they are when it comes to new experiences. Encouragement goes a long way with children and youth and sometimes, we must be their biggest cheerleaders. Good reminders are to cheer for all the big (and little) wins a child may experience. Encourage and motivate when things don't go their way or they are discouraged about the outcome of a situation. Try not to compare to other children or even your own personal experiences as at times this can make a child feel overwhelmed by the expectations we accidentally project when trying to relate to their experience.

But most of all: be their biggest advocate! Find their strengths and build on them. Identify those areas for improvement and support them through it. Celebrate, celebrate, and celebrate the wins! Pat them on the back and show them kindness and love during the losses.

A special thank you goes out to all our educators, administrators, school staff, parents, volunteers, and community advocates who help support a child through their school journey. They cannot do it alone and we must not forget those amazing individuals who continue to invest in the next generation the way they do. As a son of two educators, I know the importance teachers have on the lives of children, and I wish for you all to know we support you and thank you for what you do for the next generation.

In advocacy,

Justin M. DeLoach



## THE PENCIL BOX: A HISTORY

CAC School Supply Drive

School is just around the corner and the mad dash for school supplies has begun. Reading through the nearly endless lists of items needed to successfully return to school, many parents might be thinking, "How did we get here?" Between the required stylus, earbuds and calculators it might be hard to remember the wholesome pencil box of yesteryear. Yet, according to the National American History Museum, the pencil box has quite a history.

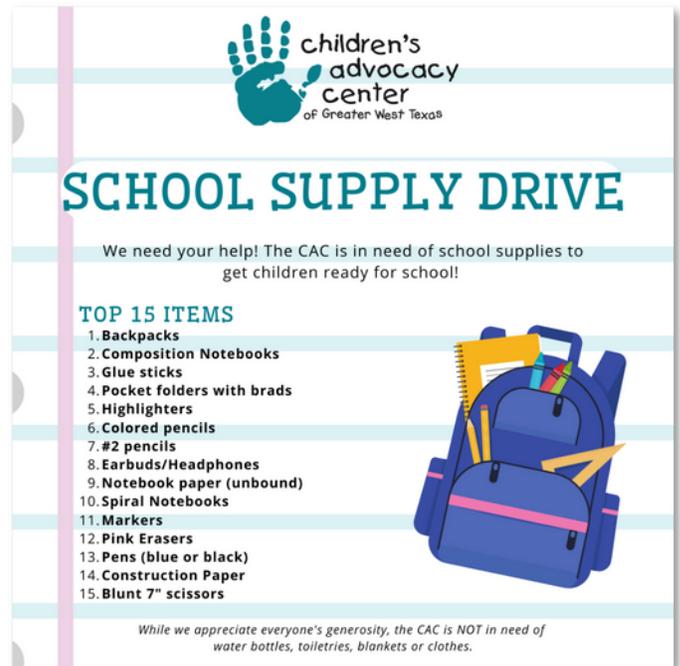
"Pencil boxes are an excellent example of how school supplies have changed over time. The simple box pictured on the left would have been typical for most students from the mid-19th century. Not everybody purchased a pencil box, though. Many children would use recycled containers, such as empty cigar boxes or stationery boxes, to hold their writing supplies. More affluent students might have had a box similar to the boxes in the center, also called scholar's companions. School supplies were valuable, so many scholar's companions would have included a lock and key to keep contents secure. Many of these boxes were imported from Germany and advertised as gifts for children to encourage academic excellence. The deluxe middle box comes with its own small ink bottle. The larger box on the right is a typical 1960s version, designed to accommodate the additional supplies required as time went by."



*Plain pencil box (gift of Dr. Richard Lodish American School Teaching Collection, 2014.0244), Patriotic lithograph pencil box (gift of Dr. Richard Lodish American School Teaching Collection, 2014.0244.0771, 2014.0244.079), 1960s pencil box (gift of Catherine M. Keen 2015.0165)*

While the history of school supplies has changed dramatically over the years, one thing hasn't: children need these supplies to succeed in the school. Still, for many families, the school supply lists are daunting and often onerous. Therefore, to help ease the burden, the CAC holds its annual School Supply Drive to collect and deliver supplies to children and families in need. This year, the CAC is in need of the following Top 15 items:

1. Backpacks
2. Composition Notebooks
3. Glue sticks
4. Pocket folders with brads
5. Highlighters
6. Colored pencils
7. #2 pencils
8. Earbuds/Headphones
9. Notebook paper (unbound)
10. Spiral Notebooks
11. Markers
12. Pink Erasers
13. Pens (blue or black)
14. Construction Paper
15. Blunt 7" scissors



*"I always encourage families who want to donate that are already shopping for school supplies to grab a second set to donate to the CAC. This makes it easy to remember what to donate."*

*- Justin DeLoach, Interim CEO/CDO*

Items can be brought to the CAC. If you would rather support the drive monetarily, you can donate on our website [here](#).

## "You are a Pro" Parent Tip

Shop school supplies early! Don't let the stress of waiting until the last minute get in the way of starting the year off right.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Britani Kirkham

CASA Case Manager

What's your favorite:

- Color: Maroon
- Holiday: Christmas
- Disney Movie: Little Mermaid
- Pizza Toppings: Jalapeno & Pepperoni



Britani has been with the CAC for just over a year. She works alongside CASA volunteers, CPS and attorneys to gain the best outcomes for children in the child welfare system. She enjoys being connected with the community and her coworkers as they help children become the best they can be. "I am most proud that I get to help children gain their best potential and often gain stability in their home lives however the outcome may be."



## FEEL GOOD FEATURE

### CASA Volunteer Swear In

Congratulations to our newest CASA Volunteer Brilyn Daniels on her swearing in! After touring the CAC as a member of the Junior League of San Angelo, Brilyn knew she wanted to be part of CASA so she could help children and families in the Concho Valley. She completed her training in May, was sworn in on 6/21/23, and has already chosen her first case to start advocating for. Thank you Brilyn!

# SUMMER FUN WITH THE CAC



# BACK TO SCHOOL ACTIVITY

**Creating a time capsule is a great way to get excited for the new school year and a wonderful way to look back at the end of the year!**

## **Time Capsule Instructions:**

1. Find a small to medium sized container to store the time capsule items in (ex: a mason jar or shoe box).
2. Decorate your container! Wrap it with ribbon, color or paint it; get creative and have fun!
3. Cut out the label template below, and attach it to your container.
4. Fill your container with first day of school mementos! Some examples might include:
  - a. First Day of School Pictures
  - b. Height measurements to compare with the last day of school to see how much you've grown
  - c. A list of goals to accomplish throughout the school year
5. Once you have all your items in your container, put it in a safe place to keep until the last day of school.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Fall Festival Sponsorship Deadline ..... September 5, 2023

Christmas for Kids Sponsorship Deadline ..... October 2, 2023

**Family Fall Festival** ..... October 17, 2023 | 5-6:30p.m. | CAC

COMING SOON



## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Become a sponsor and bring joy to a child in need this Christmas!

For more upcoming events, visit: <https://cacgreaterwtx.org/news-events/>

## CONNECT WITH US

325.653.HOPE • WWW.CACGREATERWTX.ORG

