



February 2021

Remembering Tana Ybarra

Today I share some sad news. Earlier this week we lost a member of our community.

Tana Ybarra passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer with her family and loved ones at her side. Tana had been a member of our SJ team for over 14 years. She brought passion, laughter, and advocacy (and a green thumb) to AchieveKids and the greater community of care for individuals with exceptionalities. We will remember Tana for her great spirit, and her laughter. Our team had the opportunity to spend an afternoon of reflection on how Tana enriched our community and each of us individually, sharing photos and stories of our experiences with her. We wanted to share some of those reflections with you here:

- Tana touched the lives of our students and families with her passion, laughter, and advocacy. She brought joy to our classrooms and I know was beloved by so many students.
- Everyone she met, she made you feel like you were her most special friend.
- Her life was devoted to helping others. She loved what she did and wasn't afraid to jump right in.
- She knew how to live life.
- Tana loved to cook and made the best quiche.
- Tana was fun, warm, loving and caring and it was an honor to work with her.
- She was the best at giving hugs.
- She had a zest for life and would always make your day better.
- Tana was a big San Jose Sharks fan and all things Disney.
- When working with a friend once she said "Take a breath, blow out the air, and enjoy the moment."
- If you walked into a challenging situation you always knew she had your back.



One of our students said it best, "We need to carry her memory and carry on her work."

Tana's teaching continues even in her physical absence. She will forever be a part of our AchieveKids family.

We invite any family or student to write a letter, note, or draw a picture to help in the process of closure. Please send these to our SJ campus in care of Stephen Crook, and we will get these messages to Tana's family.

Together We Can Achieve,
Ryan C. Eisenberg



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