

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Duarte Unified School District



Volume 3, Issue 9

May 2022

Duarte Unified School District Employees of the Year – May 2022



**Walter Sweeney, Felipe Aguirre, Angelina Salas, Annabelle Lopez, Lot Demeyer, Cindy Duffin, Lisa Bowdoin,
Victor Champion, Kathleen Klimuck, Jesus Pinones,
Mario San Juan, Tawnya Lichtman, Georgia Tripodes, Ana Reyes, Sandra Moses, Pat Scherer**

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SUPERINTENDENT

Creating Conditions for Success

Conditions continue to set the stage for major changes to come within our district. Moving straight to the point — school closure. After we poured over the data, it was evident that for us to deliver an exemplary educational program, all measures would need to be considered. In December of 2021, the difficult decision was made to close Andres Duarte Arts Academy. To those directly affected, a time for emotions to mend will follow, but the closure of the school will never erase fond memories made on that campus, and our scholars, staff, and families will treasure those for the rest of their lives. To ensure that the transition process goes as smoothly as possible for impacted families and staff, our Duarte USD team continues working hard so that caring, respect, and enthusiasm lead the way to an exciting opening of the new school year.

The consolidation of our campuses provides opportunities to improve the quality of education we offer here at Duarte Unified. By becoming more efficient, operating across fewer schools, we will be able to allocate resources that create a better educational experience for our scholars – including more robust instructional and enrichment programs, reduced combination classes at the elementary levels, and many other benefits. I look forward to the successes that will come because of this pivotal decision, and it is my goal to provide as much information and support as possible to our entire DUSD community.



**Dr. Gordon
Amerson**
Superintendent

Creando Condiciones para el éxito

Las condiciones continúan preparando el escenario para que se produzcan cambios importantes en nuestro distrito. Yendo directo al grano: cierre de la escuela. Después de revisar los datos, fue evidente que para que podamos ofrecer un programa educativo ejemplar, se deben considerar todas las medidas. En diciembre de 2021 se tomó la difícil decisión de cerrar la academia de artes Andrés Duarte. Para aquellos directamente afectados, seguirá un tiempo para que las emociones se recuperen, pero el cierre de la escuela nunca borrará los buenos recuerdos creados en esa escuela, y nuestros estudiantes, el personal y las familias los atesorarán por el resto de sus vidas. Para garantizar que el proceso de transición sea lo más fluido posible para las familias y el personal afectados, nuestro equipo de Duarte USD continúa trabajando arduamente para que el cariño, el respeto y el entusiasmo guíen el camino hacia una emocionante apertura del nuevo año escolar.

La consolidación de nuestras escuelas brinda oportunidades para mejorar la calidad de la educación que ofrecemos aquí en el distrito unificado de Duarte. Al volvernos más eficientes y operar en menos escuelas, podremos asignar recursos que creen una mejor experiencia educativa para nuestros estudiantes, incluidos programas instructivos y de enriquecimiento más sólidos, clases combinadas reducidas en los niveles primarios y muchos otros beneficios. Espero con ansias los éxitos que vendrán debido a esta decisión fundamental, y mi objetivo es brindar la mayor cantidad de información y apoyo posible a toda nuestra comunidad de DUSD.

2022 State of the District

On Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the Duarte Unified School District's State of the District was held in conjunction with the State of the City in the Duarte Community Center and Courtyard. Due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic, it had been several years since we were able to host the State of the District, and we were all very excited to greet our many guests in-person once again at this occasion to showcase our District and the City. The fun-filled event featured a video narrated by Board President Reyna Diaz and Mayor Margaret Finlay recapping the accomplishments from 2021 with a sneak peek to what is coming in 2022. We are proud of our student performers that delivered outstanding performances for all to see. CSArts Student Izzy Arce-De La Vega beautifully performed "Imagine" by the Beatles, and the Duarte High School Jazz Band led by Band Director Maurice Limon delighted guests with an "Earth Wind and Fire" medley before setting a festive tone for the duration of the night with their live music performance. The partnership enjoyed between the two parties is unique, and it is evident that the Duarte community is supportive of our schools. To watch the video shared that night, visit the District's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj8sTRdkmvfaeF-FkdbFlzQ>

2022 estado del Distrito

El martes 5 de abril de 2022, el estado del Distrito del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte se llevó a cabo junto con el Estado de la Ciudad en el centro comunitario y patio de Duarte. Debido a las restricciones causadas por la pandemia, habían pasado varios años desde que pudimos presentar el Estado del Distrito, y todos estábamos muy emocionados de saludar a nuestros numerosos invitados en persona una vez más en esta ocasión para mostrar nuestro Distrito y la ciudad. El evento lleno de diversión contó con un video narrado por la presidenta de la mesa directiva, Reyna Díaz, y la alcaldesa Margaret Finlay, que resumen los logros de 2021 con un adelanto de lo que vendrá en 2022. Estamos orgullosos de nuestros estudiantes que realizaron actuaciones sobresalientes para que todos las vean. La estudiante de CSArts Izzy Arce-De La Vega interpretó maravillosamente "Imagine" de los Beatles, y la banda de jazz de la preparatoria Duarte dirigida por el director de la banda, Maurice Limon, deleitó a los invitados con un popurrí de "Earth Wind and Fire" antes de establecer un tono festivo durante la duración de la noche con su actuación de música en vivo. La asociación que disfrutan las dos partes es única, y es evidente que la comunidad de Duarte apoya a nuestras escuelas. Para ver el video compartido esa noche, visite la página de YouTube del Distrito: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj8sTRdkmvfaeF-FkdbFlzQ>

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As this school year comes to a close we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 12 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is October 5th. Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your summer activity choices.



Start them early. They will read forever.



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Andres Duarte Arts Academy (K-8)

1433 Crestfield Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5100 • www.duarteusd.org/andresduarte



Erin Fish
Principal

Student Leadership

This school year has been a busy one filled with so many opportunities for the students of Andres Duarte Arts Academy to make lasting memories. Our middle school leaders have taken the lead all year planning meaningful and engaging activities from Student Council events, to Volunteer

Council activities, and supporting our school PBIS initiative. This 5th-8th grade team of students has planned events from dances to lunchtime activities. They also plan school spirit days to get students excited about dressing up and coming to school to show their spirit. Student Council members have kept our student body informed about events and other important information they need to know through their morning announcements which include the menu of the day, a funny joke, and an inspirational quote. They have also been in charge of running our mobile PBIS ROAR Store to bring opportunities

for students to spend their ROAR dollars throughout the month. And our Volunteer Council has been leading the charge in maintaining our beautiful campus with campus beautification and campus clean up events. The staff and students of Andres Duarte have forever been impacted by the efforts and energy of our student leaders.



Andres Duarte Arts Academy student leaders in action.



Beardslee *Dual Language Immersion Academy (TK-8)*

1212 Kellwil Way, Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5200 • www.duarteusd.org/bes



Jennifer Romero
Principal

A Rewarding School Year

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Beardslee's 5th grade band, intermediate band and advanced band were nothing short of amazing in district band showcase held in early April. The intermediate and advanced bands are looking forward to performing at the Trills and Thrills Band Festival on May 7 at Six Flags Magic

Mountain. Our band director, Mr. Arenas, continues to seek out opportunities for our students to participate in and this will most definitely be a great experience for the band students!

In other news, students at Beardslee continue to thrive and excel. In the month of April students in grades 1st to 8th grade participated in the district wide track meet. The students practiced and were anxious to show off their speed, long jump skills and softball skills. A big thank you to our track coaches Mr. Arenas and Mrs. Mata. Students in grades 3rd to 8th worked hard on state testing, they were ready to achieve and succeed and they showed what it means to persevere. The teachers prepared them well all year, and it was time for them to show what they know!

All Beardslee students are continuing to focus on their academics and are gearing up for the end of year activities. Lastly, the Beardslee community is looking forward to recognizing all our 8th graders at this year's promotion ceremony on May 25.



8th grade boys 400 m relay team Esteban Jimenez, Oliver Villareal, Jonathan Castaneda, and Jose "Manny" Landeros



Luis Haro
Principal

Doing things with PRIDE at Duarte High!

There have been so many notable events since February. Here's a recap of just a few of the events. We celebrated Kindness Week with an engaging Encanto themed Spirit Week. We rolled out the red carpet to announce our Senior Hall of Fame. On February 25, we hosted the No Hate High School Tour, which is an interactive, educational program using professional BMX athletes to deliver an anti-bullying message. Throughout the event, the professional BMX athletes performed several stunts, which engaged students, and the Emcee Catfish shared a message of overcoming obstacles, inclusion, kindness, and surrounding oneself with positive influences. On March 17, we honored and appreciated our staff with the support of our parents and the community. Our "We're so lucky to have staff like you, we appreciate everything you do" event provided breakfast and lunch to our entire staff and our jazz band played live music during lunch. Each staff member also received a hand-written note of appreciation from parents and community members.

In April, we hosted a Prom Pop Up & Shopping event. School and community members donated formal wear, including suits, dresses, shoes, and accessories. In total, 75 students benefited from our community's generous donations. We hosted a special recognition event to honor our students for academic excellence and for exemplifying our school's PBIS expectations. On April 14, we hosted Open House, where 15 community organizations hosted booths and provided our families with information on local resources and organizations. On April 15, we held our first school wide rally back in our gym. This Barbie-themed event was filled with school spirit, games, and friendly class competition. During the rally, we announced our Teacher of the Year, Lisa Bowdoin, Classified Staff Member of the Year, Greg Ainsworth, our Valedictorian, Catherine Soo, and Salutatorians, Carly Knoles and Sarah Dowiri. Looking back on the second semester of this school year, I am beaming with PRIDE about the 2021 - 2022 school year and all the amazing ways our staff and community have worked together to ensure a successful year.



Senior Hall of Fame Event

Duarte *Preschool-Child Development Center*

1433 Crestfield Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5123 • www.duarteusd.org/cdc



Sofia Valdez
Coordinator of
Preschool Services

Building a Solid Foundation

It has long been known that the benefits of reading to children at an early age are significant. Reading fulfills a critical part of brain development that supports language, communication skills, cognition, and literacy. Reading books aloud to young children helps them understand the world around them.

In Duarte Child Development, we understand the importance of building a solid foundation in the acquisition of language and literacy skills and the impact that it can make in the lives of our little scholars. Therefore, we highly appreciate the Rotary Club for the significant contribution of more than five hundred books donated that go home with our preschoolers at the three-preschool sites: Maxwell, Andres Duarte, and Beardslee.

The “Take-Home Library” is a wide variety of developmentally age-appropriate books that include five main literary genres: fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, and folktale. These books will be extremely helpful in fostering literacy motivation not only for the preschoolers but their caregivers.

Families will partake in helping young children to flourish as they develop the early ready and writing skills they need to be successful in school and life. Indeed, the Rotary Book donation will build a communication network among school, home, and community by sustaining a home-take library in the future.

Thank you, Rotary Club; these books are precious to all children!



Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

1400 Mt. Olive Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5900 • www.duarteusd.org/MIT



Kevin Morris
Principal

MIT Film Academy on the Red

The Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School Film Academy students have graced the Hollywood scene again! This time the MIT Film Crew was on location at the 17th Annual SEEFest, better known as the South East European Film Festival in Beverly Hills. They were on the red carpet to interview Hollywood stars of the soon to be released movie, *Murina*. This was one of many real industry, CTE work-based learning opportunities provided through Creating Creators this year.

MIT red carpet host, Andrea Ibarra had the pleasure of interviewing Stefania Magidson, the founder of Blue Heron Foundation who received the SEEFest Humanitarian Legacy Award for her amazing heart felt work in providing aide to war torn Ukrainian refugees.

Andrea Ibarra also interviewed accomplished actor and producer, Ajay Mehta. He has appeared in the films *Spider-Man* (2002), *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* (2013), and *Life of Pi* (2012). Recently, his works include *The Good Place* (2016-2020), *And Just Like That...* (2022), and *This Is Us* (2019). He is a longtime friend and supporter of SEEFest.

Also, on hand were MIT film crew members, Guillermo Serrato, videographer; Audrye Ramirez, sound technician, and Nick Gallo, as the lighting technician. Be on the look out for these young filmmakers, because as high school juniors they all return to MIT for 2022-23 to do more amazing work.



MIT Crew members on location at SEEFest



Guillermo Serrato, videographer

**Andrea Ibarra interviewing Stefania Magidson,
the founder of Blue Heron Foundation**

Maxwell Academy *An International Baccalaureate World School (K-8)*

733 Euclid Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5302 • www.duarteusd.org/mes



Dr. Kelly Lawson
Principal

Excitement, Goals, and Ceremonies Mark the End of the School Year

The final days of the 2021-2022 school year are quickly approaching. The students and team are looking forward to the last month of school with much anticipation and excitement. The

month kicks off with the Spring Book Fair. This is an opportunity for students to purchase books for summer reading. On May 6th, we have a BMX Assembly and PBIS recognition. Professional BMX athletes will give students positive and encouraging messages during an energetic and action-packed performance of incredible BMX tricks and stunts the students are sure to love! On May 11th, the 5th grade students will host their IB Exhibition from

5:00- 7:00pm. This is an opportunity for our students to demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning. Students synthesize and apply their learning over their previous years and reflect upon their journey through

the Primary Years Program. In honor of our students that have met their reading goals for the year, we celebrate at our Breakfast of Champions. This is our schoolwide reading incentive program designed to promote literacy and personal goal setting. Our year concludes honoring our 8th grade students at the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony on May 26th and our 5th Grade students celebrating as they take the next step on their journey, moving from Elementary to Middle School at the Bridging Ceremony on May 27th. This is a wonderful time of the year, full of recognition, admiration and celebration!



5th Grade Exhibition Group Planning Unit

Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

2499 Royal Oaks Dr., Bradbury, CA 91008 • 626/599-5400 • www.duarteusd.org/roe



Dr. Esther Tamanaha
Principal

Royal Oaks Excels at District Track Meet

Ready, Set, Go! Royal Oaks participated in the district track meet at the Duarte High School field on April 23rd. Led by

Coach Arenas, over 100 RO participants gathered to race against other schools in the district. Ms. Leone called all RO athletes to the field to start the day with morning stretches. As the races began, we saw many of our students with gold medals. We want to thank Coach Arenas for his hard work in getting our students ready for this exciting event. Congratulations to all the students who participated!





Margaret Rasmussen
Principal

EXTRA FUN Activities

As COVID restrictions are being lifted, Valley View is trying to put as much fun into learning as possible. Recently students participated in a “HOOP IT UP” assembly, which was sponsored by our PTA. Students learned about positive health habits and positive messaging as they enjoyed Hula Hoop activities and dance. We had so much fun that the dance party spilled over into recess!

On Friday April 22, an assembly was held for grades TK-3. A group of talented fifth and sixth graders directed and choreographed a performance based on the movie “Encanto.” The performers did a fantastic job; which will pave the way for future student created assemblies. The crowd favorite was when “We don’t talk about Bruno” was performed.

Our Valley View Track meet was held recently and cumulated in many of our track athletes running in the District Track Meet held on April 23rd. It was a perfect day for running.

The garden is thriving under the care of students TK-6th. Garden club meets on Fridays at lunch. Parents should look for vegetables, being sold soon, at ridiculously high prices!!

May will bring the serious side of learning with students participating in state testing. After testing students will get to enjoy the talent show and play dates.



Track Meet



Encanto Play



Hoop It Up Assembly



Garden Club

Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

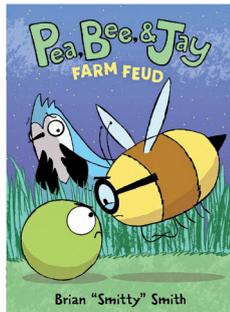
Best Friends Forever?

Title: *Pea, Bee, & Jay: Farm Feud*

Author: Brian "Smitty" Smith

Best friends

Pea (a pea), Bee (a bee), and Jay (a bird) are back in this fourth book of the Pea, Bee, & Jay



series! Pea and Bee are arguing so Jay decides to go find new best friends. Then Pea and Bee try to find new best friends too. At the same time, there is a hungry snake who wants to eat them all! I really liked this funny book with cute characters who are silly and have good hearts. Read this book to find out what happens to them and also to learn the lesson that you should never forget about the friends you have.

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

Yoona's Review



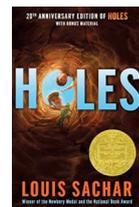
Yoona C.

Holes of Everything

Title: *Holes*

Author: Louis Sachar

This book has lots of themes like friendship and more! The main character of this book is Stanley. He was a 14 year old boy with no friends. He was bullied



at school. He goes to a horrible camp just because he did "something" without any evidence. The horrible thing about the camp is you have to dig very big holes. I mean big. The worst part, it's in the desert. You might think you could just have water to survive, but you have limited amounts of water! Stanley finally gets friends in the camp! He makes deals and has fun with his friends, although some "friends" turn out to be fake. He does get in trouble lots of times in the camp still without evidence. He experienced lots of hardships, but he survived. Yes, the camp was horrible, but there were some good parts! Find out what happens next!

Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

Curious George Goes to the Zoo—Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Duarte in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2022

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Amazing

Animals

Climbed

Curious

Danced

Fun

George

Giraffe

Headquarters

Hippo

Leaves

Park

Party

Rhino

Water

Wild

Wonderful

Zoo

Zookeeper

L	I	F	D	R	V	P	P	D	Y	L	F	G	F	H
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N	S	F	U	P	B	N	E	R	T	Q	Q	B	Z	A
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Q	W	A	T	E	R	L	I	D	C	X	B	T	Y	Q
P	I	D	D	K	D	P	G	L	G	Q	C	B	A	U
D	S	W	C	O	P	N	W	I	C	O	L	F	G	A
E	U	H	B	O	I	B	O	W	R	P	W	M	E	R
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