

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Duarte Unified School District**



Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2019 / January 2020

## Duarte High School's Cutting-Edge Academy of Culinary Entrepreneurship La Academia de Vanguardia de la Preparatoria Duarte de Emprendimiento Culinario



Duarte High School's ACE students, Tavia Gray, Ruby McGhee, Kathryn Steinert and Jacob Grajeda along with Chef Jason Prince and Chamber CEO Sheryl Lefmann, on the set of KFI AM 640 with host Neil Saavedra.

Tavia Gray, Ruby McGhee, Kathryn Steinert y Jacob Grajeda, estudiantes de ACE de la preparatoria Duarte, junto con el Chef Jason Prince y la directora ejecutiva de la Cámara, Sheryl Lefmann, en el set de KFI AM 640 con el anfitrión Neil Saavedra.

(please see page 5)

# SUPERINTENDENT

## We Believe in the Value of Career Technical Education Creemos en el valor de la educación técnica profesional

As Duarte Unified continues its resurgence and renaissance as a transformational center of learning, we recognize the importance and value of college preparation as well as Career Technical Education (CTE). This was reinforced when I recently met with our Duarte Chamber of Commerce business leaders and heard the importance of our investment in the technical skills and abilities of our scholars. Innovative local start-up companies are in need of highly skilled students to build their business, and we here in DUSD are working to meet that charge.



**Dr. Gordon Emerson**  
*Superintendent*

It wasn't so long ago that classes that did not neatly fit into the A-G University accepted course sequence were seen as "less than" or not a benefit to a student's education. In many circles CTE, or what previously was referred to as Vocational Education, was seen as a place that was home to instruction that was low in quality, and academic content that was weak. However, over the last decade and a half, the immense value of these CTE courses is becoming more and more evident.

The origins of the CTE movement can be traced to the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994. The act promoted the goal of providing work-based learning to prepare students for a rapidly evolving labor market and, at the time, appeared to be making a difference. However, as the educational landscape shifted and test accountability stood front and center as the main priority, CTE took a back seat. But, the value of career and occupational based education was still quietly moving forward in the background. The interaction with business industry leaders strengthened. The programs and class offerings became more rigorous. Students and families are seeing the value in CTE, and our communities are seeing the value of CTE.

As we move the transformational work ahead in DUSD, CTE will continue to be a staple of the academic program we offer. The articulation we are doing in the Academy of Culinary Arts Entrepreneurship is paving the way for our students to learn the hard skills of career-based education coupled with the soft skills necessary to be effective leaders of our new globalized economy.

Additionally, the technical expertise that is being developed at both Duarte and M.I.T. High Schools in the Design, Visual, and Media Arts Academy; Production and Managerial Arts Academy; and the Healthcare/Biotechnology Academy is just the cutting-edge opportunity that our students are craving. Our educators are casting a vision for our scholars and in the process opening up wonderful new doors of opportunity.

While much work is left to be done, it is clear that our current CTE programs will be a leading initiative for us while we continue to look for additional strategic opportunities as we continue to rise as the destination for education in this region.

A medida que el distrito de Duarte continúa su resurgimiento y renacimiento como un centro de aprendizaje transformador, reconocemos la importancia y el valor de la preparación universitaria y de la Educación Técnica Profesional (CTE). Esto se reforzó cuando recientemente me reuní con nuestros líderes empresariales de la Cámara de Comercio de Duarte y escuché la importancia de nuestra inversión en las habilidades técnicas de nuestros académicos. Las nuevas empresas locales innovadoras necesitan estudiantes altamente calificados para desarrollar su negocio, y nosotros aquí en DUSD estamos trabajando para cumplir con ese cargo.

No fue hace tanto tiempo que las clases que no encajaban perfectamente en la secuencia de cursos A-G aceptados por la Universidad se consideraban "menos que" o no un beneficio para la educación de un estudiante. En muchos círculos, CTE o lo que anteriormente se denominaba Educación Vocacional se consideraba un lugar donde se impartían clases de baja calidad y un contenido académico débil. Sin embargo, durante la última década y media, el inmenso valor de estos cursos, CTE se está volviendo cada vez más evidente.

Los orígenes del movimiento CTE se remontan a la Ley de oportunidades de la escuela al trabajo de 1994. La ley promovió el objetivo de proporcionar aprendizaje basado en el trabajo para preparar a los estudiantes para un mercado laboral en rápida evolución y, en ese momento, parecía hacer una diferencia. Sin embargo, a medida que el panorama educativo cambió y la responsabilidad de la prueba se situó al frente y al centro como la principal prioridad, CTE pasó a segundo plano. Pero, el valor de la educación profesional y basada en la carrera todavía avanzaba silenciosamente en el fondo. La interacción con los líderes de la industria empresarial se fortaleció. Los programas y las ofertas de clase se volvieron más rigurosos. Los estudiantes, las familias y nuestras comunidades están viendo el valor de CTE.

A medida que avanzamos en el trabajo de transformación en DUSD, CTE continuará siendo un elemento básico del programa académico que ofrecemos. La articulación que estamos haciendo en la Academia de Emprendimiento de Artes Culinarias está allanando el camino para que nuestros estudiantes aprendan las habilidades difíciles de la educación profesional junto con las habilidades blandas necesarias para ser líderes efectivos de nuestra nueva economía globalizada.

Además, la experiencia técnica que se está desarrollando tanto en la preparatoria Duarte como en M.I.T. en la academia de Diseño, Artes Visuales y Artes

*See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 7*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Ken  
Bell**  
*President*



**Reyna  
Diaz**  
*Vice President*



**Ceci Escarcega  
Carroll**  
*Member*



**Dr. James  
Finlay**  
*Member*



**Tom  
Reyes**  
*Member*

### Message from Our Board President

It is my pleasure to share with our community that Dr. James Finlay has joined our Board of Education. Due to the resignation of Douglas Edwards, the Duarte Unified School District had a vacancy on our Board as of September 20, 2019. Our members took action at the regular meeting held on October 17, to provisionally appoint Dr. James Finlay to fill the vacancy. Dr. Finlay will serve as a member of the Board for the remainder of the vacated term, through the next regularly scheduled election, which will take place in November 2020.

Dr. Finlay moved to the city of Duarte at age four from Colorado. He attended Duarte Unified Schools starting in Kindergarten at Royal Oaks, followed by Valley View, Northview, and finally Duarte High School ('99). Following graduation, he attended Brigham Young University majoring in Biology. He then attended Michigan State University where he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 2009. At this point, Dr. Finlay returned to the Duarte area completing a combined residency and Ph.D. program in Comparative Medicine through the City of Hope and the University of Southern California. He currently works at the City of Hope as their Clinical Veterinarian as well as an Assistant Research Professor. He and his wife have been married for over 16 years and are proud to have their three children in DUSD schools.

Dr. Finlay has been actively engaged for several years in the workings of DUSD through his involvement with the Community Education Council, Duarte Education Foundation, and PTA. He is proud to have the opportunity to serve the students and families of Duarte. He firmly believes that Duarte schools can fully prepare all children for success in life through a partnership of teachers, staff, students, and parents/families.

At the meeting that Dr. Finlay was sworn into office on October 17, our members also voted to elect new officers. Mrs. Reyna Diaz will now serve as Vice President and I have the honor of serving as President. Mrs. Ceci Carroll and Mr. Tom Reyes will continue as members, and Ashley Lemus and Serene Dowiri will continue as our student board representatives.

### Mensaje del presidente de la mesa directiva

Es un placer compartir con nuestra comunidad que el Dr. James Finlay se ha convertido en un miembro de la mesa directiva. Debido a la renuncia de Douglas Edwards, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte tenía una vacante en nuestra mesa a partir del 20 de septiembre de 2019. Nuestros miembros tomaron medidas en la junta regular del 17 de octubre para designar provisionalmente al Dr. James Finlay para llenar la vacante. El Dr. Finlay servirá como miembro de la mesa por el resto del período vacante, hasta la próxima elección regular, que tendrá lugar en noviembre del año 2020.

El Dr. Finlay se mudó a la ciudad de Duarte a los cuatro años desde Colorado. Asistió a las escuelas de Duarte comenzando en Kindergarten en Royal Oaks, seguido de Valley View, Northview y finalmente la preparatoria Duarte (clase del año '99). Después de graduarse, asistió a la Universidad Brigham Young con especialización en biología. Luego asistió a la Universidad Estatal de Michigan, donde obtuvo su Doctorado en Medicina Veterinaria en 2009. En este punto, el Dr. Finlay regresó al área de Duarte completando una residencia combinada y un programa de Ph.D. en Medicina Comparativa a través de City of Hope y la Universidad del Sur de California. Actualmente trabaja en City of Hope como su veterinario clínico y como profesor asistente de investigación. Él y su esposa han estado casados por más de 16 años y están orgullosos de tener a sus tres hijos en las escuelas de DUSD.

El Dr. Finlay ha participado activamente durante varios años en el funcionamiento de DUSD a través de su participación en el Consejo de Educación de la Comunidad, la Fundación de Educación de Duarte y el PTA. Está orgulloso de tener la oportunidad de servir a los estudiantes y las familias de Duarte. Él cree firmemente que las escuelas de Duarte pueden preparar a todos los niños para el éxito en la vida a través de una asociación de maestros, personal, estudiantes y padres/familias.

En la reunión en la que el Dr. Finlay asumió el cargo el 17 de octubre, nuestros miembros también votaron para elegir nuevos oficiales. La Sra. Reyna Díaz ahora servirá como vicepresidenta y tengo el honor de servir como

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 5





**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

## Covering the DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** Leslie Rawlings  
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063  
**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**  
Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder  
**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison

@SchoolNewsRC

SchoolNewsRollCall

SchoolNewsRollCall



### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. This publication is paid for through advertisements at no cost to the school district. The Duarte Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

As this year comes to a close I'd like to thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read articles about honoring male role models involved in their children's lives,

respecting nature with a school garden, dance and music in the classroom, the Screamfest Film Festival, and so much more...enjoy!

Our next issue is February 5, 2020.

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

from the *School News* staff!



Citrus College

# Success. Starts. Here.



Winter session begins January 6

**APPLY TODAY**  
[citruscollege.edu/connect](http://citruscollege.edu/connect)

## Duarte High School's Cutting-Edge Academy of Culinary Entrepreneurship Featured on the Fork Report

By, Luis Haro, Principal of Duarte High School

Students in Duarte High School's Academy of Culinary Entrepreneurship (ACE) along with their instructor, Chef Jason Prince, were featured guests on KFI's popular radio show for foodies, The Fork Report. The show's host and cuisine influencer, Neil Saavedra, was impressed by the gastronomic delights the students dished up at last year's "Taste of Duarte." In partnership with the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Saavedra extended an invitation for the students to return to the show this October to share about Duarte High's cutting-edge culinary academy.

The grand opening of the state-of-the-art culinary complex built to house ACE was held last January. It is comprised of the highest quality restaurant-grade equipment fit for the finest of chefs. The retrofitted kitchen provides ample room for the students to hone their cooking skills, however, learning about food preparation is not the sole purpose of the Academy or the new facility. "Our goal is to weave the entrepreneurial concept with the culinary as part of the hospitality industry," explained the Academy's CTE Business Instructor, Amy Bustos. "Our goal is to help students identify where they best fit into the hospitality business and give them the skills that will translate into a career."

The new culinary complex also gives students room to collaborate and develop important "soft skills," like interviewing and building a resume. "So many of our students come in thinking that Culinary Arts means cooking, and that's the only reason to take these classes," said Prince. "We show them there is so much more to the Academy." In addition to a financial focus, the curriculum also includes menu prep, food safety and sanitation, and food science.

Started with funding from the California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant, the Academy has since been endorsed by the National Academy Foundation (NAF). Look out for the ACE Pop Up events showcasing their culinary and business skills hosted throughout the year, and listen to their Fork Report interview at [duarteusd.org](http://duarteusd.org).



Luis Haro

## La Academia de Vanguardia de la Preparatoria Duarte de Emprendimiento Culinario Presentado en el Fork Report

Por Luis Haro, Director de la preparatoria Duarte

Los estudiantes de la Academia de Emprendimiento Culinario de la preparatoria Duarte junto con su instructor, el Chef Jason Prince, fueron invitados a participar en el popular programa de radio de KFI para amantes de la comida, The Fork Report. El presentador del programa e influyente en la cocina, Neil Saavedra, quedó impresionado por las delicias gastronómicas que los estudiantes ofrecieron en el "Taste of Duarte" del año pasado. En asociación con la Cámara de Comercio de Duarte, Saavedra extendió una invitación para que los estudiantes regresen al espectáculo. para compartir sobre la academia culinaria de vanguardia de la preparatoria Duarte.

La gran inauguración del complejo culinario de vanguardia construido para albergar la Academia se celebró el enero pasado. Se compone de equipos de la más alta calidad, aptos para restaurantes, aptos para los mejores chefs. La cocina modernizada ofrece un amplio espacio para que los estudiantes perfeccionen sus habilidades culinarias, sin embargo, aprender sobre la preparación de alimentos no es el único propósito de la Academia o las nuevas instalaciones. "Nuestro objetivo es tejer el concepto empresarial con lo culinario como parte de la industria hotelera", explicó la instructora de negocios de la Academia, Amy Bustos. "Nuestro objetivo es ayudar a los estudiantes a identificar dónde encajan mejor en el negocio y darles las habilidades que se traducirán en una carrera."

El espacio expandido les da a los estudiantes espacio para colaborar y desarrollar las "habilidades blandas", que también son importantes como entrevistar y crear una hoja de vida laboral. "Muchos de nuestros estudiantes piensan que Artes Culinarias significa cocinar, y esa es la única razón para tomar estas clases," dijo el sr. prince. "Les mostramos que hay mucho más en la Academia." Además de un enfoque financiero, el plan de estudios también incluye la preparación del menú, la seguridad y el saneamiento de los alimentos y la ciencia de los alimentos.

Comenzó con fondos de la Beca de Incentivo de Educación Técnica Profesional de California, la Academia ha sido respaldada por la Fundación de la Academia Nacional (NAF). Esté atento a sus eventos que muestran sus habilidades culinarias y comerciales, y escuche su entrevista de Fork Report en [duarteusd.org](http://duarteusd.org).

### BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 3

I am pleased that our board is once more complete, and I look forward to working together in order to fulfill our district's vision "21st Century Schools Producing 21st Century Students" and our mission remains to provide the knowledge, skills, and inspiration for each student to be successful in college, career, and life.



Ken Bell  
President

presidente. La Sra. Ceci Carroll y el Sr. Tom Reyes continuarán como miembros, y Ashley Lemus y Serene Dowiri continuarán como nuestros representantes de la mesa estudiantil.

Me complace que nuestra mesa directiva esté una vez más completa y espero trabajar juntos para cumplir la visión de nuestro distrito "Escuelas del siglo XXI que producen estudiantes del siglo XXI" y nuestra misión sigue siendo proporcionar el conocimiento, las habilidades y la inspiración para cada estudiante tener éxito en la universidad, carrera y vida.



## Andres Duarte Arts Academy (K-8)

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



**Scott Moses**  
Principal

### Student Council and Volunteer Club

Our Middle and Elementary Student Councils collaborate on moving our school forward with a focus on fostering school spirit. The Councils organized Red Ribbon Week, the Fall Carnival, and are planning Family Fun Nights.

Prepping the infrastructure of the school

garden is also under their direction. They have weeded, rebuilt and designed plans for a more water efficient system for future grant funding. This includes a composting program using scraps from yard work and the cafeteria.

Aiding the increased number of hungry and homeless within our community by creating homeless kits and initiating a food drive is also underway.

Our President is seeking donations from local dentists and other healthcare organizations.

The Council works with Think Together to plan dances and student activities to grow camaraderie on our campus. Under the leadership of Mrs. Angie Salas and Mr. Andrew Thill, our students are making our learning environment meaningful and fun.



**The 2019-2020 members of Student Council and Volunteer Club at the site of the school's growing garden.**

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

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



**Jennifer Romero**  
Principal

### Día de los Muertos Performance

Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, is actually a celebration of life! Our school found unique ways to learn more about this festive and fascinating Mexican tradition.

The students in Grades TK-3 put on a fabulous presentation that showcased their

dual language skills by performing songs in Spanish and dancing before an audience filled with parents and classmates. Hits from the movie "Coco" and the tunes "Tumbas por aquí, Tumbas por allá" and "Huesitos" were included. It was a beautiful and touching tribute to honor the memories of their deceased loved ones. This event was a true labor of love by the dual teachers and students who dedicated many hours to produce the performances.

Kudos to our BPSA for the beautiful decorations and thank you to all of the volunteers. It was a true community effort, and because it was such a huge success, it will now be an annual tradition.



**The dual immersion teaching team, Mrs. Luna, Mrs. Torres, Mrs. Cates, Ms. Cano, Mrs. Martinez and Ms. Neal, worked together with students in TK-3 to perform Beardslee's first-ever Día de los Muertos showcase.**

# California School of the Arts - San Gabriel Valley (7-12)

1401 Highland Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 657/321-4000 • [sgv.csarts.net](http://sgv.csarts.net)



**William Wallace**  
Principal

## Bringing Dance and Music to DUSD Academies

After attending their academic and arts conservatory classes, instrumental music students at California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley spend their Friday afternoons serving as mentors to local elementary students who express interest in learning

more about music. In partnership with the Dragon Kim Foundation, this free music program, led by CSArts-SGV and Duarte USD faculty, teaches children the fundamentals of music through singing, playing percussion instruments, and movement.

In addition to this unique outreach effort, CSArts-SGV has helped to fund a dance and movement class for students in TK-8th grade at every Duarte USD school. The dance program shares instructors with the dance conservatories at CSArts-SGV,

who develop leveled curriculum that helps young people advance in their study of dance. Providing access to the arts is fundamental to the mission of CSArts-SGV, and we are proud to play our part in bringing the arts to Duarte!



## Contest!

This chicken is somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page number to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Put Duarte in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by January 15, 2020. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 2



**Dr. Gordon Amerson**  
Superintendent

de Medios; Academia de Producción y Artes Gerenciales; y la Academia de Salud / Biotecnología es solo la oportunidad de vanguardia que nuestros estudiantes anhelan. Nuestros educadores están proyectando una visión para nuestros académicos y en el proceso abriendo nuevas y maravillosas puertas de oportunidad.

Mientras queda mucho trabajo por hacer, está claro que nuestros programas actuales de CTE serán una iniciativa líder para nosotros mientras continuamos buscando oportunidades estratégicas adicionales a medida que continuamos creciendo como destino para la educación en esta región.

RESPECT SELF CONTROL SELF DISCIPLINE

## 6 WEEKS FOR \$69



includes uniform, belt, logo patch and group sessions  
\*with this ad, may not be combined with any other deal



### VILLARI'S MARTIAL ARTS CENTER

1740 E. Huntington Drive, #306, Duarte, CA 91010  
626 327-4441 / [www.villariduarte.net](http://www.villariduarte.net)

Smile. Your search for a new dentist is over.

**\$59** Cleaning, Exam & Digital X-rays\*



**626-358-3636**  
[MonroviaModernDentistry.com](http://MonroviaModernDentistry.com)



Priyadarshini Bhatia, DDS, MPH  
460 W Huntington Dr  
Monrovia, CA 91016

\*Regular value of at least \$290. In absence of gum (periodontal) disease. New patients only. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Coupon must be presented at appointment. Limit 1 per patient. Subject to insurance restrictions; cannot be applied to insurance co-payments or deductible. Not valid for appointments with pediatric dentist.



## Duarte High School

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • [duarteusd.org/dhs](http://duarteusd.org/dhs)



**Luis Haro**  
Principal

### ACE Aquaponics at DHS

The recently installed greenhouse with aquaponics systems are the newest edition to our Academy of Culinary Entrepreneurship, which is a collaboration between the Culinary Arts, Business Education, English, Social Science and Adult Transition Special Education classes.

Students learn how to cultivate fresh produce and fish that are free of chemicals and are able to observe nature's biological cycles first-hand. As the Culinary Arts students are creating recipes, they place orders for the product they need that is grown in the greenhouse. The students in the Adult Transition Class plant and maintain the greenhouse, and the Business Education students "sell" the finished product to the Culinary Class. The English and Social Science teachers integrate lessons around different growing methods in different cultures and time periods within their courses.

In this way, the Academy of Culinary Entrepreneurship is based on a symbiotic relationship similar to that of the greenhouse and aquaponics systems themselves.



**Students in the Adult Transition Class tending to the greenhouse that contains two aquaponics systems with tanks housing fish as well as organic herbs and vegetables used by the Academy of Culinary Entrepreneurship.**

## Duarte Preschool-Child Development Center

1433 Crestfield Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5123 • [duarteusd.org/cdc](http://duarteusd.org/cdc)



**Sofia Valdez**  
Coordinator of  
Preschool Services

### Hero Day was Super Special

Thank you to the special men in our preschoolers' lives who joined us for "Hero Day" at all three of our campuses on October 25. The goal of this event is to provide opportunities for our students and their significant male role models to spend quality time interacting, conversing, sharing ideas, playing together, and building strong relationships.

Research shows that male figures that get involved in their children's lives positively impact the overall growth and development of a child. Among the 115 guests that attended were grandfathers, dads, uncles, brothers, cousins, neighbors, friends and "Super"-intendent Amerson. They enthusiastically participated alongside the students in a variety of fun learning activities like the parachute, STEM projects, and sand play. Some of the guests even directed the activities themselves and presented about their professions and shared their talents.

A big thank you to preschool parent, Hector Jimenez, who led the children in a sing-a-long.



**Duarte Preschool celebrated "Hero Day" by inviting the special male role models in our students' lives to join us at school for a day filled with learning and fun!**





**Dr. Kelly Lawson**  
*Principal*

### Language and Culture Connections with “Ofrendas”

At Maxwell Academy, our international instructional program includes the study of world languages, and our students explore Mandarin and Spanish. As they acquire linguistic competence, they also learn about the cultures connected to these languages

by engaging in special projects, reading works of literature, analyzing social relationships, and examining customs and traditions. Students in our Middle Years Program who take Spanish, delved into the Mexican celebration of Día de los Muertos. They learned about the custom of creating “ofrendas” and built their own altars in honor of notable deceased Hispanic figures. Students had to identify key elements of the

person’s life, their family history, childhood experiences, accomplishments, contributions to their community, and significance to society. Not only were students responsible for providing the biography of the person, they also had to present their local, global and national impact. To culminate the project, students had to deliver an oral presentation to their classmates in Spanish.



**Students in Mrs. Mattern’s Spanish Class sharing the “ofrendas” they created.**

## Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

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



**Kevin Morris**  
*Principal*

### Students take to the Red Carpet

From the Habitat for Humanity Hollywood Build to the opening night gala of the Screampfest Film Festival, Mt. Olive’s student-led media team have established a reputation of professionalism and journalistic integrity on red carpets across Hollywood.

With Principal Morris and Creating Creators teaching artists present only as chaperones, the budding filmmakers from Duarte dive headfirst into these star studded events, filming and interviewing artists whose work dazzles both big and small screens across the globe. From illustrious talent such as Angelique Rivera (*American Crime*) Sarah Yarkin (*Happy Death Day 2U*) Julia Ubrankovics (*Red Sparrow*), Moran Atias (*Tyrant*) to behind the scenes filmmakers such as Rodman Flender (*Conan O’Brian Can’t Stop*) and Bobby Moresco (*Crash*), Mt. Olive’s PR Media Team continues to blur the line between student and professional.

Today our Mt. Olive filmmakers are conducting interviews on the red carpet, but tomorrow they may be the ones walking the red carpet.



**M.I.T. High School’s student-led media team descended on the ‘black carpet’ with Creating Creators at the opening night gala of the Screampfest Film Festival.**



## Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

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



**Dr. Esther Tamanaha**  
Principal

### A Garden of Opportunity is Growing

In an effort to instill appreciation and respect for nature, the Royal Oaks STEAM Academy's school garden was created in 2014. Students are given the opportunity to work in teams and given ownership of a portion of the

bed. The teams devise a plan by researching what might grow best at a particular time of year and what they think their portion can sustain. Along the way students make decisions about their bed and face the challenges of gardening. Many students reflect back on their time in the garden and the opportunity to try

different vegetables and herbs that they grew on their own. A culminating project each year is to have a meal from the largest spring harvest. Depending on the harvest, the meal may include vegetable soup, caprese salad and rosemary rolls. It truly is a labor of love for the students each year.



**Students clearing the beds in the garden to prepare the soil for planting new herbs and vegetables that will be ready for Spring.**

## Valley View Academy of Technology & Creative Learning (TK-6)

237 Melcanyon Rd., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5500 • duarteusd.org/we



**Margaret Rasmussen**  
Principal

### Student of the Month Assemblies

Valley View Academy celebrates our students by holding a Student of the Month Assembly each month of the school year. At the assembly one student from each class is recognized for a positive trait. So far this year, students have been recognized for attentiveness, kindness and self-control. Students are

given a certificate and are invited to eat lunch with Principal Rasmussen. Valley View also recognizes student growth in Reading Counts at the assembly and students who are reading and taking Reading Counts quizzes are awarded with a new book and a prize. Students demonstrating our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) conduct, referred to as SWIM, also get recognized. These behaviors are Showing respect, Working as a team, Identifying/solving problems and Making positive choices. The students are given Dolphin

Dollars which go into a drawing for prizes. The assemblies are a wonderful experience for our students and well attended by our supportive parents and families.



**Our Students of the Month for October proudly displaying the certificates they received at the school assembly.**



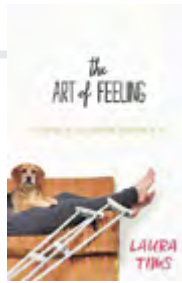
## Christina's Book Review



### We All Feel Things

*The Art of Feeling* by  
Laura Tims

Samantha (Sam) is in high school, on crutches and in pain everyday after her leg got injured in a car



**Christina J.**

Tragically, Sam's mother perished in the accident, and Sam struggles to come

to terms with that. Sam meets a new student Elliot, who has a very unusual illness - he can't feel physical pain. The two somehow become friends, and little by little they start to fill the voids in each other's lives. Sam is curious how it might be to go through life without feeling the physical pain, but finds out that not all pain is physical. While all characters must deal with their problems, real and imaginary, they all discover and rediscover friendships, support and understanding in each other. Most importantly, Sam is helped to remember the driver of the other car, which caused the tragic accident. One of the highlights of the book, in my opinion, is what Sam chooses to do with this vital information. This is a great book, which I enjoyed reading. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

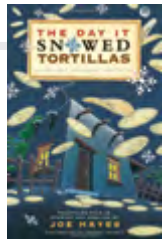
Christina is in 10th grade. She is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book on adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student, her favorite subjects are Spanish and AFJROTC. She likes to help animals and take care of them. Christina is a young author. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now* (Studentreasures Publishing, PIN #3582798).

## B is for Book



### Folk Tale Galore

*"The Day it Snowed Tortillas"* by Joe Hayes is an awesome Mexican folktale book with ten interesting tales to learn from.



**Bailey**

Ranging from "La Llorona" to "Juan Camison", my favorite one is "The Best Thief" where a boy must prove to the

king that he's the best thief. In "Good Advice", a boy spends three months of earnings on advice. His parents drive him out of the house, thinking it was a waste. Were they right? In "The Prince", a few friends made along the way may be the only thing a prince needs to win.

I love this book because there are many important lessons, like always listen to your parents, lying will only get you into trouble, and intelligence is stronger than physical strength. I also enjoyed this book because it includes all the stories in Spanish too. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.



## Ethan's Review



**Ethan H.**

### Who are They?

*Found* is the first book of the series *The Missing*. It is about two boys named Jonah and Chip who are regular kids in the 20th century. When Jonah and Chip start getting mysterious letters in the mail, they set out



on a quest for clues to answer the question, "Who are we?" They discover many secrets and learn that people from the future are coming to get them. Will Jonah and Chip learn who they truly are before time catches up to them? I loved his book because it's full of surprises! I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in time travel and mysteries.

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.

## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Trying New Things

I first saw this book at the karate studio I go to. *Black Belt Bunny* by Jacky Davis is about a cute bunny who is a Karate Black Belt.



One day, the Bunny decided to learn to make lunch. Cooking was something he had never done before. The Bunny was frustrated and started using his hands and feet (instead of a knife) to chop the lettuce. He then realized that he could use his hands, feet, and karate skills to chop all of the vegetables to make salad. Instead of being frustrated and give up, the Bunny tried to use his skills to help him learn to do new things. This book encourages me to try new things and not give up when frustrated. We never know if we would like certain food or things if we don't try. This book is funny and encouraging. I give it 5/5 stars.

Kailani is a 2nd grader. When not playing with or reading to her baby brother, Kailani enjoys coloring and drawing. Her favorite weekend activities are ballet, hula, and musical theater.

## Texting and Driving: A Killing Combination



Teens love to text. They'll send messages any time and anywhere. But if they text from behind the wheel of a car, the results could be deadly.

Studies show that texting and driving is as dangerous as drinking and driving. If you text while behind the wheel, you're 23 times more likely to crash. Although many states have laws making it illegal to text while driving, teens (and many parents) still do it, even though they know it's dangerous. When teens are driving, any activity besides keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel -- like emailing, downloading music, taking pictures -- is a huge no no.

So how can you make sure your teen is phone-free while behind the wheel?



- **Make it non-negotiable.** Teens need to understand that keys and phones simply do not mix. Let them know that distracted driving is just as dangerous as drunk driving.
- **Set clear rules.** Tell your teens to turn off their phones and put them in the glove box before they start the car. If you're not sure your teen has the will power to do this consistently, consider using apps that specifically restrict texting while driving.
- **Download an app that disables the phone when you're driving.** If you don't trust yourself, get an app that will keep you honest.
- **Set an example.** Resist the impulse to check your own phone while in traffic. Your kids are watching what you do. And chances are, they'll copy your behavior.

There's no denying that texting is here to stay. So managing when and where your kids do use their phones is critical -- not just for their development, but for their safety as well.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

# SITYODTONG ★ USA

PREPARE FOR VICTORY

Give the Gift of  
**CONFIDENCE**



Will your child lead or follow?  
**CONFIDENCE** is the key!



To be **your** best you have to train with the **best.**

260 Taylor Street, Monrovia, CA 91016

**SityodtongLA.com**

**626.577.7800**