

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Duarte Unified School District



Volume 3, Issue 7

December 2021 / January 2022

**Rick Crosby, Duarte Unified School District Assistant Superintendent,
Named Los Angeles County Office of Education's
2021 Human Resources Cabinet Member of the Year**

**Rick Crosby, Superintendente Asistente de Personal del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte
nombró como Condado de Los Ángeles 2021 Miembro del Gabinete de Recursos Humanos del Año**



Board of Education



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SUPERINTENDENT

No Time to Slow Down

On the heels of schools being open for several months, we have made significant progress following their closures due to the pandemic. We have plowed our way through various innovations and best practices to keep students and staff safe. This occurred while keeping ourselves centered on delivering a top-notch education for our students. They deserve nothing less. Despite the pandemic, our staff, scholars, and community continue to accomplish so much amazing work that I wish you were able to peer into our classrooms to see for yourselves. This is only possible through the passion we hold for the success of our scholars. Throughout our school community, we remain committed to being on the cutting edge of the educational landscape. With that comes times of adjustments and refining for all involved. Together, we are currently examining several critical areas related to possible ways our district will proceed. These areas will have far-reaching effects on what our school district can do to maximize our educational efficiency and draw the boundaries for the community's elected members to the Board of Education. This is no time to slow down, and instead, we will press ahead and continue our rise as a destination district within our region and afar.



**Dr. Gordon
Amerson**
Superintendent

No Hay Tiempo para Reducir la Velocidad

Inmediatamente después de que las escuelas estuvieran abiertas durante varios meses, hemos logrado un progreso significativo luego de sus cierres debido a la pandemia. Nos hemos abierto camino a través de varias innovaciones y mejores prácticas para mantener seguros a los estudiantes y al personal. Esto ocurrió mientras nos manteníamos centrados en brindar una educación de primer nivel a nuestros estudiantes. No merecen nada menos. A pesar de la pandemia, nuestro personal, el personal académico y la comunidad continúan realizando un trabajo tan asombroso que desearía que pudieran pasar y echar un vistazo a nuestras aulas para verlo por ustedes mismos. Esto solo es posible a través de la pasión que tenemos por el éxito de nuestros estudiantes. En toda nuestra comunidad escolar, mantenemos el compromiso de estar a la vanguardia del panorama educativo. Con esto vienen tiempos de ajustes y refinamiento para todos los involucrados. Juntos, actualmente estamos examinando varias áreas críticas relacionadas con las posibles formas en que nuestro distrito procederá. Estas áreas tendrán efectos de gran alcance en lo que nuestro distrito escolar puede hacer para maximizar nuestra eficiencia educativa y trazar los límites para los miembros electos de la comunidad en la Junta de Educación. Este no es el momento de reducir la velocidad y, en cambio, seguiremos adelante y continuaremos nuestro ascenso como distrito de destino dentro y fuera de nuestra región.

Rick Crosby Named 2021 Human Resources Cabinet Member of the Year

From the District

Although we know we are rich with exemplary administrators on staff, it brings a greater sense of pride to what we already know when they are publicly recognized by others. For the first time, this year, the Los Angeles County Office of Education named five Cabinet Members of the Year for their stewardship and for their districtwide leadership in the areas of Business/Finance, Communication, Education Services, Human Resources, and Technology.

On October 22, 2021, during the Los Angeles County Superintendents Collaborative, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Debra Duardo, MSW, Ed.D., named Rick Crosby, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel for the Duarte Unified School District as Los Angeles County 2021 Human Resources Cabinet Member of the Year.

Mr. Crosby was instrumental in the successful vaccination of several thousand San Gabriel Valley community members and education professionals. He spearheaded the DUSD/City of Hope COVID-19 mobile vaccine clinic that supported Duarte and its nine surrounding school districts and communities which helped facilitate the ability of DUSD and other districts to begin their reopening processes in the spring of the 2020-2021 academic year. He brought together world-renowned medical experts and educational leaders to combat misinformation and share the science and data behind public health policies, while devoting countless evening and weekend hours to ensure the health and wellbeing of students, teachers, and families. Board President Reyna Diaz summed up this honor and his accomplishments very nicely "Mr. Crosby deserves to be bragged about for this award. He has worked tirelessly with our staff and others to make having the COVID vaccine available in our Duarte community."



**Dr. Kanika White, LACOE Chief Human Resources Officer;
Rick Crosby, 2021 LACOE Cabinet Member of the Year;
Dr. Debra Duardo, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools**

Dra. Kanika White, Directora de Recursos Humanos de LACOE; Rick Crosby, Miembro del Gabinete del Año 2021 de LACOE; Dra. Debra Duardo, Superintendente de Escuelas del Condado de Los Ángeles

Rick Crosby Nombrado 2021 Miembro del Gabinete de Recursos Humanos del Año

Del Distrito

Aunque sabemos que somos ricos con administradores ejemplares en el personal, trae un mayor sentido de orgullo que sean reconocidos publicamente por otros. Por la primera vez, este año, la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Los Angeles nombro cinco Miembros del Gabinete del Año por su administración y por su liderazgo distrital en las áreas de Negocios/Finanzas, Comunicación, Servicios Educativos, Recursos Humanos y Tecnología. El 22 de Octubre de 2021, durante la Colaboración de Superintendentes del Condado de Los Ángeles, la Superintendente de Escuelas del Condado de Los Ángeles, Debra Duardo, MSW, Ed.D., nombró a Rick Crosby, Superintendente Asistente de Personal del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte como Condado de Los Ángeles 2021 Miembro del Gabinete de Recursos Humanos del Año. El Sr. Crosby fue fundamental en la vacunación exitosa de varios miles de miembros de la comunidad y profesionales de la educación del Valle de San

Gabriel. Encabezó la clínica móvil de vacunas COVID-19 de DUSD/City of Hope que apoyó a Duarte y sus nueve distritos escolares y comunidades circundantes, lo que ayudó a facilitar la capacidad del DUSD y otros distritos para comenzar sus procesos de reapertura en la primavera del año académico 2020-2021. Reunió a expertos médicos y líderes educativos de renombre mundial para combatir la desinformación y compartir la ciencia y los datos detrás de las políticas de salud pública, mientras dedicaba innumerables horas de la tarde y los fines de semana para garantizar la salud y el bienestar de los estudiantes, maestros y familias. La Presidenta de la Junta, Reyna Díaz, resumió muy bien este honor y sus logros "Sr. Crosby merece ser presumido por este premio. Ha trabajado incansablemente con nuestro personal y otros para que la vacuna COVID esté disponible en nuestra comunidad de Duarte."



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Dr. Gordon Amerson begins this issue on page 2 with his message of being focused on academic success for students.

In this issue you will read about Sports for Learning, I Applied Day, Hero Day, the importance of role models, and so much more...

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 8 — all ages may enter. We have included student book reviews on page 11 to help with reading choices. Remember to include the library among your Winter Break activities.

Our next issue is February 9, 2022.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!



School News Roll Call

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**Covering the
DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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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

Learning through Play

The students of Andres Duarte Arts Academy are spending their recess time engaging in play that focuses on fun, games, and social emotional learning. The implementation of the Sports for Learning

curriculum provides structure for our students across all grades to engage in games that promote safe play where students are learning to positively interact with their peers



through sports and other athletic activities. We saw so many students return to school after a long year of distance learning, forgetting the art of play and social interaction. This structured play time has reinvigorated students and brought excitement and fun back to the playground. Each activity involves an opening to focus students on the purpose of the lesson, followed by the game or activity, and ending with lesson closure through reflection. Students

are learning to express their emotions and better interact with their peers. We look forward to the positive impact this will have on our students throughout the school year.



Andres Duarte students learning through play.

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

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



Jennifer Romero
Principal

Annual Día de Los Muertos

Beardslee Academy is very excited to share that our annual Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) event was a huge success. At Beardslee we strive to integrate and learn about different cultures and cultural awareness, and this was just one of the many occasions. This year we continued with a Día de los Muertos outdoor evening event.

Many of the Beardslee students from pre-school to eighth grade produced artwork, mini ofrendas (altars), and class ofrendas. All the displays were beautiful. Let's not forget the performances by Mrs. Torres', Mrs. Luna's and Ms. Neal's, 1st, 3rd, and 4th grade students, they all did a great job! The evening was topped off with a Duo Mariachi group who helped to set the ambiance. The crowd was full of smiles and some tears as they remembered their loved ones. We can't thank the teachers, parents, and students enough for all their support and dedication. We are already looking forward to next year's event!



Duarte High School

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • www.duarteusd.org/dhs



Luis Haro
Principal

So Much to Celebrate at Duarte High!

With our full return to campus, it has been such a pleasure to be able to return to in-person events that engage our students and families in various ways. Since August, we've had our sports teams back, our band performing and competing, and our drama department's play "Shuddersome: Tales of Poe." We've had our Homecoming Dance and Rally, hosted our grade level

parent meetings, financial aid parent and student nights, opened our Falcon Family Center, welcomed our new partner USC College Advising Corps and our new College Adviser, Ms. Charisma, revamped our College and Career Center, and opened our Margaret's Place room, which offers our students drop-in counseling support, lunch time therapeutic activities, and more! We're hosting international students, once again, and have hosted many spirit weeks!

On November 5, we celebrated our students for their academic achievements, athletic achievements, and for exemplifying our PRIDE expectations (Participate, Respect, Integrity, Discipline of Self, and Excellence) at our Wizard of Oz themed rally. Our ASB students, led by Ms. Bowdoin, went above and beyond decorating and transforming our Falcon Stadium into the land of Oz. Students and staff participated in games, cheered on our student athletes, performers, and all our outstanding students. Mr. Skaggs presented our athletes with



certificates. Dressed as Oz, I presented our students with certificates of recognition for outstanding academic achievement and for our students, nominated by their teachers, for exemplifying our school expectations.

On November 18, all our seniors who applied to 4-year colleges and universities, were invited to participate in our "I Applied Day" celebration. Students each received a goody bag, were entered into a raffle to win prizes, had photo opportunities, enjoyed treats, and completed an "I Applied Day" memento showcasing the colleges they applied to.





Sofia Valdez
*Coordinator of
Preschool Services*

Child Development Hero Day

In Duarte Child Development, we understand that engaging parents in children's learning has a positive impact on children's social emotional and cognitive development. Therefore, we strive to create a climate and culture that builds a strong connection between our families and our preschool program. Despite the pandemic challenges that we are facing, we are proud to continue

building relationships, linking learning, and making memorable experiences among our children and their heroes.

On the week of October 18 through October 22, 2021, Duarte Child Development hosted its annual Male Role Model Day. Our "Hero Day" event was successful with over 60 Daddies, uncles, godfathers, grandfathers, big brothers, who came to participate in a vast variety of outdoor activities. Our preschool classroom children had the opportunity to engage with our heroes in different music and movement, art, science, sports, and storytelling, activities. In addition, some heroes came prepared to share a special skill bringing their own tools, materials, and resources to share with the little ones.



We are proud to create meaningful environments where families and children come together to spend memorable times with their children. The Duarte State Preschool program continues to make efforts to strengthen the families through parent engagements. We uphold a consistent philosophy to provide opportunities for growth and learning and maintain a visible approach to reaching out to our parents.

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

Mentoring from Boys to Men

In the words of the late Rita Pierson, “Every kid needs a champion. An adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.” Garry Prado and Angel Montoy believe just that. They believe the key to raise the academic achievement of a child while raising their self-esteem is through building positive relationships. Past research states, “Youth flourish with support from a caring mentor who notices them and invest in them.” Prado and Montoy recognized that our male students needed positive role models. “We see a big need in our students’ lives for a male role model.” both expressed. As a result, they launched Mentoring From Boys to Men (MFB2M). The purpose of the club is to provide support and let students know that there are adults around them that genuinely care for them; recognize their potential; and are committed to ensuring that they maximize their potential. The group will meet weekly and target a range of skills and activities including sharing of experiences, team building, how to tie a tie and other social skills, outings, and community service, all to promote personal character and self-growth while, having fun.



Garry Prado



Angel Montoy

They recognize that it takes a community working together to meet the diverse needs of our students. They want to inspire their students to “RESPECT! Respecting themselves, respecting adults, respect their parents, and respect the world around them.” Research states that mentored youth have better attitudes towards school, fewer incidents of violence, less drug and alcohol use, positive attitudes toward their elders and improved relationships with their parents. That is exactly what Prado and Montoy hope to accomplish with MFB2M.



Christmas 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 January 15, 2022
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.



BOWS	NORTH POLE
CANDY CANES	ORNAMENT
CHIMNEY	PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS	RUDOLPH
COAL	SANTA CLAUS
DECORATIONS	SLEIGH
EGG NOG	SNOW
ELF	SNOWMAN
GINGERBREAD	STOCKINGS
JINGLE BELLS	TREE
LIGHTS	

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

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 Program

Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School (M.I.T.), Creating Creators and the Duarte Chamber of Commerce have partnered to create an innovative CTE work-based learning program that provides real industry experience in the film and video production. This partnership between the Duarte Chamber and DUSD is just one of many that have developed to benefit

Duarte students. Adam Knight, President of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, spearheaded this program and is the producer of the Chamber's Duarte View Live. Under Adam Knight's guidance, MIT students are responsible for filming and interviewing Duarte's local dignitaries and business owners.



Alex Gerena and Audrye Ramirez film and record the sound as Duarte Chamber's Adam Knight interviews with Duarte Mayor Pro Tem, Margaret Finlay and Duarte Board President, Reyna Diaz.



MIT's Nick Gallo interviews Game of Thrones, Joseph Gatt at ScreamFest.



MIT's Nick Gallo interviews superintendent Dr. Amerson at the Route 66 Picnic.



Guillermo Serrato, Aaliyah Hernandez, Sebastian Guzman prepare for an interview at ScreamFest.

Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

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



**Dr. Esther
Tamanaha**
Principal

Welcome to the Eagle's Café and SOAR Store

The Eagle's Café has a SOAR store, a variety of boardgames, hundreds of books, and a safe place for students to hang out with friends. Students can purchase multiple rewards that vary from an In-n-Out coupon to a pizza party with Dr. Tamanaha. Purchases can only be made with SOAR dollars they received following SOAR expectations. We received generous donations from our Royal Oaks families and because of that we were able to purchase boardgames. The Fall Scholastic Book Fair profits brought us new titles to our young adult readers. The Eagle's Café is located in the lower campus and open to middle school students during their lunch break. We hope to make this place a memorable experience for those who visit.



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

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



**Margaret
Rasmussen**
Principal

Celebrating Many Things

During the month of October, the Valley View dolphins got to celebrate many things. During the annual costume parade celebrating Halloween, students paraded in their costumes and parents watched. The celebration concluded with staff and sixth graders dancing to "Thriller" for the rest of the school. It was a full and fun morning.

On November fourth the sixth and fifth grade students celebrated Dia de los Muertos. Students made a shrine for their loved ones, painted skulls and feasted on a traditional meal.

Red Ribbon week was celebrated by students and staff wearing red ribbons, red socks and red-t-shirts to remember to say NO to drugs.

On Unity Day the school wore orange and teachers held activities and talks with students about the importance of being kind.



Daniel's Review



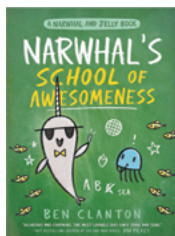
Daniel H.

Wafflematics

Title: *Narwhal's School of Awesomeness*
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to school. When they all get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold. Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Wafflematics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn't have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!



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.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Do You Have An Imaginary Friend?

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate is about a family with very little money for rent and even less money for food and toys. When Jackson's dad lost his job, his sister, mother, and the family dog have to move

from place to place. When there was no more money for rent, the family has to live in their minivan. Jackson has an imaginary friend named Crenshaw. Crenshaw is a huge fluffy cat. Crenshaw always comes into Jackson's life whenever Jackson needs help.

The story is full of excitement and sadness. I learn more about homelessness and friendship from this story. Reading this book makes me understand why my parents always tell me to appreciate everything we have, to share when we can, and not to take anything for granted. This book also shows how important it is to have a good friend, even if they're imaginary. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.



Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

The Math Girl

Title: *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

Author: Stacy McAnulty

The main character's name is Lucy. Lucy was struck by lightning. She loves math, and is actually a genius with math! Lucy most of all loves pi. If she doesn't sit, stand 3 times pi appears and keeps going in her head. Lucy is homeschooled and lives with her Grandmother. She is ready to go to college, but her grandmother insists and forces her to go to middle school for at least 1 year. Her grandmother says to make 1 friend, join one activity, and read one book. Later on, the school has a project where you have to help places, or people in need. Lucy and her friends plan to help a dog shelter. She later finds a dog named Cutie Pi and instantly falls in love. Lucy's Grandmother soon finds a school that is good for her intelligence, but she's not sure if she wants to go...Does Lucy decide to leave the school and friends? I like this book because there are a lot of changes in this book, which makes it more interesting.



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

David's Review



David H.

One Big Puzzle

Title: *Holes*

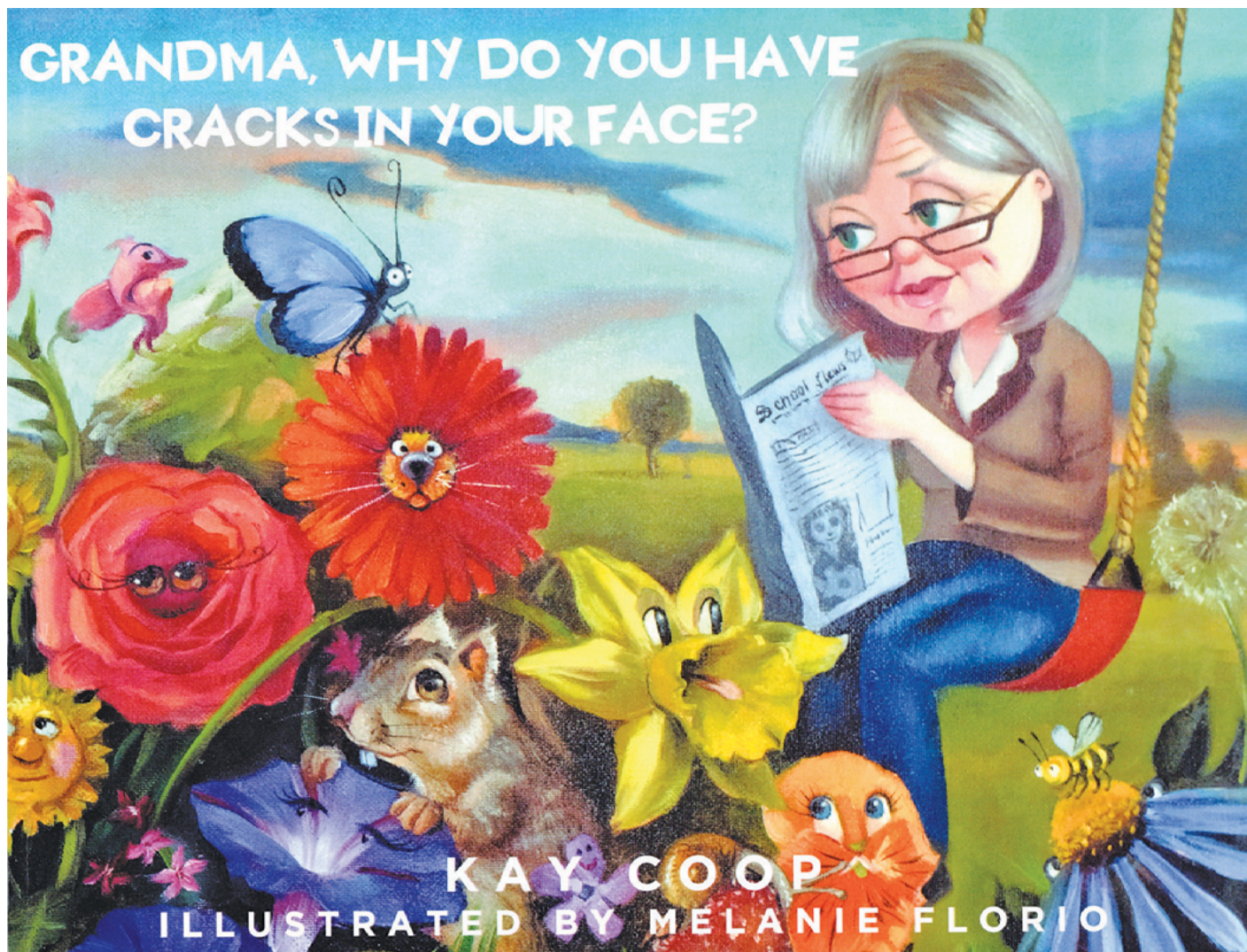
Author: Louis Sachar

Holes is about a kid named Stanley who gets sent to a camp as punishment where he and other kids have to dig holes in the ground each day, looking for something for the camp warden. What I liked about this book is that it's really 3 stories in 1. There are a bunch of "holes" in each story and the stories are like puzzle pieces that, when combined, make up one big fun story with bits of humor splashed throughout it. This is a "Mom, I know it's bedtime but can I please read the next chapter?" type of book. I absolutely loved this book and you will too!



David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



KAY COOP
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



Now Available on
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*Grandma, Why Do You Have
Cracks In Your Face?* Is a
question many grandmothers
have heard from their
grandchildren. When a
grandchild finds her beautiful
lost doll, she understands
beauty is more than skin deep.