

# School News



**Covering the Duarte Unified School District**

Volume 1, Issue 3

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February–April 2020

**Hope is a Strategy DUSD Students Can Count on to Access STEM Careers**

**La esperanza es una estrategia con la que los estudiantes de DUSD pueden contar para acceder a carreras STEM**



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**Los estudiantes de la preparatoria duarte Isha Patel, Diego Cabral, Merai Ebrahim, Serene Dowiri, Dania Amaya y Maria Esparza completaron una pasantía remunerada este verano en City of Hope, recibiendo \$ 4,000 por su investigación realizada en las áreas de prevención del cáncer, reducción de la diabetes, medicina predictiva y braquiterapia.**

**(Please see page 6)**



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# School News



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

## Happy New Year!

We are celebrating 20 years publishing *School News*. We are delighted to be publishing the excellence from the Duarte Unified School District. During the 20 years curriculum has changed in ways never imagined with the biggest change being technology. Gone are the blackboards, white chalk and erasers. Mentioning the 3 R's would bring a puzzled look and might be mistaken for Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. Discussing STEAM with anyone older than 60 would conjure up images of a train or an iron, but the younger generation would instantly visualize

test tubes and robotics. We have changed the format of most of our publications to glossy cover booklet, but our mission never waivers: Education+Communication=A Better Nation. The one constant has been the focus on academics. We know you are busy and thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Dr. Amerson begins this issue with his message highlighting the District's goals.

We had such response to our contest last issue that two are included in this issue. Have fun!

Our next issue is May 6, 2020.

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# SUPERINTENDENT

## As We Embark on 2020, We Need Your Feedback

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays, spent quality time with your loved ones, and are as excited as I am to embark on 2020. As a district, we have so many accomplishments to be proud of that we have achieved together thus far, and so much to look forward to as we begin the second semester of this school year.

I am proud of the teaching and learning that happens every day in each of our schools. Our teachers, staff, parents, community, and students constantly exemplify our vision: 21st century schools producing 21st century students. Over the past several years, listening and collaboration have been key in our strategic planning, including during the construction of our district's blueprint for the future which we refer to as our Competitive Advantage Plan, that was built with community input. We have made progress, and have a great story to tell at each of our schools, but we still have more to do to continue to ensure all of our students are properly prepared for success in college, career, and life. Completion of our transition to 21st century learning spaces is necessary to support this mission.

During the many formal and informal opportunities I have had to converse with numerous stakeholders in the year and a half since serving as your Superintendent, our district's facilities needs have been raised frequently as a high priority issue. Below is an overview of our facilities goals which have been compiled from the feedback I have received thus far.

### The goals are:

- Prepare students for 21st century success.
- Repair and upgrade our aging schools: complete basic health/safety improvements; repair deteriorating plumbing, restrooms, leaky roofs, and drinking fountains; replace outdated electrical and HVAC.
- Improve student access to science labs, classrooms, classroom technology, and outdoor education spaces and shade structures.
- Improve safety and security such as emergency communication systems, cameras, door locks, and fire alarm systems.
- Upgrade vocational and career technical education (CTE) classrooms to prepare students for career success in a competitive economy.

I ask our stakeholders to reflect again on these goals and provide additional input to ensure we have a comprehensive understanding of our needs by sending an email to [communications@duarteusd.org](mailto:communications@duarteusd.org) or by calling (626) 599-5037.



**Dr. Gordon Amerson**  
Superintendent

## Al comenzar 2020, necesitamos su opinión

¡Feliz año nuevo! Espero que hayan disfrutado las vacaciones, hayan pasado tiempo de calidad con sus seres queridos y estén tan entusiasmados como yo por embarcarme en 2020. Como distrito, tenemos mucho que hemos logrado juntos hasta ahora de que estar orgullosos, y así mucho que esperar al comenzar el segundo semestre de este año escolar.

Estoy orgulloso de la enseñanza y el aprendizaje que ocurre todos los días en cada una de nuestras escuelas. Nuestros maestros, personal, padres, comunidad y estudiantes ejemplifican constantemente nuestra visión: escuelas del siglo XXI que producen estudiantes del siglo XXI. En los últimos años, la escucha y la colaboración han sido clave en nuestra planificación estratégica, incluso durante la construcción del plan de nuestro distrito para el futuro, al que nos referimos como nuestro Plan de Ventajas Competitivas, que fue construido con el aporte de la comunidad. Hemos progresado y tenemos una gran historia que contar en cada una de nuestras escuelas, pero aún nos queda mucho por hacer para garantizar que todos nuestros estudiantes estén preparados adecuadamente para el éxito en la universidad, la carrera y la vida. La finalización de nuestra transición a los espacios de aprendizaje del siglo XXI es necesaria para apoyar esta misión.

Durante las muchas oportunidades formales e informales, tuve que conversar con numerosas partes interesadas en el año y medio desde que me desempeñé como su Superintendent, las necesidades de las instalaciones de nuestro distrito se han planteado con frecuencia como un tema de alta prioridad. A continuación, se muestra una descripción general de los objetivos de nuestras instalaciones que se han compilado a partir de los comentarios que he recibido hasta ahora.

### Las metas son:

- Preparar a los estudiantes para el éxito del siglo XXI.
- Reparar y actualizar nuestras escuelas que envejecen: completar mejoras básicas de salud/seguridad; reparar tuberías deterioradas, baños, techos con goteras y fuentes de agua potable; reemplace de los sistemas eléctricos y de climatización obsoletos.
- Mejorar el acceso de los estudiantes a laboratorios de ciencias, salones, tecnología de salones y espacios de educación al aire libre y estructuras de sombra.
- Mejorar la seguridad y la protección, como los sistemas de comunicación de emergencia, cámaras, cerraduras de puertas y sistemas de alarma contra incendios.
- Mejorar los salones de educación técnica vocacional y profesional para preparar a los estudiantes para el éxito profesional en una economía competitiva

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Happy New Year!

Greetings to you all as I begin to address you in the new 2020 Year! I am starting my 31st year as a member of the Duarte Board of Education and I am very proud and honored to have been selected unanimously as the new Board President for 2020 by my fellow members. I am also pleased that dedicated and experienced member, Mrs. Reyna Diaz, was unanimously elected to serve as our new Vice President for this year. Our five member governance team is comprised also of valued members Mrs. Ceci Escarcega Carroll, who is actively involved in our community and a dedicated DUSD parent; Dr. James Finley, who is himself a DHS graduate, Research Professor at City of Hope, and the grandson of former DUSD board member, Ed Ferguson; and Mr. Tom Reyes who has been on the Board for the past ten years.

Our school board has as its steadfast educational leader, Superintendent Dr. Gordon Amerson, who has had a fantastic beginning in his first year leading our school district. He is an outstanding leader and provides excellent examples of human relations. We as a board have been very impressed with his tremendous talents. I have observed something special in Dr Amerson. Building relationships is key and when people believe in themselves, it's amazing what we can accomplish.

I know this will be a year of real challenges for us in Duarte Unified, along with over 52 other school districts in California with budget issues and an unsteady economy. I just want all to know this school board will be dedicated, along with our fantastic staff, to recognize this:

Our greatest danger in what we do is in permitting the urgent things to crowd out the important things, and the most important are our students and staff. So just know, my leadership and our committed board members realize this: Real leadership is not about prestige, power or status. It's about taking complete responsibility for our school district's well-being, growth and changing it for the better.



**Ken Bell**  
*President*

## ¡Feliz año Nuevo!

Al comenzar a dirigirme a ustedes les mando saludos a todos en el nuevo año 2020. Estoy comenzando mi 31 año como miembro de la mesa directiva de Duarte y estoy muy orgulloso y honrado de haber sido elegido por unanimidad como el nuevo presidente de la mesa directiva para el año 2020. También me complace que la Sra. Reyna Diaz, miembra dedicada y con experiencia haya sido elegida por unanimidad para servir como nuestra nueva vicepresidenta para este año. Nuestro equipo de gobernanza de cinco miembros está compuesto

también por miembros valiosos, la Sra. Ceci Escarcega Carroll, que participa activamente en nuestra comunidad y es una madre dedicada de DUSD; Dr. James Finley, quien es un graduado de DHS, Profesor de Investigación en City of Hope y nieto del ex miembro de la mesa directiva de DUSD, Ed Ferguson; y el Sr. Tom Reyes, que tiene una gran experiencia trabajando activamente en la mesa directiva durante los últimos diez años y también es el padre de graduados de DUSD.

Nuestra mesa directiva tiene al superintendente Dr. Gordon Amerson, como nuestro líder educativo constante, quien tuvo un comienzo fantástico en su primer año al frente de nuestro distrito escolar. Es un líder destacado y ofrece excelentes ejemplos de relaciones humanas. Nosotros, como mesa directiva, hemos quedado muy impresionados con su tremendo talento. He observado algo especial en Dr. Amerson. Construir relaciones es clave y cuando las personas creen en sí mismas, es sorprendente lo que podemos lograr.

Sé que este será un año de desafíos reales para nosotros en el distrito unificado de Duarte, junto con más de 52 distritos escolares en California con problemas de presupuesto y una economía inestable. Solo quiero que todos sepan que esta mesa directiva estará dedicada, junto con nuestro fantástico personal, a reconocer esto:

Nuestro mayor peligro en permitir que las cosas urgentes desplacen a las cosas importantes, y los más importantes son nuestros estudiantes y el personal. Solo sepa que mi liderazgo y nuestros miembros comprometidos de la mesa directiva se dan cuenta de esto: el verdadero liderazgo no se trata de prestigio, poder o estatus. Se trata de asumir la responsabilidad completa del bienestar, el crecimiento y el cambio de nuestro distrito escolar para mejorarlo.

### Board of Education



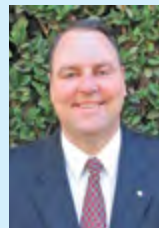
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**Dr. James Finley**  
*Member*



**Tom Reyes**  
*Member*

## Hope is a Strategy DUSD Students Can Count on to Access STEM Careers

By Luis Haro, Principal of Duarte High School

Among the host of community partnerships our district has been fortunate to foster, our collaboration with the City of Hope is proving to be revolutionary. Together, we are establishing unprecedented learning opportunities for our students to enter the STEM workforce. With state-of-the-art laboratories as their classrooms and world-renowned scientists as their teachers and mentors, City of Hope is directly equipping students at DUSD in Grades K-12 with the skills to transform the future of medicine.

Located in Duarte since 1913, City of Hope is now the leading comprehensive cancer center in the West with the highest recognition bestowed by the National Cancer Institute. The research conducted at this esteemed institution has led to significant medical advances that literally save lives each day. Along-side the clinicians, scientists and researchers responsible for these groundbreaking findings, and the employees in the human resources, food services, business and other departments that contribute to the operations of the organization, are our students.

A variety of programs have been designed with City of Hope to entice students to get excited about careers in STEM and the numerous support occupations needed in the medical field; while also developing their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. Students in Grades 6-8 travel to City of Hope and participate in hands-on experiments within their laboratories, receive visits to their classrooms by the finest scientists in the world, and participate in Saturday and Summer Camps; ultimately inventing their own technique to aid in cancer prevention, detection, or treatment. They also are introduced to the concept of health disparities in cancer, and learn how disparities impact their communities.

Labster, a virtual laboratory class, has been created for Duarte High School freshman this year. The course is designed to help prepare students for the Eugene and Ruth Roberts Summer Student Academy, which is a paid internship program. These students work closely with post-doctorates, graduate students, and lab personnel of the Irell & Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at the City of Hope campus. They are charged with communicating their research findings to their peers and instructors in a weekly student seminar series, as well as through the creation of a written report, and their research has been included in published studies.

## La esperanza es una estrategia con la que los estudiantes de DUSD pueden contar para acceder a carreras STEM

Escrito por Luis Haro, Director Preparatoria Duarte

Entre las muchas asociaciones comunitarias, nuestro distrito ha tenido la suerte de fomentar, nuestra colaboración con City of Hope está demostrando ser revolucionaria. Juntos, estamos estableciendo oportunidades de aprendizaje sin precedentes para que nuestros estudiantes ingresen a la fuerza laboral STEM. Con laboratorios de vanguardia como salones y científicos de renombre mundial como maestros y mentores, City of Hope está equipando directamente a los estudiantes del DUSD en los grados K-12 con las habilidades para transformar el futuro de la medicina.

Ubicado en Duarte desde 1913, City of Hope es ahora el principal centro integral de cáncer en el oeste con el reconocimiento más alto otorgado por el Instituto Nacional del Cáncer. La investigación llevada a cabo en esta estimada institución ha dado lugar a avances médicos significativos que, literalmente, salvan vidas cada día. Junto a los médicos, científicos e investigadores responsables de estos hallazgos innovadores están nuestros estudiantes.

Se ha diseñado una variedad de programas con City of Hope para atraer a los estudiantes a entusiasmarse con las carreras en los campos STEM y al mismo tiempo desarrollar sus habilidades en ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas. Los estudiantes en los grados 6-8 viajarán a City of Hope y participarán en experimentos prácticos dentro de sus laboratorios, recibirán visitas a sus salones por parte de los mejores científicos del mundo y participarán los sábados y en campamentos de verano inventando su propia técnica para ayudar en prevención, detección o tratamiento del cáncer. También se les presenta el concepto de disparidades de salud en cáncer y aprenderán cómo las disparidades impactan en sus comunidades.

Labster, una clase de laboratorio virtual, se ha creado para la preparatoria Duarte y está diseñada para ayudar a preparar a los estudiantes para Eugene y Ruth Roberts Academia de Estudiantes de Verano, que es un programa de pasantías remunerado. Estos estudiantes trabajan en estrecha colaboración con los posdoctorados, los estudiantes de posgrado y el personal de laboratorio de la Escuela de Graduados de Ciencias Biológicas Irell & Manella en City of Hope. Se les encarga comunicar sus hallazgos de investigación a sus compañeros e instructores en una serie semanal de seminarios para estudiantes, así como a través de la creación de un informe escrito, y su investigación se ha incluido en estudios publicados.



Luis Haro

Continued on page 7 • Hope is a Strategy

# Andres Duarte Arts Academy (K-8)

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



**Scott Moses**  
Principal

## Monthly ROAR Assemblies

Andres Duarte continues to focus on creating a positive environment and immersing our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) values into our school culture with ROAR assemblies. At these special events, our Cougars are recognized for showing Respect, taking Ownership, Acting safely and being Responsible.

Teachers emphasize the importance of our ROAR expectations by highlighting students who meet them every day with a recognition award. We have also started awarding our students for being in school on time and ready to learn every day as well as keeping our campus clean by bestowing Golden Broom Awards and Golden Ribbon Perfect Attendance recognitions to the classrooms meeting and exceeding these expectations with weekly and monthly honors.

Students at Andres Duarte are really committed to making a positive change and supporting our school in so many different ways, and it is wonderful to celebrate their success and achievements.



**Recognition of student conduct is a central focus that is celebrated at Andres Duarte Arts Academy.**

### HOPE IS A STRATEGY • From Page 6

The newest addition is the Hilton Science and Nutrition Summer Research Program. This three-week long course for high school juniors and seniors focuses on the science of nutrition and the connection between nutrition and disease that includes an understanding of cholesterol and fats, sugars and carbohydrates, and superfoods, diet and disease.

These are but a few of the incredible offerings our students have access to because of our partnership with City of Hope, and they are helping to create a pipeline for DUSD graduates to take on the STEM careers of tomorrow.

La última incorporación es el Programa Hilton de Investigación de Ciencia y Nutrición en verano. Este curso de tres semanas de duración para estudiantes de tercer y cuarto año de secundaria se centra en la ciencia de la nutrición y la conexión entre nutrición y enfermedad que incluye una comprensión de los colesterol y grasas, azúcares y carbohidratos, y superalimento, dieta y enfermedad.

Estas son solo algunas de las ofertas únicas a las que los estudiantes tienen acceso debido a nuestra asociación con City of Hope, y están ayudando a crear una ruta directa para que nuestros estudiantes asuman las carreras STEM del mañana.

## Contest!

This is the title of one of the school articles in this issue:

### The Magic Happens in Our Science Lab

When you find it, email the page number to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Please put Duarte in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by March 15, 2020.

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

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



**Jennifer Romero**  
Principal

## Bears Love Learning in the Great Outdoors

Our Fifth Grade students participated in a fun and educational experience at Pali Institute's Science Camp in Running Springs, January 13-15. Pali Institute is focused on the study of science, the environment, and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). They provide a camp feel located in a beautiful California mountain environment.

Students were introduced to numerous scientific disciplines through rocket

launching, squid dissection, weather experiments and crime scene investigation! Students were thrilled to bring what they have learned in their classrooms to life. They had great meals, excellent counselors and really enjoyed their stay in the comfortable mountain cabins with their friends. They had an experience of a lifetime and one they will never forget.

Thanks to the collaboration of families, school and our district working together, not just Beardslee students, but all Fifth Grade students in Duarte Unified are given this amazing opportunity to participate in outdoor science school.



**Fifth Grade students studying about California's mountain ecosystem at Pali Institute's Science Camp this winter.**



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**Duarte Specials**

## Contest!

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

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

**Congratulations Claudia Muniz**  
**Winner of our December contest.**





# 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)



## Sharing the Stage with "In the Heights"

California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV) students brought out the vibrancy of New York City's Washington Heights neighborhood for the school's third all-school musical, "In the Heights."

**William Wallace**  
*Principal*

A much-anticipated event, the main-stage production was a massive cross-conservatory collaboration for both students and staff. "In the Heights" featured a cast of 9th-12th graders from the Acting, Musical Theatre, Vocal Arts, Creative Writing and Integrated Arts conservatories with choreography from the School of



**CSArts-SGV students study the score for their all-school musical, "In the Heights."**

Dance and orchestral music performed by Instrumental Music students. Additionally, Visual Arts students designed the theater's lobby, while Production & Design students handled props, staging and lighting.

"In the Heights" provided a fantastic opportunity for students from each of the conservatories to come together and tell a story using the unique skills they have learned in their

respective programs. This production is one of many shows and events brought to life by talented CSArts-SGV students each year.

## Duarte High School

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



## Prestigious City of Hope Internships

Through our partnership with City of Hope, our students have direct access to participate in the Eugene and Ruth Roberts Summer Student Academy. This past summer, six of our students were selected for this prestigious 10-week internship. They worked full-time as a member of a biomedical research team and earned a stipend of \$4,000 each. The students self-selected the area they wished to investigate based

**Luis Haro**  
*Principal*

on their own interests. The projects included examining cancer prevention techniques, the correlation between diabetes and food dessert areas, the effects of diabetes on metabolism, predicative medicine, Brachytherapy, and the effects of a Ketogenic diet on type 1 diabetes. City of Hope's world-renowned physicians and scientists served as their mentors, guiding their research, while helping them develop their critical thinking skills, and weekly seminars allowed students to present research findings to their peers. It's not uncommon for published research papers to bear our students' names, and some have even patented and sold inventions developed with their mentors.



**Duarte High School students Isha Patel, Diego Cabral, Merai Ebrahim, Serene Dowiri, Dania Amaya and Maria Esparza participated in the prestigious Eugene and Ruth Roberts Summer Student Academy.**

## Duarte Preschool-Child Development Center

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



**Sofia Valdez**  
Coordinator of  
Preschool Services

### Exceeding Quality Program Rating

Duarte preschool participates in the Early Childhood Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). QRIS assesses Early Childhood programs every two years using California State Standards for quality care and education using a 5 Tier Rating system that is based on scientific research and best classroom practices. QRIS makes sure every moment counts in the life of a young child.

In November 2019, Duarte Preschool went through a comprehensive review that encompasses seven elements that are known to contribute to high-quality early learning.

- Child Observations and Assessment
- Developmental and Health Screenings
- Effective Teacher-Child Interactions
- Ratios and Group Size
- Program Environment
- Staff Qualifications
- Director Qualifications

We are proud to share that Duarte Preschool received the Exceeding Quality Level at all three of our sites: Maxwell, Beardslee and Andres Duarte!



**Our little scientists are challenged to think critically about the manipulation of tools and the cause and effect of their actions.**

**At Duarte Preschool, they learn by experimentation, observation, and lots of fun!**

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

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



**Dr. Kelly Lawson**  
Principal

### Provocation in the IB Units of Inquiry

Provocation is an essential element in the Primary Years Program at our IB World School.

A provocation is a thoughtfully constructed

activity to get students excited and engaged. A powerful provocation actually creates cognitive dissonance. It is unlike the traditional lesson hook, provocations develop conceptual understanding, elicit emotion, stimulate debate, extend thinking, and reveal prior knowledge. At the end of a provocation, students initiate inquiry, are inspired to learn and are generating thought-provoking conceptual questions of their own. All of this happens



**Students in First Grade provoked by an artifact, in this case a typewriter, which led to inquiry and discussion about what they think the object is, what it was used for, and if it still exists today.**

before the teacher even starts to teach! We caught this concept in action when our Third Graders “migrated” to the upper grade classrooms to experience what it was like to be a newcomer in an unfamiliar teen-aged community. These feelings kicked-off their unit about the challenges immigrants face. To provoke our First Graders thinking about similarities and differences, they explored a variety of old and new objects. Envision seeing a rotary phone for the first time or the very first cell phone, and imagine the reactions when teachers shared they used a typewriter? Upon completion of a provocation, our students are ready to address complex concepts.

# Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

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



**Kevin Morris**  
*Principal*

## “CineSession” Student Mentorship Program

NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) selected MIT Film Academy students, Myreeana Wade and Dillon Feliciano, to participate in the their “CineSession” Student Mentorship Program for a hands-on filmmaking experience this February in Downtown Los Angeles. Creating Creators, Wells

Fargo and AT&T Believe Los Angeles make this mentorship opportunity and program possible through generous donations and volunteer filmmakers. The program is also in partnership with MovieMaker Magazine, which allows the students to receive IMDB credit for shadowing professional filmmakers on-set.

Myreeana and Dillon will be paired with production mentors during their time on set and experience multiple positions of production, including:

- Cinematography (camera operation, shooting techniques, framing shots)
- Directing (set language, scene composition, blocking talent)



**MIT Film Academy students, Myreeana Wade and Dillon Feliciano, gearing up for the “CineSession” Student Mentorship Program.**

- Lighting (three-point-lighting, soft vs. hard & natural vs. artificial lighting)
- Sound Recording (sound recording on boom, pistol and lav mics)
- Production Management (creating call sheets and shooting schedules)

## Royal Oaks STEAM *Academy (K-8)*

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



**Dr. Esther Tamanaha**  
*Principal*

## The Magic Happens in Our Science Lab

Since opening its doors in January 2018, the Science Lab has been a hub of learning for our STEAM campus. It is “where the magic happens” according to Mr. Hata, who is a veteran 8th Grade Science teacher at our school. Many experiments have been conducted by our middle graders in

this space including constructing flashlights out of basic things like water bottles, propelling cars by the energy of a mousetrap, and building paper roller coasters from cardstock and marbles. Lab activities and dissections of frogs and crawfish eyes also take place in the science lab. Though the Science Lab is still a relatively new addition, it has already offered many opportunities for our students to study life and physical science through hands-on

applications. The lab currently consists of 40 microscopes, triple beam balance scales, graduated cylinders, flasks, and other specialized equipment. For volunteering opportunities or to donate materials to our Science Lab, please contact dhata@duarteusd.org.



**Royal Oaks students experimenting in our Science Lab.**



**Margaret Rasmussen**  
Principal

### Preparing for Time Capsule Reveal

Since the 1960s, it has been a beloved tradition at Valley View to faithfully open and replace a time capsule every 20 years. On February

21, our school will reveal the time capsule last opened in January of 2000. Historically, every classroom researches and selects an object that represents the current time period. Our school and community are filled with excitement and anticipation as we plan to celebrate this milestone event. Our students are eager to see what has been buried for them to discover about the year 2000, and are diligently making decisions about what items to contribute that captures what life is like today for future generations to uncover twenty years from now. Special



**Our Dolphins are excited to include our SWIM expectations in our 2020 time capsule.**

thanks to Live Oak Cemetery for donating the plaque that will adorn our 2020 time capsule.

In addition, our Board has approved the architectural firm, Little Diversified, to conduct an update to our Facilities Master Plan, and our Principals are in the process of holding meetings on-site with parents and staff to also solicit facilities feedback. Plus, in the near future, our team will be coming to you with a Stakeholder Engagement Roadshow. We will be traveling to every school within our district for another opportunity to engage with you about our budget, facilities, and LCAP development.

I look forward to listening, learning and collaborating with you at all of these upcoming opportunities in order to continue moving our organization forward to afford our scholars the best educational opportunities we can by working together.

### SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 4



**Dr. Gordon Amerson**  
Superintendent

Le pido que reflexione nuevamente sobre estos objetivos y brinde información adicional para garantizar que comprendamos de manera integral nuestras necesidades enviando un correo electrónico a [communications@duarteusd.org](mailto:communications@duarteusd.org) o llamando al (626) 599-5037

Además, nuestra mesa directiva ha aprobó Little Diversified, la firma de arquitectos para llevar a cabo una actualización de nuestro Plan Maestro de Instalaciones, y nuestros Directores están en el proceso de tener juntas en las escuelas con los padres y el personal para solicitar comentarios sobre las instalaciones. Además, en un futuro

próximo, nuestro equipo vendrá a usted con un Roadshow de participación de partes interesadas. Estaremos en cada escuela dentro de nuestro distrito para tener otra oportunidad de relacionarnos con usted sobre nuestro presupuesto, instalaciones y desarrollo LCAP.

Espero escuchar, aprender y colaborar con usted en todas estas oportunidades futuras para continuar avanzando en nuestra organización para brindar a nuestros estudiantes las mejores oportunidades educativas que podamos trabajando juntos.