

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Duarte Unified School District**



Volume 2, Issue 4

February–April 2021

**Healthcare workers at a southern California medical center grateful to be wearing the face-shields made with love by our DUSD students.**

**Trabajadores de salud de un centro médico del sur de California agradecidos por usar los protectores faciales hechos con amor por nuestros estudiantes de DUSD.**



(Please see page 4)

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## SUPERINTENDENT

### High Hopes for 2021

Welcome back! I want to share with our Duarte Unified community that I have high hopes for 2021, and believe that we will achieve much together this year. But, my feelings of optimism are also combined with the need for extreme caution. We are not on the other side of this pandemic yet, and we must continue to take the steps necessary to keep all members of our district and Duarte community healthy and safe. I know the fear of having a loved one who was sick, and my heart goes out to all who have been sick themselves or lost someone to this virus. Please resolve to continue to follow all public health orders for LA County, wear a mask, socially distance, and wash your hands.

Our district will continue to monitor all guidance provided by our public health partners, and we are eager to receive further information about when our employees and community will have access to the approved COVID-19 vaccines. We will share this with you as soon as we are notified.

As a reminder, we will continue 100% Distance Learning for students in Grades TK-12 at least through March 1, 2021, and continue the supports already in place that are listed below. This is always subject to change based on public health orders, so please check our district website for current information.

- 1:1 Assessment of ELL and SPED students in-person, ongoing as needed.
- Full-Day/Full-Year Preschool in-person instruction for qualifying students.
- Learning Centers with limited in-person enrollment during the school day for students in Grades TK-8 facilitated by Think Together.

Thank you to our teachers, staff, and administrators for your professionalism, hard work, and flexibility. Your dedication has made it possible for us to meet the needs of our scholars the best we can under these trying circumstances. I am grateful to our parents, caretakers, and community for supporting our efforts every step of the way. And, to our scholars, I marvel at your strength and commend you for staying focused on your learning to the best of your ability during these challenging times.

I want to offer a special thank you to our community for the passage of Measure S. When our Board made the difficult decision to place Measure S on the ballot, we realized it was a lot to ask, especially considering the economic havoc COVID-19 has caused. We also knew, based on all of the feedback we had received, our needs are



**Dr. Gordon Amerson**  
*Superintendent*

### Altas esperanzas para 2021

¡Bienvenidos de nuevos! Quiero compartir con nuestra comunidad de Duarte que tengo grandes esperanzas para el 2021 y creo que juntos lograremos mucho este año. Pero mis sentimientos de optimismo también se combinan con la necesidad de extremar la precaución. Todavía no estamos del otro lado de esta pandemia, y debemos continuar tomando las medidas necesarias para mantener a todos los miembros de nuestro distrito y la comunidad de Duarte sanos y seguros. Conozco el miedo de tener un ser querido que estaba enfermo, y mi corazón está con todos los que han estado enfermos o han perdido a alguien por este virus. Por favor, resuelva seguir cumpliendo todas las órdenes de salud pública del condado de Los Ángeles, use una máscara, separe socialmente y lávese las manos.

Nuestro distrito continuará monitoreando toda la orientación proporcionada por nuestros socios de salud pública, y estamos ansiosos por recibir más información sobre cuándo nuestros empleados y la comunidad tendrán acceso a las vacunas aprobadas para COVID-19. Compartiremos esto con usted tan pronto como se nos notifique.

Como recordatorio, continuaremos el aprendizaje a distancia para los estudiantes en los grados TK-12 al menos hasta el 1 de marzo de 2021, y continuaremos con los apoyos que ya están en lugar cuales se enumeran a continuación. Esto siempre está sujeto a cambios según las órdenes de salud pública, así que consulte nuestro sitio web del distrito para obtener información actualizada.

- Evaluación individualizada de estudiantes en ELL y SPED en persona, continua según sea necesario.
- Instrucción preescolar de día/año completo en persona para estudiantes que califiquen.
- Centros de aprendizaje con inscripción limitada en persona durante el día escolar para estudiantes en los grados TK-8 facilitados por Think Together.

Gracias a nuestros maestros, personal y administradores por su profesionalismo, arduo trabajo y flexibilidad. Su dedicación nos ha hecho posible satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes lo mejor que podemos en estas difíciles circunstancias. Estoy agradecido con nuestros padres, cuidadores y comunidad por apoyar nuestros esfuerzos en cada paso del camino. Y, para nuestros eruditos, me maravillo de su fortaleza y los felicito por mantenerse enfocados en su aprendizaje lo mejor que pueden durante estos tiempos desafiantes.

Quiero agradecer especialmente a nuestra comunidad por la aprobación de la Medida S. Cuando nuestra mesa

## Board of Education



**Reyna  
Diaz**  
President



**Ceci Escarcega  
Carroll**  
Vice President



**Ken  
Bell**  
Member



**Dr. James  
Finlay**  
Member



**Jaqueline  
Ku**  
Member

### Happy New Year!

*Message from Our Board President – Mrs. Reyna Diaz*

My earnest wish is that 2021 will be a fresh start for us all and be filled with blessings for our entire community. Our Board of Education also has a new beginning this year. As a result of the November 2020 election, a new member has joined our governance team. It is my pleasure to welcome Mrs. Jaqueline Ku. She is a credentialed teacher who currently works as the Global Manager for the UCLA mathematics project providing logistical support for professional development offered to teachers and administrators in Southern California.

Our five-member team also includes Dr. James Finlay and Mrs. Ceci Carroll, who were reelected in the November 3 general election. Mr. Ken Bell and I remain members. We each bring our unique perspectives and areas of expertise, yet I am very optimistic that we will work in collaboration to productively and efficiently fulfill our district's vision, mission, and beliefs, which are listed below.

**OUR VISION:** 21st Century Schools Producing 21st Century Students

**OUR MISSION:** To provide the knowledge, skills, and inspiration for each student to succeed in college, career, and life.

**OUR BELIEFS:**

We believe we are a community of learners.

We believe learning occurs in a culture of caring and respect.

We believe all students are motivated to learn when they are engaged in meaningful work that connects to their lives.

We believe expectations do influence performances and outcomes.

We believe learning increases when there are high expectations for performance and conduct.

We believe we have the responsibility to find solutions that enable all students to learn.

At the annual organizational meeting held on December 17, our members voted to elect Mrs. Ceci Carroll as Vice President, and I will have the honor to serve as President of our board for the 2021 year. Joining us will also be student board representatives Arianna Serna (DHS) and

### ¡Feliz año nuevo!

*Mensaje de la presidenta de la mesa directiva – Reyna Diaz*

Mi más sincero deseo es que el 2021 sea un nuevo comienzo para todos nosotros y esté lleno de bendiciones para toda nuestra comunidad. Nuestra mesa directiva también tiene un nuevo comienzo este año. Como resultado de las elecciones de noviembre de 2020, un nuevo miembro se ha unido a nuestro equipo de gobierno. Es un placer para mí dar la bienvenida a la Sra. Jaqueline Ku. Ella es una maestra acreditada que actualmente trabaja como Gerente Global para el proyecto de matemáticas de UCLA, brindando apoyo logístico para el desarrollo profesional ofrecido a maestros y administradores en el sur de California.

Nuestro equipo de cinco miembros también incluye al Dr. James Finlay y la Sra. Ceci Carroll, quienes fueron reelegidos en las elecciones generales del 3 de noviembre. El Sr. Ken Bell y yo seguimos siendo miembros. Cada uno de nosotros aporta nuestras perspectivas y áreas de experiencia únicas, sin embargo, soy muy optimista de que trabajaremos en colaboración para cumplir de manera productiva y eficiente la visión, misión y creencias de nuestro distrito, que se enumeran a continuación.

**NUESTRA VISIÓN:** Escuelas del siglo XXI que producen estudiantes del siglo XXI

**NUESTRA MISIÓN:** Proporcionar el conocimiento, las habilidades y la inspiración para que cada estudiante tenga éxito en la universidad, la carrera y la vida.

**NUESTRAS CREENCIAS:**

Creemos que somos una comunidad de estudiantes.

Creemos que el aprendizaje ocurre en una cultura de cuidado y respeto.

Creemos que todos los estudiantes están motivados para aprender cuando participan en un trabajo significativo que se conecta con sus vidas.

Creemos que las expectativas influyen en el desempeño y los resultados.

Creemos que el aprendizaje aumenta cuando hay altas expectativas de desempeño y conducta.

Creemos que tenemos la responsabilidad de encontrar soluciones que permitan que todos los estudiantes aprendan.

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 10



## DUSD Students Design Face-Shields to Protect Healthcare Warriors

By Jenny Owen,  
Public Information Officer

During the scary months when there was a grave shortage of PPE by healthcare workers across America, DUSD students at Beardslee Academy responded to our medical community's call for help. They designed and created face-shields for healthcare workers on the front lines with their classroom 3-D printer!

TinkerCad, the software the classes used to create files for 3D printing, called all users to participate in manufacturing face shields for medical workers in our area. FlashForge, the manufacturer of the 3D printer, also put out the same call.

Beardslee's teacher, Mr. Ellison, was connected with a large southern California health agency in need of face shields immediately. The first order was to supply 40. Each shield is a two-hour print, so every hour Mr. Ellison was awake, the printer was working.

The students designed and submitted prototypes to personalize them. In the interest of getting the first-round of masks printed as quickly as possible, 40 of the basic face-shield were printed, assembled, and delivered just one week after the notice of need was received.

Mr. Ellison was resourceful and constructed the face-plate for each shield with old overhead projector transparent plastic sheets with holes punched to fasten them onto the holder. The strap is a mini bungee cord. We thank the Duarte Education Foundation for the funds needed to purchase the 3-D printer that was provided through the mini-grants offered to teachers.

As the photo shows, the face-shields are in use in hospitals now. We are filled with pride at how Mr. Ellison and his students met this call to action to help the healthcare warriors combating COVID-19 on the front lines, and their work and creativity has saved lives. Simply amazing!

## Los estudiantes de DUSD diseñan protectores faciales para proteger a los guerreros de la salud

By Jenny Owen,  
Oficial de Información Pública

Durante los meses de miedo en los que hubo una grave escasez de PPE por parte de los trabajadores de la salud en todo Estados Unidos, los estudiantes de la academia Beardslee de DUSD respondieron al llamado de ayuda de nuestra comunidad médica. ¡Diseñaron y crearon protectores faciales para los trabajadores de la salud en la frente con la impresora 3D del salón!

TinkerCad, el software que utilizaron las clases para crear archivos para impresión 3D, llamó a todos los usuarios a participar

en la fabricación de protectores faciales para trabajadores médicos en nuestra área. FlashForge, el fabricante de la impresora 3D, también realizó la misma llamada.

El maestro de Beardslee, el Sr. Ellison, estaba conectado con una gran agencia de salud del sur de California que necesitaba protectores faciales de inmediato. El primer pedido fue suministrar 40. Cada máscara es una impresión de dos horas, por lo que cada hora, el Sr. Ellison estaba despierto, la impresora estaba funcionando.

Los alumnos diseñaron y enviaron prototipos para personalizarlos. Con el fin de imprimir la primera ronda de máscaras lo más rápido posible, se imprimieron, ensamblaron y entregaron 40 de los protectores faciales básicos solo una semana después de recibir el aviso de necesidad.

El Sr. Ellison fue ingenioso y construyó la placa frontal de cada máscara con un viejo proyector de transparencias con láminas de plástico transparente con agujeros perforados para sujetarlas al soporte. La correa es una mini cuerda elástica. Agradecemos a la Fundación Educativa de Duarte por los fondos necesarios para comprar la impresora 3-D que se proporcionó a través de las mini-becas ofrecidas a los maestros.

Como muestra la foto, los protectores faciales se utilizan ahora en los hospitales. Estamos muy orgullosos de cómo el Sr. Ellison y sus estudiantes respondieron a este llamado a la acción para ayudar a los guerreros de la salud que luchan contra el COVID-19 en el frente, y su trabajo y creatividad han salvado vidas. ¡Simplemente asombroso!



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## Covering the DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Neta Madison*  
Netragrednik

## Happy New Year

As this year is underway it may be difficult to refer to a happy new year. However, Dr. Amerson's message on page 2 highlights his optimism with caution.

Throughout this issue you will read about programs and techniques teachers are using during distance learning. They introduce programs to promote ways to offer a personal touch, creative thinking and artistic design. They are focused on keeping students motivated while learning. This pandemic is a challenge we are all sharing unlike any we have

experienced before. Thank you to educators, parents, students and the community for rising to the challenge

We have converted all 35 of our *School News* publications to digital with excellent results. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. I appreciated your nice notes when you emailed your entries for the contests. Be sure to enter the Word Search contest on page 10 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is May 5, 2021.

Be optimistic.

## Andres Duarte Arts Academy (K-8)

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



**Scott Moses**  
Principal

### There's Lots to ROAR About

At Andres Duarte Arts Academy, we offer unique educational opportunities and quality instruction for preschool students through 8th grade. As a small community of learners, we provide our students a personalized learning experience.

Andres Duarte is best known for our school-wide arts integration instructional model. Industry artists collaborate with our teachers through a variety of programs, including Artful Connections within our classrooms. In collaboration with CSArts-SGV, Nickelodeon Studios, the Armory Center for the Arts, and Elements Dance Space, Andres Duarte offers various PK-8 grade arts specialty programs. We provide 1:1 laptops for all students emphasizing our 21st Century technology skills. School spirit and connectedness are valued at Andres Duarte. Many opportunities are customized each year for our students and parents to get involved on and off-campus.

At Andres Duarte Arts Academy our students ROAR: Respect, Ownership, Act Safely, and take Responsibility.



**The future of the world is in our school  
and our students will be leading the way!**



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

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



**Jennifer Romero**  
*Principal*

## Our Students' Social Emotional Needs are Key

Beardslee Academy is proud to support our students' academic success and their social-emotional needs.

There has been a need to ensure students stay connected to school, their peers, and teachers all within a virtual setting during these challenging times. To help with this, Beardslee continues to provide students with weekly virtual flag assemblies. The assemblies are nothing short of a fun time for students. They focus on our PAWS principles: PRIDE in yourself and school, positive ATTITUDE, WISE choices, and acting SAFELY. Students in TK-5 are recognized monthly, and our middle school teachers have committed to monthly "Ticket to Skip-It" virtual events to reinforce PAWS.

To support our students' social-emotional needs, weekly lunch bunches also occur. Students have an opportunity to meet with the principal, the teaching and learning coach, and their grade level teachers. We are not sure who enjoys this socializing more, the students with their peers or the teachers with the students. It is a great time had by all.



**Congratulations to our student of the month awardees. We are very proud of their PAWS demonstration.**

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

1401 Highland Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 657/321-4000 • sgv.csarts.net



**William Wallace**  
*Principal*

## Sharing the Joy of the Arts

California School of the Arts – San Gabriel Valley (CSArts-SGV) students delight in sharing their passion for the arts with young children and community members.

Through a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of the Foothills, CSArts-SGV students

mentored younger kids virtually through high-energy dance classes, visual arts projects, and instrumental music lessons. A similar partnership with Plymouth Elementary School is planned for the spring.

Students from all conservatories also created a Virtual Holiday Showcase that was made available to seniors at Westminster Gardens and Royal Oaks, and patients at

City of Hope and Methodist Hospital, among others, in hopes of brightening their season.

This work will continue thanks to a \$25,000 annual grant from the Max H. Gluck Foundation. CSArts-SGV is proud to be able to spread the joy of the arts to our neighbors in Duarte and the surrounding community!



# Duarte High School

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



**Luis Haro**  
Principal

## DHS Awarded \$3,302 to Help Our Falcon Families

Congratulations to Duarte High School! The Duarte High School leadership and the Community School Initiatives Team applied for a grant to meet families' basic needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant opportunity was made possible by the Greater LA Education Foundation, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). As a result, Duarte High School was recently awarded \$3,302, which will be used to help our students and families with the purchase of food, clothes, school supplies, cleaning and protective equipment, and other urgently needed goods. We are grateful for the ability to provide the support this grant offers. We are also proud to be a pilot Community



**Duarte High School will use grant funds to provide relief for our families in need as a result of challenges due to COVID-19.**

School in partnership with LACOE. We can provide additional resources to our students through this initiative that include social-emotional support needed during these challenging times.

## Duarte Preschool-Child Development Center

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



**Sofia Valdez**  
Coordinator of  
Preschool Services

## Full-Day/Full-Year Program Reopens

To better serve our community and parents in need of childcare who are essential workers, Duarte Preschool reopened our doors for in-person instruction on November 2, 2021. Two stable cohorts with no more than 12 students in each group are currently in operation at our Beardslee campus. All of our certificated and classified staff have been fully COVID-19 trained. Our experienced early educators have developed activities that model and reinforce COVID-19 guidelines. The customized program that has been designed by Duarte Preschool supports our students in all areas of development, including social-emotional, language & literacy, mathematics, science, gross and fine motor, and health and safety skills. We have also created a healthy outside environment for students to learn and play safely. All of our parents, whether their children are enrolled in the in-person or remote instructional offerings, are provided education workshops hosted by our partner, D'Veal Family Services. As the situation remains fluid, please visit our website for the most current information about our operations, [www.duartepreschool.org](http://www.duartepreschool.org).



**Duarte Preschool has reopened the Full-Day/Full-Year program for in-person instruction to better serve the essential workers within our community in need of childcare.**



# 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*

## Personal Touch in a Pandemic

Team Maxwell is maintaining a personal a touch in the midst of a pandemic. Virtual learning has not changed Team Maxwell's commitment to creating inviting spaces for connecting with students.

Dr. Lawson sends a Monday video message to the students. Teachers host non-academic office hours providing students a space to share their concerns, feelings, and see friends. Mrs. Salcido spends her lunch with her students virtually talking, playing games, and sometimes watching a movie. Morning check-ins, surprise "snail" mail, personal messages, and virtual birthday celebrations are just a few of the many things teachers are doing.

We do it because we CARE! We want our students to succeed to the Max +1 academically, emotionally, and socially even during distance learning. Team Maxwell always provides that extra personal touch!



**Mrs. Benitez gave her students friendship bracelets with a message: "Friends are connected heart to heart. Distance and time can't break them apart."**

# Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

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



**Kevin Morris**  
*Principal*

## Did You Know MIT High School has A Udometer?

As we enter the next few months, Southern Californians are still bracing for further rainfall that can lead to floods. To assist in accurately measuring precipitation conditions, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works installed a udometer (also known as a rain gauge) at Mt. Olive Innovation &

Technology High School (MIT) some ten years ago. Due to MIT's elevation and level grade in the San Gabriel Valley, it was the perfect location for such a device.

California meteorologists and hydrologists use the udometer to gather and measure the amount of rainfall over an area in a predefined period. We are one of three schools in the county with a udometer on campus. The University of Southern California and Los Angeles City College are the other two schools.

To keep up with the latest rainfall numbers in the area, go to <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/rainfall/> and within the Rain Fall Interval (Inches) - Los Angeles County Public Works section, click on Mt. Olive High School.



**Students at M.I.T. High School have an appreciation for the metrics need to collect climate information by having an udometer on campus.**



# Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

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



**Dr. Esther Tamanaha**  
Principal

## Literacy at Royal Oaks

In addition to the many virtual social clubs offered on campus at Royal Oaks STEAM Academy, students are able to participate in various literacy-related activities. This is due to the Reading Incentive program that was launched in December 2020 as part of Literacy Month.

Students are able to participate in the Reading Incentive program by engaging in reading virtually through the SORA app, which offers a variety of literature for students in all grades. Students are also able to participate in Reading Counts to earn points based on reading Lexile of the material.

We have also launched a Book Check-Out service, in which students of all grades are able to browse the Royal Oaks library catalog, place a request online, and pick up the materials as soon as they are ready. And, a bookmark and t-shirt contest was launched to motivate creative thinking and artistic design.

While we are remote, reading is bringing us together.



**Students are excited to participate the many virtual literacy activities offered by our Library and Digital Media Center.**

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

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



**Margaret Rasmussen**  
Principal

## Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

At Valley View we have a MTSS process to support students in Academics, Behavior and Emotional/Social Growth. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support at Valley View works on a tiered program.

In academics, 100% of our students receive the common core standards in all subjects using various research-based instructional strategies, support programs, and universal assessments for all.

Students receive additional support through small group instruction, parent/student conferences, and preventative research-based instruction.

If a student struggles in an academic area, their teacher refers them to the MTSS team, the team and teacher brainstorm specific strategies to support them. These strategies may include: small group targeted instruction, frequent progress monitoring, RtI groups (Response to Intervention),

participation in Read 180 or a specialized math program, tutoring, and referral to the Student Success Team.

If the student continue to struggle, support may include referral for academic testing, special accommodations, and high-intensity instruction through an individualized plan.



**Example of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in action to help every student succeed.**

**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 2**

significant, and it appears our community is in agreement. With Measure S, we are now positioned to improve remote learning and repair our aging school facilities plus modernize classrooms and labs, and update technology so that every student and teacher can thrive in a school setting with the safe, modern, creative spaces that they deserve.

I am encouraged by the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for our district, but there will continue to be challenges, and we will need to confront them. Patience and hope will be essential, and we know based on what we have already been through that we are always stronger together, and together is how we will move ahead.

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directiva tomó la difícil decisión de colocar la Medida S en la boleta, nos dimos cuenta de que era mucho pedir, especialmente considerando el caos económico que COVID-19 ha causado. También sabíamos, de acuerdo con todos los comentarios que habíamos recibido, que nuestras necesidades son importantes y parece que nuestra comunidad está de acuerdo. Con la Medida S, ahora estamos posicionados para mejorar el aprendizaje remoto y reparar nuestras antiguas instalaciones escolares, además de modernizar los salones y laboratorios, y actualizar la tecnología para que todos los estudiantes y maestros puedan prosperar en un entorno escolar con los espacios seguros, modernos y creativos que merecen.

Me alientan las tremendas oportunidades que se avecinan para nuestro distrito, pero seguirán siendo desafiadas y tendremos que enfrentarlas. La paciencia y la esperanza serán esenciales, y sabemos por lo que ya hemos pasado que siempre somos más fuertes juntos, y juntos es la forma en que avanzaremos.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 3**

Olgalivier Garcia (MIT). I foresee continuing to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 will be our primary focus as our students, staff, and families' health and safety remain our top priority. However, there is much work to be done in all areas. I encourage our community to stay engaged and tune-in to our meetings, which are live-streamed on our district website ([www.duarteusd.org](http://www.duarteusd.org)) for your convenience. I believe 2021 will be a better year for us all, and I am confident our new governance team will successfully move our district forward in a positive direction. Please stay healthy and be well, everyone!

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En la reunión anual de organización del 17 de diciembre, los miembros votaron para elegir a la señora Ceci Carroll como vicepresidente, y yo tendré el honor de servir como presidenta de nuestra mesa directiva para el año 2021. También se unirán a nosotros los representantes de la mesa estudiantil Arianna Serna (DHS) y Olgalivier García (MIT). Preveo que continuar navegando por los desafíos de COVID-19 será nuestro enfoque principal, ya que la salud y seguridad de nuestros estudiantes, personal y familias siguen siendo nuestra principal prioridad. Sin embargo, queda mucho trabajo por hacer en todos los ámbitos. Animo a nuestra comunidad a mantenerse comprometida y sintonizar nuestras reuniones, que se transmiten en vivo en el sitio web de nuestro distrito ([www.duarteusd.org](http://www.duarteusd.org)) para su conveniencia. Creo que el 2021 será un año mejor para todos nosotros, y confío en que nuestro nuevo equipo de gobierno hará que nuestro distrito avance con éxito en una dirección positiva. ¡Por favor, manténganse saludables y estén bien, todos!





## Taegyong's Book Review

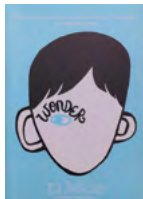


### Being Normal

Title: *Wonder*

Author: R.J. Palacio

Do you think you are normal? What is being normal? This book is the story about the boy, August, who has facial



Taegyong K.

deformity and wants to be normal. He had surgeries many times and he couldn't go to school. When he becomes a 5th grader, his parents decide to send him to school. He often gets bullied by other kids at school because of his appearance, but he doesn't stop going school.

In addition, this book shows the stories of his family and his friends. You can read their stories as their views because it is written by multiple perspectives. So, you can know what they think and why they say or do that.

What will happen to August? How can he make a real friend? If you wonder, find out from the book, *Wonder*. Also, if you are looking for a warm-hearted story, this book is just right for you.

Taegyong K. is a 5th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to play video games, board games, and badminton with her family. She would like to be a person who is kind and helps others.

## Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

### Monsters aren't real...are they?

Percy Jackson's *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It's also the start to the Percy Jackson series and what a



start it is! I've read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have heard of the series but if you haven't, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kicked out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to take care and play with Chewie, his dog.

## Novelist –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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Duarte in the subject line.)

COMPUTER	PEN
EDITOR	BROWSER
IPAD	GOOGLE
SPELLCHECK	INTERNET
PRINTER	BING
PUBLISHER	ASPIRIN
NOTEPAD	KEYBOARD
READERS	TELEPHONE
PENCIL	WIFI
IDEAS	IMAGINATION

Entries must be received by **March 30, 2021**

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



**Congratulations to:**  
**Carissa Lim and Zinnat Merchant**  
 Winners of our last issue contests!

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