

Covering the Duarte Unified School District

Volume 3, Issue 6 October / November 2021

DUSD 2021-22 Teacher of the Year / Maestra del año, Leslie Bartlett



DUSD 2021-22 Teacher of the Year, Leslie Bartlett, Named Among Los Angeles County's Top Teachers DUSD Team in attendance at the event: Dr. Gordon Amerson, Superintendent; Scott Moses, Principal; Leslie Bartlett, Honoree; Reyna Diaz, Board President; Luis Haro, Principal. (page 4)

DUSD 2021-22 Maestra del año, Leslie Bartlett, nombrada entre las mejores maestras del condado de Los Ángeles Equipo de DUSD que asistió al evento: Dr. Gordon Amerson, Superintendente; Scott Moses, Director; Leslie Bartlett, Homenajeada; Reyna Diaz, Presidenta de la Junta de Educación; Luis Haro, Director. (page 4)

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SUPERINTENDENT

As We Return to Our Campuses, **We Celebrate Our Perseverance**

As our students and staff made a full return to our campuses this August, we recognize much to be celebrated. Over the course of 17 months, we patiently navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while doing our best to provide the same high-level educational experience our community has come to expect. There were many success stories and learning breakthroughs that occurred during our period of "Distance Learning." I have no doubt that the lessons learned over the past 17 months will help to inform our team of dedicated professionals as we move into the future.

I continue to be proud of the fantastic work that our scholars and staff produce. Day after day, these dedicated professionals come to work driven by a set of beliefs that guide our work:

- We believe we are a community of learners
- We believe learning occurs in a culture of caring and
- 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

But more importantly, we breathe life into these beliefs with the work we do every day. This is accomplished by offering cutting-edge programs, nurturing blossoming partnerships, and remaining steadfast in our commitment to making the City of Duarte and its schools a destination for families across the region.

Al Regresar a Nuestros Planteles Escolares, **Celebramos Nuestra Perseverancia**



Dr. Gordon Amerson Superintendent

A medida que nuestros estudiantes y personal regresaron por completo a nuestros planteles escolares en agosto, reconocemos que hay mucho que celebrar. Durante el transcurso de 17 meses, pacientemente navegamos a través de los desafíos de la pandemia de COVID-19 mientras hacíamos todo lo posible por brindar la misma experiencia educativa de alto nivel que nuestra comunidad espera. Hubo muchas historias de éxito y avances en el aprendizaje que ocurrieron durante nuestro período de "Aprendizaje a distancia". No tengo ninguna duda de

que las lecciones aprendidas durante los últimos 17 meses ayudarán a informar a nuestro equipo de diligentes profesionistas a medida que avanzamos hacia el futuro.

Sigo estando orgulloso del fantástico trabajo que realizan nuestros estudiantes y personal. Día tras día, estos diligentes profesionistas se presentan a trabajar impulsados por un conjunto de creencias que guían nuestro trabajo:

- 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 a aprender cuando participan en trabajo significativo que se conecta con sus vidas.
- Creemos que las expectativas influyen en el rendimiento 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.

Pero lo que es más importante, damos vida a estas creencias con el trabajo que hacemos todos los días. Esto se logra ofreciendo programas de vanguardia, fomentando

See Superintendent • Page 5

Board of Education



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Dr. James **Finlay** Member



Jaqueline Ku Member

DUSD 2021-22 Teacher of the Year, Leslie Bartlett, Named Among Los Angeles County's Top Teachers

From the District

The Duarte Unified School District is proud to be represented by Leslie Bartlett, the 2021-22 Duarte Unified Teacher of the Year. On Friday, September 24, 2021, Mrs. Bartlett was one of 16 educators named as the 2021-22 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year. The announcement came while gathered at the Los Angeles County Office of Education's 40th Annual Teachers of the Year Awards banquet at the Universal City Hilton.

Mrs. Bartlett was selected from a field of 56 teachers representing 52 school districts who participated in the 40th annual Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year competition. organized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. All participants were recently selected as teacher(s) of the year by their respective school districts. Superintendent for Duarte Unified School District. Dr. Gordon Amerson, stated "I am very proud of Leslie and the amazing

Los Angeles County
frice of Education

Leslie Bartlett

work she provides for our students, and she certainly has represented the DUSD family well".

The Los Angeles County Office of Education Teachers of the Year Program is the largest local competition in the state and nation and is part of the oldest and most prestigious honors contest in the U.S. for public-school teachers. The 16 Los Angeles County educators will advance with other county titlists from around the state to the California Teachers of the Year competition this fall, and ultimately one California teacher will be selected to represent California in the National Teacher of the Year contest next spring.

DUSD 2021-22 Maestra del Año, Leslie Bartlett, Nombrada Entre las Mejores Maestras del Condado de Los Ángeles

Del Distrito

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte se enorgullece de estar representado por Leslie Bartlett, Maestra del año 2021-22 del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte. El viernes 24 de septiembre de 2021, la Sra. Bartlett fue una de las 16 educadoras nombradas Maestras del Año 2021-22 del Condado de Los Ángeles. El anuncio se produjo mientras se reunían en el banquete de la 40ª entrega anual de premios a los Maestros del Año de la Oficina de Educación del

Condado de Los Ángeles en el Universal City Hilton.

La Sra. Bartlett fue seleccionada de un grupo de 56 maestros representando a 52 distritos escolares que participaron en el 40° concurso anual de Maestros del Año del Condado de Los Ángeles, organizado por la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Los Ángeles. Todos los participantes fueron recientemente seleccionados como maestros del año por sus respectivos distritos escolares. El superintendente del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte, Dr. Gordon Amerson, comento: "Estoy muy orgulloso de Leslie y del increíble trabajo que ofrece a nuestros estudiantes, y ciertamente ha representado muy bien a la familia del DUSD".

El Programa de Maestros del Año de la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Los Ángeles es el concurso local más grande en el estado y la nación, y es parte del concurso de honores más antiguo y prestigioso para maestros de escuelas públicas en los EE. UU. Los 16 educadores del condado de Los Ángeles avanzarán este otoño con otros titulares del condado de todo el estado al concurso de Maestros del Año de California, y finalmente se seleccionará a un maestro(a) para representar al estado de California en el concurso Nacional de Maestros del Año la próxima primavera.

Superintendent • From Page 3

Now in my 4th year as the Superintendent of Schools, I see the passion in this community for our schools and the education of our scholars. That passion drives our team and me to remain on the cutting edge of the educational landscape. We are excited to continue driving innovation, collaboration, and partnership as the key components of our strategic work. These principles allow us to pursue an ambitious plan that includes:

- · Major renovation and modernization projects at our flagship Duarte High School
- Maximizing the efficiency of delivering services across the District
- Expanding the scope and breadth of our Early College Program
- Making deeper investments in the Career Technical Education program across the District
- Focused support of the Social-Emotional Needs of our scholars and staff during this ongoing pandemic period.

As we tackle these critical issues, we will be asking our community stakeholders for engagement and feedback on these vital topics. This will ensure we have a comprehensive understanding of our community's needs as we move forward.

asociaciones que prosperen y manteniéndonos firmes en nuestro compromiso de hacer de la ciudad de Duarte y sus escuelas un destino para familias en toda la región.

Ahora en mi cuarto año como Superintendente de Escuelas, veo la pasión en esta comunidad por nuestras escuelas y la educación de nuestros estudiantes. Esa pasión nos impulsa a nuestro equipo y a mí a permanecer a la vanguardia del panorama educativo. Estamos entusiasmados de seguir impulsando la innovación, la colaboración y la asociación como componentes clave de nuestra estratégica labor. Estos principios nos permiten seguir un plan ambicioso que incluye:

- Grandes proyectos de renovación y modernización en nuestra emblemática escuela preparatoria, Duarte High.
- Maximizar la eficiencia de la prestación de servicios en todo el distrito.
- Expandir el alcance y la amplitud de nuestro Programa de Pre-Universidad
- Hacer inversiones más profundas en el programa de Educación de Carreras Técnicas en todo el Distrito.
- Brindar apovo enfocado a las necesidades socioemocionales de nuestros académicos y personal durante este período de pandemia que sigue en curso.

A medida que abordamos estos críticos problemas, pediremos a las partes interesadas de nuestra comunidad que participen y realicen comentarios sobre estos temas tan vitales. Esto asegurará que tengamos una comprensión integral de las necesidades de nuestra comunidad a medida que avanzamos.



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among your reading choices. The response has been excellent since we converted to digital and I appreciate you emailing comments.

Be sure to enter our word search on page 15 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is December 8.







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Andres Duarte Arts *Academy (K-8)*

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



Scott Moses Principal

Being a Part of Andres Duarte is Awarding in Many Ways

This year at Andres Duarte is a year of focus on positive encouragement and recognition. As we have returned to campus in person, our team is continuing to seek ways to celebrate our return to school and recognize students for showing Respect, Ownership, Acting Safely and Responsibility (ROAR). With student input, we have tailored our ROAR store

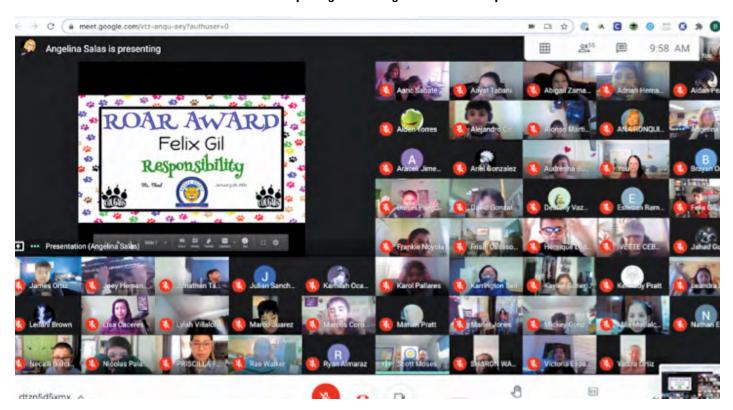
to reflect the various fun items they may purchase with every ROAR dollar they earn for doing positive things anywhere

on campus. We have a ROAR store for our TK-5 and our 6-8 students, manned by our awesome PBIS team and student volunteers! Our PBIS team has also done a tremendous job of celebrating with carnivals on Fridays, with more opportunities for students to spend and earn ROAR dollars and recognition while playing games and participating in fun events during lunch time. Finally, we join together at the end of every month to celebrate those students recognized by their teachers who have gone above and beyond in showing ROAR characteristics, in and out of the classroom. Andres Duarte continues to find ways to recognize and celebrate our outstanding students. Go Cougars!





ADAA students spending their earnings to earn even more prizes!



Beardslee Dual Language Immersion Academy (TK-8)

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



Jennifer Romero Principal

Successful Return of Students

With just two short months into the school year there are already so many areas of success to highlight at Beardslee Academy. The students, parents and staff have been committed to the successful return of students. So many of the students were eager to learn, and socialize with their friends, in-person once again. The focus for the beginning of the year has

been to ensure all students feel safe, and are supported academically and emotionally. Our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has been a school wide focus, and upon our return to full in-person learning it was a necessity. For many students in-person school was a new experience and for other students an experience

they haven't had for well over a year. Students needed time to adjust and relearn the structures of the classroom and the school site. We are excited to share that with the implementation of our PBIS matrices focused on our school wide "PAWS;" P- Have PRIDE in myself and my school, A- Have a positive ATTITUTE, W-make WISE choices and S-Act SAFELY, students have enthusiastically jumped in and are learning once again. Students receive Bear PAWS tickets in grades Tk to 5th, and BEAR BUCKS in grades 6th-8th when caught modeling one of the PAWS. This has been a great incentive for students as they are continuing to learn appropriate behaviors, academically, socially and emotionally. The first PAWS store of the year was a great success and a motivator for all. Our successful return was only possible because the AMAZING Beardslee teachers, staff, parents and students!







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Duarte High School

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Luis Haro Principal

An Informative Back-to-School Night with Parent Passport

September 1 was an eventful night at Duarte High School! We had ten community organizations and school partners present at Back-to-School Night, including LACOE Community Schools, 211 LA County, D'Veal Youth and Family Services, the Duarte Teen Center, the Duarte Area Resource Team (DART), Think Together, Foothill Family,

Margaret's Place, USC College Advising Corps, and LA County Parks and Recreation. As parents arrived at the event, students greeted parents and explained our Parent Passport initiative for the night. Parents were encouraged to visit every organization's table by completing a Parent Passport. Each Parent Passport featured all organizations and school partners present. Any parent who visited every table and got their passport signed was entered into a prize raffle. To turn in a completed Parent Passport, parents visited the Falcon Family Center. While in the Falcon Family Center, parents received an overview of the services and support available to them. These supports include a food pantry, clothing closet, computers, backpacks, and school supplies. The Falcon Family Center will also host parent meetings and workshops. The Falcon Family Center is open daily and by appointment.









Duarte Preschool-Child Development Center

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



Sofia Valdez Coordinator of Preschool Services

Monthly Workshops to **Bring Hope. Recovery. Wellbeing**

The transition from home to preschool creates challenges during a pandemic. Additionally, the return of children during the evolution of COVID-19 with its

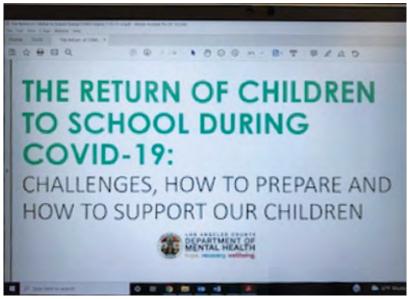
restrictions and guidelines creates nervousness and fear among our families. It also takes time to slowly return to in-person instruction and work with parents to help their children with separation anxiety.

Because of this, the Duarte Child Development Program, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Health Department, is bringing to Duarte families monthly mental health workshops to learn what parents can do to help children make a successful transition to in-person learning.

Therefore, as we continue to build resilience related to COVID-19, we are committed to protecting the recovery and trust of our families. In these circumstances, we have already established ongoing virtual connections with parents to enhance their access to

social-emotional resources, including activities to manage distress during COVID-19.

Our child development families are eager to continue learning how to use community resources and how to receive education on relevant issues that affect our communities, families, and children.



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

Team Maxwell Pursues Social Emotional Learning with Passion

The mission of Maxwell Academy is to provide our students with an inquirybased environment, where they develop into compassionate internationallyminded citizens who create, collaborate, communicate and think critically in order to be successful in the world. We know that in order to accomplish this mission we must

educate the whole child targeting social, emotional and academic areas. We are keenly aware that if overlooked our students' social emotional needs would hinder our ability to address the academic needs of our students. Research shows that Social Emotional Learning programs increase academic achievement and positive social interactions, and decrease negative outcomes later in life. As we embarked upon the 2021-2022 school year, Team Maxwell recognized that our students were impacted by the pandemic in many ways. Before we could target academics, we needed to target social emotional needs. As a result, we teamed up with A2Z EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS INC. to receive Social Emotional and Trauma Training. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a process whereby teachers

acquire, effectively apply and model for students, skills necessary to regulate their emotions through developing relationships and providing pathways to help them reason and make better decisions. Over the course of four months, staff members will receive 20 hours of SEL training. The training focuses on three areas to develop a social emotional learning environment: Regulate – the regulation of one's own emotions and behaviors. Relate – the ability to establish and maintain healthy relationships. Reason – the ability to think and make positive choices involving one's own behavior. One important discovery we made is so far is that in order for adults to support students we must first regulate ourselves. To date the team has received 12 hours of training and it is already making a difference. According to Mrs. Anderson, a fifth-grade teacher," It is interesting how you're able to help your family's generation by working through your trauma. Having that positive experience for others or yourself to reverse trauma is so powerful." Team Maxwell has always been a team that genuinely cared for the students. Now we are learning the importance of caring for ourselves in order to better care for them. It's safe to say that we will only take our care and commitment to students to the Max+1 as a result of this training.

Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School

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



Kevin Morris *Principal*

Not the Average Alternative High School but Much, Much More!

Students are different and high schools are different. However, all students should strive to meet the same academic expectations, and all school communities should be accountable for helping students meet those expectations; not all high schools consist of traditional student learners. Nevertheless, that is where Mt. Olive Innovation & Technology High

School (MIT) fills in the gaps. MIT is an alternative high school offering creative and innovative educational options to meet the needs of today's academically diverse student population. We serve students working below grade-level, at-risk of dropping out, needing a smaller and more personal classroom environment, teen parents, gifted and talented, students employed, teenage actors, and students who just didn't find success in the comprehensive high school setting.

Mt. Olive High School served as a continuation school from its founding in 1961 until 1995, then it restructured as an Alternative Education Center. In March 1996, it received Preliminary Accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges until gaining its first Six-Year WASC Accreditation in 1999. In 2005 Mt. Olive Alternative Education Center received its second Six-Year Clear WASC Accreditation and then again in 2011. In 2013, Mt. Olive Alternative Education Center changed its name to Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School further transforming the new creative and innovative culture for student learning. Then in 2018, Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School did it again, receiving its fourth consecutive Six-Year WASC Accreditation through 2024.

Uniqueness sets Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School (MIT) apart from other alternative and continuation high schools in Southern California. MIT continues to evolve offering flexible academic instruction and services to meet the needs of alternative student populations. Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School, serves roughly 90 students yearly in grades 9th through 12th. MIT and Duarte High School, the

comprehensive school, work together to support the district vision of "providing a quality education exemplified by high performing schools that equip our students with twenty-first century skills for an ever-changing world."

To meet the needs of our students, we have developed goals that are not only related to the achievement of common core standards and standardized testing but provide programs and strategies that help students deal with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) barriers. Our task is to help students overcome the challenges and bad habits that have kept them from succeeding in high school. Besides offering students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma, we also provide educational options designed to help students gain soft skills, financial literacy, career certifications, post-secondary preparation, and dual enrollment.

Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School continues to move forward and serve as a model for continuation and alternative high schools in California by providing a high-quality education to our learning community. To ensure that students are prepared for the 21st century global economy, we design instruction around integrated-interdisciplinary and collaborative teaching that is standards-based, actively engaging and ensures mastery of curriculum. We believe all students should meet high standards and MIT offers educational options to help students meet those high standards. We provide programs that help students deal with learning barriers and overcome the challenges that have kept them from succeeding in the past. In short, we help students gain the skills needed to return to Duarte High School or remain at MIT to earn their high school diploma and prepare for postsecondary education/career. It is important to remember that Alternative High Schools are NOT an alternative to learning. Rather, they provide an alternative method to accomplish the same thing as the traditional high schools, and that is to help students earn a diploma, enroll in a post-secondary or vocational school, get career ready and prepare for life's challenges as emerging 21st century global citizens.



Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

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



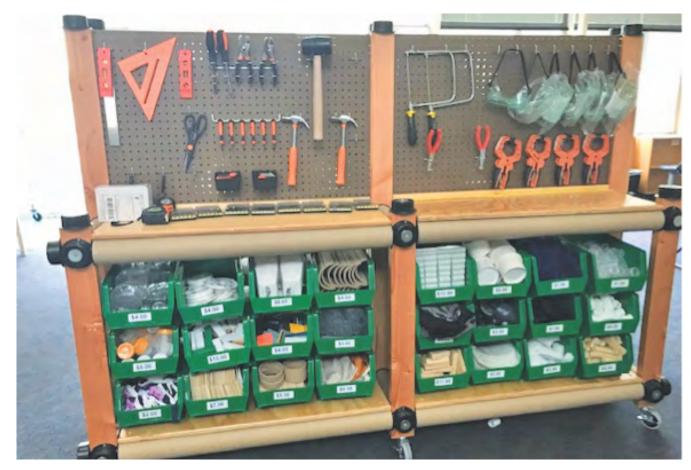
Dr. Esther Tamanaha Principal

Royal Oaks STEAMing Ahead

Students at Royal Oaks are STEAMing ahead with hands-on, relevant learning experiences in their STEAM elective. STEAM -Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics - takes an interdisciplinary approach to learning 21st century skills. This month, students in Mr. Wei's class are learning "reverse engineering".

They each had to bring from home a small, technology item that they were no longer using, such as an old cell phone, remote control, alarm clock, etc. Students then took apart the item, learned of and documented the function of each piece, and then tried to put the pieces together. This student (pictured above) disassembled an old iPhone. She is documenting each part of the iPhone and its function. Later, she will try to put it back together. The whole process was fascinating and eye-opening. Students also had access to their new STEAM lab with all the necessary materials and tools needed.





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

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



Margaret Rasmussen Principal

Elections at Valley View Academy

Elections were held for ASB officers for the 21-22 school year on September 17th. All week students prepared their speeches and campaigned by posting election posters. Students gave their speeches on Friday morning followed by student voting on-line.

Congratulations to the ASB officers for 2021-2022

President: Isaiah Cartagena Vice President: Illiana Diaz Secretary: Sophia Consejo Treasurer: Caleb Magallanes

PBIS Ambassadors: Madison Mattes, Sydney LeCesne

and Kayla Minasian



Kayla Minasian, Madison Mattes, Sophia Consejo, Isaiah Cartagena, Illiana Diaz, and Caleb Magallanes

Daniel's Review

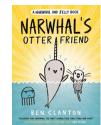


Daniel H.

Best Friends

Title: Narwhal's Otter Friend (A Narwhal and Jelly Book #4)

Author: Ben Clanton Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish are best friends. One day, they are swimming in the ocean when they meet Otty the



Otter. Otty is an adventurer that has done lots of cool stuff and met many animals. Otty wants to go on his next adventure and invites Narwhal to join him. They

forget to invite Jelly. Jelly becomes jealous and wonders if he is still Narwhal's best friend. Is Otty now Narwhal's best friend? What will happen to Jelly? You will find out if you read this book.

This book is really cute and funny and made me laugh while I was reading it. I hope you read it and like it as much as I did!

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

Katie's Review



Katie C.

City Life vs The Wild

Title: Brian's Return Author: Gary Paulson If you've ever read the book

Hatchet, you know the story of Brian and how he was stranded after a dangerous and tragic plane crash. After he survives, the plot ends and readers are left

wanting more. Brian's Return is the sequel to

GARY PAULSEN

this book, and portrays the difficulty Brian has in adjusting to his new life, free of wild animals and the dangers of living in solidarity in nature. As "safe" as his new life may seem, Brian is struggling immensely with living a so-called "normal" life. Therefore, he meets a psychologist named Caleb. Speaking with Caleb helps Brian work through the trauma he has faced and also to make a decision on what to do now. Will he finally be able to accept a calmer environment? Or will he still miss the woods, deep down in his heart? If you want to find out what Brian chooses to do, you should read Brian's Return.

Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to

Halloween Word Search Contest

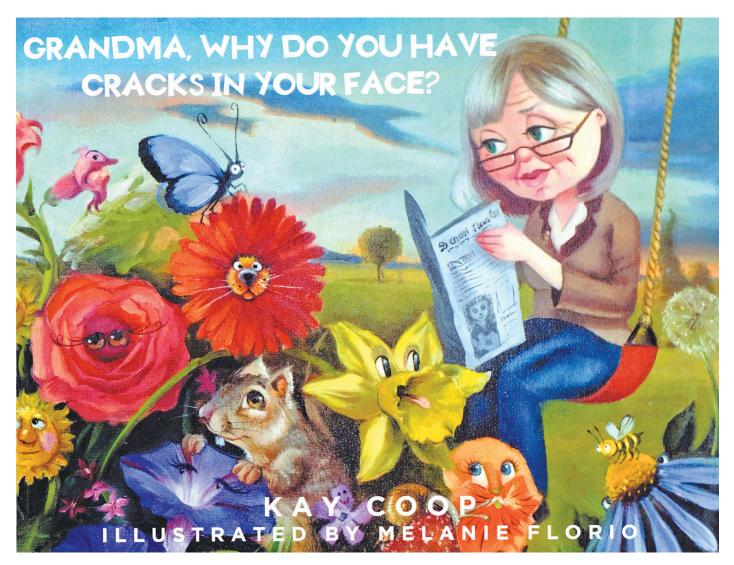
Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Duarte in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2021

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

BLACK CAT	HALLOWEEN
CANDY	JACK O LANTERN
CARVE	MUMMY
CEMETERY	SKELETON
COSTUME	SPIDER
DECORATIONS	SWAMP CREATURE
FRANKENSTEIN	TRICK OR TREAT
FRIGHTFUL	VAMPIRE
GHOST	WEB
GHOUL	WEREWOLF
GRAVE	WITCH
HAUNTED HOUSE	ZOMBIE

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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.