

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Duarte Unified School District**



Volume 4, Issue 11

December 2022

## A Triumphant Season for Our Band and Color Guard



**Color guard Co-Captain Fabiola Montoya, Pit Captain Ava Robeck, Drum Major Rohan Hoffman, Assistant Drum Major Tara Hoffman, Drum Captain Shaela Berger, Color guard Co-Captain Trinity La**  
The SCSBOA Championships were held on November 19, 2022, at Downey High School.

## SUPERINTENDENT

### A Great Day to be a Falcon

Duarte High School (DHS) is the flagship school of the Duarte Unified School District (DUSD), and the school has certainly been on the move since the beginning of this school year. The school year began with a series of media stories highlighting the enthusiasm of the students and staff returning as well as the wonderful modernization projects that are going to enhance and support DHS athletic programs. The reality is that those new stories are just the beginning of showcasing the awesome programs, students, and staff we have at DHS.

High Schools are complex, with so many programs, initiatives, and activities taking place. But DHS finds a way to balance all the complexities to provide an awesome experience for our scholars. One example is DHS's commitment to supporting the mental and social-emotional health of our students through a program called Margaret's Place. This program in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), provides counseling services, resources, and a safe space for students to go on campus when in need. It is an excellent program and keeps DHS focused on the holistic look at the needs of every student.

Deepening our partnerships is a core commitment of the Duarte Unified School District, and the partnership we have with Citrus College to provide the very successful Early College Program at DHS shows the dedication that DUSD has to creating individualized learning paths for our students. The ability to have the opportunity for DHS students to take college courses on campus and potentially graduate high school with both a diploma and associate's degree from a college gives our students great opportunities. Partnerships like this, and many others, will continue to distinguish DUSD from surrounding districts.

DHS has also been building and developing a robust Marching Band and Color Guard program. Numerous hours of practice, marching, and choreography go into preparing to showcase our band's talent. This year, the DHS Falcon Marching Band and Color Guard competed in the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association championships for the first time in over a decade. It is a testament to the work and commitment of the hard-working students and staff of DHS. And this is just the beginning and a long tradition of excellence for our band program.



**Dr. Gordon Amerson**  
*Superintendent*

### Un gran día para ser halcón

La Escuela Preparatoria Duarte (DHS) es la escuela insignia del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte (DUSD), y la escuela ciertamente ha estado en movimiento desde el comienzo de este año académico. El año escolar comenzó con una serie de historias en los medios de comunicación que destacan el entusiasmo de los estudiantes y el personal que regresaron a clases, así como los maravillosos proyectos de modernización que mejorarán y apoyarán los programas deportivos de DHS. La realidad es que esos nuevos relatos son solo el comienzo de la gran muestra de los maravillosos programas, estudiantes y personal que nosotros tenemos en DHS.

Las escuelas preparatorias son complejas, con muchos programas, iniciativas y actividades en curso. Pero DHS siempre encuentra la manera de equilibrar todas estas complejidades para brindar una increíble experiencia a nuestros estudiantes. Un ejemplo de esto es el compromiso de DHS de apoyar la salud mental y socioemocional de nuestros estudiantes a través de un programa llamado Margaret's Place. Este programa, en colaboración con la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Los Ángeles (LACOE), brinda servicios de asesoramiento, recursos, y un espacio seguro en el plantel escolar que nuestros estudiantes pueden aprovechar. Es un programa excelente y mantiene a DHS enfocada en la mirada holística de las necesidades de cada estudiante.

Profundizar nuestras asociaciones es un compromiso central del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Duarte, y la asociación que tenemos con Citrus College para brindar el muy exitoso Programa de Universidad Temprana en DHS muestra la dedicación que DUSD tiene para crear caminos de aprendizaje individualizados para nuestros estudiantes. La posibilidad de que los estudiantes de DHS tengan la oportunidad de tomar cursos universitarios en el campus y posiblemente graduarse de la escuela preparatoria con un diploma y un título de asociado de una universidad brinda a nuestros estudiantes grandes oportunidades. Asociaciones como esta, y muchas otras, continuarán distinguiendo a DUSD de los distritos circundantes.

DHS también ha estado construyendo y desarrollando un sólido programa Marching Band and Color Guard. Numerosas horas de práctica, marcha y coreografía se dedican a la preparación para mostrar el talento de nuestra banda. Este año, la Banda de Marcha Falcon y la Guardia de Bandera de DHS competirán en los compitieron de la Asociación de Bandas y Orquestas Escolares del Sur de California por primera vez en más de una década. Es un testimonio del trabajo y el compromiso de los estudiantes y el personal de DHS que trabajan arduamente. Y esto no es solamente el comienzo sino también una larga tradición de excelencia para nuestro programa de banda.

## Board of Education



**Reyna Diaz**  
President



**Ceci Escarcega Carroll**  
Vice President



**Ken Bell**  
Member



**Dr. James Finlay**  
Member



**Frank Figueroa**  
Member

## November 2022 Election Results

### *From the District*

The November 2022 elections were recently held, and it is with pleasure that we welcome the incumbents, Ken Bell and Reyna Diaz, to another term on the Duarte Unified School District Board of Education, as well as newly elected board member Rosa Holguin. Mrs. Diaz was elected to serve another four-year term in addition to the 25 years that she has proudly served. Mrs. Diaz has been the Board President for the past two years. Mr. Bell was elected to serve a two-year term, and at the end of his term will be our longest serving board member with 35 years of service. Ms. Holguin is an active member of the community and will officially join the board upon her taking the oath of office at the December 15, 2022 board meeting. Board Members Ceci Carroll and James Finlay were not up for election during this cycle; and Frank Figueroa fulfilled the two-year term that he was appointed to fill due to the board vacancy in June 2022. Our board members are active in many community affairs, and we are very fortunate to have such exceptional individuals on our board leading our district. We know that you join us in congratulating them on their victory.

## Resultados de las Elecciones de Noviembre de 2022

### *Del Distrito*

Las elecciones de noviembre de 2022 se llevaron a cabo recientemente y es un placer dar la bienvenida a los titulares, Ken Bell y Reyna Díaz, a otro mandato en la mesa directiva de educación del distrito escolar unificado de Duarte, así como miembro de la mesa recientemente elegida, Rosa Holguín. La Sra. Díaz fue elegida para servir otro término de cuatro años además de los 25 años que orgullosamente ha servido. La Sra. Díaz ha sido la presidenta de la mesa durante los últimos dos años. El Sr. Bell fue elegido para servir por un término de dos años, y al final de su mandato será nuestro miembro de la mesa con más años de servicio con 35 años de servicio. La Sra. Holguín es un miembro activo de la comunidad y se unirá oficialmente a la mesa cuando preste juramento en la reunión del 15 de diciembre de 2022. Los miembros de la mesa Ceci Carroll y James Finlay no se presentaron a las elecciones durante este ciclo; Frank Figueroa cumplió su mandato de dos años que fue designado para cubrir debido a la vacante en la mesa en junio de 2022. Los miembros de nuestra mesa participan activamente en muchos asuntos de la comunidad, y somos muy afortunados de contar con personas tan excepcionales en nuestra mesa que dirigen nuestro distrito. Sabemos que se unen a nosotros para felicitarlos por su victoria.



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

# School News Roll Call

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not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Dr. Amerson begins this issue with is positive message on page 2 highlighting the Duarte High School. You may read more about the band and color guard on page 6.

This issue is full of wonderful pictures and articles about Cultural Awareness, Superheroes, Esports,

Fall Harvest Carnival and Learning through Robotics. You might want to find a comfortable chair and plan to read awhile. Oh, don't forget to enter the word search contest below (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is February 8, 2023.

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



## Toy Store Items–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.

Entries must be received by **January 15, 2023**

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

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| BIKE     | MARBLES    |
| DOLL     | CRAYON     |
| TRIKE    | PENS       |
| BOOK     | COMPUTER   |
| LEGOS    | DOLLHOUSE  |
| SOLDIERS | BUGGY      |
| BALLS    | KITCHEN    |
| BUBBLES  | TEA SET    |
| CROQUET  | BAT        |
| BLOCKS   | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES    |            |





**Jennifer Romero**  
*Principal*

### **Bringing Cultural Awareness to our Community**

At Beardslee we strive to integrate and learn about different cultures and cultural awareness. Our annual Día de Los Muertos event is just one of the many occasions where this is evident. This year, we continued with a Día de los Muertos outdoor school community event and it was a success! Many



of the Beardslee students from pre-school to eighth grade produced artwork, mini ofrendas (altars), and class ofrendas, all of the displays were beautiful. There were performances put on by Mrs. Torres' 4th grade students, Ms. Neal's 1st grade students, and a Folklorico group, they all did a great job! Let's not forget the tacos, tamales, pan dulce and champurrado that were enjoyed by all. We can't thank the teachers, parents and students enough for all their support and dedication. We are already looking forward to next year's event!



# Duarte High School

1565 E. Central Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 714/990-3221 • [www.duarteusd.org/dhs](http://www.duarteusd.org/dhs)



**Luis Haro**  
*Principal*

## A Triumphant Season for our Band and Color Guard

Duarte High School's Band and Color guard are enjoying huge successes this season and were rewarded with an invitation to the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) championships. This

is no easy task and has not happened in DHS for years, however, under the direction of Mr. Maurice Limon, and with the dedication and perseverance of the students, their hard work has definitely paid off.

Beginning in the summer, students spent countless hours practicing the music and performance. This year, their chosen theme was "Dia De Los Muertos." Students, staff, parents and the community were able to enjoy this performance at home football games during half time. Based on the cheers of the crowd and feedback of observers, it became obvious that they were witnessing something special this year.

The fall competition season for Duarte High School Band and Color guard began on a great note with a 1st place finish at the Baldwin Park Field tournament on October 22. Then, another 1st place finish at the Sierra Vista Field Tournament on October 29. Followed by a 2nd



**Tara Hoffman playing the clarinet and Lance Arzadon playing the trumpet.**

place finish at the Los Altos Tournament on November 5. Duarte High School hosted their very own tournament on November 11 and showcased a beautiful performance. (Host schools do not get a placement but do earn a score).

Proving themselves deserving every step of the way and earning top finishes at field tournaments, they qualified for a spot to compete at the SCSBOA Field Band Championships. This is the marching band equivalent of CIF Championships and are reserved for the top

twelve groups in each of six competing divisions that are based upon the size of the band.

The band, drumline, and color guard have enjoyed great success this year and this could not have been achieved without the combined efforts of a strong music educator in Mr. Maurice Limon, a supportive school community, the awesome booster parents, and of course the fine student musicians at Duarte High School.



**Color guard Co-Captain Fabiola Montoya, Pit Captain Ava Robeck, Drum Major Rohan Hoffman, Assistant Drum Major Tara Hoffman, Drum Captain Shaela Berger, and Color guard Co-Captain Trinity La, upon winning 1st Place Band- 1A division, 1st Place Drumline- 1A division, and 2nd place Cologuard- 1A division at the Baldwin Park Field Tournament on October 22, 2022.**



**Sofia Valdez**  
Coordinator of  
Preschool Services

### Thankful for our Superheroes

Three and four-year-olds had a blast of fun as they enjoyed various hands-on activities led by their favorite superheroes.

In October, male figures attended child development classes at Maxwell, Beardslee, and Andres Duarte preschool to celebrate our Hero Day. It was amazing to see over 70 fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, and other male role models actively engaging in a wide variety of friendly hands-on activities such as playing games, reading, cooking, painting, singing, dancing, and sharing their best talents and skills with young learners.

Being a Hero is part of the Child's Development culture, and the goal is to build strong relationships with male figures who are an essential part of the child's life. We genuinely believe that the significance of a father or male figure plays an essential role in early education. With that in mind, every year, Duarte Child Development celebrates the Role Male Model, best known as Hero Day. The outcome



has been positive as the participation of male caregivers has increased significantly year after year; therefore, working with male figures has become crucial to our professional work in Early Education.

In Duarte Child Development, there is growing consciousness of the critical role of male caregivers in the lives of young

learners. Thus, active male caregivers, such as Preschool Parent Advisory Committee members, are empowered to earnestly engage in school leadership roles, parenting workshops, and participation in decision-making.

We are grateful that our preschool heroes are committed to making a difference in your children's growth and development. In the hope that they will always keep this vivid learning experience alive, they received special recognition for their willingness to make an unforgettable learning experience for their children; a picture of "My hero and me" with a humble note that reads: "Thank you for being my superhero."





**Dr. Kelly Lawson**  
Principal

### Maxwell Says No to Drugs!

The Red Ribbon Week Theme for 2022 was “Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free.” Students celebrated by hanging red ribbons around campus, decorating classroom doors that promoted the theme and donning creative spirit wear all week. Students pledged and promised to stay drug free. At Maxwell Academy we celebrate the lives of students everyday and it is exemplified in our commitment to promoting positive

self-images, building self-worth and nurturing self-efficacy. Research shows that children that feel valued, loved and supported are less likely to use drugs. By building relationships and cultivating positive rapport with our students, we validate and empower them make choices that lead to living drug free lives.

Congratulations Ms. Doctorian 7th 4th Period 7th grade class won first place for middle school door decorating theme; Mr. Crisci’s 4th/5th Grade class won first place for upper grade decorating theme; and Ms. Ochoa’s first grade class won first place for primary grade.



**Mr. Crisci 4th/5th Grade**



**Ms. Ochoa's First Grade**



**Ms. Doctorian 7th Grade**

# Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

1400 Mt. Olive Dr., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5900 • [www.duarteusd.org/MIT](http://www.duarteusd.org/MIT)



**Kevin Morris**  
*Principal*

## MIT Esports Success

The Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High School Tigers and Coach David Barrile are taking the North America Scholastic Esports Federation (NASEF) by a storm. In our inaugural year, we are competing in our first national esports fall tournament and our success have been unprecedented for a first-year program. Our current tournament record in the first round and second round

of regional play is 7-1. We earned the top seed in the quarterfinals in both Rocket League and Valorant by defeating teams like the Kankakee Valley High School Kougers from Wheatfield, Indiana; the Westside High School Warriors from Omaha, Nebraska; the Snider High School Panthers from Fort Wayne, Indiana; and the Thomas Jefferson High School Mustangs from San Antonio, Texas, to name a few. This school year we are competing in three esports leagues: The North America Scholastic Esports Federation (NASEF), the High School Esports League (HSEL) and California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section (CIFSS). This is just the first of many tournaments during the 2022-23 school year for the MIT Tigers.

Esports offers high school students' authentic, meaningful career and STEM education opportunities alongside competitive tournaments. So, it's no surprise our students are excited to not just play video games, but to also explore and pursue related careers in the video game industry. We will continue to develop and foster esports through the lens of academics and learning through competition. We are excited to see our students embark on this new and innovative academic journey while supporting their interests and passion.



# Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

2499 Royal Oaks Dr., Bradbury, CA 91008 • 626/599-5400 • [www.duarteusd.org/roe](http://www.duarteusd.org/roe)



**Dr. Esther  
Tamanaha**  
*Principal*

## Another Memorable Annual Fall Harvest Carnival

On Friday, October 28, we celebrated our Annual Fall Harvest Carnival. This event took numerous hours of planning and set up, but with the help from ASB, teachers, parents, PTO, and our community, the evening was a success! Though the carnival began at 3:30, the Royal Oaks families were already outside the gate waiting anxiously as early as 2:45! Ticket booths were busy selling 25 cent tickets for the traditional carnival

games and delicious snacks. We had over 15 booths, each ran by a student council representative with a teacher or parent volunteer. Mr. Mayer, a former Royal Oaks math teacher, entertained our families with good music and dancing at the wheel. We are grateful to have received generous donations from local grocery stores to help us with decorations and food. Big thanks to the participating teachers, who received a portion of the profits that night for their work. Special thanks to Ms. Stumbaugh for her leadership in making this event possible this year and previous years. Thank you all for the great memories, let us do it again next year!



**This Fall Harvest Carnival was enjoyable for every generation. The Bastian family gives a big smile at the photo booth!**



**Erin Fish**  
Principal

### Creative Learning through Robotics

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) enrichment classes are offered weekly at Valley View Academy. Valley View Academy GATE students are 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who often work together, cross grade level, using the engineering design process. Valley View GATE students focus their work on Project Lead the Way modules for Robotics and Automation. They explore robotic history

and learn more about a particular type of robot. They create a presentation on a robotic toy that they design, and they develop skills and knowledge associated with robotics as they work in teams to solve real-world problems with robotics, such as cleaning up after a natural disaster at a nuclear plant. In this particular design problem, scholars work in teams to design, model, and test a robot

that can remove hazardous materials from a disaster site. Students also design the layout of a site that includes criteria and constraints such as minimum measurements for a required body of water, and a hazardous materials collection zone. The creative and collaborative designs are never the same, and allow our scholars to showcase their ideas. Third grade students are also part of our GATE enrichment classes. Identified in January, third grade GATE students participate in introductory GATE sessions, and work collaboratively on STEM design challenges and enrichment activities. Last year, third graders solved a mystery by becoming forensic scientists- studying a crime scene, gathering clues, and testing the evidence to solve the crime. They even had a mock trial-who knew thinking critically and forming a persuasive argument could be so fun!



Valley View Gate students creating with robotics.



## Daniel's Review



**Daniel H.**

### Who Wants Freckles?

*Freckle Juice* is about a boy named Andrew who really wants freckles on his face. A girl in his class named Sharon says that she'll sell him a secret recipe for freckle juice that will give him freckles.

Will he buy the recipe and use it? Read to find out!

This book is very silly and easy to read. I liked this book and I think you will too.

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.



## David's Review



**David H.**

### Thrills and Surprises

*The Detective's Assistant* is a mystery book about Nell Warne, who is adopted by her Aunt Kitty, a detective that works for a detective agency, and the mysteries that they solve. One of the mysteries they solve is a murder. This

book shows how detectives solve crimes and the thinking behind it. It also contains a lot of historical facts so you are learning while you are entertained. If you want to read a good mystery novel, you are sure to love this book!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.



**Parents:** If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information  
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com.

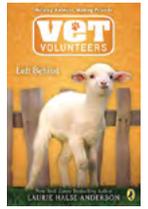
## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Speak Up for Yourself

*Left Behind* by Laurie Halse Anderson is book 17 (of 17) in the Vet Volunteers series. The story is mainly about Sylvester and Sunita. One day while Sunita follows Dr. Gabe and another Vet



Volunteer to a horse farm on a house call, she finds Sylvester in 1 of the stalls in the barn. Sylvester is a sheep who was just left behind. Sheep usually thrive when they live in a group or a flock. Why is Sylvester left alone? Does Sylvester need a new home? Can Sunita and her Vet Volunteer friends help this lonely little lamb?

I like all the books in the Vet Volunteers series, especially this one since I can relate to the main character. Just like Sunita, I am very reserved and shy. I often let my friends decide the games we play and the TV programs we watch to avoid conflicts. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves animals and anyone who may have a hard time speaking up for themselves.

Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

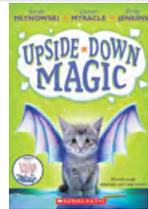
## Yoona's Review



**Yoona C.**

### Magic goes...

Title: *Upside-Down Magic*  
Author: Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins



This book is a book where magic is real. A girl named Nory Horace lived with her father, sister, and brother. Nory was a fluxer. Fluxers turn into animals. Every single time she wanted to become an animal she would have turned into that animal, but the other half would be another animal. When she turned into those things she would cause a lot of problems. Nory wanted to get to Sage Academy but she failed. After that her Aunt comes and takes Nory to Upside-Down School. Upside-Down School is a school where people go if they have Upside-Down magic. She enjoys Upside-Down school but she wants to be normal still. She then uses a box to help her and Elliot get out of Upside-Down School. She succeeds but she starts thinking how she is going to miss Upside-Down magic and her friends. Will Nory leave the school or not?

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