

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**Covering the Duarte Unified School District**



Volume 4, Issue 10

October 2022



**Duarte High School Falcons sharing their excitement and setting the tone for a great school year!**



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### A Sign of Things to Come

At Duarte Unified, we provide the knowledge, skills, and inspiration for each student for success in college, career, and life; and the inspiration and energy were certainly evident on the first day of school. Students were welcomed back to the staff's enthusiasm that began in the days leading up to the start of school. At the annual district convocation on August 9, 2022, staff met for a morning of inspiration and the introduction to Duarte RISE2030 (Resilient, Innovative, Scholars, Striving for Excellence). This new vision will set forth the path for the District's work for years to come. Over the coming months, the District will begin the strategic planning process. This process will focus on engaging a broad group of stakeholders.

With the start of the school year, we have seen so much energy and enthusiasm. The return of athletics, programs, and activities has created a buzz amongst our scholars. As we progress into the fall we will work closely with our staff and families to create awesome learning experiences and lasting social experiences that will help our scholars be successful. Two examples of this in DUSD are the Early College Program and Community Schools Initiative at Duarte High School. The Early College Program provides a robust educational partnership that gives Duarte High School scholars the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and a community college associate's degree. And the Community Schools Initiative provides our high school students with social and emotional support and services to maximize their high school experience.

Duarte Unified continues to stand out as a district on the move and has recently been highlighted in several media publications. These publications include the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, *Pasadena Star-News*, and *Telemundo*. These stories capture the innovative and progressive direction of Duarte schools. As we move forward DUSD will continue to pave the way for educational innovation in the San Gabriel Valley.



**Dr. Gordon  
Amerson**  
Superintendent

### Un Signo de las Cosas por Venir

En el Distrito Unificado de Duarte, brindamos conocimiento, habilidades e inspiración para que cada estudiante tenga éxito en la universidad, la carrera y la vida; la inspiración y la energía ciertamente fueron palpables el primer día de clases. Los estudiantes fueron bienvenidos por el entusiasmo encabezado por el personal que comenzó días antes al inicio de clases. En la convocatoria anual del distrito el 9 de agosto de 2022, el personal se reunió para una mañana de inspiración y la introducción a Duarte RISE2030 -Resilientes, Innovadores, Académicos, Luchando por la Excelencia (RISE por sus siglas en inglés). Esta nueva visión establecerá la vía de trabajo del Distrito durante los próximos años. En los próximos meses, el Distrito comenzará el proceso de planificación estratégica. Este proceso se centrará en involucrar a un amplio grupo de partes interesadas.

Con el inicio del año escolar, hemos presenciado mucha energía y entusiasmo. El retorno del atletismo, los programas y las actividades han generado entusiasmo entre nuestros estudiantes. A medida que avanzamos hacia el otoño, trabajaremos en estrecha colaboración con nuestro personal y nuestras familias para crear experiencias de aprendizaje extraordinarias y experiencias sociales duraderas que ayudarán a nuestros estudiantes a tener éxito. Dos ejemplos de esto en DUSD son el Programa de Universidad Temprana (Early College) y la Iniciativa de Escuelas Comunitarias en la Preparatoria Duarte High School. El programa de Universidad Temprana ofrece una asociación educativa sólida que brinda a los estudiantes de la escuela secundaria Duarte la oportunidad de obtener tanto un diploma de escuela preparatoria como un título de asociado de la universidad comunitaria. Y la Iniciativa de Escuelas Comunitarias brinda a nuestros estudiantes de preparatoria apoyo y servicios sociales y emocionales para maximizar su experiencia en la escuela preparatoria.

El Distrito Unificado de Duarte continúa destacándose como un distrito en constante movimiento y recientemente ha sido destacado en varias publicaciones de los medios. Estas publicaciones incluyen el *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, *Pasadena Star-News* y *Telemundo*. Estas historias capturan la dirección innovadora y progresiva de las escuelas Duarte. A medida que avanzamos, el DUSD continuará allanando el rumbo hacia la innovación educativa en el Valle de San Gabriel.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Welcome Back to a New School Year  
Superintendent Dr. Amerson begins this issue with his message on page 2. He mentions the publications the district has been highlighted in recently and, of course, *School News* is dedicated to highlighting every school. This is our 4th year publishing the excellence from the Duarte Unified School District. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices each school year the months of October, December, February and May.

By now the students have settled into their routines and as you read the articles in this issue you can almost feel the excitement being back in the classrooms.

We have included a word search contest on page 12 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is December 7. In the meantime, have a Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving!



**Gina Ammon** **Donna BAKER**

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**Jennifer Romero**  
*Principal*

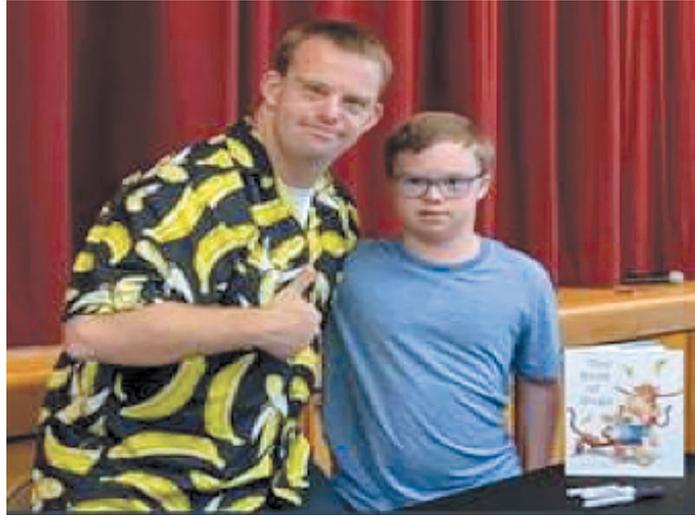
### Inspired To Do Good for Themselves and Others

At the beginning of each year and throughout the year there is a focus on the social and emotional well-being of all the students, and we take pride in providing a culture of care and respect. Social Emotional Learning is

a part of everyday life at Beardslee. Learning about diversity, acceptance and kindness are just some of the things we want our students to take away from their education at Beardslee. In the month of September students were provided an opportunity that allowed them to learn just that. Students got to meet Tim Harris! Tim is an inspirational speaker, author and someone who didn't give

up in life, despite having Down Syndrome. Tim read his book, *The Book of Hugs*, to students and took the time to tell his personal story and reason for writing the book. Tim's testament to living a full life left students, staff and teachers inspired and wanting to do good for themselves and others. Students learned first-hand what it means

to never give up in the face of adversity. Tim Harris' story of building a successful life despite having Down Syndrome was motivational and encouraging. Students walked away that day having learned that nothing is impossible; a great lesson and one they can apply to their everyday life. There are some things students will never experience that will never be forgotten, and this experience can very well be one of them.



**Tim Harris and Cash Bartlett**



**Third grade students receiving their autographed book.**

# 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

## Positive School Culture Through School Spirit and Connectedness

Duarte High School is experiencing a great start to the school year with renewed feelings of school spirit and school connectedness. As we all know, COVID-19 took a toll on our community and especially in our young people so Duarte High School's staff agreed to take a proactive approach this year with intentional activities to build

strong connections and a learning environment where students feel safe, comfortable and valued. The Week of Welcome was the first set of activities that kicked the year off to a great start, and teachers took time each period and held activities with the sole intent of creating a strong classroom culture where students feel safe, comfortable, and welcomed. Although, the Week of Welcome occurred over the first week of school, its impact and continued commitment to a positive and safe school culture is ongoing.



Another event that demonstrates Duarte High's commitment to a strong and positive school culture occurred at the end of August. It spanned over three days with over 400 students participating in the Learning for Living's Breaking Down the Walls program. Each day of the program consisted of full group, small group, and partner activities. The focus of the program was to have students interact with peers outside of their normal friend group through various activities. Students met students across all the grade levels and realized that they share common interests, life experiences, and future plans. A teacher shared that they wished they would have been able to have this experience when they were in high school and hoped that this experience wouldn't be a one-time thing. In all, students shared that they appreciated the experience and getting know their fellow Falcons.





**Sofia Valdez**  
Coordinator of  
Preschool Services

### Recognizing a High-Quality Early Education Program

A high-quality Early Education Program has a solid vision to successfully empower our future leaders with the skills they need to construct new knowledge of the world around

them. A research-based curriculum and an appropriate nurturing environment are the two essential keys that most preschoolers should be exposed to facilitate independent, creative thinking and problem solving through active participatory learning. A process in which teachers and children work together in collaboration in shaping and maximizing the learning experiences throughout the daily routine.



This month our curriculum is focused on buildings; why investigate buildings? Well, young children are inquisitive about building, putting things together, and creating structures such as buildings, bridges, and high towers, among others. Preschoolers are curious about shape, size, colors, materials, function, and locations. This thematic unit fosters observation, curiosity, and investigation. In addition, it offers many opportunities for young children to expand their knowledge and understanding of building materials and physical forces, the people who build them, and the role of buildings in our communities.

Furthermore, our high-quality staff engages in warm, friendly conversations with the children on critical thinking and advanced vocabulary, as they ask the question of the day, for instance, who builds buildings; what tools do they use? Some investigations also include volunteer speakers and school facilities tours. In Duarte Preschool, we are thankful for our staff, parents, volunteers, and young learners for playing an essential role in our learning and growing. Yes, we can!



At Duarte preschool, we are implementing a developmentally appropriate culturally, linguistically, and practical approach curriculum that enhances each child's learning and development. Our environments support every learner and provide rich opportunities to grow in their social and emotional, cognitive, language, literacy, social studies, science, technology, and art skills.



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

733 Euclid Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 626/599-5302 • [www.duarteusd.org/mes](http://www.duarteusd.org/mes)



**Dr. Kelly Lawson**  
*Principal*

## Welcome Back

The 2022-2023 school year has officially started. We hope the Duarte community is as excited as we are for this eventful year! Maxwell Academy is an authorized International Baccalaureate World School that offers both the Primary Years Program to our TK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and the Middle Years Program to our 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We are committed to providing

an IB program for Transitional Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade that addresses the social, emotional, and physical well-being while encouraging students to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners.

Our first day officially began with the Jumpstart assembly. Students in grades TK-5<sup>th</sup> gathered together on the playground as a learning community. The joyous sounds of friends reconnecting after summer break could be heard throughout the hallway. Teachers welcomed students with high fives and fist bumps. Middle

schoolers gathered in the MYP courtyard displaying the same excitement as the elementary students. Laughter permeated the courtyard. Students were comparing their class schedules, making plans to meet up at break and welcoming their teachers back to school. It is safe to say that the middle schoolers were ready and eager to get the new year started.

Over the next 180 days of school, Maxwell IB students will be immersed inquiry. They will tackle local, national and global issues. The elementary students will inquire into who we are, where we are in place and time, how we express ourselves, how the world works, how we organize ourselves, and sharing the planet. MYP students will inquire in identities and relationships, orientation in space and time, personal and cultural expression, scientific and technical innovations, globalization and sustainability, and fairness and development. All this and more will be accomplished through inquiry and exploration. It's going to be a great year at Maxwell Academy.



# 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*

## Gamification and Career Exploration Equals Esports

Esports is short for electronic sports, which is a form of competition using video

games. Esports consist of organized, multiplayer video game competitions, between professional players, individuals or teams.

In 2022-23, under the leadership and advisory of MIT teacher David Barrile, Mt. Olive Innovation & Technology (MIT) High School will be competing as a high school team in the North America Scholastic Esports Federation (NASEF) and High School Esports League (HSEL). Mr. Barrile has a Career Technical Education (CTE) certification in Information and Communication Technologies which creates a career pathway in Games and Simulation for MIT students in the Esports class.



**Ernesto Panado playing online**

ESports offers school districts meaningful career and STEM education opportunities alongside competitive tournaments. Esports is a booming industry and many job opportunities besides being a pro player are being created. Esports teaches participants many relevant skills, such as streaming, production, programming, and management. It also encourages communication and coordination amongst these student athletes. By playing games, students are able to deepen their levels of interaction and communicate more effectively, readying them for life and careers in the industry. In addition, Esports also offers scholarships to help students pay for college. Today's universities offer esports programs for students, which creates a new viable path to college for those who may never have considered obtaining a higher education.

The vision of MIT is to create and foster an ESports pathway through the lens of academics and learning through competition. MIT is excited to see students embark on this new and innovative academic journey while supporting students' interests. It's no surprise that MIT students are excited to not just play video games, but to pursue related careers in the video game industry.



**Mr. Barrile and Esports Team members testing the equipment**

# 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*

## We Don't Just Fly, WE SOAR!

Royal Oaks STEAM Academy started on the right path with students following our SOAR expectations. On Friday, September 2nd we had our first SOAR Rally, where we acknowledged 37 students. They were chosen by their teacher for demonstrating one of our SOAR behavior expectations: Solving

problems wisely, respecting Others and myself, maintaining a positive Attitude, or making Responsible choices. Each student was awarded a certificate and a coupon for Wingstop. This rally was memorable because it was our first since the COVID lockdown. We had cheering parents in the audience and our entire campus in the lower campus wheel. We are looking forward to congratulating more students every first Friday of the month. We don't just fly, WE SOAR!



**K-5th Soaring Eagles**



**6-8th Soaring Eagles**



**Erin Fish**  
Principal

## Celebrating Student Authors

The students of Valley View Academy are continuously developing their skills and love for writing as we

celebrate our young authors each month at the Valley View Authors' Tea. Each month one student from each classroom is selected to participate in the Authors' Tea where they have the opportunity to share their chosen writing piece with their peers and the principal. Along with sharing their writing, they get to enjoy a light breakfast and walk away with their own new mug. Students not only share their writing, but they talk about why they enjoy writing so much. Some students shared that they "...love writing because it allows their creativity to be put onto paper." Another student shared that "...writing stories is my favorite." The implementation of the Valley View Authors' Tea allows our young writers to be celebrated at every level of writing ability from the youngest students in Transitional Kindergarten all the way up to our Sixth-grade students. Students are learning to express themselves in every genre of writing and to incorporate their creativity, emotions, opinions or research into their writing. We look forward to the upcoming months of writing being shared and to the positive impact this will have on our students throughout their school career.



**Valley View students sharing their writing.**



## David's Review

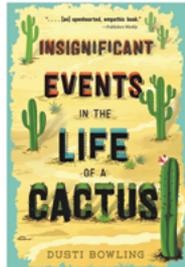


David H.

### Perseverance and Friendship

*Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*

is a great book about perseverance. The main character, Aven, was born without arms and becomes friends with Connor, a boy who has Tourette



syndrome, and Zion, a boy who gets teased for being overweight. They are all trying to help each other survive middle school while being different. The author has a humorous writing style. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a heartwarming and uplifting read. Enjoy!

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

## Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

### Have it all!

Title: Almanac 2021  
Which language has the most first language speakers? You might want to hit up for an almanac. What's an almanac? It's basically a book that speaks facts. Maybe you



don't like that type of person, but you might like that type of book. Maybe you can also learn more things like, do you want to know where Alexander the Great was buried? How future homes may be built? Studying rocks? It has it all. From wanting to study stars to knowing about the coolest cats, you can imagine. It's as real as red being red and green being green but, as versatile as the library books.

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

## Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

### Dragon Masters

*In Fortress of the Stone Dragon (Dragon Masters #17)* an evil wizard named Astrid is trying to rule the world and someone must stop her! Dragon Masters Drake and Mina, with their dragons



Frost and Worm, must get to another Dragon Master, Caspar, and his dragon Shaka (the Stone Dragon) to get help to defeat Astrid. This story had a lot of action, dragons, and magic. I really liked this book because it was fun to read. You should read this 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.

## Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

### Under the Sea in 3D

*Ludwig the Sea Dog* by Henning Löhlein is about a dog named Ludwig who lives in a book. The main plot of



the story is about Ludwig trying to help his friend, Peter the penguin from a broken submarine. Since everything in Ludwig's world is made out of paper, it is impossible for Ludwig to go under the sea to help Peter. Ludwig needs extra help. With the magic potion from the fairy and a lot of help from his friends, Ludwig is able to help Peter.

This book is a 3D picture book that comes with a pair of 3D glasses. The 3D makes reading this book more exciting and fun. This book teaches me that the impossible can be possible if we work together as a team and that it is okay to ask for help when we need help. I recommend this book for anyone who is adventurous and love to explore the sea.

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.

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## Aubtin's Review



**Aubtin M.**

### Teamwork

Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*

Author: Christopher Awdry

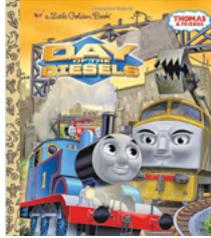
On the Island of

Sodor, Thomas the tank engine and Percy the small engine are best friends. When Belle; the fire engine comes, she

becomes Thomas's new friend. Percy feels very left out. Percy goes to the Diesel Works to see if the Diesels want to make friends with him. Percy leads the Diesels to the Steam Works, when he discovers that Thomas is held prisoner in the Diesel Works. What will happen to Thomas? Will Percy save him?

I recommend you read this book to see what happens.

I learned about friendship, teamwork and cooperation from this book. I hope you will too. You will find great pictures in this book.



Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, and music. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

## Penny's Review



**Penny**

### A Wish Gone Awry

Book Title: *Best Wishes*

Author: Sarah Mlynowski

Becca is having a terrible day. Her best friend Harper decided that she didn't want to be friends with her. But after her terrible day, a mysterious package

arrives for Becca in the mail. It turns out to be a bracelet with magic powers. Becca wishes that she could have a lot of friends, and the bracelet makes her wish come true. But then everybody wants to be her friend. The kids in her class, the teacher, even her mom! Everyone who reads this book will laugh at all the funny adventures and twists that this book has.

I give it a ten out of ten hearts.

Penny is a 5th grader who loves to read. She enjoys eating ice cream and petting her dog. She wants to be a librarian when she grows up.



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

Entries must be received by November 30, 2022

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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