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Covering the Duarte Unified School District



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May 2023

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Creating DUSD's Strategic Future

As the superintendent of DUSD, one of the most important tasks is to develop a strategic plan for the school district. This process began for DUSD in August of 2022, with the release of the Duarte Rise 2030 vision. This strategic vision will provide a clear direction and purpose for the district, outlining goals and objectives that will guide decision-making and resource allocation for the next several years.

This important work has been ongoing throughout this school year and will continue throughout this spring and summer. Several steps have taken place including, gathering input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, staff, parents, community members, and students. In an effort to create a very engaging and transparent process, the District partnered with Hanover Research group to assist with the data collection and drafting of the plan.

Through a series of surveys the District gathered input to analyze the data and identify key themes and priorities. With these priorities in mind, the strategic plan is being developed by a versatile strategic planning committee of stakeholders. The draft plan will include a series of aims and goals that will be the focus of the district's work for the next five years.



**Dr. Gordon
Amerson**
Superintendent

Creando el Futuro Estratégico de DUSD

Como superintendente de DUSD, una de las tareas más importantes es desarrollar un plan estratégico para el distrito escolar. Este proceso comenzó para DUSD en agosto de 2022, con el lanzamiento de la visión Duarte Rise 2030. Esta visión estratégica proporcionará un propósito y una dirección clara para el distrito, delineando metas y objetivos que guiarán la toma de decisiones y la asignación de recursos para los próximos años.

Este importante trabajo ha estado en curso a lo largo de este año escolar y continuará durante esta primavera y verano. Se han llevado a cabo varios pasos, incluida la recopilación de información de un grupo diverso de partes interesadas, incluidos administradores, maestros, personal, padres, miembros de la comunidad y estudiantes. En un esfuerzo por crear un proceso transparente y muy atractivo, el distrito se asoció con el grupo de investigación de Hanover para ayudar con la recopilación de datos y la redacción del plan.

A través de una serie de encuestas, el Distrito reunió información para analizar los datos e identificar temas y prioridades clave. Con estas prioridades en mente, el plan estratégico está siendo desarrollado por un versátil comité de planificación estratégica de partes interesadas. El borrador del plan incluirá una serie de objetivos y metas que serán el enfoque del trabajo del distrito durante los próximos cinco años.

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562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

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CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

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COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

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Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



562/493-3193

kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



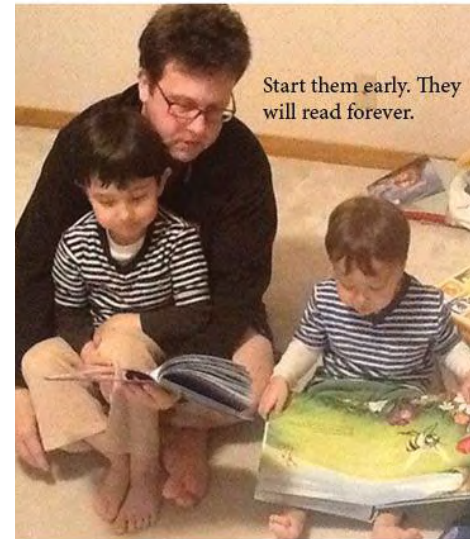
This school year is quickly coming to a close and summer is right around the corner.

Have a fun summer and don't forget to include the library among your activities.

Our next issue is October 4.



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Jennifer Romero
Principal

A Busy Time

Beardslee students have been busy bears over the past two months! In March, students and staff celebrated all of their hard work with families and community members at our annual Open House. Classrooms were filled with all of the creative ways students demonstrate their learning at Beardslee, and parents were treated to a tour of their child's efforts and experiences throughout the year.

In addition, the blacktop was filled with community booths offering much needed resources and opportunities to our families, including mental health services, recreational programs, and even acting classes. In April, students raced to the finish line at the annual Duarte Junior Olympics, working as a team to complete the 4-man relay, pushing themselves to their best in the individual races, and leaping and throwing to victory at the long jump and softball toss. Finally, our band students, led by Rafael Arenas, after months of practice and commitment to their instruments, performed for the entire district and its families at the annual Duarte Band Showcase. Beardslee is proud to be part of introducing and encouraging students in music! Now, as we quickly approach the last month of school, students and staff are putting everything they have into completing the state tests in science, language arts, and math knowing May has so many special and fun days in store. The Beardslee Family will finish the year with Movie Day, Play Day, Family Game Night, and Family picnic all while continuing to learn and grow together!



5th grade students ready to perform at the District Band Showcase.



Open House community event.



Beardslee track students gearing up for the District Track Meet.

Duarte High School

1565 E. Central Ave., Duarte, CA 91010 • 714/990-3221 • www.duarteusd.org/dhs



Luis Haro
Principal

Falcons, Families, and the Community Pack the House

The last few months at Duarte High School have been eventful, to say the least! Just this past week, we hosted back to back events. On April 27, we hosted our Falcon Fiesta Open House. This event was attended by current students and incoming students. Families were able to tour classrooms, hear from current seniors and their college plans, learn about school clubs and athletic teams, enjoy a performance from our school choir, as well as play games, learn about community organizations, connect with our academic counselors, and tour our College & Career Center, Margaret's Place, and Falcon Family Center. Special thanks to our community organizations that hosted information tables for our parents, including D'Veal Youth and Family Services, the Duarte Teen Center, the Duarte Area Resource Team (DART), Foothill Family, Emanate Health, Duarte Fitness Center, Boys and Girls Club, LA County Library, USC College Advising Corps, and Azusa Pacific University Community Counseling Center.

The following night on April 28, we hosted Jazz by Moonlight, which featured our Duarte High Jazz Band, Azusa Pacific University Jazz Workshop, and Citrus College Blue Note Orchestra. The special guest of the night was multi-Grammy award winner Poncho Sanchez, who has recorded almost 30 Latin jazz albums, and is known worldwide. He was joined by special guest artist Francisco Torres. What an event it was!



Duarte Preschool-Child Development Center

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



Sofia Valdez
Director of
Child Development
Programs

STEAM Family Fun Night

Every year the idea of getting together with children, staff, families, and the community to have a lifelong experience at the STEAM Family Fun Night has blossomed! This April, we had over 150 families impacting their young children's education in science. Our Child Development STEAM Family Fun Night offers families and communities engaging hands-on activities where young children and adults have the opportunity to observe, explore, investigate,

ask questions, and draw conclusions! Our little scientists had more than twenty STEAM stations to explore. It is fantastic to see young children exercising their curiosity while their critical thinking is fostered with easy activities and materials that connect them to real-life experiences. Family Fun Night is a particular time for families, staff, and the community to support our little scholars in intriguing hands-on learning activities such as simple machines, ramps, microscopes, life cycles, earth living, and living things. Watching preschool children talk about entomologists, anthropologists, engineers, astronomers, and geoscientists as a future career is amazing!

Family Fun Night allows our families and community partners to experience Early Childhood education as a place of learning, growth, and fun. We strive to set the stage for lifelong academic success. Kudos to our D.A.R.T. volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to facilitate the STEAM Family Fun Night. The Duarte High School students did a tremendous job as they explored

and showcased their knowledge about specific science topics. Yet, they kept the momentum by guiding families, children, young adults, and community representatives on a fabulous science experience. In addition, this event allowed high school students, child development staff, and volunteer parents to sharpen their science leadership skills. Moreover, all volunteers worked hard to keep the excitement and momentum until the end. We are grateful to see our community working together toward the same goal and vision; it is all about teaching and learning where everyone feels a sense of belonging.





Dr. Kelly Lawson
Principal

Maxwell Lions are Rocking Until the Very End

It may be near the end of the school year, but over at Maxwell Academy, things are still bustling. Our fifth graders recently had the opportunity to spend a few days in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains at Pali Institute enjoying outdoor science camp. They dissected owl pellets, hiked, did a ropes course, and so much more. Memories made for a lifetime!

We also celebrated our learning across the 2022-2023 school year with a fantastic Open House. It was a well-attended night showing all the things we have learned. Parents and community members, along with students, ooooo'd and awww'd at the growth. We showcased each of our units of inquiry and shared all we have learned. There were even opportunities to get involved and tell what we love about our school. Everyone who stopped by had the opportunity to write what they love about Maxwell on a heart shape to display around our campus. One student wrote, "I love Maxwell because it's good for our brains!" A parent wrote, "I love the dedication the staff gives to our children." We love Maxwell Academy and it shows!

We are ready to wrap up the year with our annual state testing where we plan to "Rock the Test!" We even held

a pep rally to encourage everyone to do their best! Even Max the Mountain Lion came to pump us up. We have been preparing all year and we are ready to show what we know. And as the year comes to an end, we are preparing to celebrate our promoting 8th graders, our bridging 5th graders, our moving on kindergarteners, and each and every accomplishment of all our students. It has been a wonderfully busy year full of learning!



Max the Mountain Lion and ASB members helping to motivate us for testing.



5th graders in the SNOW in April at Pali Institute.

Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology *High School*

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



Kevin Morris
Principal

MIT & DHS Film Academies Make the Rounds in Hollywood

Duarte and Mt. Olive Innovation and Technology High Schools Film Academies made their rounds on the Hollywood scene in the month of May! Creating Creators made this possible by giving students access to real work-based learning opportunities and studio and movie set experiences. Student were on location at the 18th Annual SEEfest, better known as the South East European Film Festival in Beverly Hills at the Screen Writers Guild Theater. Students interviewed actors, directors, producers, writers, and had

the honor of interviewing Claudia Plakolm, the Secretary of State from Austria.

The following week students were invited to Warner Brothers Studios where Production Manager, Miranda Pacheco toured students around the back lot and engaged them in career exploration activities at the studio and onset of the movie feature "Goodrich" starring Michael Keaton. In addition, students had the opportunity to visit Disney Studios for more career exploration that same week.

These were just a few of many real industry, CTE work-based learning opportunities and experiences provided through Creating Creators. Be on the lookout for the future film industry workforce from Duarte.



Students with Production manager Miranda Pacheco.

Royal Oaks STEAM Academy (K-8)

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



**Dr. Esther
Tamanaha**
Principal

We Don't Just Fly, WE SOAR!

On Saturday, April 15th, Royal Oaks STEAM Academy participated in the district track meet at the Duarte High School field. We had 73 young athletes representing our school and competing for gold. Mr. Arenas, the track meet coach, gathered our racers to warm up their gears in the middle of the field. The stands were lush with cheering friends and family. Our

racer S. Baldon excitedly shared with us that “Mom, dad, sister, grandma, and grandpa” came to support her. Seeing our students so delighted with the overwhelming support they received shows the importance of parent involvement in extracurricular activities. Although it is always important to support our students academically, it is equally important to encourage their hobbies. We look forward to yet another year of racing and the growing support of our Eagle families. GOOOOO EAGLES!



Royal Oaks athletes waiting anxiously for the 2023 District Track Meet to begin!



Erin Fish
Principal

Valley View Track Stars

Over the last couple months, the students of Valley View have been preparing and practicing for the school and district track meet under the coaching guidance of our teachers, Ms. Jansen and Mrs. Rodriguez. On March 17th we held our school track meet where all of our classes and our families came out to cheer on our runners as they ran various races and participated in field events to qualify for the district track meet. It was a fun day and a huge success! The students who qualified for the district track meet then began morning practices to prepare for the big day. On April 15th, our Valley View Track Team, made up of about 75 students, spent the day at the Duarte High School track and had so much fun. Every student ran hard and gave their best effort with every race. At the end of the day, Valley View came in first place in the entire district. We look forward to May 6th as many of our runners and field event participants move on to the next level of competition at the San Gabriel Valley Track and Field Championships. We wish our students the best of luck. Way to go Dolphins!





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