



**MAY-JUNE 2011**

# Duarte View

A bi-monthly community publication of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, in its 90th year of service to the community.

## Duarte schools and businesses honored for recycling programs with LARA SGV Green Awards

Two Duarte schools and two Duarte businesses were recognized for their outstanding recycling programs by the Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) at the annual San Gabriel Valley Green Awards presented May 4 at the Garvey Community Center in Rosemead.

Among organizations honored were Duarte Unified School District's Valley View Elementary School and Mt. Olive High School, and Duarte businesses Fresh & Easy and WePackItAll.

LARA is a consortium of 17 member cities in Los Angeles County, which includes the City of Duarte, whose mission is to assist members in meeting and exceeding the 50% waste diversion mandates of State Assembly Bill 939. The diversion rate of the LARA consortium is currently 75%.

Valley View Elementary School was honored for its various school-wide recycling programs that encourage the entire school community to participate. Recyclables collected each week include four large bins of paper, as well as bottles, cans, cafeteria cereal bowls and juice pouches.

In addition, cafeteria food scraps are composted to help enrich the soil in the school's educational garden. Valley View has also recently added a worm composter that uses food scraps to make worm tea for the garden.

Mt. Olive High School stu-

dents have become champions of the environment through the innovative and award-winning Mt. Olive Outdoor Science Experience (MOOSE) program.

Students plant native foliage, perform ongoing upkeep of the pond ecosystem and garden, conduct field experiments and observations, construct raised beds, build solar water features and run drip irrigation.

The main focus of MOOSE is to teach students and the community how to solve some of the world's current environmental challenges through water conservation, vermiculture, organic farming, urban horticulture, ethnobotany and recycling while training them for green careers.

WePackItAll, a co-packer company, utilizes certified organic materials for packing. Ma-

terials left over from packing are recycled. The company recycles an average of 67,200 lbs of cardboard a month and another 50,000 pounds of cardboard bundles at the end of the year, as well as 2,560 lbs of pallets a month; four 40 yard bins a month in recycled plastic, two 3 yard bins of paper a month, and 1,200 pounds of foil backing a year.

Fresh & Easy, which opened its doors in Duarte in January 2009, recycles or reuses all its shipping and display materials and uses environmentally-friendly trailers to transport food.

The company is a pilot member of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Volume Certification Program and has invested in a 500,000 square foot solar roof installation on its distribution center.

## Duarte pledges to promote Green practices

The Duarte City Council has adopted a proclamation pledging to promote a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for its residents.

The pledge is part of a joint campaign with numerous cities and the County of Los Angeles to promote green practices throughout the region.

The purpose of the pledge is to get people thinking about how we impact the environment at home, school, work, and in our communities and to make commitments to change our everyday habits to lessen these impacts. This means doing everything possible to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink on a regular basis.

Residents can show support for their community and environment by visiting [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com) and joining other residents throughout the County of Los Angeles who have taken the pledge.

The site is a free resource to residents and is intended to raise

awareness and increase sustainability for future generations.

Through this pledge, Los Angeles County strives to encourage and bring together the efforts of residents, community leaders, businesses, nonprofit organizations and schools in protecting and conserving our natural resources and bringing about a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment.

The programs and resources available to all residents through the Clean LA website to help realize these goals include waste reduction programs, education on resource conservation and recycling, and safe hazardous waste disposal.

As a part of the campaign, each resident who takes the pledge will be entered in a free drawing to win tickets for the Los Angeles Dodgers game on May 15 against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

For more information on the CleanLA campaign, call 1(800) CLEAN LA or visit [www.CleanLA.com](http://www.CleanLA.com).

## 2011 Summer Concert Series



**CONCERTS IN THE PARK series in the city of Duarte offers musical entertainment and fun intermission activities for people of all ages.**

Come and enjoy four nights full of live entertainment, dancing, food, and games for the whole family. There will be a raffle held at every concert hosted by the Route 66 Parade Committee.

This summer's concert entertainment schedule includes:

- June 29 – "The Story Tellers," Classic 50's and 60's sponsored by California American Water
- July 13 – "The Blue Breeze Band," Motown, R&B and Soul sponsored by Rutan & Tucker LLP
- July 27 – "Sean Wiggins," Country-Rock, sponsored by Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
- August 10 – "Los Retoños del Norte & Mariachi Latino,"

sponsored by Duarte Soccer League and Burrtec Waste.

The City of Duarte actively seeks sponsors for the summer concert series and would like to thank all this year's sponsors including Foothill Transit and Performance Nissan for their financial contributions, support and commitment to helping provide safe, enjoyable community events.

Concerts will be held Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Duarte Park, 1344 Bloomdale Street. Concession stands will open at 6 p.m. and provide hot food and snacks for purchase. The City of Duarte Transit Department will be providing free transportation.

Remember to bring your lawn chair or a blanket!

## Opportunities for teens to serve on Duarte Mayor's Youth Council

The City of Duarte is currently accepting applications from teens in grades 7 to 11 to serve on the Duarte Mayor's Youth Council, a leadership development program in which teens have the opportunity to advise, recommend, and assist with activities and issues affecting young people in Duarte.

Successful applicants will be appointed to serve a one-year term on the Mayor's Youth Council beginning July 1, 2011, Youth

Council members are required to attend all meetings and events, be a City of Duarte resident, or attend school in the Duarte Unified School District, and be motivated and committed to represent the teens of Duarte.

Applications must be submitted to the Duarte Teen Center no later than 7 p.m., Friday, June 3.

For more information, contact Teen Center Supervisor, Marilyn Mays at (626) 303-0863.

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## Stargazers and more

As the sun dipped below the horizon, dozens of stargazers gathered behind the Duarte Historical Museum in Encanto Park recently to peer at the moon and Jupiter through the huge telescopes provided by Old Town Sidewalk Astronomers Morris Jones, Jane Houston Jones, Gary and Catherine Spiers and Todd Kunioka.

Star Nite at the Museum began with a potluck dinner. The evening's special guest preferred alfalfa to the table loaded with gourmet dishes. Cooper the Llama joined in, led by his dedicated llama sitter Eileen Harrington Robinson.

The Llama's appearance was later eclipsed by a seemingly extra terrestrial visitor who calmly

posed with the crowd.

The event was sponsored by the Duarte Historical Society. The Museum will continue regular open hours throughout the summer and admission is free. The times are Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. and the first and third Wednesday, 1-3 p.m.

To become a Museum member and support this important community asset, send a check payable to Duarte Historical Society, P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263. Family memberships are \$25 annually, \$15 for students, seniors and teachers.

The quarterly Museum newsletter, The Branding Iron, keeps members informed of upcoming events such as the seasonal bird walks.



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# Children's health and The Phantom Menace

By Neil Earle

Events in 2011 could make this year one of the city of Duarte's most important since the community was incorporated in 1957.

First, on January 25 came the anticipated Referendum in Azusa. Measure "A" aimed to block progress of the planned extension of mining at the Azusa Rock project, owned by Vulcan materials, Inc., at the end of Encanto Drive. With only 17% of the electorate voting, the measure failed by an almost 2-1 margin. Estimates of money spent by its opponents hover between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000. Secondly, the February hearing for the City of Duarte's court case against the City of Azusa regarding the City of Azusa has been postponed.

## "A LANDMARK STUDY"

Hovering in the background of all this is a little-known but extremely well-researched environmental project known as the Children's Health Study (CHS). This major survey began in 1992 by USC's Keck School of Medicine and researchers from the Air Resources Board of the Environmental Protection Agency. Over a ten-year period, the scientists involved studied more than 5500 children in twelve communities in the Southern California Basin, including close-by Glendora and San Dimas. The intensive ten-year study enrolled two-thirds of the

children as fourth graders and measured a range of factors that affected their response to air pollution until their graduation.

Given that both the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the mayor of Chino have publically described Los Angeles as having "the worst air in the nation," the results were not surprising. These include:

1. "Air Pollution Harms Children's Lungs for Life" (emphasis theirs). Children exposed to finely grained particulate matter have significantly reduced lung function by age 18.

2. Children living in high ozone communities who actively participated in outdoor sports were more likely to develop asthma than children in these communities not participating in sports. Between ages 10-13 children's lungs grow 12%.

3. Children who moved away from study communities had increased lung development if the new communities had lower particulate matter levels. (See [www.arb.ca.gov/research/chs/chs.html](http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/chs/chs.html).)

On the surface these conclusions can look like "no brainers" – a typically bureaucratic exercise in the obvious, some might say. What is significant about the CHS, however, is the claim by two scientists interviewed for the 28-minute documentary "A Breath of Air" produced by the same Air Resources Board of the Environmental Protection Agency. These

experts make clear links on camera – perhaps for the first time – between air pollution and the onset of new asthma. "A Breath of Air" was made in 2002 and functions as a filmed report on the Children's Health Study. The DVD is available in both English and Spanish and can be obtained free of charge by phoning 1-800-END-SMOG. It makes for sobering watching and includes the testimony of people such as Dr. Barry Wallerstein of the Southern California Air Quality Management District. Dr. Wallerstein spoke in Duarte at a momentous public hearing on April 8, 2010. "This study," concludes Dr. Wallerstein, "turns disbelievers into believers." Duarte's local cable station, DCTV, has been showing this well-documented 28 minute report regularly since November.

## THE SUBTLER EFFECTS

The documentary opens with the stark truth that Los Angeles is "the most polluted city in the United States." More than 13,000,000 cars and trucks every day are using our freeways. Even with the work done to reduce air pollution since 1970 the region still suffers from 100 worrisome smog days annually. While applauding this work to reduce visible smog in those bad old days, the CHS worries about "the more subtle affects" of air pollution from the finer small-grained matter that you can't see. With apologies to Star Wars, this could be called "the phantom menace." It's what you can't see that can now hurt you badly. In particular both the Air Resources Board and Andrea M. Hricko of the Urban Initiative Policy Brief worry about the long-terms affects of exhaust from big-rig diesel trucks which produce "tons of airborne pollutants."

One has to wonder if the persistence of simple air pollution – dirt in the air – isn't one of the elephants in the room with regards to the battle between the City of Duarte and the planned move west by Azusa Rock. This issue was neatly summarized by the August 12-18 San Gabriel Examiner after a permit was approved by the City of Azusa in July for Vulcan materials, Inc. to extract 105.6 million tons of aggregate in the hills above Duarte.

The plan is, said the Examiner, to "expand mining operations from an already partially mined 80 acres on the east side of its 270 acre property to 80 acres of pristine mountain territory on the west side of its property right next door to Duarte homes and schools."

"Pristine mountain territory." Right. There in stark clarity is a large part of the issue that kept bringing resourceful, talented and highly concerned Duarte

citizens to a series of public meetings in Azusa and Duarte from January to July, 2010. The phantom menace. Those who grew up in Northern states or hail from Minneapolis, Buffalo or Cleveland know all about it. You stand at a city intersection on a brilliant clear winter day when the temperature is ten degrees below zero and you are almost blinded by the carbon monoxide exhaust coming from the cars and trucks stopped at the traffic lights. That is the enemy you can see. Carbon monoxide – the usual suspect. The phantom menace, however, is the one you can't see.

The prospect now before Duarte residents is for Vulcan Materials Inc. to continue its mining just 1000 feet from some of the homes along Brookridge Drive and just 0.6 miles from Valley View School. Something similar is projected to continue until 2038. Kids now in Valley View will be in their 30s by the time this project ends. The number of dynamite blasts per year is expected to increase from 20 to 100. A pristine hillside, Van Tassel Ridge, is in danger of being reduced by 600 feet with all the climatic shifts this could mean as strong winds regularly surge down the canyon. The newly proposed switchback trail to Fish Canyon Falls will deter most hikers from even making the attempt.

Still, the issues are complex. As Congresswoman Judy Chu says, Azusa officials are saddled with an issue that dates back to 1988, well before their time. Highways need rock, companies have property rights and there are Duarte residents who work at the quarry. Charges and exaggerations and emotionalized distortions have sometimes filled the air and done no-one any good. But doubtless there are very good reasons for this intense debate. While the CHS never studied Duarte per se, their report is worrisome enough to put this overhanging threat perhaps well beyond the anecdotal stage. Mayor Joe Rocha of Azusa has repeated almost as a mantra: "When I started teaching in Azusa I had 3-4 children with asthma. When I stopped they almost all did." Two of five Duarte Council Members have close relatives with asthma. "No connection," say Azusa Rock's supporters. "Not enough evidence."

Maybe, but its a big, big maybe say many. Duarte mothers and teachers and concerned citizens are not about to put the next generation's health at risk. Nor do they seem willing to give a pass to this five-fold, 28-year rock-blasting proposal above their homes without a fight. Stay tuned. 2012 promises to be another interesting year.

(Neil Earle is a pastor and journalist who hosts DCTV's public affairs show "A Second Look.")



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## Summer Park Program

Duarte Parks and Recreation will conduct supervised park programs at four sites this summer, Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., June 27 through August 12. Royal Oaks Park, Encanto Park, Beardslee Park and Andres Duarte School/Otis Gordon Sports Park will offer arts and crafts, sports, games, and special events, all supervised by trained recreation leaders. This is a drop-in program where children are allowed to come and go as they wish. Activities are for children 5 to 12 years of age.

For more information please call (626) 357-7931.



FUN ACTIVITIES will be offered for kids this summer at our local parks!

## SoCalGas offers safety tips following 8.9 earthquake in Japan

Following the recent devastating 8.9-magnitude earthquake that hit the northeast part of Japan, Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) is reminding customers that advance preparation is critical in getting ready for the next major earthquake.

SoCalGas offers these safety tips to help reduce the chance of injuries or property damage from the next quake:

Before an earthquake:

- Securely strap water heaters to prevent them from moving or toppling over. The water heater should be fastened securely to the wall studs in two places – the upper and lower one-third of the tank – with heavy bolts and metal straps.

- Replace semi-rigid (aluminum or copper) gas appliance connectors with approved connectors made of corrugated metal. These are less likely to crack during an earthquake. Connectors and water heater strapping kits are available at most hardware and home improvement stores.

- Know where the natural gas meter is located. Gas meters are commonly located above ground next to the home on the side, front or back, but may also be in a cabinet or underground.

- Have a 12-inch or larger adjustable wrench handy to manually turn off the gas meter should it be necessary if a gas leak is suspected after an emergency.

After an earthquake:

- Do not turn off the gas meter after an earthquake unless you smell gas, hear the sound of gas escaping or see other signs of a gas leak and only if it is safe to do so. Once the gas has been turned off, it may take SoCalGas several days to restore service, depending on the magnitude of the emergency. Do not attempt to turn the gas back on yourself.

- If there is an apparent gas leak, remain calm. Do not light a match, candle or cigarette, and do not turn electrical devices – not even a light switch – on or off, or use any other device or equipment that may cause a spark. Note that gas leaking from a plastic pipe can cause static electricity which can ignite the gas. From a safe location, call SoCalGas at 1-800-427-2200 or 1-800-342-4545 in Spanish, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; or call 911.

- If a gas leak is suspected and it is safe to do so, turn the gas off at the meter. Using an adjustable wrench, make a quarter-turn of the valve, moving it from a vertical position to a horizontal position. This will shut off the flow of gas. (A diagram and instructions for turning off the gas meter are printed in the "Survival Guide" section of most telephone directory white pages and is also available at [socalgas.com](http://socalgas.com)).

- If the gas is shut off at the meter, do not turn it back on without the help of SoCalGas. Gas service should not be restored until SoCalGas determines that the customer's facilities, appliances or other gas equipment are safe.

For more natural gas safety information, visit SoCalGas' website at [socalgas.com/safety](http://socalgas.com/safety).

## LULAC Celebrates Anniversary



**DAVID RODRIGUEZ, a past national LULAC vice-president, was the keynote speaker and installed the newly elected officers for the Duarte Council of the League of United Latin American Citizens in February at their 20th anniversary celebration.**

The Duarte Council of the League of United Latin American Citizens celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their charter on February 17, the 82nd anniversary of the National Organization, at the Duarte Community Center. Master of Ceremonies was Tom Reyes, president of the Duarte Council.

Two youth council members, Anthony Nevarez and Sergio Reyes, read the poem, "I am LULAC" to the group. Founding member Phil Reyes spoke about why the group was formed 20 years ago and about its major achievements including over \$160,000 awarded in scholarships. A senior member with 40 years membership, Delia Nevarez, spoke about the value of a group voice and her passion for attending national conventions. President Tom Reyes spoke about the need to educate parents to advocate for their children's needs in the schools.

The keynote speaker was David Rodriguez, a past national LULAC vice-president, who came from Ventura to celebrate with the Council. Mr. Rodriguez spoke about LULAC historical achievements such as fighting to desegregate schools, the estab-

lishment of Head Start and MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense Fund), the legal arm of LULAC. He also spoke about the value to the community to have a group voice in expressing their concerns to local governments and the national government.

Mr. David Rodriguez also installed the newly elected officers of the Council: Tom Reyes, president; Rosalie Zesati, vice-president of youth; Michael Vallejos, treasurer; Kathy Vallejos, secretary; Sagar Desai; Parliamentarian; and Delia Nevarez, chaplain.

The Council sponsors monthly events in addition to its regular meeting. In January there was a successful turn-around to State Line to benefit the youth council. On February 12, the Council enjoyed a barbeque lunch while planning the year's agenda. On March 26, the council

hosted three other Councils for a LULAC District conference in preparation for the LULAC State Convention to be held in Camarillo in May.

The community is invited to attend Council meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the community center. The youth meet on Monday at 6 p.m., the second and fourth Monday at the Duarte Youth Center. For further information, you may call Tom Reyes at (626) 221-5880.

## Hurting?

There are so many ways in which pain comes into our lives: disappointed expectations, strained relationships, financial stress, abuse, neglect or just the everyday knocks of life. Jesus came to give people a way out of the patterns of pain in their lives. He was known as the Great Physician, not just of physical bodies, but of all kinds of hurts in people's lives. Maybe it's time you gave him a chance to bring healing to your life. You'll be glad you did.

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# Duarte's Petition to Reverse Approval of Vulcan Mine Expansion Denied

*From City of Duarte News Release*

The City of Duarte's lawsuit originally filed in August 2010 challenging the City of Azusa's approval of the Vulcan Materials mining expansion project has been denied. The hearing on the matter originally occurred in late March.

"The City is extremely disappointed that the numerous valid points raised in our lawsuit were ultimately rejected at the lower court level, commented Darrell George, City Manager. George

added, "Duarte continues to have serious concerns over substantial health and environmental impacts this project will have on both our residents as well as those of the entire San Gabriel Valley."

The City has at least 60 days to determine if it will file an appeal with the State Appeals Court.

Duarte's lawsuit detailed the Azusa City Council's violations of the California Environmental Quality Act and sought to overturn its certification of the Final Environment Impact Report (FEIR) and related entitlements for the mine expansion project. The lawsuit raised numerous points including insufficient analysis of air quality

impacts from blasting and trucking activities; ignoring South Coast Air Quality recommendations on the location and number of air monitoring stations; and Azusa's failure to impose any mitigation measures for potential liquefaction impacts.

Additionally, the lawsuit targeted the Azusa City Council's violations of the Brown Act, California's "open meeting" law. Specifically, the Council's "motion to table the rules of parliamentary procedure" and as well as its subsequent approval of the CUP and the Development Agreement. Duarte's suit contended that Azusa violated its own Municipal Code and Development Agreement law when it approved the CUP and the Development Agreement without either adopting a motion for reconsideration or following the necessary procedural steps.

As approved by the Azusa City Council, the Vulcan mining expansion project is poised to destroy Van Tassel Ridge as

# Free Summer Lunch Program

The USDA, the Duarte Unified School District (DUSD), and the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring a free summer lunch program for children ages 18 years and under, June 27-August 26.

Lunches are served Monday through Friday and there are no limits on the number of participants served. Lunches will be offered at several local Duarte elementary schools.

For Summer Lunch Program locations and more information, please call (626) 357-7931 or the DUSD at (626) 599-5000.

Vulcan plans to extract 105.6 million tons of aggregate from the mountain between now and 2038. Over that same period, the City of Azusa stands to make more than \$65 million in mining fees and incentives from Vulcan at the expense of its neighbors in Duarte.

# Burglary Suspects Wanted!

On Monday, April 25, 4 homes were burglarized, 3 in the City of Duarte and 1 home in Bradbury. Burglaries occurred during the early afternoon while the residents were out.

Suspects waited for the families to vacate the home and broke into the home almost immediately after confirming homes were unoccupied. Suspects broke in by using an unlocked rear door or window and or prying the back door open.

The Suspects are Male Blacks and seem to be part of a South Central Gang. They usually case the neighborhood one to three weeks prior to the home burglaries. Suspect use different types of vehicles to case and commit the burglaries but were seen driving a white SUV and they were dressed in business type attire.

Again, we would like to remind you that several burglaries were solved this year because of Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch works when people take the time to look after their neighbors and their neighborhood, but only if you take the time to report it.

If you see something, Say something. Please report all suspicious activity. For immediate deputy assistance and dispatch call Temple Sheriff Station at (626) 285-7171. To report suspicious activity to Duarte Sergeant Tony Haynes (626) 359-5671 ext. 304. If you would like to leave an *Anonymous Tip* call our hotline at (626) 359-5671 ext. 462. Please be ready to leave a detailed message in English or Spanish, calls are not traced.

# Duarte dog license fees to increase June 1

Doggone it, dog license fees in Duarte are going up. Effective June 1, it will cost \$25 to license a spayed or neutered dog, a \$5 increase. A license for a non-spayed/neutered dog will cost \$48, an increase of \$8. Senior citizens, 65 years and older will remain eligible for one free dog license if the pet is spayed or neutered. Duarte requires dog licenses renewed each June 1.

"We strongly encourage residents to license their dogs and do so in a timely manner. A late penalty charge of \$50 will be added to the cost if the license is purchased after Aug. 31," said Public Safety Director Brian Villalobos.

Licensing helps in the recovery of lost or stray pets and protects the public from rabies, since licensed dogs must have proof of rabies vaccination.

Although cats are not required to have licenses in Duarte, owners may purchase a license to help ensure the return of a beloved pet should it become lost. Cat licenses are \$20 if spayed or neutered and \$40 for non neutered cats.

Dog and cat licenses can be purchased at Duarte City Hall, 1600 Huntington Dr., or at the Public Safety Office located in the Target Shopping Center at 1042 Huntington Dr. For more information, call Duarte Public Safety at (626) 357-7938.

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**Duarte View**  
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 Deadline for articles and ads for the July-August issue is June 23, 2011.

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# Community Colleges paving the way to a brighter future

By Dr. Edward C. Ortell,

Citrus College Trustee, Duarte Area Representative

On October 5, 2010, the White House held its first Summit on Community Colleges. In his opening remarks, President Barack Obama said the following about the nation's community colleges:

*"These are places where young people can continue their education without taking on a lot of debt. These are places where workers can gain new skills to move up in their careers. These are places where anyone with a desire to learn and to grow can take a chance on a brighter future for themselves and their families—whether that's a single mom, or a returning soldier, or an aspiring entrepreneur."*

Today, with our state and nation struggling to recover from the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression, the importance of community colleges has never been greater. The demand for educated workers continues to grow, and recent studies by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce show that by 2018, the nation will need 22 million new graduates with college degrees and a minimum of 4.7 million new workers with postsecondary certificates.

As our state leaders work to resolve the budget deficit and make the determination of where to channel scarce education dollars, one fact that most can agree on is that community colleges are a good investment. Community college courses are far less expensive for taxpayers – and for students – than those same courses taken at a state university. The comparison below, from the Community College League of California (CCLC), illustrates the difference in cost for a full-time student:

California Community Colleges (CCC) – \$ 5,376  
 California State University (CSU) – \$11,614  
 University of California (UC) – \$20,641  
 Source: LAO, The 2010-11 Budget, pg. HE-3

While California's community colleges have obvious cost benefits, as "open door" institutions they face unique challenges in competing with their university counterparts in the areas of student graduation and success rates. Over the past two years, efforts to improve student success have led to the creation of several state and national programs. The National Governors Association's "Complete to Compete" campaign calls upon governors, policymakers and higher education leaders to work together to make marked improvements in college completion and productivity. At the state level, CCLC's "Commission on the Future" establishes goals such as increasing certificate and associate degree completions by 1 million by the year 2020 and eliminating the achievement gap between demographic and socioeconomic groups. State Senate Bill 1143, enacted into law in January 2011, requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to establish a "Student Success Task Force" to examine best practices for promoting student success.

At the local level, Citrus College continues to make student success a top priority, and



DR. EDWARD C. ORTELL

our students continue to excel. This spring, nine Citrus College students were selected to participate in NASA's Microgravity University summer program at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, where they will conduct research along with students representing 13 other community colleges and four-year institutions from across the nation. Two of our student scholars were named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Team, and one of them was also named a Guistwhite Scholar – one of only 20 in the nation – based on his academic excellence and his contributions to the college and his community.

With regard to completion, *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* has once again recognized Citrus College as one of the nation's top 50 community colleges in awarding the most associate degrees to Hispanic students. But perhaps most importantly, last June, Citrus College awarded nearly a thousand associate degrees and over 500 certificates to students who will ultimately become productive members of society.

Investing in community colleges for worker re-training and for producing the next generation of college-trained professionals will facilitate the state and nation's economic recovery and produce a highly qualified



THERE ARE plenty of fun surprises ahead for Duarte Discovery Nature Campers!

## Duarte Discovery Nature Camp

This summer the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will offer its annual Duarte Discovery Nature Camp. Participants will explore our region's natural environment and will participate in daily activities including games, crafts, and lessons on nature.

Campers will also participate in twice-weekly excursions to local trails, nature/science centers, beaches, museums, zoos, and other interesting locations.

The Duarte Discovery Nature Camp's motto is: "For Duarte's Kids, Discovering Nature Comes Naturally!"

The Discovery Nature Camp will consist of three 2-week sessions, offered Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Session I: July 5 through July 15, Session II: July 18 through July 29, and Session III: August 1 through August 12.

The camp is open to children 6-11 years of age. The fee is \$160 per child, per two-week session and includes a camp tee shirt, daily lunches, snacks, crafts, and all excursions. Registration begins Monday, June 13.

For more information please call (626) 357-7931.

workforce. As President Obama stated in his remarks last fall, "Community colleges will 'play a huge role' in U.S. efforts to reclaim world leadership in college graduation rates by the year 2020."

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## Duarte Chamber Upcoming Networking Events

May 17 / 7-8:30 a.m.

**Good Morning Duarte**, A Networking Breakfast at Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine  
 1856 Huntington Dr., Duarte

May 18 / 5:00pm—8:00pm

**Taste of Duarte & Business Expo**  
 At Westminster Gardens, Duarte

**ADVANCE TICKETS:** adults, \$20; seniors and children 6-12, \$15  
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- Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine, 1856 Huntington Dr., Duarte
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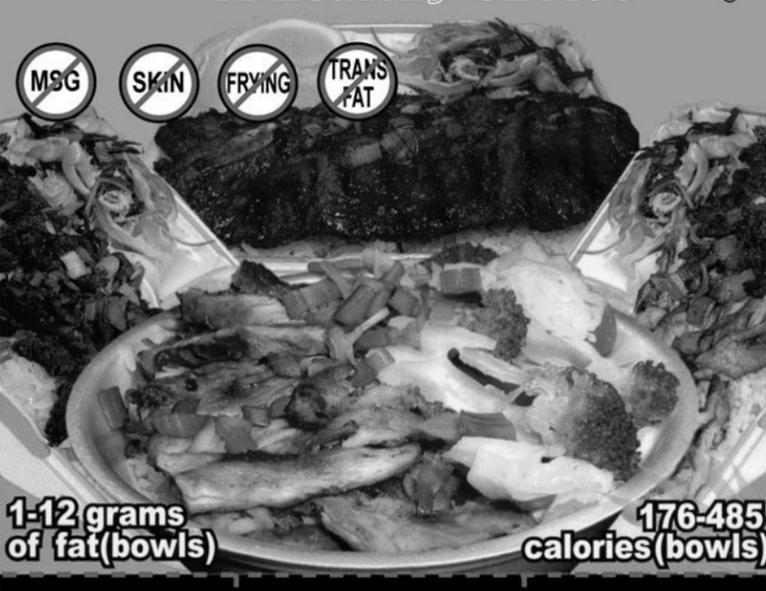
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# Duarte Parks and Recreation Swim Program Begins

The City of Duarte Fitness Center's summer swim program will begin on June 27. Come enjoy lap swim, open swim, water aerobics, or swimming lessons.

The Fitness Center offers American Red Cross swimming lessons for only \$30 per two-week

session, Monday – Thursday. Water aerobics will be offered for \$5 per class. Lap swim and open swim will be offered for \$2 for adults and \$1 for seniors. Children 12 and under can enjoy open swim for only \$1.

Registration for the first session of swim lessons begins Monday, June 20 at 6 a.m. for Duarte residents with proof of residency, and 8 a.m. for all others. Swim lessons will be offered in the mornings and evenings.

Open swim will be held weekdays from 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., and

Saturday and Sunday from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Water aerobics will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Family swim will be offered every Monday and Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (children must be with an adult). Lap swim is available for adults at convenient hours every day.

For more information call the Duarte Fitness Center at (626) 357-6118.

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The Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will offer several special events this summer for children.

The **Summer Slam** will be held at Royal Oaks Park, Beard-slee Park, Encanto Park and Otis Gordon Park on Thursday, June 30 at 2 p.m. Children will play games and enjoy exciting activities and get a cool treat at each site while welcoming another summer of fun. Children 5-12 years old are welcome to participate. This event is only \$1.

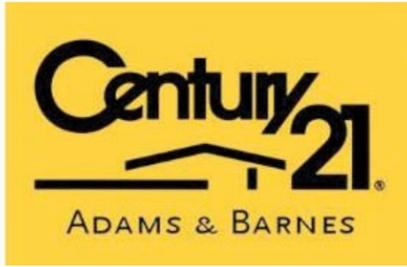
The **Summer Celebration** will be held for children ages 5 – 12 at the Duarte Community Center on Thursday, July 7 from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. There will be prizes, games, a huge raffle, and refreshments. This event is only \$1. Transportation will be provided from each supervised park with a permission form.

Come celebrate **Duarte Game Day** at Royal Oaks Park on Thursday, July 14 from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. with all types of games from ping-pong to checkers. This event is free. Transportation will be provided from each supervised park with a permission form.

The **Duarte Splash Zone**, will be held at Beardslee Park on Tuesday, July 19 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Children ages 5 – 12 are invited to play carnival-style games and activities, all with an aquatic theme. The giant inflatable water slide will be back! There will be 10¢ games and 25¢ rides & snow cones, or for \$2 you can get an unlimited rides and games pass. Transportation will be provided from each supervised park with a permission form.

The annual **Splashtacular** will be held at the Duarte pool Thursday, July 28 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. There will be water games, contests and prizes. This event is open to children 15 and under. The cost is \$1 for kids 6 – 12 years and \$2 for kids 13 – 15 years.

For more information on these events, please call the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 357-7931.



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The Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area is a United States Army Corps of Engineers Facility and a unit of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation System. Photo by Gar Travis | Cover art by Chris Jones

# Adventure Club Excursions

Looking for something adventurous to do this summer?

The Duarte Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring two weeklong camps for kids and teens ages 8 through 17.

Camp dates for Session I are Monday, August 15 through Friday, August 19 and Session II Monday, August 22 through Friday, August 26.

Both are held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Royal Oaks Park. The fee is \$105 per session.

Each camp day will be highlighted by a daily trip to fun and exciting places, such as the beach, theme parks, water parks, or the movies.

Registration starts Monday, June 13 at Duarte City Hall, 1600 Huntington Drive.

For more information on Adventure Club, please call the Duarte Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 357-7931.

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They will also visit a real working farm to see where food comes, and a local supermarket to see where farm food ends up.

Camp will be conducted by City of Duarte and City of Hope staff, with help from the specialty physical activity instructors.

Camp will run for one week only: Monday through Friday, August 15-19 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration will begin on June 13. Only \$20.

For more information, please contact Jasmine Klinton @ (626) 303-0863, ext. 404.

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- Shirley MacLaine, actress



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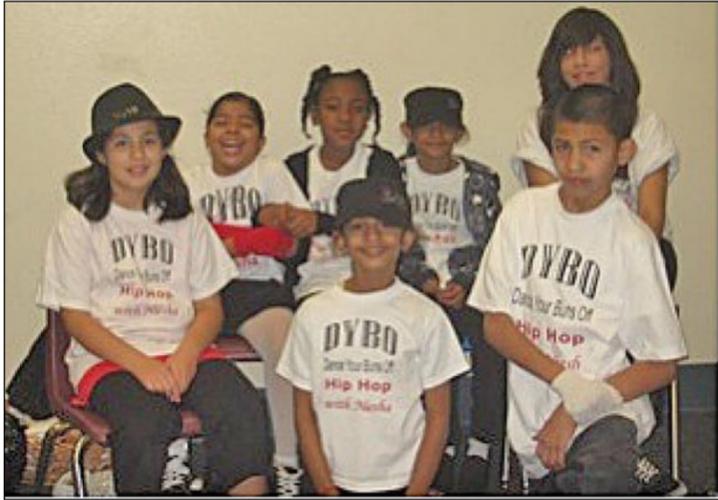
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## Duarte Recreation Classes

Summer is almost here and the kids will be home all day with nothing to do. Why not enroll them in some fun classes? Adults, don't feel left out, we have classes for you too! Duarte Parks and Recreation is offering Amazing Arts, Ballet, Belly Dancing, Bollywood, CPR & Babysitter Training, Cheer, Children's Healthy Cooking, Computers, Folklorico, Guitar, Children's Health Camp, Hip Hop Dance, Hustle Dance, Mini Picassos, Karate, Kids Love Soccer, Polynesian Dance, Racquetball, Salsa Dance, Tennis, Tumbling, Scrapbooking, Skateboarding, Yoga, Young Rembrandts, Watercolor,

Zumba and more! Contact the Recreation Department for age requirements and fees.

Registration begins Monday, June 13 at Duarte City Hall Recreation Dept., 1600 Huntington Drive. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Mail-in registration is also available. Beginning Tuesday, June 14 you can register by phone for purchases over \$25 with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at 357-7931. Classes will begin the week of June 27.

For more information, please contact the Duarte Recreation Department at (626) 357-7931, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Youth Tee Ball League

The Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will once again offer this fun, beginner's league for boys and girls 4-7 years of age as of July 1, 2011. Registration begins Monday, June 13.

Introductory practices will be held June 28 and 29. Games will be held on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings July 6-July 30. The fee is only \$25 and this includes a tee shirt uniform. The league is limited to 90 players.

For more information please call (626) 357-7931.

## Senior Center Activities

The Duarte Senior Center is located at 1610 Huntington Drive. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to all residents 55 years of age and older and offers a variety of services and programs. The phone number is (626) 357-3513.

### HOT LUNCHES

The Senior Center serves hot lunches Monday through Friday to individuals over age 60 or the spouse of someone over age 60. The suggested donation is \$2. Reservations are requested by calling (626) 357-3513, to receive your lunch you must check in by 11:45 a.m. To make a reservation please do so at least 24 hours in advance for regular lunch or 48 hours in advance for a choice day.

### MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

If you possess a current CA driver's license, have access to a personal vehicle, and proof of insurance, you are eligible to volunteer to pick up meals and deliver to homebound seniors. (Meals are delivered M-F between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) No special training is required, just a compassionate individual who will brighten the days of the recipient. To become a volunteer please contact the YWCA Intervale Senior Services at (626) 966-9526.

### COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

The Duarte Senior Center has published its own cookbook! The Center has the best cooks that you can find anywhere. This is one book you do not want to be without. Pick up your copy at the Senior Center, \$8 for one or \$15 for two.

### ACCESS TRANSPORTATION

Access Transportation provides transportation for individuals with disabilities. For eligibility or more information call (800) 827-0829.

### TRIPS AND TOURS

The City of Duarte Parks and Recreation Department will begin registration on June 13 for the following excursions:

Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, Tuesday, July 12, 4:30 p.m. - 11:45 p.m., \$55; Salsa Festival in Oxnard, Sunday, July 31, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., \$22; Whale Watching and Lunch at Balboa, Tuesday, August 2, 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., \$45; BBQ at Doheny State Beach, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., \$27; Big Bear Mountain-Moonridge Animal Park and Lake Cruise, Wednesday, September 7, 7:15 a.m. - 6 p.m., \$50; Beach Tour with Curt Tucker, Tuesday, September 27, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., \$52.

You can pick up a brochure at City Hall or the Senior Center, which will give you in-depth information about the trips.

**NO REFUNDS:** In the event of a participant cancellation, an attempt will be made to fill the spot from the waiting list. If successful, the participant will receive a gift certificate equal to the amount of the trip minus a \$10 service charge. For any further questions please call (626) 357-3513.

### FREE LEGAL SEMINAR

Sara Polinsky, Attorney at Law, will talk about Understanding Medi-Cal Long Term Care Program and getting help to pay for nursing home care on Tuesday, May 17 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Reservations are requested by calling the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

### A.A.R.P. DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM (4-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE)

If you have already taken an 8-hour A.A.R.P. Driver Safety Class, then you are eligible to take the 4-hour refresher course.

The class will be held on Tuesday, June 21 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The fee is \$12 for A.A.R.P. members, \$14 for non-members - payable to AARP. The program is conducted by A.A.R.P. at the Duarte Senior Center. Auto insurance companies are required by law to offer discounts to course graduates age 55 and older. Reservations are required with payment, for more information contact the center at (626) 357-3513.

### HOW TO MAKE MEDICARE WORK FOR YOU

Every 2nd Thursday and 4th Friday of each month by appointment, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) Counselor provides unbiased information, counseling and assistance on Medicare and related health care coverage. There is no cost for this service.

### MOVIES

Two afternoons a month a top run movie is featured FREE.

### BINGO

Every Tuesday from 12:30 - 2 p.m. bingo is held. The fee is 25 cents per card. Call the Center at (626) 357-3513 for further information.

### CLASSES

The Duarte Senior Center will start taking registration for fee classes on June 13 beginning at 9 a.m. Classes begin the week of June 27. Fee classes include: Aquatic Exercise, Chair Yoga, Chess, How to Write your Own Life Story, Piano/Keyboard, Sewing, Strength Training, Western Line Dance, Yoga and Yoga at the Park.

Free on going classes include: Art Appreciation, Bollywood Dance, Ceramic, Cross Fit, English as a Second Language, Guitar, Knitting, Music Appreciation, Spanish Level 1, Spanish Level 11, Tai Chi and Watercolor. All classes are for adults 55 years and older.

For more information, please contact the Duarte Senior Center at (626) 357-3513.

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PARTICIPANTS ON A CITY OF DUARTE excursion enjoyed a great day of adventure!



FROM LEFT, Jazmin Maya, Andrew Perez, instructor Daniel Anaya and Jasmine Gutierrez practicing on the electric guitar as part of the after school program at Andres Duarte School.

## Duarte High student teaching guitar at Andres Duarte School

Guitar instruction has become one of the many options available to students who participate in the Think Together after school program at Andres Duarte School.

During the spring semester, Daniel Anaya, a junior at Duarte High School, has been working with three small groups of students teaching them how to play the guitar.

Each of the groups gets two hours a week of instruction. The students selected for this program had to write an essay describing why they would like to participate.

There are plans in the works for the students to demonstrate their skills in a performance at the end of the semester.

This is among the many after school programs offered at Andres Duarte to allow students to broaden their horizons past what is available during the school day.

Anaya has been involved in music for many years and has taken music courses continuously since he started in intermediate school. He is currently involved in both band and jazz band at Duarte High School. He was recommended for the program at Andres Duarte by his music teacher at Duarte High, Rich Torres.

In the future, Anaya plans on attending California State University, Fullerton and majoring in music with the ultimate goal of being a college music professor.

## After school with Think-Together

Valley View School is very fortunate to be able to offer a fantastic opportunity to our families, Think Together After School Program. THINK Together, a federally-certified non-profit organization, is one of California's leading and largest providers of after-school programs serving 50,000 students at more than 200 schools and community centers throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. In addition to Valley View, THINK Together provides services at all of the other Duarte elementary schools and at Northview Intermediate School. They partner with schools, parents and the community, to provide a fun and safe place for students to learn and grow. Their objective is to help each student achieve his/her full potential.

These THINK Together programs offer the highest quality of academic enrichment, homework assistance, dynamic physical activities, and nutrition education, while maintaining a fun and safe atmosphere for our students. Caitlyn Diaz, 5th grade student, remarked, "THINK is FUN. I appreciate our Program Leaders, they are helpful and they do whatever they can to make our after-school exciting." This comprehensive approach allows

us to provide the highest quality of academically-oriented after-school programs.

THINK Together also offers enrichment classes and operates a number of community sites where we are able to provide additional services to our students and their communities. Samantha Loera, 5th grade student, said, "THINK Together assists me with school, encourages me to have good behavior and helps me to become a leader".

Recently, in a joint effort with the City of Duarte, Valley View celebrated Global Youth Services Week. This event was designed to mobilize millions of youth internationally to improve their communities through service learning. Some of our THINK students had the opportunity to plant in our garden on April 21. The students were fourth, fifth and sixth graders: Samantha Loera, Josh Edrosolano, Faith Edrosolano, Charles Pearson, Manuel Salazar, Natalie Parseghian, Caitlyn Diaz, Darren Medina, Anissa De La Rosa, Danielle Lopez, Jeric Gaddi. This beautification event was made possible by the Upper San Gabriel Municipal Water District, Cal American Water, David Karp from Mount Olive High School, and Karen Herrera from the City of Duarte.

### BEARDSLEE

## Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

By Jennifer Janetzke, Principal

Developing healthy bodies and healthy minds takes a life-long commitment, and the students at Beardslee Elementary School are being challenged every day to make that commitment and establish habits that will help them lead healthy lifestyles throughout their lives.

One way we help our students make that commitment is by teaching them about selecting healthy, nutritious foods. Thanks to Maria Pender, cafeteria manager and Brian Volz, Director of Food Services, Beardslee's cafeteria staff provides fresh fruit and vegetables to the students as a regular part of our school lunches. Cups of cauliflower, broccoli, green salad, zucchini, and carrot sticks are some examples of fresh vegetables that are regularly served to the students.

Fresh fruit is also part of the regular menu! In April, the students enjoyed mandarin oranges, kiwis, grapes, apple slices, strawberries, and melon. The students love having the fresh fruit and vegetables as part of their regular menu and willingly share with visitors what their favorite fruit or vegetable happens to be!

The Think Together after school program supports these efforts to help students eat healthy foods through their collaborative work with the City of Duarte in the Produce of the Month Club. Once a month, the city sends one of its employees to Beardslee with the ingredients to prepare a new recipe with the students.

This recipe features a unique fruit or vegetable and is designed to help the students expand their tastes and experiences so they will learn to enjoy eating the produce for that month. It is a lot of fun for the students to experiment with these healthy food items and then to tell their parents that they actually like these fruits and vegetables that they previously thought they detested!

Nurturing healthy bodies through proper nutrition is important and exercise is another



EFREN CARRILLO and Devon Davis enjoy eating fresh produce from the cafeteria!

necessary component of a healthy lifestyle. At Beardslee, all of our students are encouraged to exercise through the Mileage Club. This club meets at lunch time and provides the students an opportunity to walk or run laps around the field and earn prizes for how many laps they complete.

Every time a child completes ten laps, he or she earns a foot charm to wear on their necklace and once 100 laps are complete, a large foot charm is added to the necklace to be proudly worn by the student. The students love the challenge of completing these laps, but they are also learning that exercise is fun, is something they can do with their friends, and that they don't need a lot of expensive

equipment in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle!

Beardslee's efforts to help our students develop healthy bodies and healthy minds won't stop with these experiences! We are exploring ways to expand our garden program so our students have a chance to grow and eat their own fruit and vegetables. In addition, we are looking into how we can expand the Mileage Club and combine it with year-round training for the District Track Meet in order to encourage reluctant students to join in the activity, stay healthy, and have fun with us. With all of us working together, our students will establish healthy habits right now that will last throughout their entire lives!

## Head Start and Pre-School now enrolling

Head Start and State Preschool is currently enrolling children ages 2 to 5 years old for the 2011-2012 school year! Please come in to our main office located at the Andres Duarte campus at 1433 Crestfield Drive, Duarte. High-quality preschool gives kids a strong, early start that prepares them for success in school and in life. Applications are now being accepted at the main office.

### MAKING THE CASE FOR PRESCHOOL

Early Childhood education provides a window of opportunity to learn and grow! By joining the Duarte Unified School District's Child Development programs, you will be joining an agency

that promotes community awareness and empowers parents! Our agency hosts events throughout the year that celebrate *Head Start and State Preschool children and their families*. We are also supported by local community businesses that provide their resources and increase access to high-quality preschool for all of Duarte's Head Start and State Preschool children.

The Duarte Unified School District, Child Development Programs provides comprehensive early education to preschool children living in low-income families. Our agency provides a window of opportunity for students to be ahead in math and reading skills. We know that with this early start, children will develop the skills they need to transcend poverty and receive educational skills that will continue through K-12 and into adulthood. Economic analysis show high-quality preschool saves our school and our state money while providing long-term benefits to our children and communities.

Our agency provides services and benefits that celebrate each child in our program and increase family involvement with events such as Family Fun Nights! On March 15, the agency hosted its annual Increasing Literacy with Dr. Seuss event, with special guest "Cat in the Hat." On May 19, we hosted a "Day of the Child" event with a "Hawaiian Picnic" theme. We look forward to providing memorable and exciting events by enhancing school readiness and providing support in the development of parenting skills. If you have any questions about the Duarte's Head Start and State Preschool program or how to enroll your child, please contact us at (626) 599-5120, *se habla Español*.

## DHS Baseball



THE DUARTE HIGH SCHOOL varsity baseball team went 4-0 and won the championship of the Steve Richards Memorial Baseball Tournament put on by Duarte high earlier this spring in memory of Coach Richards, who passed away in 2007. In the back row, from left, Victor Roman, Ruben Dudley, Grant Goldsmith, Richard Bradford, George Carlos, Coach Ryan Marcos, Daniel Sandoval, Anthony Martinez, Ayman Nureldeen, Nathan Woodward, Ross Johnson, Sergio Garcia, Coach Kennard Kapon, Gio Valdez. Front row, kneeling, from left: Andreas Arteaga, Joel Ortega, Drew Valdez, Ramon Medina.



FROM LEFT, Aranzasu, fourth grader, and Maria Lopez, fifth grader, play in one of the matches.

# Northview Students work with open hearts and shovels in hand

By Michelle Randall, Assistant Principal

Northview Leadership students participated in Global Youth Service Week on April 19. The week of April 18-21 was dedicated to making students aware and encouraging them to give back to their communities through service learning projects and was celebrated worldwide.

The City of Duarte and Duarte's Promise facilitated the donations of drought-tolerant plants from the Upper San Gabriel Water District and assisted the Northview Leadership students to beautify our campus. The Leadership students at Northview have dedicated their efforts this year to leaving a positive mark on our school. They have participated in many activities, fundraisers and community service projects, which positively impact our school and our community.



JOSE ORTIZ, Alana Rodriguez, Jessica Covarrubias, Austin Crain and Duarte's Promise Fellow Frank Valenzuela get to the root of the project.

## Magic Number 77 at Maxwell

By Esther McDonald, Principal

The Magic Number at Maxwell Elementary School on April 8 and 9 was 77. This was the number of students in grades 1-6 who signed up to participate in Maxwell's second chess tournament. The cafeteria fell silent as the chess tournament began, moves were officially timed, games were scored if checkmate was not achieved.

Good sportsmanship was demonstrated and students progressed to the next round of play throughout the days until a winner was declared.

Students at Maxwell come to school early on Tuesdays and Thursdays to play chess. Students from Mt. Olive High School give of their time, time they could spend sleeping in, by getting up early and coming to Maxwell to tutor our students in chess before school.

Manny Gil, our Head Custodian and Howard Lui, our Resource Specialist teacher with the support of our Student Council organize the Chess Tournament three times a year.

Each chess tournament has shown an increase in students' interest and participation. This recent one required additional divisions due to the number of students involved.

Why Chess? There are several studies since the early 1970s about how chess affects the cognitive ability of elementary students. One study from Texas summarizes it as follows: in a 1994-1997 regular (non-honors) elementary students who participated in a school chess club showed twice the improvement of non-chess players in reading and mathematics between third and fifth grades on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills.

Given the recent understanding about how our brains work, a Venezuelan research study connects the reason for playing chess beyond the academic to the even greater picture of enriching our mental acuity.

Researchers and educators have questioned what causes this growth. The Venezuelan study stated, "Chess develops a new form of thinking, and this exercise is what contributes to increase the intelligence quotient."

More recent researchers speculate that it is the growth of new brain connections. Chess promotes the growth of dendrites!"

We are looking forward to our Third Maxwell Elementary Chess Tournament in June and creating more dendrites in all of our brains!

Maxwell Elementary Magic 77 winnowed down to the following winners:

### Grade 1 Division Winners:

- 1st place - Daniel Garcia
- 2nd place-Jasmine Rodriguez
- 3rd place-Diana Marquez
- 4th place-Andres Rivera
- 5th place-Amanda Velasco

### Grade 2-3 Division winners:

- 1st place-Julio Sanchez
- 2nd place-Britney Diaz
- 3rd place-Adam Alvarez
- 4th place-Ethan Castro

### Grade 4-6 Division winners:

- 1st place-Jose Ruiz
- 2nd place-Jorge Romo
- 3rd place-Juan Garcia
- 4th place-Oscar Torres

The students were able to take ownership of this event and honored Global Youth Service Week by researching drought-tolerant plants and making plant selections, as well as, choosing the location, strategically placing the plants and getting their hands dirty as they dug holes and watered the newly landscaped area.



CAIRA BENTON and Daniella Rivas tackle strawberries.



MAYOR TZEITEL PARAS presents the certificate of participation to NV Leadership President Michelle Ponce before getting to work planting.

They received guidance from Marine Dagesyan-Lucha, Northview's Leadership class advisor, who assisted with the research, location selection and has been instrumental in setting the standard for what leadership looks like. The Leadership students will continue to monitor and cultivate the plants and will expand their beautification efforts to other areas of our school.



DIAZ DE LEON and Nico Del Cruz check the depth before plant placement.

Tzeitel Paras-Caracci, and David Karp, science teacher at Mt. Olive High School, for assisting with the planting, donations, and encouraging words and for being an example of leadership and for being dedicated to our youth.

## Royal Oaks wins Title I Award for third consecutive year

For the third year in a row, Royal Oaks Elementary School has received recognition from the State of California as a Title I Academic Achievement Award School. This comes on top of the recognition the school received earlier this year as a nominee for the National Blue Ribbon School.

The Title I Academic Achievement Award is given only to school receiving federal Title I money. Title I is the largest federal educational program for K-12 public education and these funds assist schools in meeting the educational needs of students living at or near the poverty level. Of the over 9,000 schools in California, over 6,000 participate in the Title I program and only 209 of those schools received the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

Royal Oaks is among only a handful of schools receiving the award for three years running.

The criteria to qualify for this award have become even more rigorous in recent years. To meet the standards for this award, a school must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards. Additionally, the school's socioeconomically disadvantaged students must have doubled the achievement targets set for them for two consecutive years.

Since Royal Oaks has now received this award three times, this means the targets have been doubled by the school for four consecutive years, a very challenging assignment for the students and the faculty.

## Duarte High students continue blood drives

The second blood drive of the year at Duarte High School was another great success, with over 85 pints collected on April 28. The school again partnered with the City of Hope in collecting blood. This time the Key Club, which is sponsored by the local Duarte Rotary Club, was in charge of the drive.

Every pint of blood that is collected in blood drives saves the City of Hope over \$300 from what it would cost to obtain blood on the commercial market. This blood drive saved the City of

Hope over \$25,000.

Any Duarte High senior who donates blood three times during the year will receive red honor cords to wear during graduation.



# Duarte Teen Center

The Duarte Teen Center is located at 1400 Buena Vista Street in Duarte. Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Special summer hours of 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. will be held June 27-July 29, 2011.

All Duarte teens grades 9 through 12 with school ID are welcome. Participation is free, but Teen Center registration packets must be filled out and returned.

For more information, please call (626) 303-0863.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### Youth Employment Workshop

On Tuesday, May 17, from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. youth between the ages 15-18 will participate in a free employment workshop. The workshop will include tips on finding a job, gaining employment experience, resume writing, filling out job applications, interview tips and how to be successful once you land a job! There will also be local employers on site to speak with the participants about employment opportunities! Please register in advance at the Teen Center. Space is limited.

### Duarte/Monrovia Youth Summit!

The Duarte Mayor's Youth Council presents the Duarte/Monrovia Youth Summit: Year of the Youth/Year of the Family! The event will be held on May 21 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Northview Middle School. Area youth will participate in educational and fun workshops. There will be food, music and entertainment. Pre-register and receive a free t-shirt!

Call the Duarte Teen Center for more information.

### Club Duarte

On Friday, June 3, from 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m. the Duarte Teen Center will be transformed into the rocking hot spot for middle school youth. There will be a live DJ, dancing, food, and game room activities for only \$3.

### SUMMER THEME WEEKS! Wacky World of Sports Week!

On Monday, June 27-July 1 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. the Duarte Teen Center will host Wacky World of Sports Week. Teams will compete all week long in basketball, softball, flag football, soccer, relays, dodge ball, kickball etc. for team points. There will be prizes for the winning teams!

### Aloha Hawaii Week!

Monday, July 11-July 15 will be Aloha Hawaii Week at the Duarte Teen Center. Activities will be held from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. with traditional island theme, games, decorations, music, a limbo contest and more. The week ends with a fabulous luau!

### LA Fan Night

On Thursday, July 7, from 7-9 p.m. the Duarte Teen Center will host LA Fan Night. Come join us for Dodger baseball on the big screen TV, food and mini games. Wear a Dodger t-shirt, hat, anything with the Dodgers on it and get free admission into the event! If you are not wearing Dodger gear admission is \$2 includes snacks.

### Summer Kick Off BBQ-Senior Grad Party!

Wednesday, June 22, at 3:30

p.m. the Duarte Teen Center will host a summer kick off barbecue! Enjoy cheeseburgers, chips, fresh fruit and a beverage. Senior graduates get in free! \$1 fee for other participants.

### TOURNAMENTS

#### Pool Kings Tournament

On Wednesday, July 20, at 3 p.m. the Duarte Teen Center will host teen centers from other cities in a Pool Kings Tournament. Come represent your center with the best hot shots! Prizes will be awarded to the top winners. Free!

### TEEN EXCURSIONS

#### Movie Trip Excursion

Come join us for a trip to the movies on Thursday, May 19 (early release DUSD). We will be viewing a PG-13 movie to be determined at a later date. Snacks are on your own. The trip departs the Teen Center at 2 p.m. and returns at 5:30 p.m. Fee is \$8

### ON GOING ACTIVITIES

**Birthday Tuesdays** – On the first Tuesday of each month the Teen Center celebrates the birthdays of all registered teens. Come and enjoy cake for all!

**Drama Club** – The Drama Club meets once a week on Thursdays from 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Club members participate in poetry jams, oratory, skits, and improvisation. The membership fee is \$5 every 6 months.

**Nutrition/Cooking Class** – Teen can learn to make quick and easy nutritious meals, while having fun with friends. Class meets once a week on Wednesday from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Fee is \$2 per class.

**Girls Night Out** – This free program is for teen girls grades 9-12. Participants discuss various topics ranging from peer pressure, goals, self esteem, relationships, and much more. The group will meet Tuesdays May 24, June 21, July 5 & 19 from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Movie Mondays** – Teens can relax and enjoy one of the latest movies at the Teen Center. No charge for viewing! Movie days are May 23, June 13 & 27, and July 11 & 25 beginning at 3:30 p.m.

### YOUTH BOXING PROGRAM

Join the fun and excitement with Duarte Boxing Program at the Duarte Teen Center! Boys and girls ages 8-18 years old are welcome. Participants learn all of the fundamentals of boxing and get in incredible shape!

Participants will gain flexibility, stamina, and coordination as well as make new friends. Our knowledgeable trainers provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for all levels of youth. Youth can train for fun and physical activity or for a chance to compete against other youth in the United States and at the annual Boxing Show. The Duarte Teen Center Gym is open Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There is a \$10 monthly fee for each participant. Non-residents are welcome for \$20 per month. Register at the Duarte Teen Center. Call (626) 303-0863 for more information or stop by for a visit.

# Annual program focuses on "Town of Talent"

Valley View Elementary School swept the elementary talent competition in the 2010 edition of the Annual District-Wide talent show on April 2.

All of the performers in the district show had already been the winners in their school talent competitions.

The winner in the elementary division was Amil Johnson who performed the Good Ship Lollipop, while Chrystiana Howard from Duarte High took home the trophy in the secondary division performing "At Last."

The second place winners were Christopher Santellan, who did "Popping" and Phillip Glover from Northview who performed "The Sparrow."

The third place finishers were Caira Benton from Northview who did "Hip Hop Dance" and "She Wolf" by Janellie, Diana, Valerie and Natalie Gonzalez.

The show featured an impressive panel of judges, many of whom have been involved with the talent competition for many years.

The judges were Yvonne Bullock, a district employee for 35 years; Corey Ellenson, a law student; Nicola George, a student at San Jose State University and daughter of City Manager Darrell George; Dick Hale, Mayor of the City of Bradbury; Marshall Jackman, a former Duarte Unified School District Board member and founder of the talent show many years ago; Sandra Mejia, chairman of the board of the Duarte Chamber of Commerce; Karina Nuvo, a Duarte parent and Grammy-nominated Latin soul singer; Beth Stogner, local parent and vocalist with the Southern California Mormon Choir; and J.C. Wilde, a past master of ceremonies of the show and an experienced actor.

There were entrants from all of the other elementary schools.

Representing Andres Duarte Elementary School were Anthony Panossian, who performed "Beat It", Andrew Perez and Nicolas Hasbun who did "I'm Not Your Toy" and Genesis Rodriguez, who did "Captain Silver".

From Beardslee Elementary were Mykala de Jonge who did "Who's That Chick?", Ariana

Loera, who performed "No Limit" and Lynette Morales who did "Echo."

Maxwell Elementary School was represented by Izaura De La Rosa, Amber Ingle and Natalie Ramirez who were the Dancing Firecrackers, Xochitl Juarez who performed "Dynamite" and Alondra Villela who did "Talking to the Moon."

The performers from Royal Oaks Elementary were Elizabeth Snedaker, who did "Hello Mudder," a vocal and instrumental presentation by Jade Trazo and Cali-Nicole Rojas Oloteo and Dione Zhao who did "Furliz."

In the secondary division, the other performers were Northview's Christine Wheeler, who performed "He's Good" and from Duarte High Michelle Bravo who did "Sinaloa" and Eva Paiz, Marina Paiz and Josh Jerome who did "Bourgeois Shangri-La Miss."

Once again the talent show featured a tribute to Francisco A. Martinez-Flores, a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, who was killed in Iraq in March 2003. He had graduated from Duarte High School in 2000. The Duarte branch building of the United States Post Office was named in his honor by an Act of Congress.

Others who helped in the talent show were Terri Lujan, Duarte High School English and drama teacher, who served as production director; and the statisticians were Carol Baroni, Office Manager at Valley View Elementary School and Beth Lohr, who works as a Confidential Secretary in the Duarte Schools district office.

The event chairperson was Lois Gaston, Vice President of the Duarte Education Foundation and Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Duarte.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was Javier Djeu, a former Duarte High student.



THE GIRLS NIGHT OUT club enjoys an excursion to the skating rink.



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DUARTE  
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Worship .....	10:00 A.M.
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# Mt. Olive Works to Help Sustain Environment

*By Kevin Morris, Principal*

Weaved into Mt. Olive's cultural fabric, is the goal of the staff to teach students the importance of being viable members of society as well as outstanding students. Mt. Olive is also teaching the importance of environmental sustainability and responsibility. That's where Mt. Olive's Big Green Machine, MOOSE, takes center stage.

M.O.O.S.E. is the acronym for "Mt. Olive Outdoor School Experience." MOOSE was born three years ago out of the necessity for a science lab at Mt. Olive due to limited classroom space. So, to fulfill that void, we took "necessity," "the mother of invention," to our campus grounds. Through the leadership of science teacher David Karp MOOSE facilitates the teaching of 75% of the state standards in science and math through our elective environmental science course.

MOOSE's strength lies in teaching students how to tackle some of the world's current environmental challenges, not just by textbook, but also through project-based learning and literally getting your hands dirty.



One of the first things a person will notice when heading eastbound on Central Avenue, just past the 605 Freeway, is a student painted mural with the words "Mt. Olive Bulldogs" in bold letters on the south end of the Mt. Olive High School campus, which serves as a colorful back-drop for Phase One of MOOSE.

In phase one of MOOSE, students brought in native plants and drought tolerant flora, planted an herb garden, performed on-going upkeep of the pond ecosystem and various gardens, composting of organic matter and paper, conducted field soil experiments and observations, constructed raised beds and solar water features, began worm farming (vermiculture), constructed drip irrigation systems, developed organic farming beds, as they prepare for future green careers.



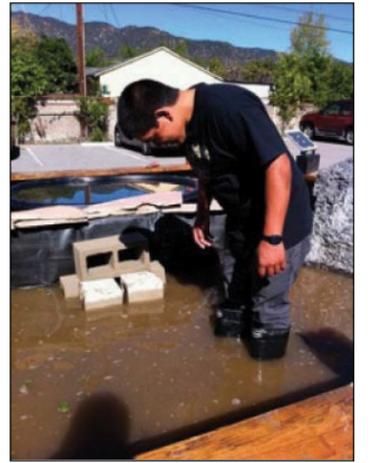
Phase two of MOOSE began in September 2010 and focuses on:

- Algae studies for alternative fuel development
- Composting
- Building of a green wall facade
- Expansion of vermiculture
- Extend solar integration
- Use of natural pesticides, herbicides, fungicides made from worm tea
- Warm season turf grass research and development
- Permaculture
- New pond fauna studies, i.e. aquaponics, turtle research
- Companion planting
- Project construction
- Implementation of observational beehive



MOOSE provides students with a foundation of understanding, knowledge and skills to deal effectively with today's environmental challenges. Students learn a variety of basic laboratory and field techniques, including specimen sampling and processing, site monitoring documentation, and inspection. When possible students have the opportunity to work with or consult experts in various environmental fields.

MOOSE incorporates both academic and applied studies. The structure and function of natural ecosystems, the history of the environmental movement and the impact of laws, economic and political systems on environmental concerns are taught. Students also gain a broad awareness of environmental science and career opportunities while a strong emphasis is placed on students making a positive impact on the environment.



**Braulio Banuelos wades in the new MOOSE pond.**



**Eddie Saravia uses a level to straighten the raised bed**

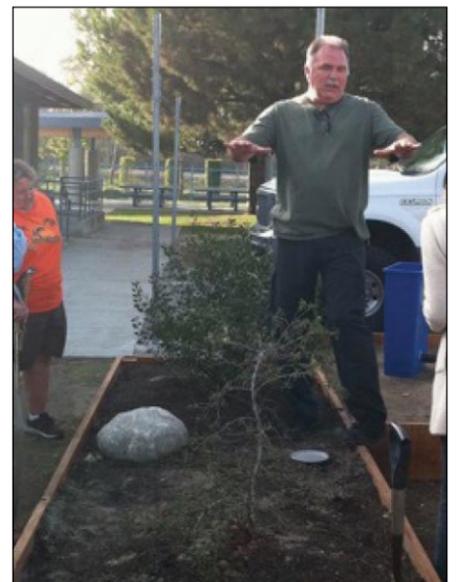
However, MOOSE would not have been possible, had it not been for the \$30,000 in generous donations, grants, and support from Kellogg Garden Products, Rain Bird Corporation, Brian Barretto of CalAm Water, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Toshiba, Fresh & Easy, Russell Levine of Bear Bees Honey, the City of Duarte, Pam Kawasaki, and the Duarte Unified School District.



I would also like to thank our network of consulting "green partners," Roger Klemm and The Green Team at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, as well as Jill Morganelli from the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.



**Alejandra Maya and Perla Escobedo at the 2010 Green Summit conference.**



**Science teacher David Karp shows off the projects to visitors.**

In addition, Mt. Olive received a 2011 LARA (Los Angeles Regional Agency) Award. LARA's mission is to help enhance the quality of living in its 16 member communities through the conscious means of promoting environmental sustainability and responsibility. Out of this 16 community membership Mt. Olive High School was chosen as a LARA award winner for the second consecutive year. Also, this year's other prestigious LARA Award winners were Fresh & Easy, We Pack It All, and Valley View Elementary.

So, if you're in the neighborhood and want to see what MOOSE is all about...we'd love to see you! Keep It Green!

**DUARTE KIWANIS UPDATE**

# Outstanding Women in Our Community

Kiwanis Member Lisa Magno was recognized as the Business Woman of Achievement for the 24th California State Senate District on April 16. Lisa is the proud owner of Joe's Place in Duarte, and also owns the Leven

Oaks Assisted Living Residential Care Facility, which gives older adults the ability to age with dignity. Lisa is a passionate and dedicated volunteer in her community where she has coordinated programs like the Relay for Life in Duarte to benefit the American Cancer Society and has been an outspoken advocate on the prevention of Elder Abuse. Lisa is also a Duarte Kiwanian. She was joined at Senator Hernandez' event by fellow Kiwanians Stafford Barker, Sandi Mejia and Tina Carey.

Another Duarte Kiwanian, Sandi Mejia, is a finalist for Pasadena's 2011 Women of Distinction Award. Sandi's investments in Pasadena, through business and community, is something has been passed on through generations. She is the third of six generations in her family in the city. She holds high positions in four companies, including her own M&R Professional Services.

She serves on various boards and committees including the Pasadena Mexican-American History Association, Pasadena City College Community Foundation and Latino Business Exchange – and, of course, she is a member of the Duarte Kiwanis Club.



**LISA MAGNO (left) receiving Business Woman of Achievement Award from State Senator Ed Hernandez.**



**DUARTE KIWANIS (from left) Filippo Fanara, Sandi Mejia and Lisa Magno.**

# Happenings at Foothill Unity Center

Mark your calendars for June 23, for the annual Golden Plate Awards Gala.

Tickets will be available to order very soon!

It's only May, but the Back-to-School event planning committee is already meeting each month. Committee members are still needed to help make this year's event even better than last year's, which prepared 1,805 local kids for success in school. Your talents can help us make a bigger impact this year.

Thank you as always for your support and generosity! We continue to fight hunger and soften the effects of poverty on our neighbors in the foothills with your contributions, large or small.

Become a fan on Facebook, you can "like" our page and help us spread the word about our services and opportunities to serve. One mouse click could help

someone you may know. For more information contact Raina Martinez at (626) 358-3486. We look forward to hearing from you.

# Kiwanians Travel to Nicaragua to Support Needy Children

Reyna Diaz, Board Member of Duarte Kiwanis Club and of the school district of the city of Duarte, California, is visiting the Foundation Abandoned Children of Nicaragua [www.abandoned-children.org](http://www.abandoned-children.org).

Reyna and her husband, Ruben, along with fellow Kiwanian and School Board President, Pam Kawasaki, are coming to provide a donation of 3 computers. They will also attend a reception for the Children in the center of protection in the city of Managua.

One of the objectives of the Duarte Kiwanis Club is to visit the center and see the work they are doing.

The Duarte Kiwanis Club has taken the responsibility to deliver the computers directly to the center and to see the work of the center in helping the children of the street Nicaraguans.

Personalities and businessmen Nicaraguans are guests to attend to the reception of Reyna Diaz and of provide support in this commendable work for the children.

The President and founder of Abandoned Children In Nicaragua Foundation, Camilo I Neuter and his wife Amelia I Neuter, are happy to accompany the Duarte Kiwanis delegation, to receive their generous donation and to strengthen ties among both organizations to serve needy children.

Reyna will also be taking a gift of "Eliminate" lanyards to the representatives in Nicaragua. Kiwanis International is partnering with UNICEF in an effort to eliminate Maternal and Neo-Natal Tetanus worldwide.



**REYNA DIAZ (l) with Yvette Mack, a Kiwanis member from Hacienda Heights who is heading the effort to eliminate Maternal and Neo-Natal Tetanus worldwide for Kiwanis Division 35.**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 • 5 TO 8 P.M.**

# Taste of Duarte and Business Expo

## TICKETS

- **ADVANCE TICKETS:** adults, \$20; seniors and children 6-12, \$15 - Now available online at [TasteofDuarte.com](http://TasteofDuarte.com) and at these Duarte businesses:

- Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine, 1856 Huntington Dr.
- Curves for Women, 1159 Huntington Dr.
- Dr. Shetty Golden State Dental, 1750 Huntington Dr.
- Duarte Family Chiropractic, 924 Buena Vista St., Suite 103
- Duarte Liquors, 1302 Duarte Rd.
- Duarte Public Safety, 1042 Huntington Dr.

- **AT THE GATE TICKETS:** adults, \$25; seniors and children 6-12, \$20

**RESTAURANTS**

- Baja Ranch Market
- Cabrera's Mexican Cuisine
- California Skewers
- Flame Broiler
- IHOP
- Joe's Place
- Matt Denny's Ale House
- Max's Mexican Cuisine
- Old Spaghetti Factory
- Poppy Bake Shop
- Qdoba Mexican Grill
- Ranchero Mexican Restaurant
- Rolling Sushi
- Royal Oaks Manor
- Santa Teresita
- Senor Fish
- Sushiya
- Tutti Frutti
- Villa Italia Ristorante

**ORGANIZATIONS**

- Arcadia Association of Realtors
- Church of the Foothills
- City of Hope
- Duarte Community Coordinating Council
- Duarte Public Safety
- Foothill Workforce Investment Board
- Maryvale Family Resource & Early Education Center
- Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension
- Pasadena Mexican American History Association
- Westminster Gardens

**Participants as of May 9:**

**BUSINESSES**

- A1 Party Rental
- Advantage Ford, Lincoln, Mercury
- Avila Gardens
- Bank of America
- Bank of America Home Loans
- BMW of Monrovia
- Botanica Florist
- Buena Vista Chiropractic
- Burrtec Waste Services
- California American Water
- Charter Business
- Complete Care Medical Clinic
- Douglass & Zook Chapel of Remembrance
- Dr. Shetty Golden State Dental
- Duarte Azusa Animal Hospital
- Duarte Family Chiropractic
- Duarte Tile & Stone
- E Street Vending

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- E-Z Dog Wash
- Foothill Computer
- Foothill Federal Credit Union
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- Hometown Jewelry & Loan
- Isagenix / Ginny Joyce Belba
- Jan's Towing
- Juice Plus / Janet Kidd
- Junk-King
- Law Offices of Jacqueline Issac
- Live Oak Memorial Park
- Old Town Sign Company
- OneWest Bank
- Pasadena Star-News
- Post Alarm Systems
- Prudential - Yolanda Haro
- RCS Heating & Air Conditioning
- SCE Federal Credit Union
- Seidner's Collision Center
- Sierra Autocars
- Southern California Edison
- Specialty Promotions
- State Farm Ronald Smith Agency
- StorAmerica
- The Gas Company
- The Wizard of Biz
- Toyota of Pasadena
- Wells Fargo

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## Duarte Unified School District



*"Through education in Duarte I will grow confident and considerate, and able to face a diverse and ever changing world."*

[www.duarte.k12.ca.us](http://www.duarte.k12.ca.us)

### Leading The Way

## Duarte High School Students Making International Connections!

This year Duarte High School has one more feather to put in its cap. They are a sister school with Langalilabele High School in South Africa. As a result of the efforts of Youth 2 Youth Building Bridges Program, a club at DHS that increases cultural awareness and provides learners with opportunities to volunteer and give back, the

is the primary industrial activity. After much fundraising, Youth 2 Youth donated a laptop with monthly internet access to the high school. Now, with the advent of newly created academies at Duarte High School, the staff and learners are capitalizing on the opportunity to globalize their learning. Through the cross-curricular collab-

via video conferencing with students in Limpopo.

The first contact is planned for the week after Spring Break. So far, DHS learners have sent drawings and other items of friendship to their new friends, and are anticipating the receipt of drawings from learners of Langali-



high school was able to develop a relationship the Langalilabele High School. Langalilabele High School is located in the state of Limpopo, which is on the border of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. In this region, mining

orative efforts of the Business, Arts, Media and Entertainment Academy, the Social Science Department, and the Visual and Performing Arts Department, Falcons will have the opportunity to have "face-to-face" interaction

labelle High School. DHS Learners will also be collaborating with their partner school to develop opportunities to continue to increase their global knowledge and cultural awareness.

## Duarte Head Start/ State Preschool Celebrates Literacy with Dr. Seuss

Thursday March 24, 2011 the cafeteria at Andres Duarte Elementary School was filled with Head Start/ State Preschool students and their families engaged in literacy activities centered around Dr. Seuss' books.

Families and friends were found making red and white striped hats, playing with Oobleck, counting fish, identifying colors, playing games, creating dot pictures with paint, experimenting with the letters of the alphabet, and taking pictures with the Cat in the Hat.

In an effort to promote early literacy the 2nd annual Dr. Seuss Literacy event was sponsored by Duarte Head Start/ State Preschool teachers and staff. Tagging onto the March 2nd birthday celebration of Theodor Seuss Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, staff created a fun-filled educational evening topped off by all the children receiving books to take home.



*Photo: Tracy Castillo, Victoria Ramirez, Jacob Islas and Anthony Huerta from Mrs. Brenda Avila's State Preschool class celebrate literacy with The Cat in the Hat (Fernando Delgado).*

## Renaissance Rally 2011 a Big Success

Among the Paparazzi, flashing cameras, and Oscar Award winning music parents, family members and students marched into the Northview Gym for our "You're a Superstar" Hollywood themed Renaissance Rally 2011. Northview Paparazzi (aka NV Yearbook students) lined the red carpet to welcome our students and family members giving them the superstar treatment. The Northview Band played setting the scene as everyone took their places on the set and entered the Hollywood dream located at Central and Highland near Capital Records just off the 210 freeway for an adventure that would honor 376 students for their academic excellence. Renaissance has become a welcomed part of our culture at Northview where everyone comes together to celebrate and honor the achievement of our students. "And the Oscar goes to..." we are proud to say that half of our students achieved academic excellence of a 3.0 GPA or higher, Congratulations! This time around, 58 students also received academic athlete awards for having a GPA of 3.4 or higher and played on a team sport. Northview has become a place where students are encouraged to focus on academic success, get involved in school and to give back to their community.

Just as Renaissance honors academics we have many other clubs and activities which encourage our students to be the best they can be. Our athletic teams have become highly competitive in the 210 Freeway League with several league champs under our belt. We offer year round sports for all our students, as well as, working collaboratively with the City of Duarte who offers additional teams for our students to play on. Northview CJSF (California Junior Scholastic Federation) is a new after school club which focuses on academics and community service. Also new this year are our Link Leaders who concentrate on "linking" students to school and assist with transition activities for our incoming 7th graders. These links create connections between students offering support, guidance and mentoring. This year, the Link Leaders have visited every elementary school offering their words of wisdom and tips for middle school success.

The above is a small sampling of the wonderful things that are happening at Northview. "Believe, Achieve, Succeed" is our school motto and daily we see our students become living, breathing examples of those three little words as they believe in themselves, achieve academically and feel successful by giving back to their school and community

### Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Classes Prepare Students for Jobs

The L.A. County Regional Occupational Program was established to fill a void in Career and Technical Education in the 1970's. There are 23 districts in Los Angeles County starting at interstate 605 and going west all the way to the ocean.

Duarte High School offers a wide array of occupational training courses open to all students. Students from Duarte High School and Mount Olive High School are eligible to take these classes. Since they are regional, they can take the classes at Duarte High School or at any of the 23 school districts. Students are taught by experienced professionals who have at least five years of experience in their individual fields.

Courses Duarte High School currently offer includes:

- ROP Business Technology
- ROP Graphics Design
- ROP Advanced Graphic Design
- ROP Principles of Web
- ROP Multimedia Web Design
- ROP Careers in Education
- ROP Law Enforcement
- ROP Office Management
- ROP Culinary Arts
- ROP Video Productions
- ROP Advanced Video Productions
- ROP Air Brush Design
- ROP Emergency Medical Responder
- ROP Recreation Leader
- ROP Hospital Occupations

The ROP classes prepare students for entry level jobs in their chosen field. Two examples of this successful preparation include:

- Video Production students winning the regional competition for Skills USA and preparing to compete in the State finals which would require them to shoot and edit a video on site.
- Five students from Duarte High School competed in the ROP Outstanding Student competition at L.A. County. These students represent the best from our ROP classes. Students were judged on completing a job application, resume, interview and presenting a project portfolio.

Classes in the ROP program are the foundation of the elective program at Duarte High School. 85% of the ROP courses are taught during the day as part of the master schedule. Almost all of the ROP classes are also part of our career pathways and academies. Our career pathways and academies have been approved by the Los Angeles County and are articulated with Citrus College. The program serves approximately 600 Duarte students at no cost to the district.

As we plan for the future, new ROP classes will be developed to further strengthen our career pathways and academies. Areas for future expansion would include Biotechnology, Automotive Repair and Green Technology.

Duarte High School is very proud of their 35 year relationship with the Los Angeles County ROP program.

### Family Fun Nights at Beardslee

Recently a parent came to the office at Beardslee and said, "I just wanted you to know that our family really enjoys all of the wonderful events you have for us here at our school. Please keep having them!" It is those kinds of comments that make us all smile because one of our goals this year was to provide fun and unique activities for the Beardslee families to enjoy together!

One of our special Family Fun Nights this year was an Astronomy Night. At this event, members of an astronomy club came to Beardslee and set up twelve telescopes so that we could view the moon, Jupiter, Orion's nebula, and the North Star up close. It was fascinating to actually see the rings on Jupiter, to count the craters on the moon, and to see stars in Orion that are invisible to the naked eye!

Another one of our special events this year was our Father Daughter Dance. For this event, female students from our school invited a special male figure (dads, uncles, grandpas, brothers, and even cousins) to dress up in a Hawaiian theme

and come to Beardslee for a night of dinner and dancing in the cafeteria. The girls taught their guests how to dance the Macarena while the male adults taught their girls how to dance to YMCA! It was a lot of fun!

Our most recent Family Fun Night was called "Art Night". For this event, Phil Goldwhite came to Beardslee and taught us how to create stained glass windows with tissue paper, how to build three dimensional sculptures out of clay and toothpicks, and how to paint in the Japanese Sumi style. It was fun to watch both the children and the adults express their creative, artistic sides through these activities!



The Calva family and the Urias family have fun creating stained glass windows during Beardslee's Art Night.

### New Law Requires Tdap Shot for 7th through 12th Graders

Under a new law, California middle and high school students must be vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough). Beginning July 1, 2011, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will be required to show proof of a "Tdap\*" booster shot before starting school. This requirement applies to all public and private schools. Starting July 2012, only students entering 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot.

In 2010 California experienced its worst outbreak of pertussis in more than half a century, with more than 7,800 confirmed cases and 10 infant deaths. The new immunization requirement is intended to help reduce the spread of whooping cough among California's youth. Most children are fully protected prior to entering kindergarten because of the DTaP vaccine, a vaccine formulated for younger children. However, immunity to these diseases wears off and adolescents may be vulnerable to the highly contagious disease without a booster.

Approximately 3 million school children will be affected by the Tdap requirement, so we strongly encourage you to avoid the summer rush and get your child vaccinated now! Afterward, please bring a copy to your school site for our records. Uninsured or underinsured students may qualify for a free vaccination.

For further information, please call your physician, the DUSD Health Services center (626) 599-5222, the Monrovia Health Department (626) 256-1600, or go online to: [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).

Remember, in addition to the Tdap booster, there are several important vaccines recommended for preteens and teens including the meningo-

coccal vaccine, a second chickenpox shot (if they never had chickenpox disease), and the HPV vaccine series. Everyone older than six months old is recommended to receive a seasonal flu vaccine.

\*The Tdap booster is Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine. CDPH recommends a Tdap shot for children and adults 10 years and older.

Adapted from a template submitted by the California Immunization Coalition [www.immunizeca.org](http://www.immunizeca.org)

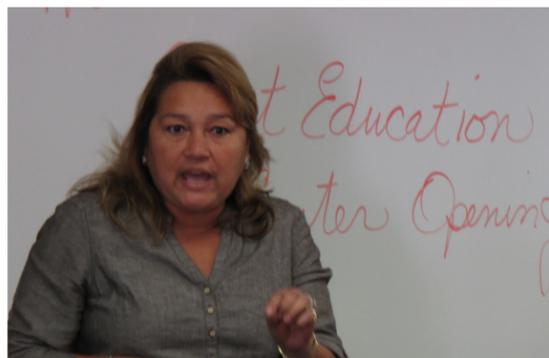
### Happy people At Maxwell

*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. Those among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*

-Dr. Albert Schweitzer

At Maxwell Elementary school we have a lot of happy people, people "...who have sought and found how to serve." This month I would like to highlight two volunteers, Mrs. Rose Brooks-Mitchell and Mrs. Reyna Diaz.

Mrs. Rose Brooks-Mitchell volunteers two days a week, offering her expertise in academic counseling and team building for our students, kindergarten through sixth grade. After a recent team building session our 5th grade students responded to the question, "Who is the most important person in a team? The team, everyone is important!" And when asked the question, "Why is a team important?" They replied, "Because we all go farther and can do more as a team than on our own!"



These opportunities to grow together as a team and understand the skills necessary to work together are critical



in our growing global economy. We know our students will be communicating with students in other countries, and as they enter the work force, they will be teaming and working on projects



with employees from companies around the world. In addition, we have watched how a major disaster has impacted Japan and how the significance of employing the concept of "team", to maximize the quality and quantity of survivors, has been demonstrated on a world screen.

This is all to say how critical it is that Mrs. Rose Brooks-Mitchell has intentionally dedicated her time and expertise every week to serve the students at Maxwell Elementary School and Duarte Unified School District, helping them become proficient in the skills that will make a difference in their future success.



Complimenting the support of our students by Mrs. Rose Brooks-Mitchell is Mrs. Reyna Diaz's support of Maxwell's parents and families. Through conversations with our community members, parents have shared their interests and needs with the Maxwell school leadership; these have included computer classes, ESL classes, sewing and tailoring, cake decorating classes, parent enrichment classes and college information nights. Reyna Diaz has connected our parents to the resources available in Duarte, brought the resources together, helped organize the classes and, to personalize these classes, she has taken the time to invite families individually.

As the need for English as a

Second Language grew, Reyna stepped in and volunteered to teach the class 3 days a week, 2 hours a day. This dedication to furthering the education of our families is truly amazing and has increased the understanding of our parents as to what is happening for their children every day. This in turn amplifies parents' understanding of how to help support their child at home. The conversation that takes place within the learning environment of the Maxwell Parent Education Center has enriched the lives of our entire community, and Reyna Diaz is the spark that has warmed our hearts.

It is easy to see why both Reyna Diaz and Rose Brooks-Mitchell smile as they come to and leave Maxwell Elementary school... they have found a way to serve the Duarte community of learners and are happy to make a difference in our world. We can't all be Dr. Albert Switzer and travel to Africa dedicating our lives to healing the community, but we can travel to our local school and follow Reyna Diaz or Rose Brooks-Mitchell's example of serving others.



*Northview Link Leaders act as mentors and create links in a chain of connectedness so all students have a "go to person" on campus they can talk too.*

## Greetings From Duarte Unified School District

Partnerships are the cornerstone of a thriving community just as they are with school districts. Partnerships turn visions into realities and aspirations into obtainable targets. Without them, especially in today's economic downturn, partnerships are needed and sought after more than ever. Every avenue that will offer up a partnership is scrutinized and carefully nurtured. So, it is no surprise that this year, Duarte's Mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci and the Duarte Unified School District.

We used the recent State of the City/School District as a vehicle to officially 'kick-off' our partnership. We christened the coming year, "Year of the Youth/Year of the Family". Our first joint venture under this new moniker will be the Duarte/Monrovia Leadership Summit scheduled for May 21st at the Performing Arts Center. This summit will include topic workshops such as volunteerism, civic engagement, leadership, social networking, peer pressure, and much more. Guest speakers will be filtered throughout the day with the opening address given by Ms. Ger-

aldine Parri, Citrus College President. Many sponsors, from both cities, have come forward to offer assistance such as The Gas Company, Burrtec Waste, SCE, Bank of America, YMCA, and a host of others; all this in an endeavor to support our local youth.

Also, along the lines of leadership, at a not too long ago board meeting Matthew Monge was sworn in as our first ever, Student Board Member. In this capacity, Mr. Monge will act as a liaison to the board on student views by soliciting the opinions of a cross-section of students (not just 'honors' students) and by providing solid data and statistics on student's needs and wants. We look forward to hearing his vision and direction.

Other plans for youth and family are in the works; opportunities such as the 'Yes, We Can' Summer Mentor Camp. This one day retreat is under the auspices of The Gas Company, and it is they who are funding the event in its entirety. Approximately 40 middle school students will be treated to a full day of activities in the beautiful Monrovia Canyon Park. This mentor camp is headed up by Ken Bell and will empower students to create a positive sense of self and a belief in their overall competence and skills at social problem solving.

This is just the start of many wonderful partnerships being established and an opportunity to reconnect with our established ones. These partnerships help to enhance educational excellence and learning experiences for our students in the Duarte Unified School District. It is through the generous and continual support of the extended community that helps our schools maintain excellence by meeting classroom needs unfunded by other means. Thanks are never enough...



*Mr. Torres, Northview Band Teacher, leads the Northview Band as they play music as students and their parents walk the red carpet entering our Hollywood themed spring 2011 Renaissance Rally.*

## Superintendent's Message

To return to my "California Home... aka, Duarte" is an honor and privilege, and one that I had no thought would ever occur. Duarte is an outstanding community where caring and service are bywords that residents live by, and as your new Superintendent I subscribe to wholeheartedly. I am looking forward with great pleasure to renewing old friendships and garnering new ones.

A bit of background for those of you who do not know me; I have been in education for over 32 years and have served as a teacher and administrator at all levels. I have four children, four grandchildren and a beautiful wife, Catherine, who coincidentally is also a Superintendent in the Covina Valley School District. My philosophy as an educator is simple... 'personalize and customize' instruction in order to thoroughly engage our students in learning as we LEAP into the future.

Our LEAP project will embrace the 20/20 vision we have set for ourselves whereby we, as a community and organization, strive to create the type of graduate that will be recruited and sought after by colleges, businesses and society itself. These 'shoulder tapped graduates' will be equipped with the necessary 21st century skills (i.e., global, digital, cultural and health fluencies) that are essential for their success in our ever evolving world. We will continue to utilize data to seek out best practices, and we will never forget the importance of 'focused instruction' that is essential in meeting the needs of each and every child.

This type of educational experience can only be achieved when there is collaborative effort of outstanding teachers, dedicated support staff, committed administrators and a unified Board of Education. This effort in conjunction with consistent on-going communication with parents and community is what sets the Duarte Unified School District apart from all others, and contributes to the success of our school district as a whole.

**Dr. Terry Nichols**  
Superintendent  
Duarte Unified School District



*Nadia Williams and Autumn Knight display their "student talents" by singing a duet at the rally.*