

WINTER 2022

# CONNECTIONS

SERVING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
IN THE CLAREMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MISSION

To help elementary-school children enhance their academic, organizational and social skills by providing high-quality after-school programs in Claremont Unified School District neighborhoods.

## CLASP Celebrates 17 Years, Honors a Founder



It was a perfect fall day for a celebration! 170 people gathered in the beautiful garden of **Dr. Len Jessup**, President of Claremont Graduate University, and his wife **Kristi Staab**, to celebrate CLASP's 17 years of serving academically at-risk elementary school students with homework help and providing enrichment activities and mentoring.

CLASP was founded in 2005. The November 13th celebration honored one of its founders,

**Teddie Warner**. Not only was Teddie integral to the start of CLASP, she has tirelessly served on its Board of Directors in nearly every position with insight, dedication, and passion during the entire 17 years since its inception. The gratitude, recognition, and honors she received at the celebration were well deserved.



**U.S. Representative, Judy Chu**, presented Teddie with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition. **Claremont Mayor, Jed Leano**, presented Teddie with a Certificate of Recognition & Appreciation from the City of Claremont. **CUSD Superintendent, Dr. James Elsasser**, thanked and recognized Teddie for her years of distinguished service to CLASP. **CLASP Board President, Frank D'Emilio**, thanked Teddie and presented her with a photo memory book as a gift of gratitude from all of CLASP.

The afternoon refreshments, created and provided by **Robin Leonhard** and her committee, included individually boxed gourmet delights. Wine selections and sparkling water were served at the bar. **Rhonda Prout** made the exquisite fall centerpieces and decorations. Live background musical entertainment was provided by **Michael Ryan & Friends**.

The drawing for \$500 worth of Claremont Chamber of Commerce gift cards was won by Dr. James Elsasser.

Seventy generous sponsors and others made the whole event and, indeed CLASP itself, possible. Please note their names on another page in this newsletter.

Party Co-Chairpersons, **Nancy Ambrose** and **Cindy Sullivan** and their committee can be very proud of the success and enjoyment of this event. One wonders how they'll be able to improve it at all next year—it was perfect!





## THANK YOU 2022 SPONSORS

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## CLASP Celebrates 17 Years, Honors a Founder (con't)



## CLASP's Holiday Party a Great Success



Students and guests enjoyed an introduction to live Dinner Theater on December 8th at Claremont Presbyterian Church.

The dinner was pizza, carrots, and sparkling cranberry water.

The live entertainment was provided by **Citrus College's Treble Choir**.

For some in the audience it was their first experience with live entertainment—a great example of CLASP's enrichment program. **Sue Keith** was instrumental in arranging for the singers to perform for CLASP's holiday party.

Two highlights of the evening included a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. The children, CLASP Staff, and the Program Support Committee responsible for the event were photographed with them. The second highlight was the cookie decorating process.

Students chose either sugar cookie Christmas Trees or Snow-people cookies to decorate with frosting and toppings. The 200 sugar cookies were provided by **Cheryl Palmer-Bird**.

The event was very successful, and everyone went home feeling the joy of the season!



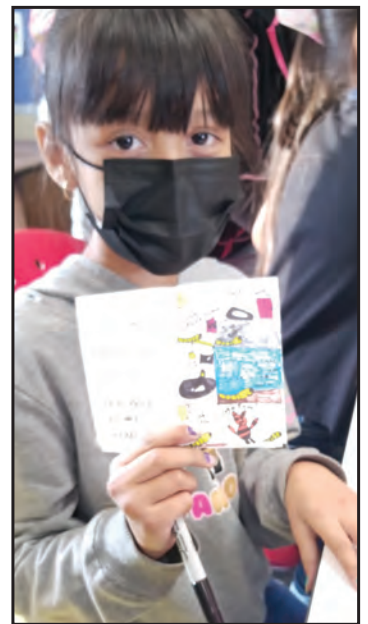
## Halloween Costumes and Painting Pumpkins



## Students Make Their Own Zines

Tierra del Sol, a differently abled group of artists, provided materials, instructions and assistance to CLASP students on November 11th and 18th at WP and Sumner.

Students learned cutting, collage, writing, and drawing skills in creating their very own mini magazines.





I am writing this message on the heels of another beautiful celebration of the work CLASP does for the youth in our community. On November 13th, we celebrated our donors, staff, and volunteers who make CLASP the successful program it is. In particular, we honored longtime member of the CLASP community,

**Teddie Warner.** Teddie has been part of CLASP since its inception in 2005 and has been on the Board every year since. She has served and chaired committees as well as serving in nearly every Board officer position. At the party, I shared a quote attributed to Pablo Picasso:

*The meaning of life is to find one's gift; the purpose of life is to give it away.*

Teddie has lived this quote all her life, and we were thrilled to honor her at the Celebrate CLASP event.

I just learned that ACSA (Association of School Administrators) has nominated CLASP for its excellence in educational programs. This is quite an honor!

Of course, we are grateful to all of you, our donors, and supporters, without whom CLASP would not be able to grow and thrive while providing academic help to the students who need it most. In this season of giving thanks, I want to express my gratitude for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Frank D' Emilio

Ariana



Camila



INTRODUCING A CLASP DYNAMIC DUO

**Ariana** is a 4th grade student being tutored at the new CLASP site, **Sumner Danbury**. She's been with CLASP for one year and states she likes tutoring because, "You learn to improve on anything you need help with." Wow, this intelligent child's favorite subject is math (double wow), and her favorite book is *The Babysitter's Club* because it, "Teaches a lot," which fits well with her aspiration of becoming a teacher.

Site supervisor, **Stephanie Black** says Ariana is a, "Model CLASP student who comes to every session prepared and eager to practice what she is learning." She goes on to say that a vivid memory of Ariana is that she is developing a, "Respectful, give-and-take, playful rapport with her high school student tutors. Ariana's positive demeanor, willing attitude, and appreciation of CLASP support make her an outstanding student representative!"

When asked what her favorite place is she answered, "Santa Barbara, because of the beach." Ariana is very charitable, saying that if she was President of the United States, she would declare a "Charity/Poor People day to give the poor money." Not surprisingly, this wonder kid's hero is Wonder Woman. When asked what she does in her spare time, she says she plays with her dog, Oreo, when her tail is down indicating loneliness. Very sensitive girl indeed!

**Camila** is Ariana's younger sister in 1st grade who just started with CLASP at the **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** site. This shy, sweet girl says her favorite school subject is math, like her sister. According to site supervisor, **Cristina Moreno**, "Camila gets along with everyone and continues to strengthen her reading and writing skills with CLASP."

Camila loves the beach like her older sister and enjoys swimming and playing in the sand. As President of the United States she would declare a, "Play at the Beach National Holiday!"

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Power of a Hug



I was surprised yesterday at Good Shepherd when Ricky enthusiastically exclaimed, "Hey, I've missed you, can I give you a hug?" This was followed by two other children asking me if they could hug me as well. I was delighted, completely tickled by the shared, joyful experience!

This little hug fest got me thinking about hugs and the power they have in our lives, especially coming off almost three years of avoiding hugs altogether. Turns out there's much written in the way of hugs. Apparently, there are seven common types of hugs and each has their own meaning.

It has been said that we need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth. Although these numbers aren't an exact science, it suggests that we could probably all stand to give (and receive) more hugs every day and longer hugs as well. The longer the hug the more its ability to calm anxiety and ease fears.

Now, I am not suggesting that you make a sign giving away FREE HUGS and stand on the corner of Foothill Blvd., but I do suggest when given the choice, never miss the opportunity to give someone an appropriate hug. It will put each of you one hug closer to a better day!

On a side note, please be watching for Tutor Training in December and January.



## TUTOR CORNER



You might mistake her for a student tutor but **Laurel Cepesius** is a 28 year old full time pastor, Minister of Children, Youth, and Families for Claremont United Church of Christ. Between Sunday School and monthly programming of activities, working 40 to 50 hours weekly, Laurel tutors for CLASP twice weekly at the Wheeler Park site. She is very personable and cheerful and welcomes tutoring as a means to pause, slow down, take a breather, and plug into the community. She is fully invested in young children.

**Maria Martinez**, site supervisor at Wheeler Park states that Laurel has the ability to overcome the most challenging behavior in her students. "Laurel loves helping others specifically children. Students seek her out."

As a transplant from Iowa, Laurel was asked if she liked Claremont and if she ever gets homesick. Her reply was that she gets nostalgic when she hears about the first snowfall in Iowa, but when she hears about snow in April it brings a smile to her face!

Welcome to Claremont and CLASP Laurel!



Ralph Spaulding



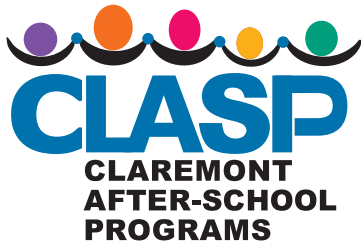
Jan McCoy



Ellen Hamilton

## CLASP Siblings





1111 N. Mountain Avenue  
Claremont CA 91711

**Ways to support CLASP**

- TUTOR
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When you visit AmazonSmile, enter "Claremont After-School Programs, Inc."

From then on, for every eligible purchase you make on this site, Amazon will donate 0.5% to CLASP!

## Tutoring Centers and Supervisors

Volunteer tutors are welcome to join CLASP throughout the school year.

Students who have been referred to CLASP by a teacher or principal may enroll at any time if space is available.

**Online**  
Jim Keith  
Grades 1-6  
M T W Th varied times

**Wheeler Park Recreation Center 1**  
Maria Martinez / Nicole Stark  
Grades 1-3  
M 2:45-4:15  
W 1:15-2:45

**Wheeler Park Recreation Center 2**  
Maria Martinez / Nicole Stark  
Grades 4-6  
T Th 2:45-4:15

**Claremont Presbyterian Church**  
Susan Castle  
Grades 4-6  
T Th 3:00-4:30

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
Cristina Moreno  
Grades 1-3  
M 3:00-4:30  
W 1:30-3:00

**Sumner/Danbury**  
Stephanie Black  
Grades 4-6  
T Th 2:45-4:15



## CLASP BOARD MEMBERS

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Jack Mills  
Dean Nishimura  
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Skylar Segura  
Nancy Treser-Osgood  
Kevin Ward

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