

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.

Holiday Party Food, Music, Santa, and Joy



Student director leads the choir as Director Kyle Ward accompanies "Betelehemu" on the drum.



L to R Jack Mills, Jo Colclough, Arlene Pirolo, Raydie Buckley, Mrs. Claus & Santa Claus (Connie and Raul Rodriguez), Cristina Moreno, Maria Rodriguez, Cristina Antonioli, and Harriet Archibald-Woodward.



Party attendees, numbering around 80, enjoyed pizza, tangerines, and homemade cookies on Dec. 12th at CPC.



Thank you and congratulations on another very successful event to **Cristina Antonioli**, CLASP's Program Director; **Harriet Archibald-Woodward**, Chairperson of the Program Enrichment Committee; and committee members **Mary Caenepeel**, **Maury Feingold**, **Juli Lloyd** (she made all the fabulous homemade cookies), **Carol-Lee Marshall**, **Cristina Moreno**, **Arlene Pirolo**, and **Maria Rodriguez**. A big thank you also to Board members, staff, and

Entertainment for the evening featured the CHS choir, led by **Kyle Ward**, CHS's Choral Music Director, a sing along, craft making activities for the students, and the significant event—a visit from **Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (Raul and Connie Rodriguez)**.

The CHS choir performed their traditional Nigerian Christmas Song, "Betelehemu" – a four part chorus of mixed voices and drums - which included accompaniment by Director Kyle Ward rhythmically beating the drum. It was energetic, joyful, and totally amazing!

After the musical program, the students were divided into groups to create holiday crafts and have their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The students were given goodie bags too!



others who pitched in to help at the event: **Raydie Buckley**, **Jo Colclough**, **Bridget Healy**, **Bev Jack**, **Jack Mills**, and **Cindy Sullivan**.

A huge thank you also to **Denise Zondervan** for taking all the photos!

Dental Hygiene and Good Nutrition

On November 1st at Wheeler Park, a terrific Dental hygiene and Nutrition workshop was taught by four San Joaquin Valley Community College dental hygiene students. 17 CLASP students participated. The students snacked on bagels, and participated in an informative and interactive presentation on dental health and hygiene. In addition, they learned how to set the table by cutting out a plate and utensils and how to cut with a safety knife. For lunch they prepared and ate tacos with all the toppings. They even made a sweet smile dessert out of marshmallows and apple slices.

This was an excellent learning experience. **Carol-Lee Marshall, Harriet Archibald-Woodward, and Cristina Antonioli** led the children through all the activities.



Bianca Alba, Claudia Torres, Brandon Woods, and Danielle Wicks



Student Care Pathways

How a CLASP Board Committee is Developing a Model to Tailor Tutoring to Each Student

The band of tutors who commit their time to meet the unique needs of the 77 currently enrolled students are the life blood of CLASP. The CLASP Program Quality Committee interviewed 26 of our tutors in 2023 about what was going well and where improvements could be helpful. They identified many profoundly positive impacts, among which were the satisfaction of fostering students' academic accomplishments and having enriching discussions sharing personal stories of struggle and achievement with students. The tutors felt their conversations instilled a sense of confidence and self-worth in the student. Areas where tutors asked for additional support included increased guidance about the academic help students needed and the strategies teachers used in the classroom. One tutor commented that they wanted to be sure they were "focused on the right things."

Using this feedback, the Committee recommended that a more formal assessment of students' needs, followed by assistance to tutors in setting goals would help to keep us focused on students' specific learning issues.

The Program Quality Committee is comprised of CLASP Board members, staff, and community volunteers: **Cristina Antonioli (Program Director), Frank D'Emilio, Sonja Dominguez (Chair), Bridget Healy, Bev Jack, Barbara Mackenzie, Jack Mills, and Teddie Warner.** The group will continue to recommend new program innovations to the board that we hope ultimately will improve student experiences and growth.

In response to the interview findings we are now piloting the "Student Care Pathways" initiative. The model intends to provide a structure to help tutors and CLASP site supervisors to 1) review student-specific information (e.g., teacher feedback or iReady diagnostic test information), 2) create 2-4 goals for the student, 3) provide relevant packets of curricular support for the tutor to use with the student, and 4) monitor work towards the goals over time. The current pilot includes six students across three tutoring sites, but the committee is eager to expand its implementation to ensure that all students can receive attention tailored to their needs.

CUCC alternative xmas

On Sunday, Dec.8th, **Carol-Lee Marshall** and **JoAnn Banks** represented CLASP at Claremont United Church of Christ's Alternative Christmas. Carol-Lee is CLASP's VP of Administration, and JoAnn is a tutor at CPC on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The event was very successful about introducing CLASP, as members of the congregation made several donations, and a new member (who recently moved to Claremont from Michigan) even expressed his interest in becoming a tutor.



MEET CLASP BOARD MEMBERS

Dean Nishimura:

Claremont Community Member, Tutor,
Member of two committees



Dean was born and grew up in Los Angeles.

He attended USC and graduated with a BS in

Business Administration.

He has a career background of working in finance for 20 years. He also worked 16 years for Southern California Edison as a supervisor.

Dean currently tutors at Wheeler Park and substitutes as needed. He also serves on the Tutor Support Committee.

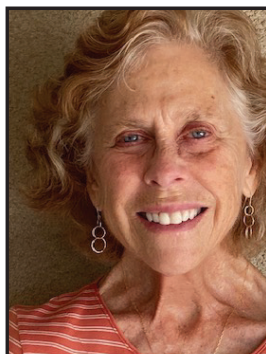
Dean is also an integral member of the Publicity Committee. He is the author of the popular newsletter columns Featured Tutor, Featured Student, Tutor Corner, and Student Corner.

He also served on the Technology Committee before its focus changed.

Dean describes his experience serving on the CLASP Board as, "It is fun. I enjoy people on the Board, and I appreciate the freedom to float new ideas." Dean was responsible for an innovative, though short in duration, reading program aimed at improving students' reading comprehension skills.

Harriet Archibald-Woodward:

Chairperson
Program Enrichment Committee



Harriet was born in St. Louis and grew up in Kansas City, MO. She graduated

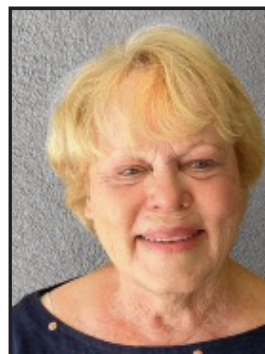
from Pitzer College with a BA in Anthropology and Spanish. She spent her junior year studying in Columbia, South America. When she returned to California, she earned a teaching credential, a bilingual specialist credential, an administrative credential, as well as a Master's degree.

Harriet has been tutoring for 11 years at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and serving on the Tutor Support Committee. When she was asked to become a member of the CLASP Board, she graciously took on the role of Program Enrichment Committee Chairperson where she and her committee plan and execute many activities to enrich the lives of CLASP students beyond giving them academic help.

Harriet says, "I've had a very positive experience serving on the Board. Everyone works collaboratively and has a positive attitude. Each committee has goals and plans, works diligently, and shares their progress at our monthly meetings. We all care about providing a high-quality after-school program for our elementary school students, which helps them enhance their academic, social, and organizational skills."

Bev Jack,

Chairperson Tutor Support
Committee



Bev was born in Los Angeles and raised in La Crescenta. She graduated from UCLA with a BA in

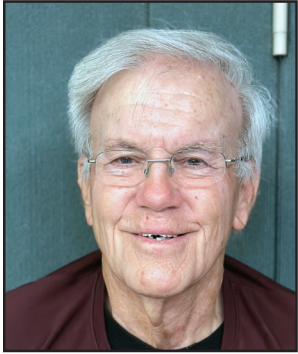
Music and Education. Her Master's degree is from the University of LaVerne.

Bev taught special education classes at Claremont High School. She has been a CLASP tutor for many years, and when **Barbara Shelley** retired, Bev became the chairperson of the Tutor Support Committee and a member of the Board. The Tutor Support Committee recruits tutors and plans and executes activities to ensure that tutors have what they need to help their students. In addition to being a tutor and chairperson of the Tutor Support Committee, Bev is always one who can be counted upon to pitch in wherever help is needed.

Bev says, "I have learned so much from other people on the Board, which is a very diverse and intelligent group of people." She hopes that CLASP can do more to work with students in the areas of socialization, kindness, and giving towards other members of the community.

Ralph Spaulding

Mt. Sac's loss is CLASP's gain...



As a retired professor of American history of 42 years and armed with a master's degree from Claremont Graduate University, **Ralph Spaulding** was referred to CLASP by former president **Frank D'Emilio** at an annual July 4th booth. He has been tutoring since then, going on 4 years.

Ralph has been a Claremont resident for 55 years and raised all his children in the Claremont Unified School District.

Ralph isn't sure who is benefiting more, the students, or himself. Angel, his student, would answer that in an instant. After all, Ralph believes that students' learning at the elementary age is more significant and, "Foundational" than at the college level. It is rewarding for him to see the, "Lights turn on" when the student understands his teachings.

In addition to tutoring, Ralph plays golf. Walking a lot keeps his hips in shape (after two hip replacements). He also enjoys traveling, especially in Europe, having recently gone to Spain and Portugal.

CLASP truly has gained from Ralph's dedication and patience as a tutor, so to Ralph, THANK YOU! Keep tutoring, golfing, walking, and traveling!

Angel

If you spot a precocious nine year-old third grader from Mountain View attending CLASP at Good Shepard Lutheran Church site, who loves math and science, that would be Angel. Angel has attended CLASP since the 1st grade.



The youngest of three kids, Angel does not really like to write, and he acknowledges that he needs help reading big

words because his right eye is a bit blurred. His site supervisor, **Cristina Moreno**, states that Angel has difficulty with math. However, when asked what his favorite school subject is, Angel says math. The reasoning is simple, as his tutor, "Mr. Ralph," is extremely patient with Angel, and he was proud to demonstrate his multiplication times tables 1 to 5. Angel and his tutor form a good pairing, always coming to CLASP with a smile. When asked what he likes about coming to CLASP, Angel responded, "Besides special science events, it's Mr. Ralph helping me with reading big words."

His favorite vacation is to visit his grandmother in Mexico with whom his pet Chihuahua, Yaz resides. Angel also like black panthers, lions, cats, and monkeys.

On the weekends, Angel plays Sonic the Hedgehog on his PlayStation. He also loves to play soccer, football, and basketball. His favorite foods are sushi, Ramen noodles, and pepperoni pizza.

When asked who his heroes are, Angel quickly states, "My family because they take care of me."

Angel may need help reading big words but his big personality and his smile are hard to ignore!

Celebrate CLASP 2024

On a beautiful November day, 200 people gathered in the lovely garden of the President's House of Claremont Graduate University to celebrate CLASP for 19 years of providing after-school tutoring to students in the Claremont Unified School District. CLASP honored **Jim Keith** for his many years of dedicated service as a tutor, board member, tutor coordinator and site supervisor.

Those in attendance included several dignitaries, such as *Congresswoman Judy Chu*; *Tim Kirley, Interim President of Claremont Graduate University*; *Claremont Mayor Sal Medina*; *Claremont Mayor Pro-Tem Corey Calaycay*; *Claremont Councilmember Jennifer Stark*; and *Kathryn Dunn, Vice President of CUSD Board of Education*; as well as many CLASP sponsors, tutors and staff.

Delicious gourmet delights were prepared by **Sonja Dominguez, Kevin Ward, Teddie Warner, Jack Mills, Karen Rosenthal, Robin Leonhard, Bev Jack and Maury Feingold**. Live musical entertainment was provided by **Michael Ryan and Friends**. We are grateful to all of our friends who joined us to Celebrate CLASP on this wonderful occasion!



THANK YOU 2024 SPONSORS

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE (\$5,000)

ECONOMY SHOP

SUPERINTENDENT'S CIRCLE (\$2,500-\$4,999)

ANONYMOUS	BARBARA RUGELEY & GREG SHAPTON
THE CHARLES & DEVON FREITAS CHARITABLE TRUST	FERREL & SAM SALEN
GOULD ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC	DIANE & JACK SCHUSTER
CAROL HOLDER & JOHN MALLINCKRODT	TEDDIE & KENT WARNER

PRINCIPAL'S CIRCLE (\$1,000-\$2,499)

NANCY & PETER AMBROSE	LISSA & DAN PETERSEN
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VALEDICTORIAN (\$500-\$999)

COLETTE ALBANESE	GEOFF HAMILL
CRISTINA ANTONIOLLI & CHRIS ENQUIST	BRIDGET HEALY
KATHY & BILL ARCHER	BUTCH HENDERSON
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HELAIINE & STEVE GOLDWATER	NANCY TRESER-OSGOOD & PETER OSGOOD

SALUTATORIAN (\$250-\$499)

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DONNA BERNARD & JOHN TOWNSWICK	ELLEN HAMILTON
CHARLENE BOLTON & MIKE MCKENZIE, COLDWELL BANKER	BEVERLY & ALAN JACK
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
JACK MILLS**

The statistics are in from the Claremont School District about the students CLASP is serving this fall. We have 77 students now, compared to 64 this time last year—a 20% increase! We couldn't do this without tutors, but more on this later. Our students face significant educational challenges.



For example, nearly three quarters are classified as socio-economically disadvantaged and half qualify for English language learner or special education services. As a result, two-thirds of our students started the school year two or three years behind in language arts and/or math proficiency. Through the one-on-one personal relationships tutors and students develop, CLASP not only provides our participants academic assistance, but social support and encouragement as well. In this world of apps, AI, and automated systems, the New York Times declared on 12/4/2024 that, "Human Interaction Is Now a Luxury Good." Thankfully, with the help of our tutors, staff, volunteers and supporters, CLASP attempts to give our kids the luxury support they need to be successful in school.

With the help of our community, the "Celebrate CLASP" annual gala was a huge success. Our annual budget projected that the party would raise about a third of the income we need to support the program this year. Thanks to all of you, we did it! We are so grateful for the community members and board volunteers, the party sponsors, attendees, and donors who made this possible.

We honored Jim Keith at the party this year. The outpouring of warm sentiment for Jim was a testament to his fifteen years helping to build the program. Among other things, for ten years Jim developed CLASP at Claremont Village Apartments (CVA). In bringing diverse CVA students together, CLASP helped them form connections that made the neighborhood a more harmonious place to live. Clearly, we accomplish more than just teaching math facts, although Jim's facility with math helped countless tutors do just that.

Speaking of.....we always need more tutors, both to continue growing the program and also to substitute when current tutors have to miss a session. Just having some back-up people on a substitute list would help tremendously. If you're not tutoring already, please consider doing so, and if you know someone, please have them contact Tutor Coordinator Raydie Buckley, (909) 450-1079, office@clasp4kids.org.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
CRISTINA ANTONIOLLI**

Imagine you're 62 years old and have been brushing your teeth diligently, twice a day, for 60 years. That's around 43,830 times you've stood over the bathroom sink, staring into the mirror. At two minutes a session, that's about 61 full days spent



brushing your teeth. It's safe to say, by now, it's a routine that doesn't exactly excite us. But to young children, something as simple as brushing their teeth is often a brand-new adventure, full of wonder—as shown in the first graders in this photo.

What seems like the "same old" to us can be totally new and exciting to someone else. Next time you're going through a routine task, imagine what it would be like to experience it for the very first time. It can help you appreciate the simple things and shift your perspective.

I encourage you to try something new, or revisit a skill you've forgotten. It might remind you of what it feels like to be a student again—struggling, laughing, learning, and celebrating every little success along the way. Like the students we serve, you might find joy in the process, and in your own growth.

Together, we can continue learning, evolving, and making a difference—one step at a time. We are so grateful for all our tutors! We encourage you to become a tutor or substitute tutor, and invite others to join CLASP's commitment to helping our students.



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Carol-Lee Marshall
VP Development,
Nancy Ambrose
Secretary,
Greg Shapton
CFO,
Jo Colclough
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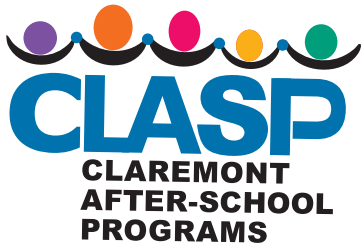
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Ben Martinez
Cristina Moreno



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Tutoring Sites and Supervisors

Wheeler Park Recreation Center 1

Maria Martinez *supervisor*
Grades 1-3
M 2:45-4:15
W 1:15-2:45

Wheeler Park Recreation Center 2

Maria Martinez *supervisor*
Grades 4-6
T Th 2:45-4:00

Claremont Presbyterian Church 1A

Ben Martinez *supervisor*
Grades 4-6
M 3:00-4:15
W 1:30-2:45

Claremont Presbyterian Church 1B

Ben Martinez *supervisor*
Grades 4-6
M 4:00-5:30

Claremont Presbyterian Church 2

Susan Castle *supervisor*
Grades 4-6
T Th 3:00-4:30

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church1

Cristina Moreno *supervisor*
Grades 1-3
M 2:45-4:30
W 1:15-3:00

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church2

Cristina Moreno *supervisor*
Grades 1-3
T Th 3:00-4:30



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.

Ways to support CLASP

- TUTOR
- DONATE
- CONTRIBUTE SUPPLIES
- SERVE ON a COMMITTEE

www.clasp4kids.org

(909) 204-0127