

THE CARDINAL TIMES

Written and Edited by, Alison Kennedy



March is
Developmental
Disability
Awareness Month

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Line Dancing Party**
May 16, 2026
Strap on your cowboy boots, grab your disco gear, and get ready for a fun night of dancing and connecting with friends. Registration details coming soon!
- * **CAA's Cardinal Repertory Theatre presents "Twelfth Night"**
June 13, 2026
Located at the Scottish Rite Center in San Jose, CA



PHOTO TAKEN BY ROBERT TAFOYA

Sensory-friendly Barracuda Hockey Game

On Sunday, February 15th, 2026, students, staff, and parents within the College of Adaptive Arts (CAA) gathered at a sensory-friendly Barracuda hockey game. 2026 is the second time this particularly successful event has taken place. At halftime, various dance crews within CAA performed, with their performances showcased on the monitor. Barracudas won 8-4 against the Henderson, Nevada Silver Knights.

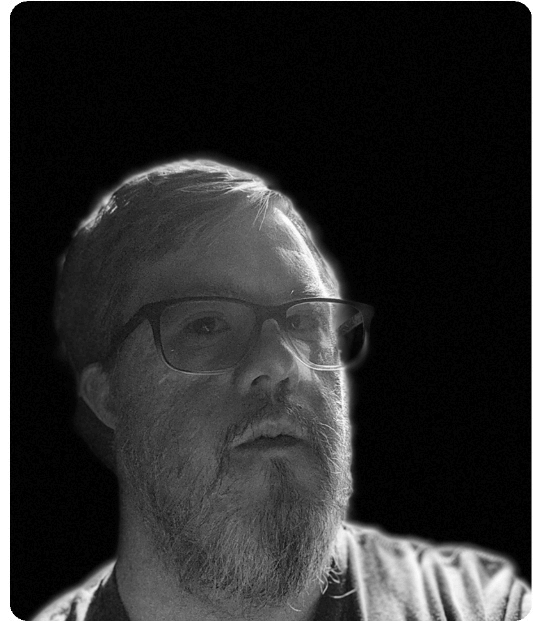
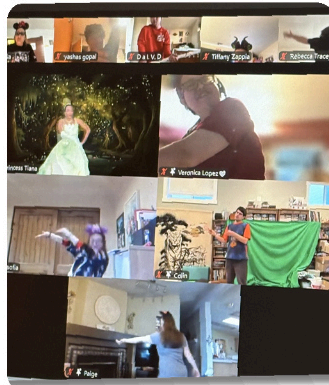
Beloved professor, Danie Weaver, who taught English Language Arts-related subjects at CAA since its inception, was honored with the Barracuda Community member of the year award. The students' artwork was showcased in the lobby of Sharks Ice at an information table.

The First-Ever Disney Gathering for CAA Was a Big Hit.

FRIDAY, March 6th, 2026, from 5:00-6:30 PM, the majority of the student body from the College of Adaptive Arts (CAA) gathered online for the first Disney-themed party in the school's history to take place. Thanks to student and staff member Alison Kennedy, who originally proposed a virtual Disney-themed get-together.

The Disney gathering had a fashion show, a sing-along, and trivia questions regarding Disney. Long-term Dance Instructor and Director of the School of Health and Wellness, Nicole Matarangas, did a routine from her Dance to Disney class. Many who attended the event, students and staff alike, wore Disney attire. Matarangas wore an adult-sized dress as Tiana from Princess and the Frog, while showcasing her routine. Creator of the event, Ali Kennedy, and other staff members wore Disney mouse ears.

Some students used Disney-themed wallpapers on Zoom for the event. Student Rowan Timmerman featured a character from Nightmare Before Christmas in his wallpaper. Staff members Daniel On and Nicole Matarangas each had more subtle wallpapers, both related to Disney. Students excitedly tried to guess the answers to the trivia questions. Everyone oohed and ahed over those who participated in the fashion show. The event came to a close with 56 attendees total.



PHOTOS TAKEN BY
ROBERT TAFOYA

Word Matchup March 2026

1. What day in March is Michelangelo's birthday?
2. The first day of Spring 2026 is on?
3. What kind of animal is a Groundhog?
4. When did March get its name?
5. Which soda was invented in March?
6. Which household item was made in March?

Answer Key

1. **March 6**
2. **March 20th,**
3. **Scardae**
4. **4500 BCE**
5. **Coca Cola**
6. **Telephone**



Major Turnout for CAA at Montalvo Arts Center in Saratoga, CA.

Saturday, March 7th, 2026, starting at 8:30 AM, various students within College of Adaptive Arts(CAA) showcased their singing in a choir performance at Montalvo Arts Center. The purpose of the event was to spread the word to early and secondary education teachers about what students with learning differences can do and how art has influenced their learning. The CAA Choir, led by Sharon Lea, opened the day with a joyful performance of the well-loved song from Mary Poppins, "Let's Go Fly a Kite." Audience members then enjoyed the CAA school song, "Just Believe," written by our talented Dr. Pamela Lindsay. The choir sang with pride that perfectly demonstrated the power of art in education to the educators in attendance.

Then at 10 AM, Carriage Hall within The Montalvo Arts Center was filled with educators, students, staff, and caregivers. As the lights dimmed throughout the audience, educational outreach personnel within the Montalvo Arts Center, Cynthia Taylor, gave an educational keynote speech. In Taylor's speech, she explained the statistics as to how many students with Intellectual Developmental Disorders opt out of both high school and post-secondary school. In short, Taylor's speech highlighted the fact that those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as others with developmental differences, need a modified learning environment to achieve personal academic success.

After Taylor finished her speech, panelists who acted as spokespeople on behalf of CAA, Alison Kennedy, Emma Luong, and Curtis Kitaji, each gave individual speeches on behalf of CAA. All three students are Apprentices in the Workforce Development Program and have focused their studies on their artistic interests. Kitaji explained in his speech that after his Mother passed away in February 2024, CAA was a huge source of support and comfort. In Luong's speech, she mentioned how much her sister's support meant to her during high school. Kennedy emphasized in her speech the benefits of avoiding academic dismissal.

The event ended with the panelists all answering questions individually about their experiences at CAA. All three Apprentices provided valuable insight and perspective on topics such as belonging, arts in the classroom, and what they liked and did not like about their early years in education. Surely the educators in attendance left with a better understanding of how to support students with disabilities.

If you or someone you know would like to become a prospective student within CAA, please go here to take a tour. Tours are online and in person every Friday. Information can be found at this link: <https://www.collegeofadaptivearts.org/tour-landing-page>



The Cardinal Times Editorial and Photography Team

Alison Kennedy, Editor and Writer



Hi, my name is Alison Kennedy. Not only am I a journalist and the editor of The Cardinal Times for the College of Adaptive Arts, but I am also a writer at heart since writing is one of my favorite hobbies. I hold a degree from San Jose City College in journalism. My love for journalism comes from my love to meet and talking to people. As someone who loves to write and to meet people, my vision for the school newsletter would be for more people to get to know each other.

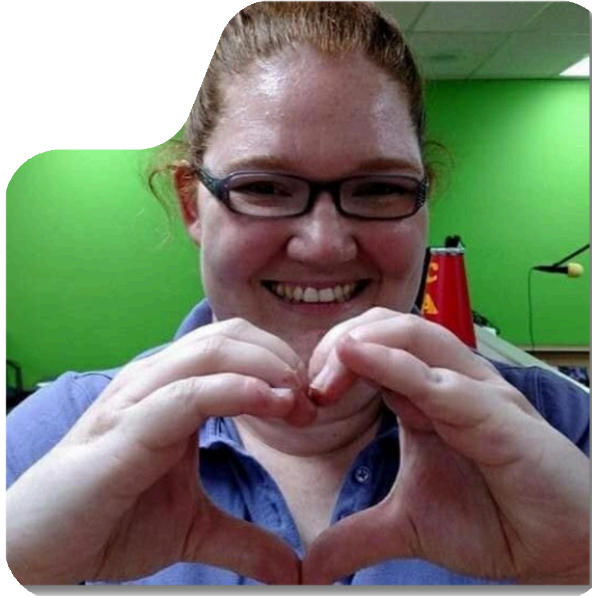
Robert Tafoya, Photographer



My name is Robert Tafoya. Photography is something I like to do a lot. It makes me happy. I like to take my time. My mind thinks about good backgrounds, not blurry ones. I have liked taking pictures for a long time. I like electronics like my iPad. I enjoy taking pictures of my church, Terry, friends, and family. I would like to have a career in taking pictures for the June youth conference (Northern Valley Baptist Church).



Danie Weaver A Fallen Cardinal Never Forgotten



On Monday, February 9th, a very important staff member of the College of Adaptive Arts (CAA) entered heaven. Danie Weaver was the Director of the Communications Department, an English Language Arts Instructor, and most importantly, a friend to everyone who met her.

Weaver joined the CAA family from the sidelines while watching her sister Danae participate as a student. Back in 2009, Weaver spent her first wedding anniversary in the hospital, ill with cancer. Once Weaver was better, she advocated for herself to DeAnna Pursai, the CEO and Co-founder and Director of donor Development and Community Outreach at College of Adaptive Arts, stating that she had a Bachelor's degree in English. Could she ever teach English with modifications to those with intellectual development differences? Pursai agreed.

In the years to come, Weaver helped out in every way that she could. Weaver taught poetry, reading partners, and graphic novels to students who signed up for her classes. Several lounge nights were put together because of her. Weaver founded the yearly Communications Showcase, which allowed students to showcase their reading, writing, or acting skills to a live audience.

Everyone knew they were safe if they saw Danie working with students during lunch on-site. Weaver was no stranger to getting up early. On many occasions, Weaver was the first person on-site to check people in. Weaver was often the first person on-site and the last person to go home.

IN MEMORY OF DANIELLE WEAVER, MANAGER, PROGRAM STAFF SUPERVISION & SCHEDULING