

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 14

MARCH / APRIL 2017

## MUSD Celebrates Black History Month



MHS Alum and Disney Animator Ron Husband, stands in front of artwork displayed at Monrovia High School before speaking to students during Black History Month Assembly

Mr. Ron Husband's speech covered by NBC News. NBC News reporter, Toni Guinyard; student, Sherkia Ewing; MHS Asst. Principal, Felicia Limbrick; and MUSD Board Vice-President, Terrence G. Williams.

By Dr. Katherine Thorossian, Superintendent

Since the early part of the 20th century, February has been designated as Black History Month. This is not because the role of African Americans in shaping this country's history shouldn't be lauded throughout the year but because, at least in a month that includes Frederick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays, we shine a spotlight on both the darkest and brightest moments of our history.

This year, the Monrovia Unified School District, in partnership with the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association, will share highlights from our history through story telling. Whether reading to elementary school students, watching movies at the middle school, or listening to personal accounts at the high school, students will discover the universal struggles between love and hate or despair and hope that resonate beyond the color of your skin. In the

words of James Baldwin, "It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive."

The highlight of this year's activities is the inclusion of Ron Husband, the first African-American animator at Disney and a Monrovia High School graduate. Our older students will have the opportunity to meet and learn from Mr. Husband. Our younger students will be treated to the award-winning book he illustrated, *Steamboat School*. The book is based on the life of Reverend John Berry Meachum, who circumvented the law in 1847 which made schools for "negroes or mulattoes" illegal.

Our hope for our students is that, with a thorough understanding of our history, when facing the darkness in their own world, they will remember Reverend John's instruction: "We make our own light here."

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**School News**   
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 www.schoolnewsrollcall.com  
**Covering the  
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**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
 562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com  
**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
 562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063  
**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:** Katie Caress  
**COPY EDITORS:**  
 Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia  
**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:**  
 Netragrednik by Neta Madison



**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
 P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
 562/493-3193  
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This is our third year publishing the excellence from the Monrovia Unified School District. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read about the Humanities Academy, students learning about the production of milk by the Dairy Council, PAWS Patrol, and much more.

Our Word Search Contest is on page 6 and open to all ages to enter. You will also enjoy student book reviews on pages 6 and 7.

Our next issue is May 10.

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# Bradoaks *Elementary*

930 East Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2100 • <http://bradoaks.monroviaschools.net>



**Aimee Dyrek**  
*Principal*

## The Cutest Little Pig

The second annual “Kiss the Pig” contest returned to Bradoaks! Teachers volunteered to pucker up to our neighborhood

mini pig, Hamilton, to help raise money for student incentives. This event was a huge success for our school community.

Bradoaks continues to drive home the message that our students are ROARing Readers and future leaders. The Readathon recently came to Bradoaks, and our students made a strong commitment to reading. Our Bobcats’ reading was tracked and celebrated.

During the Readathon, several special events took place. There was Read Quest Day, Dr. Seuss’s Birthday, and Literacy Lunch with Loved Ones. The children dressed up in costumes to celebrate their favorite book characters, while others got cozy and read the day away in pajamas.

Bradoaks is a learning community, and learning is top priority for both our teachers and students. Our teachers also continued their professional development by further studying growth mindset, small-group guided reading, and writing strategies.



# Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park/ Monrovia Community Adult

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • [www.MonroviaSchools.net](http://www.MonroviaSchools.net)



**Flint Fertig**  
*Principal*

## Guest Speaker Builds Vision

*By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal*

The Alternative Schools started the New Year off by personifying their motto, “Enter to learn. Go forth to earn.” In January, MCAS construction teacher Harry Terrill invited guest speaker Greg Smith of Superior Wall Systems to address our students and parents at the Monrovia Community Adult School.

Smith shared with us the wide array of opportunities that are available in the local construction and engineering industry. He told us about the commercial real estate trends coming to the Southland ignited by professional football teams, a new NFL stadium, and the possibility of hosting the 2024 Olympics Games.



Smith also revealed that the interest of foreign investors in our real estate market would create infinite opportunities for the students in our construction and engineering pathway. He explained the benefits of being a part of the labor union, and serving as an apprentice at a young age. With these fresh new insight on the industry, our students truly learned about their potential earning power.

# Canyon Early Learning Center

1000 South Canyon Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2001 • <http://celc.monroviaschools.net>



**Mariana Sanchez**  
*Director*

## A Busy Spring

During the month of February, the children at Canyon Early Learning Center explored family, friendships, and community. They enjoyed reading books such as *The Way I Feel*, by Janan Cain; *Sweet Hearts*, by Jan Carr; and *Te Adoro*, by Lisa Mc Court. Classroom discussions centered on what it means to be a friend, showing kindness, and family.

In their classrooms, the children explored the post office by writing, posting, and mailing letters to their friends. In addition, the children wrote letters to their parents about what family and love means to them, which provided the added surprise of receiving their letters at home in the mail.

Color mixing was also a fun math and science lesson. The children made predictions, charted responses, and discovered what happens when you mix two colors together. They used red, pink, and white hearts to create patterns, classify, sort, and work on one-to-one correspondence and simple math equations. Now red, pink, and white colors adorn the classrooms.

# Clifton *Middle School*

226 South Ivy Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2600 • <http://clifton.monroviaschools.net>



**Dr. Jennifer Jackson**  
*Principal*

## A School to Watch!

Clifton Middle School has been named a National 2017 Schools to Watch School by the California Schools to Watch—Taking Center Stage Program partnership, State Department of Education and a group of education partners dedicated to promoting excellence by evaluating each middle school on academics, developmental responsiveness, social equity and organizational structures and processes. This prestigious honor is a testament to the hardworking and passionate educators that choose to come to Clifton every day to make a major impact on the lives of students.

This journey to Schools to Watch has allowed the staff to prioritize areas of need and develop appropriate supports while maintaining excellent programs that result in improved student achievement. While no one program or support mechanism holds the key to student success, it is a combination of factors that have allowed us to grow as a school community.

“Everyone at Clifton has worked really hard to ensure every student has a strategic educational plan that is tailored to their unique learning abilities and skills,” Clifton Middle School principal Jennifer Jackson said. “We look forward to growing our curriculum even more so we can continue to be an inspiring model for other middle schools.”

Clifton’s administrative team and four teachers will travel to Sacramento at the end of February to accept the award on behalf of California and to Washington, D.C., in June on behalf of the United States.

# Mayflower *Elementary*

210 North Mayflower Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2200 • <http://mayflower.monroviaschools.net>



**Dr. Tamar Kataroyan**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating 365!

Mayflower Elementary School has a rich history of providing world-class educational experiences to meet the unique needs of all of our students. Our staff takes pride in helping our students reach their full potential by providing quality instruction and a safe and nurturing environment in which to learn. We take pride in providing a variety of opportunities to support our students' educational needs.

As we continue our journey with Code to the Future, our teachers recently received a full-day of rigorous professional development to prepare them for the second trimester coding curriculum. We are extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to provide our students with computer science and coding embedded in their daily schedules.

Each month, we celebrate our Mariner Climber students for making positive growth in academics, attendance, and behavior. On January 30, we recognized 58 students for their positive growth. Our goal is to inspire and motivate all of our students to strive for their best each day as they make positive progress in all areas of their lives.

On January 24, we hosted the Power of One assembly, which focused on anti-bullying and teaching our students the steps of responding appropriately to this behavior. In addition, our student council and the Renaissance and Peace Patrol leadership teams organized a school-wide kindness campaign, where each day specifically outlined a celebration of gratitude.

We appreciate our extremely supportive PTA, parents, and community, who have all been a vital part of the many successes we have celebrated. Our Mariners continue to strive and give us many reasons to Celebrate 365!

# Monrovia *High School*

845 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2800 • <http://mhs.monroviaschools.net>



**Kirk McGinnis**  
*Principal*

## New Humanities Academy

Monrovia High School, Home to Scholars and Champions, continues to prepare students for the college and career of their choice with signature programs that not only challenge our students but also prepare them with the skills needed to be successful. In addition to the signature new programs for the 2017–18 school year, such as Early College Cohort and the Information Technology Pathway, Monrovia High School will be beginning a Humanities Academy.

The Humanities Academy will be a complement to the Math and Science Academy, which has been recognized with a Golden Bell and the coveted Gold Ribbon Award, by offering academic enrichment and rigor for students who have a passion for English, social science and the arts. Students wishing to join the Humanities Academy are asked to complete an application, meet minimum requirements, and make the commitment to complete the academy requirements. In addition to the established graduation requirements, students will need to complete four Advanced Placement (AP) courses, 10 hours of community service each year and a rigorous junior project. Humanities Academy graduates will be signified with honor cords at the graduation ceremony and will have a seal on their diploma and special recognition in the graduation program. Students in the Math and Science Academy in the past years have accomplished a 100 percent acceptance rate to a four-year university, and they expect the same results with students in the Humanities Academy.

Monrovia High School continues to strive to provide quality programs for students to prepare for the college and career of their dreams.

# Monroe *Elementary*

402 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2300 • <http://monroe.monroviaschools.net>



**Dr. Lily Jarvis**  
*Principal*

## 100 Days Smarter

The academic year is 180 days long. In February, our Monroe students, teachers, and staff members celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing up like their 100-year-old selves! This school-wide celebration provided an opportunity

for us to stop and reflect upon all of the progress that our students have made over the year.

Ahead of us are the final 80 days of school. Our teachers and staff have developed a bold, strategic plan called "The 80 Day Challenge," which at its core will maintain high academic standards and place the social and emotional development of children at a premium. We will also be continuing our focus on reading comprehension.

On the playground, Monroe has implemented PAWS Patrol, a Peace Builder program that empowers students with conflict resolution and peer mediation strategies. We are confident that these and other school initiatives will enable our Mighty Monroe Lions to pounce on the final 80 days of school!



# Plymouth *Elementary*

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • <http://plymouth.monroviashools.net>



**Suzanne Heck**  
Principal

## Spring Kindergarten

At Monrovia Unified School District, we know the power of early education and the benefits it provides young learners. As part of our ongoing mission to serve the entire community of Monrovia, Plymouth elementary

will be providing our first ever spring kindergarten enrollment opportunity. Every child needs a safe and secure environment if we want them to learn, and our new spring kindergarten will provide your young learner with an exciting, age-appropriate, safe environment to play, learn and grow.

At Plymouth, we provide all students with the tools they need to be deep readers and detailed writers. We also have the Code to the Future computer science program and Dual Language Immersion Mandarin program if you or other loved ones are interested.



# Wild Rose *Elementary*

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • <http://wildrose.monroviashools.net>



**Dr. Leslie Rapkine-Miller**  
Principal

## Cheers and Moos

There's so much to cheer at Wild Rose Elementary School (WRE)! In December, all WRE students participated in the holiday show. Classes regaled audiences with traditional and new holiday tunes. Our drama club, directed by Sarah Torres, the WRE office manager, and Allyson Ramirez, one of our second-grade teachers, presented an original play called "The Lost Elf," which was written by a Wild Rose community member. Our young actors performed to three full-house crowds.

Did I hear a cow go "mooo?" Yes! Thank you to the Dairy Council, which continues to support students with learning about the production of milk. This wonderful assembly allowed students to experience firsthand the job of caring for cattle and getting milk from farm to table. Local farmer Louis Batista led the student discussion. He even introduced our students to a 20-day-old calf named Teacup. Students had the opportunity to pet the calf and talk with Farmer Batista. It was a very MOOOVING experience!



# Santa Fe *Middle School*

148 West Duarte Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2700 • <http://santafe.monroviashools.net>



**Penny Fraumeni**  
Interim Principal

## Recharging for the New Year and Beyond!

We are all motivated to insure that our school is safe and that we strive for high student achievement leading to College and Career and Beyond. Our Leadership Team is strong and came up with a great slogan for all of us which is "Excellence, Honor, and Cougar Pride," which we all will tell the world that this is what we stand up for here on our campus! I am excited to be here and learning about our school very quickly!

# School News



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## An Enjoyable Read

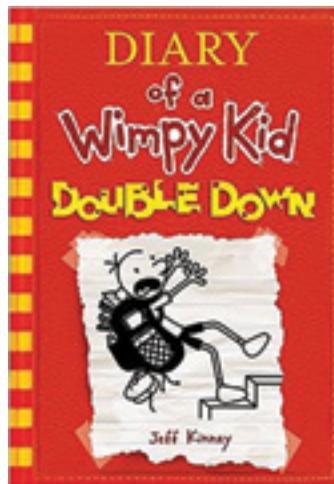


Courtney M.

The book I read was *Double Down*, and I enjoyed the book! Greg's class did a balloon experiment where they wrote a letter and tied it to a balloon, and then they released them. Greg's got the farthest of them all in the class. But it was also close to Halloween, so the reward for the balloon experiment was a huge jar of candy corn, so Greg had to win the jar of candy corn.

Later that night, Greg and Rowley made their costume. It was a two-headed monster. The next night was the big Halloween party that everybody goes to. Continuing on, tonight was the big Halloween party, so Greg and Rowley got ready for the party. His mom loves to embarrass Greg, so she brought some family fun homemade games from a magazine, and everyone ended up loving the party games!

By the way, I rate this book 5!



Courtney likes to play Softball, Football, and ride her bike. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

## Will the Cave People's Plan Work?

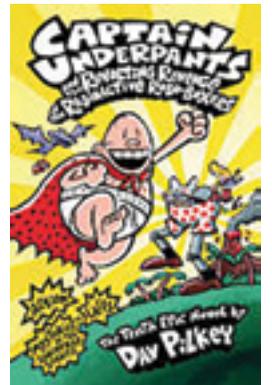


Michael H.

*Captain Underpants and the Revolting Revenge of The Radioactive Robo-Boxers* by Dav Pilkey.

Tippy Tinkletrouser had destroyed the world. Tippy made sure that George and Harold had never turned Mr. Krupp into Captain Underpants. But Tippy decided it was a mistake, so he went back in time to fix everything and destroy Captain Underpants. Tippy met up with George, Harold, and Mr. Krupp. He had a time machine, so he took them to the dinosaur age where he detonated a bomb, that had blasted all of them to the middle of the ocean. Then right before they sunk Tippy set his time machine to go back to the time of the cavemen. Then he figured out Captain Underpants weakness, water! So he trapped Mr. Krupp under a waterfall. Then Tippy found George and Harold. He was about to squeeze them to death, but they came across cavemen. Unfortunately for Tippy, they escaped. Then George and Harold made a comic book on the rock walls to make the cave people unafraid of Tippy. Then the cave people made a plan to stop Tippy. Will the cave people's plan to stop Tippy work? Will Captain Underpants be destroyed?

I give this book 5 \*\*\*\*\*. This book was exciting and funny and I think everyone will enjoy reading it



Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

# Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Monrovia in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |            |             |         |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| BALALAIKA  | GUITAR      | SITAR   |
| BANJO      | HARPSICHORD | UKULELE |
| BASS VIOL  | LUTE        | VIOLA   |
| CELLO      | LYRE        | VIOLIN  |
| CLAVICHORD | MANDOLIN    | ZITHER  |
| CONTRABASS | ORGAN       |         |
| DULCIMER   | PIANO       |         |

Congratulations to **Gabriel Benoit**  
Winner of the January Contest!



## Richard's Book Review

### Fun Campy Story

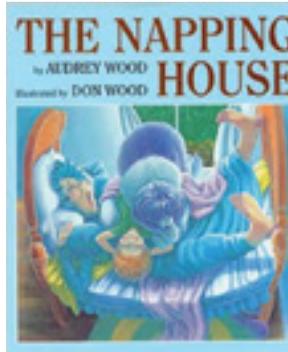


Richard J.

*The Napping House*

By Audrey Wood

The characters of the rhyming story of *The Napping House* are the Granny, the Child, the Dog, the Cat, the Mouse and the Flea. One rainy, lazy day all the people and animals in the house climb into grandma's bed and fall asleep, one after another, stacked on top of each other. Then, while everybody is fast asleep, one character — the Wakeful Flea ends up rudely waking everybody up! It bites the Mouse, who scares the Cat, who claws the Dog, who thumps the Child, who bumps the Granny, who breaks the bed, so that nobody is sleeping or napping in the Napping House anymore! The style of this story is similar to the rhyming story of *The House That Jack Built*. I liked this campy story and with its many pictures on every page by Don Wood. It is a fun, colorful and easy book to read.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

## Lucy's Book Review

### The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up



Lucy Davis

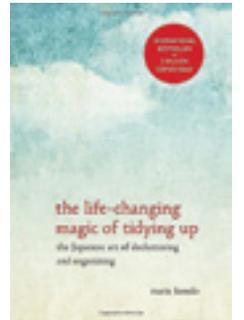
Author: Marie Kondo

Imagine a life that is simple and uncluttered. In wake of the ever-popular minimalist movement, I read a book that inspired me tremendously. This eye opening book explains how to purge the unnecessary, and how it can affect your life. She covers every area of thought (and maybe more!) from how to decide what to keep, to understanding what it means to be a minimalist.

In just 224 pages, Marie explains how to take the first few steps in creating that lifestyle.

We live in a world with too much stuff. You only need what makes you happy, like Marie often says. It's time to start living clean, my friends!

I really loved this book, because it explains one of the simplest things in life: how to live simply. With five out of five bookworms, you should really give it a read.



Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

## Sophie's Choice

### The Magic Adventure

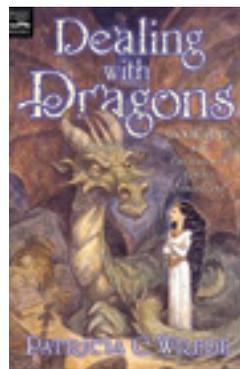


Sophie O.

*Dealing with Dragons*, by Patricia Wrede, is an adventure about a princess named Cimorene. But Cimorene wasn't a typical princess. She didn't want fancy things and girliness. Instead, she wanted adventure and the chance to make her own decisions.

Cimorene's parents wanted her to marry a prince, so they tried to trick her into a marriage, but one of the maids helped Cimorene escape to the garden. There she met a talking frog, who invited her to the Enchanted Forest. The forest was filled with caves and dragons, including Kazul, a kind dragon who asked Cimorene to become a dragon princess. Being a dragon princess gave Cimorene the freedom she wanted. She even got to scare off the wizards and fight off the knights who tried to rescue her!

I would give this book 8 out of 10 stars because there was so much adventure and so many cliffhangers!



Sophie is a 4th grader who is a lover of all books, loves to bake, act, draw, sew and play soccer.

## Alana's Book Review

### Great Plot and Character Development

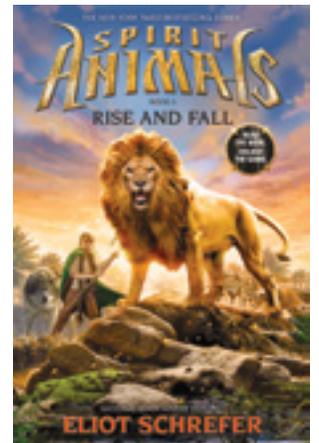


Alana F.

By: Eliot Schrefer

In this volume of the Spirit Animals series, Conor, Rollan, and Tarik travel across Nilo to retrieve the Golden Lion of Cabaro, their greatest challenge yet. But without the comfort of Meilin and Abeke, can they succeed? Meanwhile, the girls are held hostage by the Conquerors, and Meilin struggles with her feelings of depression. Even though Meilin and Abeke found some comfort in a new ally, their struggle seems to never cease. Without each other at their sides, can the divided team members find a way to meet their goal?

I would give this book five stars because the plot and character development is astounding, and the ending really tugged on my heartstrings. This book reminded me of just how much I love to read, and it was nice to get a gentle reminder of when I was younger and more carefree.



Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

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## Then We Read to Learn



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