

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 15

MAY 2017

## Wonder and Joy

By Dr. Katherine Thorossian  
Superintendent

The close of another school year conjures thoughts of summer fun—especially after having worked hard and having accomplished so much.

Our students, schools, and district garnered additional awards for innovative programs and improved levels of achievement. The leadership program established at Wild Rose Elementary School a dozen years ago by head custodian Ray Alarcon led to our 19th Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association. As a result of significant student achievement increases, Mayflower Elementary School and Monrovia High School (MHS) were again named Honor Roll Schools by the Campaign for Business and Educational Excellence. It is no wonder the MHS graduation rate is at



an all-time high of 97.6 percent. Clifton Middle School was selected as a School to Watch, arguably the highest honor any middle school can be awarded, at both the state and national levels. Our robotics programs competed strongly, with those of Clifton and MHS earning spots in international competitions. Indeed, Clifton's last competition was held in the Netherlands.

The broad list of accolades also resulted in not only media attention, but the notice of our governmental representatives. Assemblyman Holden was so impressed by our adult school that he had a crew come out to create a short

video clip highlighting what we offer. Senator Anthony Portantino was so impressed by our after-school Village Program that he came to visit and learn more about our program in order to advocate for additional funding at the state level for these types of programs.

So, as we look toward summer, we hope everyone takes some time to relax and renew. It is a time to seek new adventures that will enrich our hearts and replenish our spirits. We will continue planning for new programs and refining of existing ones to better serve the needs of every student. We hope each of you finds such opportunities as well. While we may not all make it to faraway places, we can find interesting experiences within the spine of a great book or in learning a new skill. Whichever form your adventure takes, on behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to wish you a summer of wonder and joy.

### Why is Dr. Jarvis Duct-Taped to a Wall?



Please see Monroe Elementary page 05.

By Flint Fertig, Principal  
Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park/  
Monrovia Community Adult

Canyon Oaks High School has been named a 2017 Model Continuation High School by the state for its high percentage of graduates accepted into four-year universities, rising test scores and culture of preparing at-risk youth for college and career.

The state honored 35 continuation high schools with the distinction in 2017 for the comprehensive services they

## Model Continuation High School

provide at-risk youth through instructional strategies, flexible scheduling, guidance and counseling.

Canyon Oaks' college and career preparedness model keeps students thinking about their future through pathways that include automotive technology, health sciences, fine arts and video production, and construction and engineering. Through pathways, students delve deeper into various career fields by taking field trips to local businesses, conducting theater productions and touring science laboratories.

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## Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



**Aimee Dyrek**  
Principal

### Award-Winning Programs

Bradoaks Elementary School has been recognized as a California Department of Education Distinguished School Award—not once, but twice! Bradoaks is a Gold Ribbon School and a Cotsen School as well.

Bradoaks is known for its strong community involvement and caring staff. Bradoaks students are constantly celebrated for their strong work ethic academically and behaviorally. The school community gathers together every other Wednesday on the school's front lawn for a flag ceremony, where students and staff are recognized for their contributions to the school. Honor pins are handed out to students who have displayed high standards of citizenship and effort.

Rapport building with students and families is essential to student success. At Bradoaks it is said that the way to a child's head is through his or her heart.

Recently, the students of Bradoaks participated in the Monrovia Elementary Olympics. The fun day was full of races, field events, and fitness and athletic showcases. Students and families enjoyed a warm, wonderful day as part of the Monrovia Unified School District family.

Our third, fourth, and fifth-grade students are currently preparing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessment. Students will be taking this assessment, which is aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics, in May. At Bradoaks, teachers frequently utilize multiple sources of data to drive instruction and gauge student learning.

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

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



**Flint Fertig**  
Principal

**Model Continuation High School**  
(please see the front page for our article)



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



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.

Be sure to enter our Word Search on page 6. We have student book reviews on page 7 to help you make choices for your summer reading. Be sure to include the library among your summer activities.

Our next issue is September 13 just in time to welcome a new school year.

Have a wonderful summer!



**Mariana Sanchez**  
Director

### Celebrating with Fun Activities

CELIC celebrated Week of the Young Child, April 24-28 as part of the national Week of the Young Child™ celebrated across the country sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Week of the Young Child is an opportunity to honor young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives.

Canyon Cubs took part in fun activities starting with:

**Music Monday** -Through music children develop math, language, and literacy skills while being active and having fun.

**Tasty Tuesday** – Encourages healthy eating and cooking together supports the development of math, literacy, science, and more.

**Work together Wednesday** - When children build together they explore math and science concepts and develop their social and critical thinking skills.

**Artsy Thursday** – Children develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills when they are engaged in open-ended art activities that promote choice, using their imagination and hands-on creativity.

**Family Friday** Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. Families! NAEYC and CELIC applauds you as your child's first and most important teachers.

**Congratulations Class of 2017!**

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Covering the  
**MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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ADVERTISING SALES:

562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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## Clifton *Middle School*

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



**Dr. Jennifer Jackson**  
Principal

### AVID Program

Clifton is a proud AVID school, offering an elective class for both seventh- and eighth-grade students. For more than 25 years, AVID has been instrumental in preparing students for success in higher education. The AVID elective class supports students as they challenge themselves in more rigorous classes. Students are taught study skills, note taking, time management, and writing and research skills while being immersed in a college-going culture. The class also includes tutoring sessions that are led by college students and provide support for success in the academically rigorous curriculum.

Additionally, the AVID class provides access to information about colleges and universities through field trips, guest speakers and college tutors. Being accepted into the class requires students to go through an application and an interview process. Ms. Smith serves as Clifton's AVID coordinator, and Mrs. DuRose and Mr. Gooler are the AVID teachers.



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## Mayflower *Elementary*

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**Dr. Tamar Kataroyan**  
Principal

### Camp Pali & Book Report Record

Seventy-five Mayflower fifth-graders took off on the school's first Pali Adventures Summer Camp expedition on March 15! The Mayflower team, parents and the Monrovia community worked tirelessly to raise more than \$20,000 to send the students on the trip. At Camp Pali, students learned about science through various outdoor activities including day hikes, building shelters and searching for edible food in the forest.

In celebration of Mayflower students' record of 2,354 book reports in only two weeks, I kept her promise to work from the roof of the school! After bumping up the minimum book report target from 1,500 to 2,000 book reports, Mariners had no problem exceeding that goal and partying during lunch time.



## Monroe *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Lily Jarvis**  
Principal

### Mighty Jog-a-thon Success

On March 15, our Mighty Lions jogged around the field and collected color-coded Popsicle sticks at our yearly Jog-a-thon fund-raising event!

As a means of galvanizing enthusiasm, and gathering donations towards our \$15,000 fund-raising goal, the Monroe PTA planned a host of spirited incentives. This included Facial Hair Day, Dance Party Recess, Dr. Jarvis Wears a Crazy Costume to School Day, Dr. Jarvis Duct-Taped to a Wall Day, and Bouncy House Day.

The thoughtfulness of our Monroe PTA volunteers, the exciting incentives, and the related web-based fund raising program all contributed to the success of this event. Our Mighty Lions raised over \$20,000, which significantly surpassed the figures from previous years. The funds from this event will help to support educational programs here at Monroe.

On behalf of our students, a special thanks goes to the outgoing PTA Board members. We also wish a warm welcome to the new PTA Board. Thank you!

## Santa Fe *Middle School*

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



**Penny Fraumeni**  
Interim Principal

### Spring is in the Air

Santa Fe Middle School is on "fire" right now getting ready for our Spring activities! We are busy and committed to getting ready for SBAC testing in every classroom by focusing on Vocabulary, Constructed Response, and Performance Tasks. We are also preparing for a very spectacular Open House which is coming on May 25 with the theme this year of "Space". We are also thrilled to have been selected as a Code to the Future school for next year with all of our Science classes becoming coding learning centers! Come see us sometime, you will love what you see!

## Plymouth *Elementary*

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



**Suzanne Heck**  
Principal

### Awesome is the New Normal

Monrovia's Plymouth Elementary provides students with STEAM opportunities with its innovative Code to the Future program. Code to the Future is integrated into all classrooms from transitional kindergarten through fifth grade.

On March 28th, students in grades TK - 5 had an "Epic Build" event. Students showed off their amazing robotics projects for parents and the community. Students in grades TK.K and 1st grade used analog legos, meanwhile, in grades 2 - 5, students build rovers using Lego "We do kits" and EV3 kits.

This program is open to any student in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond, and registration will run through the end of summer.

Call Plymouth to check out Code to the Future, Dual Language Mandarin or Spring kindergarten programs, at [626-471-2400](tel:626-471-2400) or contact Principal Suzanne Heck at [Sheck@monroviashools.net](mailto:Sheck@monroviashools.net).



## Monrovia *High School*

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



**Kirk McGinnis**  
Principal

### Newcomers and Champions

On March 7, Monrovia High School (MHS) welcomed about 400 Monrovia Unified eighth-graders and 600 parents for the inaugural eighth-grade showcase, where future freshmen learned about opportunities awaiting them in August. Throughout the night, students and their parents learned about the high school's diverse programs, including robotics, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Renaissance leadership, drama, band, cheer and more.

The event also highlighted Monrovia High's four major programs. The Math and Science Academy (MASA) has immersed students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields for nine years, while the Humanities Academy, Information Technology Academy, and Early College program are additions for the Class of 2020.



I want to congratulate the Suitbots and Droidnoughts of MHS, who advanced to the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) World Championships in Houston, after participating in the Los Angeles Regional Championships in February. Both teams are currently raising funds for their trips. To support the Suitbots and Droidnoughts, visit <http://bit.ly/2mJ3CFQ>.



**Dr. Leslie Rapkine-Miller**  
Principal

**Magnificent Founders Day!**

I am so proud to share the latest news! In February, Wild Rose Elementary celebrated a magnificent PTA Founders Day. President Olivia Nelson and our PTA Board worked tirelessly to honor the dedication and service of our community to our school.

Teachers, parents and local business partners were recipients of the Honorary Service Awards and Continuing Service Awards. The PTA recognized the service of retiring teachers Kathy Hogan and Damon Shay. Both Mrs. Hogan and Mr. Shay have had extensive careers at Wild Rose and in MUSD, having touched the lives of numerous students and their families.

Coordinating our literacy lunch and Founders Day ceremony was an opportunity for our PTA awardees to be cheered by both students and families at this special assembly. With the help of DJ Bree, the fun and festive atmosphere was a fantastic way to all share in the celebration of service to Wild Rose.



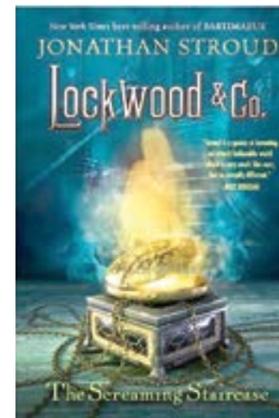
Book Review by Abbas

**A Creepy and Fun Read**



**Abbas D.**

*Lockwood & Co.* by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?



This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 5 smiley faces.

Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

Book Review By Katrina

**Captivating Read**



**Katrina D.**

*Born Wicked* by Jessica Spotswood is the first in a series about a trio of sisters named Cate, Maura and Tess. Living in a world where their roles in the world are rigidly controlled by a group known as the Brotherhood, the Cahill sisters must strive to stay under the radar of these



powerful men or risk being shipped off to asylums as witches. However, the fact they actually are witches puts them at a greater risk than anyone else. Eldest sister Cate takes up the role of leader for her motherless sisters, attempting to protect the three of them from being discovered. But when Cate comes of age to either marry or join the Sisterhood, what choices and sacrifices will she make? This book is absolutely captivating with a Salem Witch Trial feel to it and an enchanting plot. With a touch of romance and a dash of magic, this book is a must read for all YA lovers. This book was given 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her books from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

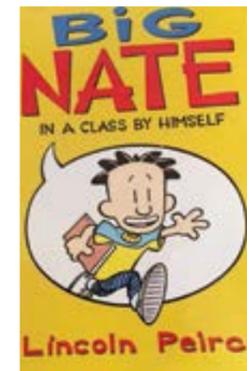
Michael's Book Review

**Big Nate In A Class All By Himself**



**Michael H.**

Nate knows he is destined for greatness. When a fortune cookie confirms that, he is very excited. The fortune reads "Today you will surpass all others." He soon learns that trouble seems to be following him everywhere. Instead of something good happening, bad things happen. He receives detention slips from all of his teachers. Confused by it all Nate tries to figure out, how it all went wrong.



Later he realizes that although he did have a really bad day, his fortune cookie was correct. He surpassed all others by establishing a new record. He was the first person to get 7 detention slips in one day! Nobody could believe it, but Nate was happy because his fortune came true.

I give this book 5 stars because it kept me interested the whole time. His adventure made me laugh and Nate didn't give up until he made his fortune come true. I may never want to come close to that record, but reading about it was fun.

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.

Christina's Book Review

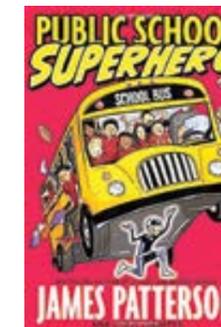
**Power of Determination**



**Christina J.**

*Public School Superhero* By James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts

The story is about a middle school student named Kenny Wright, who imagines being a powerful superhero named Stainlezz Steel. Kenny lives in a bad area that has gangs and drugs on the streets and he meets older students, trying to influence him into doing things that will get him into serious trouble. Kenny goes to an underfunded, overpopulated school run by bullies. Kenny is known at school as "Grandma's boy" and, while he is constantly a target for the 7th and 8th grade bullies, he must try to get through the school year without being peer-pressured into doing wrong things that his alter ego Stainlezz Steel would never, ever do. At one point Kenny meets a bully named Ray-Ray, whom he has to teach chess to. After a while Kenny sees that Ray-Ray is a normal person, living in a bad home environment, and starts to understand why he is so aggressive to everyone. Overall, the book is about a boy's determination to get through life with the best possible outcome, with a little bit of action comics mixed in. I liked the book and it's fun, quirky attitude, and it's deep emotional conflict that gives the story a deeper meaning. I give the book a 4 out of five stars, with 5 being the best..



Christina J. is a 7th grader. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself, in 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

**Swim 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)

**Word Search by Gunnar Coop**



Entries must be received by July 15, 2017  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Anchor     | Flippers   | Paddles    |
| Backstroke | Freestyle  | Pool       |
| Boards     | Goggles    | Pulleys    |
| Breathe    | Headcap    | Race       |
| Butterfly  | Kickboards | Relay      |
| Chlorine   | Kicking    | Strokes    |
| Diving     | Lane Lines | Surfacing  |
| Dolphin    | Medley     | Times      |
| Earplugs   | Meets      | Underwater |

**Congratulations to Haylee Booth**  
**Winner of the Month Word Search Contest!**





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