

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 16

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2017

Inspiring Meaningful Learning

*By Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent*

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! In this issue, you will have an opportunity to learn about the wonderful opportunities available at each of our Monrovia U.S.D. schools. While most of these have been in place and expanding for the last few years, some warrant the additional spotlight:

Introducing Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School! In partnership with Code to the Future, Santa Fe students will incorporate programming, computational thinking, and the use of algorithms to code projects that both enhance computer science skills and demonstrate learning in core subject matter.”

Monrovia High School has launched a robust Early College program in partnership with Citrus College. The program gives our high school students the opportunity to concurrently enroll in college courses that meet high school graduation requirements. 29 students in this year’s freshmen class at MHS began the year having completed one college course in the summer. At this rate, when this cohort graduates from high school, they will have completed two years of their college general education requirements – without paying college tuition.



21 of Monrovia Unified School District’s newest employees, welcomed at the annual New Employee Breakfast sponsored by the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce.

Also preparing students for life after high school is the new MHS Digital Media and Information Academy. This is a cross-curricular, multimedia and information technology academy geared toward industry-standard specifications and work-based learning, emphasizing the constant development of soft and productivity skills.

Clifton Middle School opens its newly classroom thanks to the Northrop Grumman Foundation’s Fab School Labs contest. This innovative classroom is outfitted it with the latest learning tools, curriculum and technologies, including a laser cutter and 3-D printer.

Neither these wonderful programs, nor the extraordinary student success we have been witnessing for the last few years, would be possible without the expert, caring staff of the Monrovia Unified School District. As we work together, we will ensure an exciting and rewarding year, challenging and inspiring students to meaningful learning in a positive and engaging environment.

It All Starts with Science for Wild Rose Elementary Students



Please see page 5 for story.

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*Gina loves helping families,
one dream home at a time.*



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another new school year. This is always an exciting time for students as they see old friends, make new friends, meet their teachers, find their way around the school and settle into a routine.

This is our 4th year publishing the excellence from the Monrovia Unified School District. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is November 8. In the meantime have a Happy Halloween!



School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

**Covering the
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison

@SchoolNewsRC

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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



Jayne Nickles
Principal

Roaring Readers, Future Leaders

A “Red Carpet” was rolled out for students at the beginning of the new school year at Bradoaks Elementary!

Our students were invited to actually walk a real red carpet as they first entered the campus. They were then greeted with music and words of encouragement from Interim Principal Penny Fraumeni, staff members, and our “Watch D.O.G.S.” New parents were also offered a special parent orientation (facilitated by our PTA) to immerse families in school procedures, learning culture, school-wide events, volunteer opportunities, and our many long-standing traditions.

The Bradoaks’ staff also conducted its annual “Meet Your Teacher” event the day before school began. The campus was buzzing with excitement and anticipation about the upcoming school year!

The Bradoaks’ staff have also been busy training and planning for the implementation of the district’s new English language arts curriculum called “California Journeys,” by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Additionally, Bradoaks continues to refine the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program called R.O.A.R. (Respect, On Task, Attitudes in Check, be Responsible). Bradoaks wishes all members of its community a wonderful and productive school year!

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Mariana Sanchez
Director

New Curricular Opportunities

The 2017–2018 school year is off to a wonderful start. The children have done an amazing job of adjusting to the school environment. As a school, we are very excited to be starting a new curriculum. This comprehensive, research-based curriculum provides opportunities for learning through exploration and discovery. The learning objectives provide for intentional planning based on indicators that are most predictive of future school success.

The curriculum aligns with the State of California Preschool Learning Foundations and Frameworks, which serve as a guide

for the knowledge and skills that children can achieve through intentional and thoughtful teacher interactions and instruction that promotes early learning and development.

The new curriculum provides opportunities for children to develop confidence, creativity, and critical-thinking skills through the exploration of hands-on investigations, which are designed to support current knowledge, encourage children to develop questions, and facilitate children working together to find answers to their questions.

Our classrooms are alive and bustling with activity from start to finish. Through their play and hands-on exploration, our children are engaged in the learning process and developing a lifelong love of 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

Not Resting on Our Laurels

By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal

In Ancient Greece, competitors who were victorious during the Pythian Games were awarded crowns of laurel wreaths for their achievements. Roman generals continued the tradition, presenting this sacred plant to heroic generals who oftentimes spent the rest of their lives basking in their past glories. Although our alternative schools earned several prestigious awards during the 2016–2017 school year (including California Model Continuation School), they refuse to adopt the practice of being complacent with their past achievements.

Last spring, Canyon Oaks High School, Mountain Park School, and the Monrovia Community Adult School were all granted six-year clear accreditations following validation visits from two committees assigned by

the Accreditation Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Both committees were pleased with the self-study reports, which included writing, data, input, and collaboration from all staff members and stakeholders. The experience, leadership, hard work, and dedication that these administrators, staff, and community members showcased leading up to the validation visits ultimately paved the way for these three school accreditations.

As we begin the 2017–2018 school year, there is no doubt that many challenges, barriers, and hurdles will inevitably present themselves. One can only expect that our staff at the alternative sites will continue to be gritty, determined, and methodical as they strive to improve the quality of instruction and prepare our students to be college and career ready.

The bar of expectations has been set high, but unlike the Greek and Roman empires, our staff at the alternative school sites will not rest on their laurels!

School News Roll Call
Welcomes You
Back to School!



Clifton *Middle School*

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



Dr. Jennifer Jackson
Principal

All Systems Go!

Clifton is proud to announce the launch of a brand-new STEM elective program. Teachers Paul Flores, Ashley Barron and Bob Drew are the creative team behind the new program, which places emphasis on innovation, creativity development and programming.

A sixth-grade elective wheel offering will be made available as well as a seventh/eighth-grade advanced offering. The sixth-grade elective will include a hands-on curriculum that engages and empowers students as innovators and entrepreneurs. The seventh/eighth-grade elective will include a hands-on experience incorporating math, computer science, robotics, innovation, and flight and aerospace engineering.

The newly renovated lab is the result of winning the Fab School lab contest sponsored by a national systems-technology corporation in 2016, which provided \$100,000 worth of support to build the program. Included in the lab will be access to 3-D printing, laser cutting and CAD software. The Clifton Cub community is very excited to offer these opportunities to our students.



Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michelle Costarella
Principal

SAILing to Success

It is with great pleasure that I greet you as the new principal of Mayflower Elementary School. I have been an educator for 22 years, proudly serving the Monrovia Unified School District. I have also been a part of the Mariner staff for many years, as a classroom and special education teacher, program advisor, instructional coach, and interim principal. I am passionate about education, and I love working with students, teachers, families, and the community. As Mayflower's administrator, I look forward to building relationships and working in collaboration with the greater school community to positively impact the development, growth, and achievement of our students.

The Mayflower Elementary School community is proud of the exemplary academic programs offered, which have resulted in outstanding academic achievement for our students. Mayflower is pleased to be a Code to the Future

school, providing all students with computer science immersion, targeting soft skills and critical thinking. Additionally, Mayflower is recognized by the California Department of Education as a Gold Ribbon School and a Title I Academic Achievement Award recipient. Mayflower also holds the distinction of being a two-time California Distinguished School.

The Mayflower school staff believes in working collaboratively with the entire school community, building a strong partnership between home and school. Together, we strive to build relationships, strengthen communication, and work to serve all students. The work of our supportive PTA exemplifies the commitment we all share to serve students through tireless fund-raising, committed campus beautification, and generous volunteer hours.

I welcome you to visit Mayflower. Come observe the visible learning in our classrooms and the dedication of our staff, where we encourage everyone to set SAIL every day! Strive to be your best! Attitude matters! Integrity always! Lead by example!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Eclipsing Academics

The opening of the 2017–2018 school year greeted our Mighty Lions as a once-in-a-lifetime galactic experience, one which will set the tone for the entire school year! Our students returned from summer break confident and secure that this year they will benefit from not just a world-class education, but that they will also be known and celebrated (and encouraged and valued) by the teachers and staff members at Monroe Elementary School.

We kick off the year with our sights set high! This year we are going to build a clear pathway to ensure that each of our students in the dual-immersion program will receive a “Seal of Biliteracy” at the end of their twelfth-grade year. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award that is given to students in recognition of their proficiency in two or more languages. Many Monroe Lions are well on their way to this achievement!

We welcome the exciting opportunities that this 2017–2018 school year will bring.



Monrovia *High School*

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Getting Personal!

This summer, MHS reinvented the student-registration process by creating individual family meetings with each counselor. The traditional day of registration, when students and parents wait in a long line to be processed, was shifted to a much more personal one-to-one meeting structure lasting over a four-week period. Each family was able to schedule a registration time slot that coordinated with their summer plans and was able to take the valuable time to discuss their children's progress. Counselor



meetings covered the student course selections, preparation for graduation, college readiness and any potential support that the family might need to reach their goals. Families then visited the Student Store and library to complete their visit.

Students and families overwhelmingly loved the new structure, and many stated that besides the fact that they did not have to stand in a long line, the power of meeting individually with their counselor was a tremendous benefit. MHS has a goal to connect students and families to the school, and this sure makes that reality possible!

Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Greg Gero
Principal

A Great Year

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the new principal at Plymouth Elementary School. As a Monrovia resident, and parent of two children who attend Monrovia schools, I know at first hand what an exceptional education our students receive, and I'm thrilled to build upon the success at Plymouth!

Plymouth Elementary is off to a fantastic start for the 2017-2018 school year. We have much to celebrate and look forward to. Our Mandarin dual-immersion program has continued to thrive and grow. Our inaugural class begins second grade this year as well, their third year in the dual-immersion program. Interest in this unique program continues to grow, and we are opening an entire class

of Transitional Kindergarten students (4-year-olds). We're so proud of our students and of the unimaginable benefits that they will receive as they prepare for college and career success in an increasingly global society.

We're also excited to expand our "Code to the Future" program, which will provide all of our students with explicit instruction in computer coding, technology, and robotics. In many ways coding is an invaluable language that will provide students with untold advantages in the future. This year they will have more opportunities to collaborate on different projects and make public presentations of their accomplishments.

We are looking forward to an amazing school year filled with learning, achieving, and fun. Go, Dragons!

Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Lots of Learning Opportunities!

Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School is on the move! We are a proud community of diverse, innovative and creative learners. Our partnership with Code to the Future is a transformational opportunity to empower our students with world-class 21st century learning that will create the next generation of leaders. Santa Fe continues to increase the amount of devices on campus to expand divergent learning opportunities.

The arrival of our new literacy curriculum, which employs a large online platform, will further strengthen our students' ability to collaborate, create, and communicate through various media forms. Santa Fe balances it's unique computer science focus with humanities and arts classes that include band, orchestra, art, drama, and stage design. Reading, writing, and thinking will always be at the core of what we do! #santafestandup #excellencehonorandcougarpride

Wild Rose *Elementary*

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



Dr. Leslie Miller
Principal

Starting with Science!

What a great way to start the school year for our Wild Rose students and families! With the historic solar eclipse happening the third day of school, Wild Rose wanted to mark the occasion. In partnership with the Monrovia Public Library, librarian Elizabeth Schneider read to our students. As an extra bonus, all 447 Wild Rose students worked with their teachers and school volunteers to make pinhole cameras that allowed students to safely view the shadow of the eclipse.

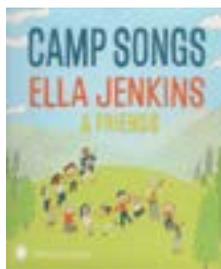
On the day of the solar eclipse, students and teachers gathered to share in the experience. How wonderful to listen to our students marvel at the process in hushed and reverent tones as the solar events unfolded right before their eyes! Over and over, students and adults alike exclaimed, "My camera really works!" Like the solar eclipse, I am sure that this will be a memorable day.

Camp Songs



Kate Karp

Camp songs are very dear to Ella Jenkins, the national children's-singalong treasure who at 93 is still performing. She cherished songs that her brother brought home from Boy Scouts and had always wanted to record a camp-song CD.



For this project, Jenkins assembled a literal band of brothers and sisters who have veritable campground DNA: Kate and Tony Seeger, nephew and niece of the legendary Pete Seeger, and Judy Seeger, the late folk singer's wife. A team of musicians, children, parents and teachers rounds out the rounds, spirituals, campfire singalongs, protest songs and just plain silliness.

Camp Songs opens with Jenkins's harmonica and the round of all rounds, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Following are 24 more familiar and yet-unheard numbers: "This Little Light of Mine," "Down in the Valley"; "Sipping Cider Through a Straw," and the hilarious but complicated round "One Bottle of Pop." On "The Hill Was Steep and Tall," Jenkins relates how she reluctantly signed up for a hike with some campers and then got hopelessly lost.

You may know that Woody Guthrie had written "This Land Is Your Land" as a protest song and might have wondered about it. One of the two sociopolitical verses not sung at school is included here—good fodder for a social studies lesson.

Our school districts provide numerous school-year camping opportunities and field trips, and there are scout gatherings and youth groups who are going to love these songs. Sing out!

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

A Hilarious Book

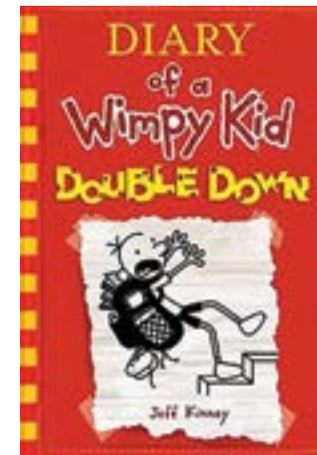


Michael H.

Greg's imagination is at it again. He talks about how he feels like his life is being filmed and people are watching his every move. He also talks about how his family is secretly a bunch of robots, and worries that what his mom said about his nana watching over him since she died is literally true. His mom thinks video games and TV are turning his brain into mush. She tells him to explore his "creative side."

This is all happening near Halloween and Greg feels like frights are coming his way from every direction. He joins the band. That would make his mom happy and he would be invited to the Halloween party. Going to the party he freaks out when he realizes his mom isn't just dropping him off she plans on staying. Will she embarrass Greg and ruin his whole plan?

I give this book 5 stars although it didn't have a main story line it was hilarious and can't wait to read the next one.



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.

Novelist 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 (Please put Monrovia in the subject line)

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

- | | | |
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Congratulations to **Christina**
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!



Alana's Book Review

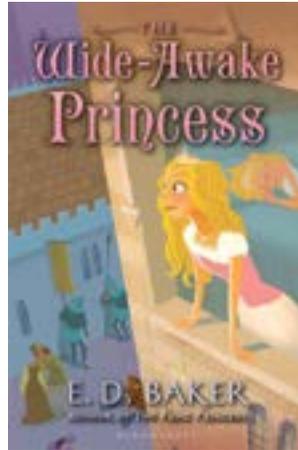
The Wide-Awake Princess



Alana F.

By: E.D. Baker

Long ago, in the kingdom of Treecrest, a baby princess was born, and was given many magical gifts. This little girl is known as Sleeping Beauty. So- as the stories say- when the evil fairy cast the famed curse on the newborn, her fairy godmother lessened it.



However, the royal family was so traumatized that they decided that their second daughter, Princess Annie, should be immune to all magic. Hence, when the sleeping curse fell upon her older sister, Annie was unaffected, and set off to find the one who could save the kingdom. Traveling far and wide, she battles things scarier than magic, like evil, fear, and stereotypes. But without any magical gifts, will she triumph?

I'd give this book eight out of eight triforme shards for it's cleverly hidden messages. It's also downright hilarious, and has had me laughing for hours.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd". When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 triforme shards with 8 being the highest

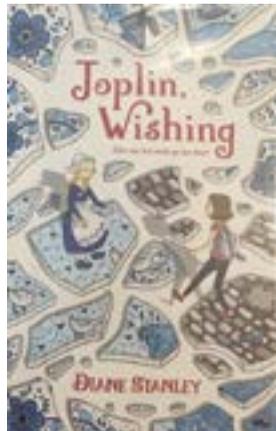
Keira's Book Nook

A Page Turner



Keira

Joplin, Wishing by Diane Stanley is an extraordinary page turner! It really makes you feel like you are there with the characters. This fantasy novel is about a 12 year old girl named Joplin who finds an antique platter with a picture of a girl at a pond and wishes she could be her friend. The next day Joplin sees a girl in the garden. When she goes to say



hello, she learns that the girl, Sofie, is new to the neighborhood. Curiously, when Joplin goes back to her room the girl in the platter is gone! When Joplin discovers everything Sofie has been through, she comes to the conclusion that she must help her. Later when Sofie meets Joplin's mom, they think they recognize each other which made me think, "Is there a story behind this?" You'll just have to read the book to find out! I give this book 5 out of 5 apples.

Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.



Book Review By Katrina

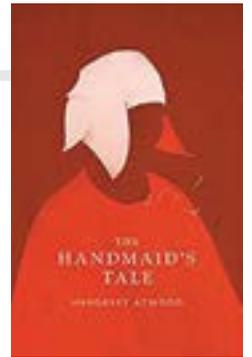
A Dystopian Story



Katrina D.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood is a dystopian story where women have lost all their rights. They are now considered objects and being bought, owned and sold is simply the way the world works. Women are divided into a hierarchy of Marthas, Handmaids, Wives and discards, with men raining supreme. Fertile women are ranked Handmaids, much like Offred who can easily remember the days before the totalitarian system, back when she'd lived

happily with her daughter. But now, living as a Handmaid to the Commander, she must stay alert. If she's caught trying to escape or find her daughter, nothing short of a traitor's death awaits her. Who can she trust, where can she go and, most importantly, what is she willing to do to survive and see her daughter again? A brilliant book, I recommend this book to everyone who enjoys dystopia books. This truly is a classic and I rate this book 5 out of 5 crescent moons.



Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

Lucy's Book Review

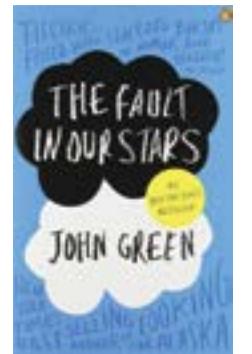
The Fault in Our Stars



Lucy Davis

By John Green

We all have a different definition of the word 'normal'. For Hazel Grace Lancaster, a sixteen-year-old girl with lung cancer, that means daily medicine, an oxygen tank named Philip, and the worst of all... Support Group... That is, before she meets



Augustus Waters: charming, funny, and frankly handsome (even if he only has one and a half legs due to cancer). Together, the pair goes through infinity. From broken trophies and hijacked wishes, to Not Letting Illness Get In The Way Of Ruining Life. (Because it can, if you let it. You just have to learn how not to.)

I really, really, love this book for so many reasons. It's honest, funny, and raw. John Green does a wonderful job of telling such a story. I will give you a warning: the book contains some adult language and situations. Also, you might need tissues. Five out of five bookworms that are well deserved!

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

Courtney's Book Review

Exciting Quest



Courtney M.

Sea of Monsters by Rick Riordan.

Exciting times with Percy Jackson as he goes on a quest to find the golden fleece, in hopes to save talia's tree that protects Camp half blood. Percy also wants to save his best friend Grover that is stuck with a giant Cyclops called Polyphemus. Grover is wearing a wedding dress and a fake eyeball to pretend to be a cyclop, so Polyphemus won't eat him. This book keeps you reading to find out what is going to happen next. Enjoy!

I would rate this book as a five star book.



Courtney likes to play softball, football, and volleyball. 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.

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