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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

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Test? What Test?



Dr. Katherine Thorossian

In 1997, second-through 11th-grade students in California began taking a battery of subject-area tests in English language arts, math, science, and social science to gauge student learning. Scores were

reported by student, by school, and by district—with multiple methods of disaggregation to help educators identify learning gaps and develop plans by which to fill them. This Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) program became a fixture in our school system and contributed to the annual Academic Performance Index (API), which measures school progress toward state performance targets. Student mastery levels (advance, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic) of the California Content Standards for each grade level in the four subjects were determined by cut scores developed by experts and approved by the state Board of Education.



In 2010, California adopted a new set of content standards in English and math. Based on necessary 21st-century skills and aimed at fostering college and career readiness in all students, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) have been implemented in all public schools within the state. New content necessitated the development of new assessments to measure student learning. The STAR program was retired, and a computer-based, adaptive test was developed. California's students piloted the test last year, though no results were distributed to either students or families.

This spring, Monrovia's third- through eighth-grade and 11th-grade students will again take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

(CAASPP). While cut scores have not been released and there has not been much information about how scores will be used, this year we will receive individual and aggregate scores. The questions students will be asked will be more challenging than in the past, commensurate with the more rigorous standards implemented within the state. Our scores will reflect the increase in complexity—an increase that we welcome. Monrovia Unified School District teachers have tirelessly been revising and refining their curricula to adhere to the CCSS and ensure that their students are not only prepared for spring testing but for the complex world where they will be forging their own paths.

Regardless of the formal feedback we receive about student performance, I am confident that, with careful analysis and spirited discussion, we will continue to increase student achievement levels from Transitional Kindergarten through adult education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

WATCH D.O.G.S. – Dads of Great Students

Board Member Terrence Williams states that WATCH Dads Of Great Students (WATCH D.O.G.S.) dads have been an integral connection to students and schools over the years. It is a great opportunity for the male figures of our students to contribute to the process at school, as evidenced by the testimonial below, given by Wild Rose Elementary School dad Tom Bogdon.

I am a proud dad of two children at Wild Rose Elementary School and Clifton Middle School. I became active at Wild Rose in 2008. I joined the PTA and began volunteering in the classroom. Soon after, I became aware of the WATCH D.O.G.S. program via Mrs. Dinorah Keith, the community liaison at Wild Rose. She asked if I would like to help host a kick-off event in order to introduce the program to parents at Wild Rose, and I accepted. Since that initial kick-off event, we have had an excellent response to the program.

After a short DVD overview presentation, we invite fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, and other significant males in our students' lives to volunteer one day on campus. Signees pick their dates from a big calendar we post at our kick-off event. They are then reminded by Mrs. Keith when their dates approach. Duties include assisting with the valet drop-off/pick-up lines, helping our custodial staff in maintaining a clean campus, or volunteering in the classroom itself. Volunteers choose the level of involvement with which they are feel most comfortable. The main goal of WATCH D.O.G.S. is to have a male presence on

campus. The sense of community at our school is strengthened when a dad, stepdad, granddad or other significant male is willing to spend a day with the students.

The program has had a great impact in my own life as well. Because of my involvement over the years, I feel a real kinship with the staff and students at our school, and I know I am helping to show my own children the value and benefit of serving their community.

For more information on WATCH D.O.G.S., visit <http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs/>.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As the last half of the year is quickly clicking by the students remain focused on testing and their academic goals. In this issue you will read about classroom activities, extra-curricular experiences and the importance of parent involvement.

Common Core Standards remain the topic on the minds of educators and parents. You will continue to read about the implementation of Common Core in the months to come.

Our next issue is May 13. Until then have a fun Spring Break!

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Monrovia *Community Adult School*

920 South Mountain Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3035 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



'One Stop' Center

One of the best kept secrets in our school district exists on the adult-education and alternative-schools campuses. What is this secret?

Did you know that the Monrovia Unified School District has an operating One Stop program here within the boundaries? We do, right here on the campuses of Monrovia Community Adult School and Canyon Oaks High School. Some of our readers might be asking exactly what a One Stop provides.

A One Stop is a center established by the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) that is designed to be a single location where anyone can come to get skills and training necessary to gain or improve their job marketability. We are the only branch that offers services in the San Gabriel Valley east of Pasadena. We service clients referred to us by the Pasadena WIB

and the California Department of Rehabilitation, and we take community and school referrals as well.

Kati Chick has spent the last nine years as the regional job developer at our One Stop. She organizes job development workshops that are held weekly. These are designed to be user friendly and are usually free to anyone who attends. There is a constant placing of current jobs in our area as well as job-search assistance using our advanced lab and software resources. There are tutorials in résumé building, typing, computer use, office skills, and interview tips and practice as well. There are workshops provided in math, writing and various types of software. Guest speakers from local industry are a frequent sight on campus, and we use our Adult School training programs to help people obtain highly marketable skills and certificates.

Because we are tied to our school district, we are proud to serve over 50 Monrovia High School, Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park students as well as our community's adult population. Please feel free to contact our One Stop at (626) 471-3070. We are located at 920 S. Mountain Ave. right here in Monrovia. So tell your friends about the best-kept secret in town, and invite them to come see us!



Monrovia Schools Foundation 2015 SUMMER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

JUNE 11, 2015 to JULY 09, 2015
Elementary Grades K-5 • Plymouth Elementary School
Middle School Grades 6-8 • Clifton Middle School



JUNE 11, 2015 to JULY 15, 2015
High School Grades 9-12
Monrovia High School

The course offerings and registration forms will be available on the Foundation website:

www.monroviaschoolsfoundation.org

Courses may be paid for by check, money order, or through PayPal on the Foundation website.

The completed registration form may also be mailed to:

Monrovia Schools Foundation, P. O. Box 2447, Monrovia, CA 91017

If you have any questions, please email debb35day@yahoo.com

Bradoaks *Elementary*

930 East Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2100 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Aimee Dyrek
Principal

The Year's Begun!

The 2014 calendar year ended with the Bradoaks kindergarteners' holiday performance. The three kindergarten classes sang songs celebrating Christmas, Kwanza and Chanukah. It was a festive way to kick off winter break.

The new year brought a great deal of excitement to the Bradoaks campus. The second semester started off with Bradoaks parents having the opportunity to better understand Common Core mathematics. During SWUN math night, SWUN math coach Tim Vassar addressed parents on the transition to the Common Core and how parents can help their children. Mr. Vassar referenced lesson videos that all parents can access on SWUNMATH.com. He also spoke of other parent resources such as the unit parent letters that are available in both Spanish and English. These letters address the vocabulary, concepts and Common Core Standards that are utilized in the unit. It also provides questioning strategies for parents to ask their children to support their learning.

The Bradoaks staff just finished a series of exercises called Academic Review. This process allowed the staff to reflect on schoolwide practices and data in order to create goals and an action plan that will help guide staff to continue students' academic success.

Many of the fifth-grade GATE students attended Astro Camp and were able to participate in numerous hands-on science experiments. All third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students went on a hike in Monrovia's own Canyon Park! These natural-science field trips are tailored toward each grade level, which makes each year's trip anxiously anticipated by staff and students. The first- and second-grade Bobcats started vocal music in early February. There is nothing better than the sound of children singing!

2015 will be the year of the Bobcat!

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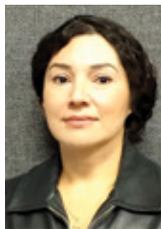
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Canyon *Early Learning Center*

1000 South Canyon Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2001 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Mariana Sanchez
Director

March is Fun Time

March is a fun time at Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC). On March 20, we will host our family BBQ and picnic at Fisher Park. March 26 from 6-7 PM is our Open House for new and current students. Come meet the teachers, see our classrooms and talk with other parents. Bring a friend.

CELC celebrates Week of the Young Child, April 13-17 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" will take part in fun activities all week:

- Music Monday -Through music children develop math, language, and literacy skills while being active and having fun.
- Taco Salad 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.
- Storytelling Thursday – Special guest reader.
- Family Friday Engaging and celebrating families is at the heart of supporting our youngest learners. Families, NAEYC and CELC applauds you as your child's' first and most important teachers!

"Week of the Young Child™ is a time to recognize that Early Years are Learning Years® for all young children."

Mayflower *Elementary*

210 North Mayflower Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2200 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Dr. Tamar Kataroyan
Principal

Reaching Full Potential

At Mayflower Elementary School we continue to "Celebrate 365!" Each week during our Monday morning announcements we recognize various student achievements. Everyone is reminded to always "Dream, Believe, and Achieve."

Our Mayflower goals are accomplished through the hard work and dedication of our students, a caring and dedicated staff, and our extremely supportive parents. It "takes a village" to raise a child, and at Mayflower we take great pride and ownership in helping every student reach their full potential.

In addition to our focus on student achievement through data-driven results, we have also placed extra value on providing students with strong enrichment programs both before and after school. With the support of the district, we are also now offering arts instruction during the school day. This includes art class for the fourth- and fifth-graders, Diavolo Dance to the third-graders, and choir to the first and second grades.

In addition, our PTA has teamed up to offer many after-school fee-based enrichment programs, including chess club, robotics club, beginning band and string, music/choir, science enrichment, young doctors, and more.

Whether engaged during the school day, or after school, these great programs help to enrich the core academic instruction from our expert teachers. They also contribute to the development of the 21st-century skills of collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking.

We are so thankful for the support of our amazing PTA, parents, and school community.

Clifton *Middle School*

226 South Ivy Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2600 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Jennifer Gates
Principal

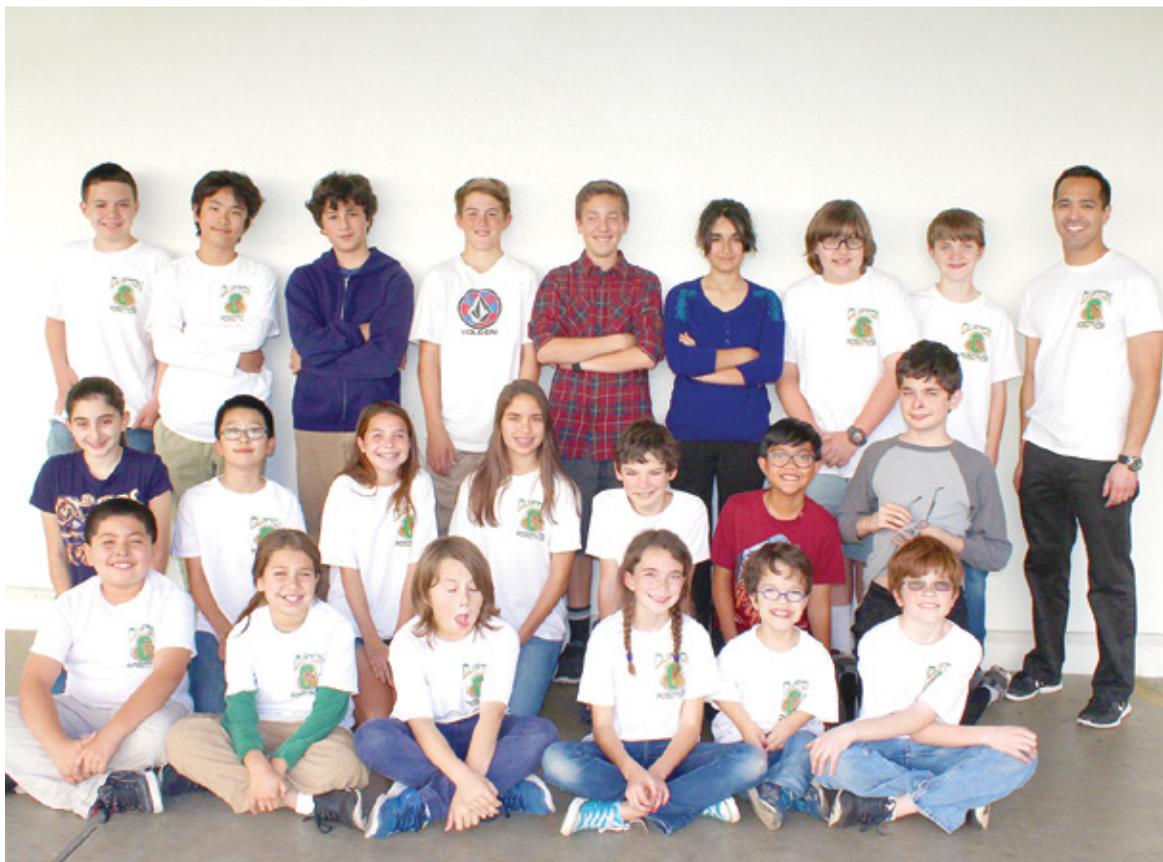
Bot Brilliance

Clifton has launched its inaugural robotics program this year and competed in January at Perris High School. The judges were impressed with the team names, the Bruin Bots and Techno Titans. The Bruin Bots team members are Siena Demarco, Andrew Farley, Brooke Gould, Madison Ramirez, Kiley Wilson, Keaton Povenelli, Tristen Magana and Jordan Franco. The

Techno Titans team members are Aidan Denis-Cavanagh, Chase Klauschie, Dylan Towner, Conner Jimenez, Darren Ong, Nathaniel Schwandt, Ethan Tandy, Alec Reyes, Jared Zelinka and Miles Amador. Additional members who did not compete but provided support during the building process were Nathan Hickey, Brady Stubbs and Logan Barnier.

During the first part of the day, the Techno Titans scored big with the judges during the interview session by being composed, demonstrating knowledge, showing a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm, articulating solutions to challenges they faced, and embodying the true essence of a team. Meanwhile, the Bruin Bots finished higher than 20 other high school teams during the qualifying round. In just their first year, they were an alliance captain and advanced to the semifinals.

We are so proud of both Clifton teams and look forward to the expansion of the program in the coming years.



Monroe *Elementary*

402 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2300 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Cynthia Lathrop
Principal

Very Special People

Office manager Mary Peterson is the heart and soul of Monroe School. Ms. Peterson is the first person that people see when they visit the school. Her knowledge and kindness make a huge difference to parents, students, staff members and visitors.

Ms. Peterson has a wonderful work ethic. She comes to work early, leaves late, and is always willing to take on new tasks and learn new things. During a typical day, she wears many hats including nurse, secretary, school ambassador, social coordinator and artist. She is organized and efficient, caring and responsible. The school would have a hard time functioning without Ms. Peterson's calm competence.

Kindergarten teacher Juana Kramer has been teaching for many years but is always willing to try new teaching strategies and programs. She loves her profession and loves to watch her students become scholars. Through the years, she has often volunteered to be a part of Monroe's leadership teams and school site council. Ms. Kramer is supportive and caring and makes colleagues laugh every day. She has a positive spirit and a great sense of humor, and she makes Monroe a fun place to work.



Office manager,
Mary Peterson



Kindergarten teacher,
Juana Kramer

Plymouth *Elementary*

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Suzanne Heck
Principal

Ni Hao Monrovians!!!

Plymouth Elementary is now accepting students into our Dual Language Mandarin Program. This program is for students who are transitional kindergarten age (child turning 5 between Sept. 2 – Dec. 2) and kindergarten age (child age 5 by September 2nd). The program will be a 50/50 model. A 50/50 model means that students learn literacy skills in both languages. In our dual language model, students will learn English 50% of the time with an English speaking teacher, and learn Mandarin 50% of the time with a Mandarin speaking teacher. Teachers will use flexible groupings to ensure that both native English speakers and native Mandarin speakers have the best support possible.

There are many benefits to learning other languages. Here are some of the benefits:

- It strengthens cognitive skills.
- Knowing two languages is an advantage for your child.
- Increases a student's ability to adapt to other types of learning.
- Enhances creativity and problem-solving skills.
- Improves overall academic performance.
- Young children can gain near native like skills at a young age.
- Opens the door of opportunity for future jobs and a global marketplace.

Enrollment for the 2015 – 2016 school year has begun. If you or someone you know is interested, has questions, or would like a tour, please visit between 9 – 2PM or contact (626) 471- 2400 sheck@monroviaschools.net.

和藹

Monrovia *High School*

845 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2800 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Scholars and Champions

Monrovia High School (MHS) truly lives up to its slogan: "Home of Scholars and Champions." With a 99-percent graduation rate and a 90-percent post-secondary acceptance rate, students are realizing their true academic potential. As MHS begins the second semester, over 400 students are being recognized on the Principal's Honor Roll. Students with an overall grade-point average of 3.5 or higher receive accolades for their diligent work and outstanding performance in the classroom. Each year, the MHS Renaissance program recognizes scholar athletes who have maintained this high level of academic performance while competing on varsity athletic teams. Clearly, MHS students are not strangers to academic excellence!

Not only are the Wildcats champions in the classroom, but we are also celebrating outstanding athletic accomplishments. Countless MHS athletic teams compete with dignity and excellence, but one individual has recently risen to the top. Monrovia High School senior wrestler, Brianna Dominguez, has proven that she is a champion by competing and winning the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Eastern Divisional Championship. She is one of a handful of girls in the Southern Section competing at this level as a wrestler. This prestigious position puts her at the pinnacle of over 75 competing schools, and she will be representing the Rio Hondo League and MHS in the upcoming CIF Sectional Championship.

These are only two examples of Monrovia Wildcats exemplifying leadership, both in the classroom and in competition.

Quest Academy *Community Day School*

1831 Santa Fe Pl., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2776 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Susan Hirsch
Coordinator

Looking to the Future

The second semester at Quest Academy is flying by, with many exciting activities and learning opportunities!

We are pleased to be expanding our work with the 5 Acres Wraparound Counseling Service and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Each week, as part of a powerful life-skills class, our staff joins trained facilitators to use a targeted curriculum entitled "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens." This tool, which supplements our current program, is providing our students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes

and triumphs, search within, explore their personal histories, and set positive goals for forward growth.

We are also looking forward to attending open house events at Citrus College. Some of our students will be attending an evening activity at the Automotive Technology Department, while others will explore possibilities during a special all-day event in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Former graduates from Quest are current students in each of these departments, and several of them have recently returned to discuss their successes and challenges.

At Quest, we are constantly looking for new ways to encourage our students to step up to the challenges in their lives. We want them to realize that their future depends upon the choices they make today. We are encouraged that so many of them make positive choices and move on to bright futures.



Santa Fe *Middle School*

148 West Duarte Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2700 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Dr. Caroline Sweeney
Principal

Well Done!

Academics are always the focus at Santa Fe. However, we're just as proud of our extra-curricular opportunities. Three activities which have brought us pride are our robotics teams, Project Pass tutors, and the Scripps Spelling Bee participants.

This year Santa Fe increased its robotics presence with three teams instead of two. Led by science teacher

Ms. Yvonne Koskela, approximately 20 students represented our school and showed their stuff. Although the season is complete, they are already taking lessons for next year.

The eighth-grade algebra students also spend their time representing Santa Fe. They are now tutoring the sixth-graders in English, math, social studies, and science. Because of this tutoring, and peer mentorship, our sixth-grade class has the highest GPA of all the classes.

All students can compete in the Scripps Spelling Bee. Rafael Velasco won the 2015 event with the word "megaphone." He went on to the regional competition and placed 13th out of 215.



Cougarobotics.

Wild Rose *Elementary*

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Stacy Ayers
Principal

Out-of-This-World Opportunity

Have you ever dreamed of going to space—or at least feeling what it's like? The fifth-grade Gifted, Talented, and Artistic Education (GATE) students had this opportunity on the three-day weekend in January. They attended AstroCamp in Idyllwild, California. Stacy Ayers, the principal of

Wild Rose Elementary School, and Sue Heck, the principal of Plymouth Elementary School, chaperoned about 90 students on this annual adventure.

Students got ready to explore space, trained like National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronauts, looked into the cosmos through state-of-the-art telescopes, rock climbed on "Mars," ate astronaut food, and explored science through experiences that cannot be offered on the typical school campus. AstroCamp is a hands-on, physical science program with an emphasis on astronomy and space exploration, designed to inspire students toward future success in their academic and personal pursuits. With a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), AstroCamp meets the science content standards.



Rising to Rachel's Challenge



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Rachel Scott was a kind-hearted teenager with a big dream. She believed that the smallest act of kindness could ripple out and start a chain reaction, and this was how she wanted to change the world.

On April 20, 1999, her life abruptly ended – and the movement to keep her dream alive began.

Rachel, at 17 years of age, was the first victim to be shot and killed at Columbine High School, during a rampage by two of her fellow students.

Rachel's dream lives on through her writings and has changed millions of lives since her death.

Rachel's Challenge, an inspirational program based on her writings, offers a message that focuses on inspiring others to replace acts of violence, bullying and negativity with acts of respect, kindness and compassion.

The project was created by Rachel's dad and stepmother, Darrell and Sandy Scott. It aims to motivate and equip students to start and sustain a chain reaction of kindness that transforms schools and communities.

Rachel's Challenge includes a series of student-empowering, educator-motivating programs and strategies called the "Awaken the Learner Five-Step School Improvement Process." This process equips students and adults to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement.

Darrell has spoken to more than five million people in live settings around the world, not counting the millions he has spoken to through programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, CNN, and the Today Show. He has authored or co-authored five books, and meets with politicians and educators regularly concerning issues of school violence.

I invited Darrell to speak about Rachel's message at our leadership conference at LACOE and at our Superintendents Convocation last year.

Event participants found the message to be simple but powerful. Many of them sat in silence, teary-eyed, at the end of Darrell's presentation.

Rachel's message is that we all can have the power to make positive changes through acts of kindness and compassion – and the challenge for educators and other members of the education community is to empower our students to make their positive impact in the world.

My hope is that we all rise to Rachel's challenge.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nations largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.



Every Step – a Journey!

I am 11 year old, Tyler Armstrong, mountaineer. At age 9, I set the World Record as the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Aconcagua (22,841 feet). I also set the record for the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney (14,505 ft) in a single day (age 7), and was the second youngest to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft) (age 8).

Everyone always wants to know why a kid would want to climb mountains? I wanted to start climbing because when I was 6 I watched a nature documentary on the Great Divide. What was interesting about that documentary was that you hiked all the way from Canada to Mexico! Also, my dad had just come back from a hiking trip and showed me some videos. After the video was over I was inspired by what he just had accomplished! The next night I told my parents I wanted to start hiking! Then, after my dad got home I told him, "Let's go jogging." At first I could only go about a quarter mile. The next time I went

jogging my goal was a half mile and it kept building from there. About a month later after a lot of hard work, it was time for my first hike!

My first hike was for about 6 miles and I could climb only to about 5,000 feet elevation, but at that time it was very challenging to me. I slowly made it to the top of the mountain and back, but I still made it all the way! The next day I was very sore. About a week later I told my dad that I wanted to do something bigger. We went on the internet and found more mountains that I was ready for. After climbing other local mountains and longer distances, I was ready for my



test - Mt. Baldy (10,064 ft)! My dad decided to take a difficult trail up Mt. Baldy for 6,000 feet of elevation gain and 12 miles round trip. That day was very tough and tiring, but I was ready because of my hard training. When we got to the top I could see every thing. I was so high I could see LA! It was amazing that everything was under me, even the clouds! And right there I knew what I wanted to do... Mountain Climb!

After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record by ... (to be continued).

Publisher's note: I read an article about Tyler and immediately invited him to be a guest columnist. He is such an inspiration and I want our readers to hear his amazing stories. If you can't wait for the next column, please enjoy Tyler's web site! www.topwithtyler.com and www.facebook.com/topwithtyler and www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler

College 4 Less

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Susan D. Marshall

One of the things colleges allow to get to know you better is a Brag Sheet. Yes, you heard correctly. The Brag sheet!

It is also known as the College Admissions Resume. It is an opportunity to show the admissions committee what distinguishes you from every other applicant they are reviewing. The Brag Sheet communicates not only how unique and amazing you are, but reveals to the reader a deeper understanding of who you are: your character and your personality.

Beginning as early as the summer of your freshman year:

You are going to want to keep a record; basically everything you do outside of the classroom. You will want to keep your honors and awards including: newspaper articles, playbills, certificates all in one place.

One quick, easy tip:

Simply take a three ring binder. Fill with plastic sheet protectors and begin filling you're your awards, honors, poems, playbills, newspaper clippings etc. You can get fancy later with scrapbooking or even scan and create an electronic file adding additional photos or videos.

This Brag Book will be invaluable in the future. You will be surprise how many ways it will be useful. Use it when you create that resume; to help jog the memories of those who will write glowing letters of recommendation for you. Use it to make your applications come alive. Stand out from the crowd.

Be Ready... You will need to...Brag - Brag - Brag... The colleges want to know who you are.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

The Jazz Age: The Roaring Twenties

By D.H. Coop

In American social history, the 1920s period is often overshadowed by the Great War, Prohibition and the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Yet, it was a period of sudden change in the home, on the road, in the economy, in attitudes, and in behavior. These changes seem so second nature to us today that we think they have always been around.

Starting in the home we can see changes in workload, entertainment, and travel spread across the social environment. Prior to the '20s, the housewife scheduled her work according to the days of the week. Washing was done by hand and took all day, along with preparing the meals and caring for the children. Her workload was lightened with new time-saving devices, such as the electric vacuum cleaner, the electric refrigerator and stove, and the electric iron.

Also, the radio changed home entertainment. Before the radio, communities were informed of the local news by the newspaper or gossip at the market or pub. Now it was broadcast (a word from farming for scattering seeds by hand) right in their front rooms, along with other programs. Family entertainment then shifted from board games and singing to sitting and listening to the radio. As the price of the radio dropped, the children moved off to their own rooms with their very own radios. During the day, the programs were centered on housewives and sponsored by soap companies, thus the birth of the "soap opera."

Availability of the automobile changed all aspects of life. It provided the housewife with more independence and a more convenient way to do her shopping. Automobiles required better roads and better roads cost money, which caused a shift from railroads to automobiles being the force driving the economy. Restaurants became roadside cafes, hotels became motels, and crime became more mobile. To get the car into everyone's hands, Henry Ford produced the Model T from 1914 to 1927 with the sales pitch of "in any color (black)." Ford outsold all other carmakers until 1927. General Motors allowed credit and sold cars in multiple colors, finally overtaking the Model T in sales.

Credit shifted the sales pitch. Advertising became more scientific, with research and studies. Slogans and sayings were rooted in the '20s, such as "Say it with flowers" and "Don't light three cigarettes with one match." Advertising was given a boost with the Silver Screen and the images it portrayed in dress and style.

Finally, the '20s saw the development of sports and entertainment on a mass scale. Baseball became a national spectator sport. The local bar became a speakeasy that respectable couples could go to and have a drink. The new drink to appeal to women was called the "cocktail"—drinks with decorations. The drinks required illegal alcohol, which was provided by bootleggers in fast cars, which gave birth to the modern race called National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

All in all, the 1920s changed the modern home, transportation, the economy, and social life.

Technology... Things of the Past



Charlene Ashendorf

"I've got gadgets and gizmos a-plenty. I've got whozits and whatzits galore. You want thingamabobs? I've got twenty! But who cares? No big deal, I want more". If you are not familiar with these lyrics, you might just have to ask a little girl! Most likely she is familiar with Ariel and "The Little Mermaid."

Doesn't it seem that young people are bombarded by "must have" stuff? I remember a simpler time. I can remember the words as if I uttered them yesterday: "Mom, It's lovely and it lights up and every one of my friends has one." Yes, I had to have one too... that turquoise princess phone. Of course, today, many nine year olds have a cell phone; and landlines, well, kids may not be familiar with that word.

When the Brownie Bullet camera (in the yellow box) was introduced, I had to have one! Photos, film and processing (all terms dropped from our vocabulary) cost me my weekly allowance time and again. But just anticipating the results of my photo shoot was exciting!

At the age of nine I had already written my first short story. The operative word here is "written" as in pen and paper written. The tale of a young girl and her elephant growing up on Mount Kilimanjaro when a chasm in the earth separates the two was one I couldn't write fast enough. I begged my parents to buy me a typewriter. That dream became a reality in 1961 with the release of the IBM Selectric. What a fabulous invention, it was. No longer would the typewriter use the typebar that moved up with great force to strike a ribbon. This mother of all inventions used a typeball that actually pivoted. And what's more, it could be removed and changed which introduced a multitude of fonts! The Selectric changed my life. More coveted than the television, the Selectric was every writer's dream. Now granted it was not a computer with spell check, but ultimately a self-correcting feature became life changing to this young writer. Enrolling in a typing class in middle school added confidence, speed and accuracy to my budding interest in writing.

The history of technology includes many wonders, we never dreamed of: the computer, a PC, the MAC, a tablet, a chrome book, kindle, and the iPad. However, looking back, nothing can compare to the imagination one was forced to unlock with the IBM Selctric. Yes, Growing up with "technology" means many different things for many of us. Most of them, like us... obsolete.

I've got gadgets and gizmos a-plenty.
I've got whozits and whatzits galore.
You want thingamabobs?
I've got twenty!
But who cares?
No big deal, I want more"

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>



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Build It Back Again



Kate Karp

I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks.

Build It Back Again by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.



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

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

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 April 15, 2015

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers | Focused | Principal |
| Character | Homework | Recess |
| Classrooms | Instructors | Reunion |
| Curiosity | Integrity | Student |
| Discipline | Learning | Success |
| Educators | Mentors | Technology |
| Encourage | Nutrition | Thinkers |
| Excellence | Parents | Workers |

**Congratulations to Our January Contest Winner
Lisa Gonzales**

S	R	E	V	E	I	H	C	A	F	T	L	L	F	D
R	R	H	M	E	C	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E	E
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K	U	E	T	Y	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	U
N	C	N	Q	C	F	S	I	S	W	Y	A	N	M	C
I	C	I	S	U	U	G	S	E	A	Y	Q	C	E	O
H	E	L	X	R	B	R	N	E	T	X	S	O	N	F
T	S	P	K	I	O	S	T	I	C	T	G	U	T	C
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