

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

Preparing for An Ever-Changing World

By Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Welcome to the 2016–2017 school year!

We start the year with approximately 5,500 students in Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade and 750 employees maintaining teaching and learning as our core mission. When looking back at the accolades collected during the last year, it becomes clear that our successes result directly from the combined efforts of the Monrovia Unified School District (MUSD) community. Most notably,



This picture was taken on Monday, August 8, 2016, at our New Employee Breakfast. Most of the people pictured here are new/returning teachers and some are new office employees.



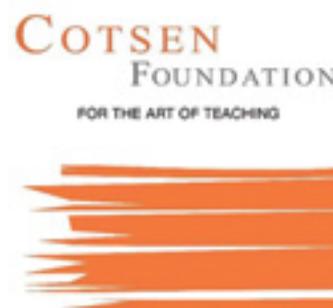
Bradoaks, Mayflower, Monroe, and Wild Rose Elementary Schools were designated Gold Ribbon and Title I Achieving Schools; Wild Rose received the Exemplary Arts Education Award; Plymouth and Mayflower Elementary Schools, Santa Fe and Clifton Middle Schools, and Monrovia High School

Robotics program representing Monrovia—and the United States—in China, largely competing against high school teams from around the world.

We are fortunate to have experts in and out of the classroom leading our students to these types of singular opportunities. This year, nearly 50 new employees have joined the Monrovia family. We are confident that our students will benefit from their contributions.

In addition to wonderful new people, we will be embarking on some exciting new programs. Plymouth and Mayflower Elementary Schools will be partnering with Code to the Future to become Computer Science Immersion Schools. That means students will learn to code as early as kindergarten and develop java script starting in grade four.

Bradoaks and Wild Rose Elementary Schools were selected by the Cotsen Foundation to participate for the next two years in their prestigious Art of Teaching program. Finally,



Monrovia High School will be establishing a new Information Technology Academy through which students will be able to learn skills and competencies in a pathway of linked courses that will prepare students to explore careers in the information technology job sector.

There are many great things in store for our students next year. These programs are fixed on the strong firmament already established within our schools and within our classrooms. Together, we will build upon them and continue to grow as an organization that meets the needs of students in this ever-changing world.



(already a Gold Ribbon School and again ranked a Silver School by *US News and World Report*) were designated as Honor Roll recipients by the Campaign for Business and Educational Excellence; and we topped off the year with the Clifton



Board of Education



Rob Hammond
President



Bryan J. Wong
Vice President



Terrence G. Williams
Clerk



Ed Gililand
Member



Chris Rich
Interim Member

SWITCH

to one of the

BEST 529 PLANS IN THE NATION*

and

GET UP TO \$500.**

(We'll even fill out the paperwork for you.)

**Minimum balance required; see chart. Promotion ends 7/1/2017.

Bonus paid by ScholarShare as a deposit into account.

Transfer your 529 college savings account to ScholarShare today at ScholarShare.com/Switch.

Your kids are growing fast and your 529 college savings account needs to keep up. Luckily, right now you can give it a boost by transferring your 529 account into a ScholarShare account—one of the best 529 plans in the nation. Depending on your current balance, we'll give you up to \$500 to switch to ScholarShare (see chart below).* You are permitted to transfer funds from another 529 college savings plan to an account in ScholarShare for the same beneficiary once within a 12-month period without incurring federal income tax. The 529 college savings plan from which you are transferring funds may be subject to differences in features, costs and surrender charges. You should consult your tax advisor or the other 529 college savings plan. State and local taxes may apply.

Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



SCHOLARSHARE
529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN SM

scholarshare.com/switch

*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to 529.morningstar.com. Past performance does not predict future results. Source: 529.morningstar.com



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit ScholarShare.com for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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: Tim DeLacy

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



@SchoolNewsRC



SchoolNewsRollCall



SchoolNewsRollCall

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

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

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The school district does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. New beginnings are always exciting and particularly for students. It is a time of anticipation of seeing old friends, making new friends, meeting teachers, learning where the classrooms are and getting used to a schedule after summer break. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices for three years.

The Superintendent's message on the front page sets the stage for an outstanding year!

Our next issue is November 9.

Bradoaks Elementary

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



Aimee Dyrek
Principal

Hear Us Roar!

Bradoaks Elementary School has been a recipient of the California Department of Education's Distinguished School Award not just once, but twice! We now add to our list the prestigious recognition of a Gold Ribbon School and a Title One Academic Achieving School.

Bradoaks was also selected to be a Cotsen school as well. This two-year grant will allow a cohort of teachers to work with an in-house mentor teacher and nationally recognized experts in the field of education to help refine their craft in content areas where they already excel. Bradoaks is also known for its strong community involvement and caring staff. Our Bobcats are constantly celebrated for their strong academic and behavioral work ethic.

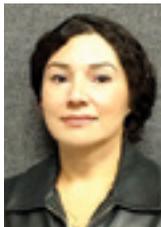
The school community gathers together every other Wednesday for our Flag Ceremony event. Here students and staff members are recognized for their many contributions. Our school community "ROARS" by always being Respectful, On-task, having a positive Attitude, and acting Responsibly!

This year Bradoaks continues to live its motto of, "ROARing Readers, Future Leaders!" Students and teachers will continue to focus on reading comprehension, fluency, and problem solving through critical thinking. Our teachers always utilize best practices too, such as cooperative learning, direct instruction, data-driven instruction and intervention, and Sustain Structured Silent Reading. To further the work done in critical thinking and problem solving, our teachers will also be working with renowned writing expert Nancy Fetzer to focus on writing across the curriculum.

School tours can be arranged through our front office. Come visit Bradoaks, where our Bobcats roar!

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Mariana Sanchez
Director

Work Should Be Play!

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year at CELC. The staff and I are excited to welcome new and returning families back to another exciting year at preschool.

What makes our preschool program special is that we are cognizant of the fact that children's "work" is play! *Developmentally appropriate* is a term you will often hear from our teachers. This phrase simply means that we teach preschool children in the way they learn best: through hands-on, engaging activities.

Our classrooms are alive and bustling with activity from start to finish. We know that through their play, our children are enjoying the learning process and developing a love for lifelong learning.



Please Drive Safely
Students are Back in School



NATIONAL STRENGTH, LOCAL EXPERTISE



PrimeLending
A PlainsCapital Company.



Diane Balsamo Gonzales
Senior Loan Officer
NMLS: 482962
626-755-5764
1128 E Palm Ave, Suite 100A
Monrovia, CA 91016
dbalsamo@primelending.com
www.diane4homeloans.com

Home Loans Made Simple.

All loans subject to credit approval. Rates and fees subject to change. Mortgage financing provided by PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company. Equal Housing Lender. ©2016 PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company. PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company (NMLS: 13849) is a wholly owned subsidiary of a state-chartered bank and is licensed by: Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act- lender lic no. 4130996.

Your Monrovia REALTOR®



GINA AMMON
310.489.1021
gina.ammon@podley.com
242 W. Foothill Blvd.
Monrovia, CA 91016
CalBRE #01498679




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

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

Enter to Learn; Go Forth to Earn

By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal

To start our year off on the right foot, students, staff, and parents are invited to participate in Success Week to discuss the various college and career pathways we offer on our campuses.

Students will take self-discovery assessments on Naviance, a powerful, online platform that maps out multiple career paths that are compatible with the strengths and interests of each individual student. Once a pathway is selected, counselors review

with students and parents the courses that will best prepare them for careers in fields such as media arts, medical assisting, construction, and automotive repair.

Our college and career pathways offer core classes that prepare students not only for graduation in June but also certifications that can lead to well-paying job opportunities; giving our young learners a long-term competitive advantage as they enter the workforce and climb their respective career ladders.

Welcome to Graduation Nation: enter to learn; go forth to earn.



Clifton Middle School

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



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

STEM Advancement

Clifton Middle School had an exciting finish to the school year in the area of science, and the 2016–2017 school year will prove to be even more impressive with the completion of our \$100,000 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) lab.

One of our robotics teams, the Hippie Bots, accepted an invitation to be the lone United States representative at a competition in Shanghai, China in June. Forty-nine teams participated in this international competition, representing 11

different regions of China including Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong as well as other countries, including Russia and Australia. The Hippie Bots finished in 13th place.

Robotics coordinator Paul Flores stated, “The Hippie Bots epitomized the core values of hard work, resolve, and teamwork.”

Plans for the \$100,000 STEM lab are being finalized to allow our current science offerings to expand into other STEM areas.



Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Dr. Tamar Kataroyan
Principal

Celebrating 365

The beginning of a new school year brings us much anticipation and joy for our exciting upcoming educational opportunities.

The 2015–2016 school year gave us so much to celebrate! We were recipients of many prestigious awards, including the Gold Ribbon School Award, Honor Roll School for the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (for the second year in a row), Honor Roll for STEM Designation (Excellence in Science and Math), Back to Back MEO Olympic Champions, and many more. Our students continue to excel both academically and in their many extracurricular activities. They are true Mariners who demonstrate pride, tradition, and excellence as we “Celebrate 365”!

As the Monrovia Unified School District continues to provide students with growth mindset opportunities, we at Mayflower know the value of providing cutting edge programs for our students. We have a very exciting opportunity for the upcoming year: we are extremely fortunate to be providing all of our K–5 students with a program called Code to the Future!

This computer science program, which will be embedded in the school’s day curriculum, includes the foundational skills for coding, programming, innovation, and preparing students to be creators of technology. All of our students will be receiving a 1:1 device to support this exciting computer science program.

We are delighted and humbled to be a part of a very selective group of schools in the nation that will be providing this opportunity for their students. We are looking forward to a great school year as we CELEBRATE 365!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

A World of Opportunities

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to the 2016–2017 school year! I am eager and excited to start my journey as the new principal of Monroe Elementary School. I believe that it is my moral responsibility to do whatever is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed, and this presented me with many professional opportunities in education in the past 17 years. I have been a teacher, a literacy coach, a middle school assistant principal, and an elementary school principal. Much of my focus has been on literacy development, the teaching of writing, and the creation of enrichment opportunities for students.

At Monroe, I will build on the school’s strong academic foundation and successes. My wish for each and every one of our students is that, throughout their time on our campus, they experience the joys of learning and grow into confident lifelong learners. I will work with the staff and teachers to ensure that our children learn the requisite skills to succeed in our world, while at the same time remaining fun-loving, inquisitive, and energetic. Each and every day, we will not only challenge them with rigorous academics, we will also embrace their uniqueness and create a vibrant world-class school for our learners—the mighty Monroe Lions.

I’m proud to lead a school where the staff and teachers believe that the foundation of a good educational program is based on a strong partnership between home and school. Please stop by and meet the dedicated staff and teachers who work here. I eagerly anticipate the exchange of ideas between school staff, teachers, parents, community members, and the most important stakeholders, the students. I look forward to getting to know you, and I am confident that your child’s time at Monroe will be enjoyable, successful, and memorable!

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES

EARN YOUR MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH

A Deeper Study of the Literary Arts

CULTIVATING
DIFFERENCE
MAKERS
SINCE 1899

Azusa Pacific University’s MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH equips graduate students with advanced knowledge in the field of literary studies. Emerging from an active dialogue between Christianity and literature, graduates are prepared as scholars, writers, and educators for cultural engagement from a Christian perspective.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Investigate the ways Christian faith enriches the creative process of teachers, writers, scholars, and literary artists.
- Complete the 30-unit program at your own pace, and earn your master’s degree in as little as 15 months, or attend part-time and graduate in 24 months.
- Benefit from a comprehensive curriculum that explores everything from literature to composition studies to literary criticism to creative writing.
- Enjoy a versatile graduate program, designed to enrich students’ lives, solidify their passions, and prepare them for career advancing opportunities.

PROGRAM UNITS
30

AVERAGE COMPLETION TIME
15–24 months

LOCATION
Azusa (main campus)

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL

(626) 812-3079
apu.edu/english



AZUSA PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY

God First Since 1899

20029

Monrovia *High School*

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

A Commitment to Our Students

The staff at Monrovia High School – home of “Critically Thinking Scholars and Champion Problem Solvers” – is very excited to begin the 2015–2016 school year. Our instructional vision is to create engaging classroom experiences that foster critical thinking, academic language, and perseverance. We want to prepare our students to be ready for the college and career of their choice.

The rigorous programs and educational experiences at MHS have earned our school the coveted State Gold Ribbon and Golden Bell award. We were also named to the 2015 Honor Roll by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence. However, we never rest on our laurels. We know that there is always room for growth. Thus we are committed to improving college and career readiness by focusing on improving our students’ social and academic skills.

This year marks a renewed commitment to serving our school community with the creation of our “Remote Student Centers.” These Centers provide an intimate contact point by which students and parents can receive answers and obtain support. The Centers are comprised of an administrator, a counselor, and a secretary. Each individual is dedicated to serving the students who are assigned to the Center’s counselor, and to creating a systematic form of support.

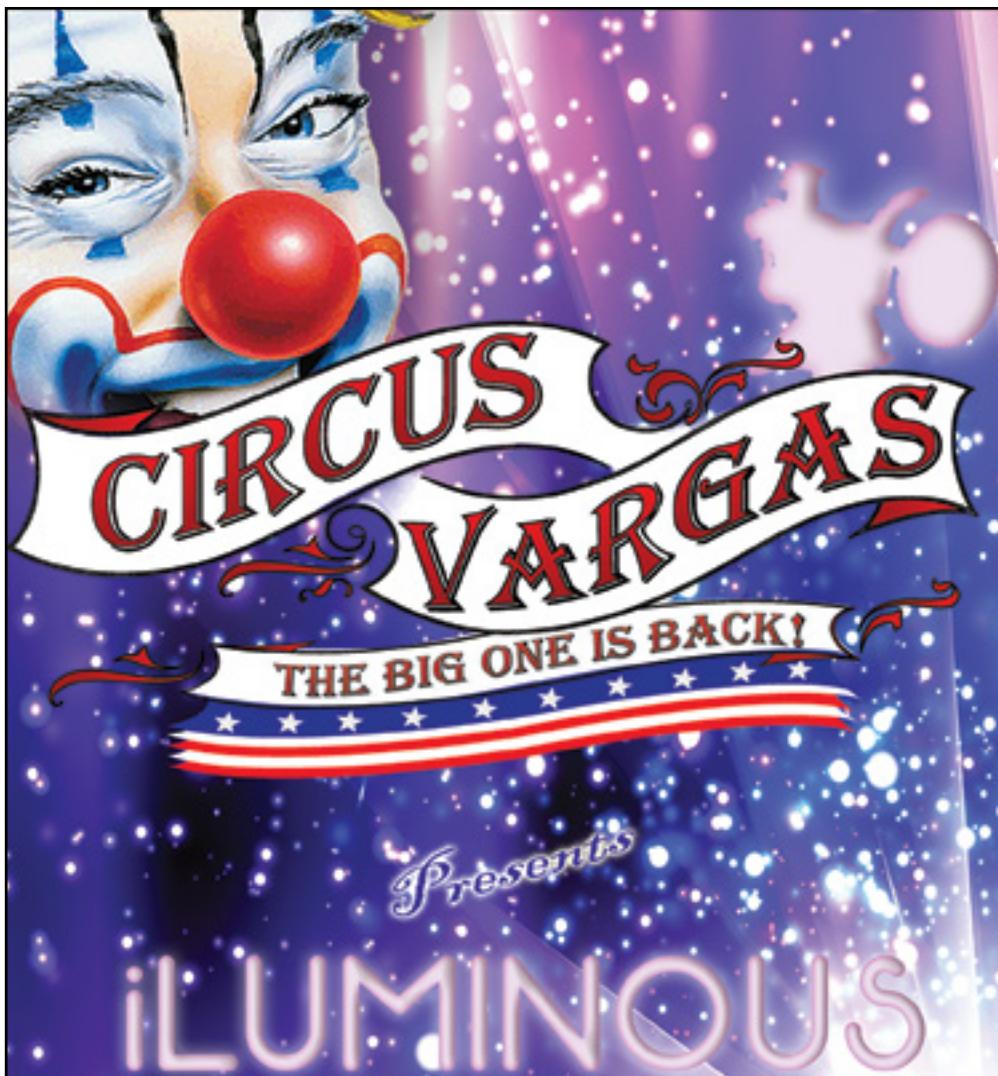
MHS begins each year by welcoming its freshmen – our newest Wildcats



MHS freshmen on their way to “Passport to Success.”

– with an inspirational and engaging ceremony on the first day of school entitled “Passport to Success.” The freshmen hear from our student leaders in the Renaissance, Link Crew, and ASB programs, and learn what it means to make their individual commitment to graduate. They also sign a graduation gown which will hang in the foyer as a visual reminder of their journey through MHS.

Great things are happening at MHS, and we hope to see you at our next event!



Arcadia

Santa Anita Park

Oct 20 - 30

Free kids Ticket!

* Limit 2 free tickets per transaction.
Up to 17 years old with one paid adult. Good for Bleacher only.
Only at the Box Office!

Buy now!

CircusVargas.com

Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Suzanne Heck
Principal

Mandarin Continues at Plymouth

Last year Plymouth started its dual-language Mandarin program. We enrolled approximately 40 students in this program in grades TK/Kindergarten. The students learned Common Core Standards content in both Mandarin and English. They learned basic Mandarin characters and how to speak and understand Mandarin.

Our 50/50 program is highly engaging. The students not only learned the language, they also explored the culture and traditions of China. Throughout the year these students also learned songs and performed for the families on various occasions.



We are continuing to expand this program as our kindergarten students move on to the first grade. We are also continuing to enroll more students, and have hired another teacher to accommodate additional students from the San Gabriel Valley community.

If you are interested in having your TK/Kindergarten child enroll in this amazing immersion program, please contact our school office for more information, at 626-471-2400.

Contest!!

This picture is somewhere in this publication.
When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Monrovia in the subject line)



Your entry must be received by October 15, 2016
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations to Monique Garcia —
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!**

Santa Fe *Middle School*

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



Dr. Caroline Sweeney
Principal

AVID: Pathways to Student Success

Some students excel in English. Some students excel in math. Some students excel in the performing arts, and some students excel in athletics. Although we are proud of our students and what they excel in, excellence does not always translate to success. Just because you can doesn't mean you will.

At Santa Fe Middle School, we are committed to ensuring that all students are given as many opportunities as possible to be successful and are taught the tools needed to forge a path to either college or a career. To aid our students in this endeavor, Santa Fe has chosen the 2016–17 school year to expand its AVID program.

AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination. It is a program that provides students with the concrete skills needed to increase their academic proficiency while providing them with the soft skills needed to be successful in communication, advocacy for their needs, critical thinking, problem solving and the resiliency to continue in their education even if it is not easy.

Sixty eighth-grade Santa Fe students will use their elective classes to begin their journey to college and beyond. By focusing on the core concepts of WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading), students will gain all the skills necessary to be successful in all courses and prerequisites to college.

Santa Fe is only the beginning. Those students as well as others that may choose to get involved in future years may continue their path at Monrovia High School where AVID is also being offered as an elective.

AVID is a tool. We are going to teach our students how to use it and increase their likelihood of success. They will not only excel but also use that excellence to create their future.

Wild Rose *Elementary*

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



Dr. Leslie Rapkine-Miller
Principal

Beary Exciting news at Wild Rose

The Wild Rose Elementary School Bears welcomed their new principal, Dr. Leslie Miller, to the community. Dr. Miller, a veteran elementary principal with over two decades of experience and a mother of two, was excited to join this fantastic school.

Wild Rose, started the year with a wonderful Back to School Night where Teacher of the Year, Jenni Tubbs was recognized for her outstanding service to the students at WRE. Later this month, Mrs. Tubbs will be recognized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for her dedication and hard work. Well done Mrs. Tubbs!

Looking ahead, WRE Bears will enjoy Camp Wild Rose. This special event, hosted by the WRE PTA will be a chance for families to enjoy an evening under the stars with staff and Dr. Miller. S'mores, tents, and sleeping bags are all part of the family fun.



Sierra

Family of Dealerships



SierraAuto.com

Proud sponsors of the The Pasadena Symphony & The Pasadena POPS

Welcome back to school and have a great year!



HONDA

Sales/Service (626) 739-2200
SierraHonda.com



CHEVROLET

Sales/Service (626) 256-7600
SierraChevy.com



SUBARU

Sales/Service (626) 739-2222
SierraSubaru.com



ACURA

Sales/Service (626) 284-8533
SierraAcura.com



Sales/Service (626) 739-5400
SierraChryslerDodgeJeepRam.com



Sales/Service (626) 739-5400
SierraChryslerDodgeJeepRam.com

Jeep

Sales/Service (626) 739-5400
SierraChryslerDodgeJeepRam.com



RAM
Sales/Service (626) 739-5400
SierraChryslerDodgeJeepRam.com

San Gabriel Valley's Premier Dealership Group