

School News



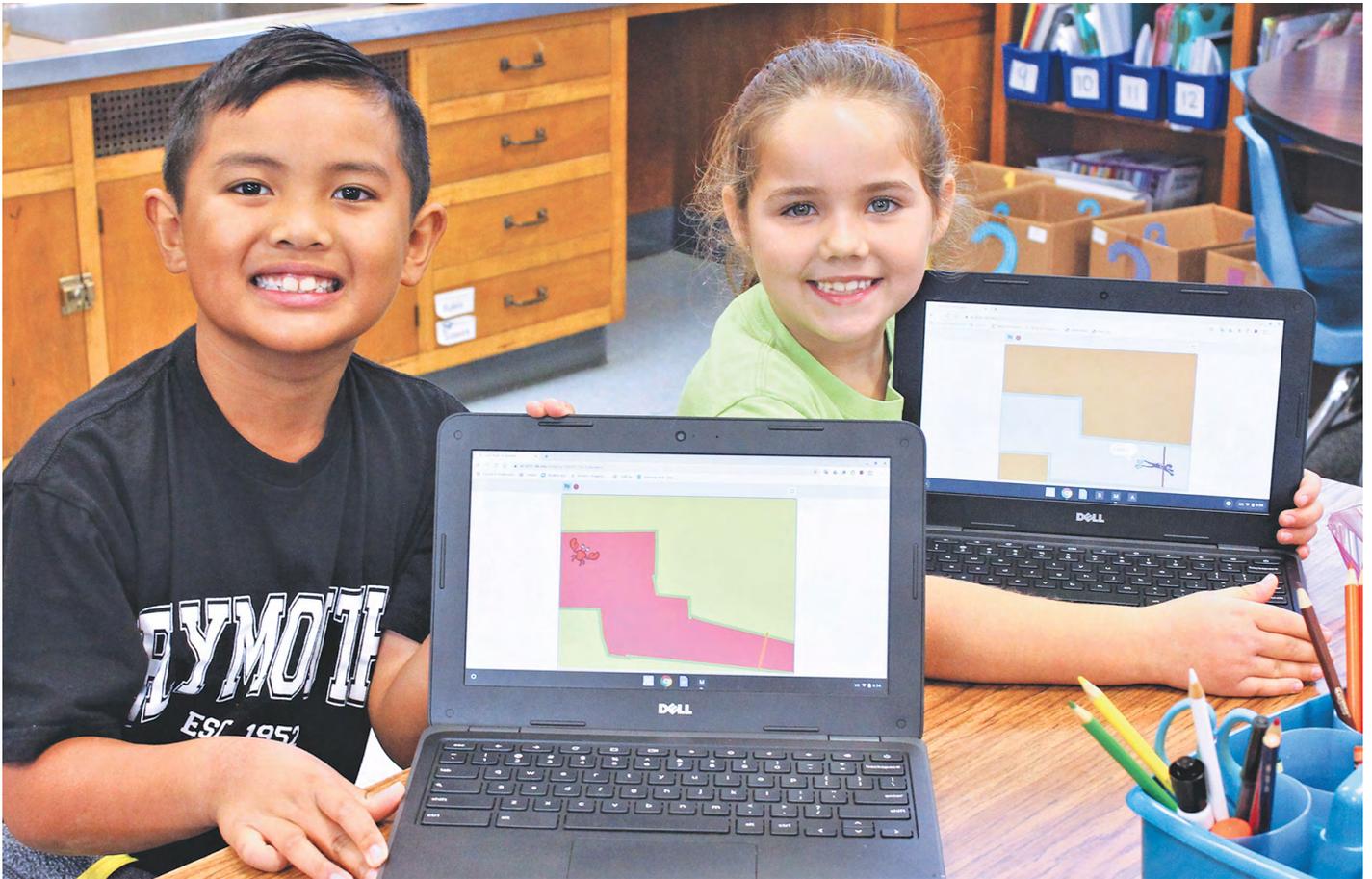
Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

Volume 6, Issue 28

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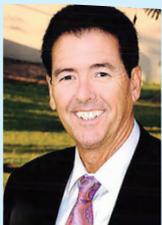
January / February 2020

A Productive Start to the School Year



Please see page 2 for Superintendent Dr. Katherine Thorossian's message.

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A Productive Start to the School Year



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified School District is committed to providing its students with an array of enrichment opportunities that help prepare them for college, career, and beyond. It has been a successful first half of the school year and our students have been excelling in programs such as dual-language immersion, coding, robotics, and more.

At the beginning of the school year, Monrovia Unified celebrated Monrovia High School's Wildcat Stadium Grand Reopening.

The field was upgraded over the summer and included changing out an aging rubber pellet infill for a cool-fill product and re-leveling the field.

The District also launched its second Spanish Dual-Language Immersion program at Wild Rose School of Creative Arts, with instruction beginning in TK/K classrooms. We have watched our students fully dive into the curriculum and quickly begin acquiring new language skills.

At Monrovia High School, the WorkAbility and Transition Partnership program gave students the opportunity to learn financial management and job performance skills through its Monrovia High Roasters coffee cart program. Students manage a line of customers and learned how to use a cash register while selling coffee to staff and students.

In October, Monrovia Unified's Board of Education held its inaugural State of the Schools Address, which revealed a plan for student support and success. The event featured an in-depth overview of the District's mission, teacher and staff support, nurturing at the elementary level, middle school instruction, and preparation of students for college and careers to an audience of nearly 200 community members. The State of the Schools event helped highlight the amazing team of educators who serve as mentors and the opportunities available for our students that help craft their futures.



In November, Monrovia Unified celebrated STEM and coding curriculum. At Bradoaks Elementary, students and families celebrated the school's effort to transition to a science emphasis school with its first "Telescopes in the Sky" Moon Party event. Students had the opportunity to explore the night sky through telescopes provided by Monrovia Old Town Sidewalk Astronomers.



Wild Rose School of Creative Arts students took to the stage in November and wowed the audience with their fall production of "101 Dalmatians." About 80 students, TK-5, made up the cast and crew for the production. Students will now begin to prepare for the school's spring production, "Cinderella."

At Plymouth and Mayflower Elementary, students became coding instructors for the day as they shared their coding projects with the community during a pair of Epic Build Showcases. The events emphasized the computer language immersion program, Code to the Future.

Monrovia Unified is off to a productive start to the school year, and I look forward to sharing about our students' continued success and academic achievements as we head into the remainder of the school year. Congrats to all of our scholars and champions!

School News



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Covering the MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: Leslie Rawlings
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

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

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



562/493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



Netragrednik

This is our 20th year publishing *School News*. Thank you for being loyal readers for the six years we have been publishing your Monrovia Unified *School News*.

In this issue you will read about the student's classroom activities including Computer Science Projects, an Aviation & Drone Club, Coding, and Art Garden and so much more... enjoy!

In addition to the printed copies we also post all of our issues on our web site for our online readers www.schoolnewsrollcall.com. I am often asked for additional copies. We do not keep copies in our office; however, I am always happy to email a digital copy. Thank you for your kind messages when you email your contest entries. Be sure to enter the Word Search Contest on page 10.

Our next issue is March 4, 2020.



Citrus College

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Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



Jayne Nickles
Principal

Super Science Day

Bradoaks Elementary students demonstrated their knowledge of science concepts during the first ever Super Science Day. Super Science Day took place on November 15th

and provided the community with the opportunity to visit classrooms and see students engaged in a science lesson.

Alongside members of their family, Bradoaks bobcats big and small were able to show the community what being a scientist is all about. For example, fourth grade students used their knowledge of engineering practices to build a stand that held the weight of a small pumpkin.

Bradoaks is committed to preparing all students for the future and Super Science Day showed one of the many ways in which Bradoaks is doing just that.



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Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Fall Festival

Canyon Early Learning Center celebrated the month of October and November with a Fall Festival. Our parent volunteers set up an amazing fall experience for students, staff and families complete pumpkins, hay bales, Fall Festival picture stand and

Halloween decorations to celebrate the season. Canyon Early Center was also visited by Monrovia Administration who showed up in costume to hand out stickers and well wishes to the AM classes.

Instructionally, Canyon Early Learning Center continues to focus language and reasoning skills. CELC has super supportive Community Partners with Monrovia Reads and the Monrovia City Library. Through the partnership, CELC was able to kick off a family based Book Club with free books and prizes given to the CELC students.



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

Ross is the Boss

*By Calvin McKendrick,
Assistant Principal, Alternative Schools*

Mr. TeDese Ross far exceeds expectations as a full-time educator, mentor, husband, father and friend. He always goes above and beyond to help our students who have the most potential. He works with each of them one-on-one and builds their self-esteem enough to believe in themselves and gain trust in our staff in order to be productive citizens as they prepare for life after high school.

Mr. Ross goes the extra mile to not only make sure the students understand all subject areas but also are receiving the necessary support to be healthy both socially and emotionally. He is an athletic, charismatic, sincere, experienced educator and former Marine with a wealth of knowledge. He works with our alternative and independent-students, adult-education students and everyone

in between. He is a team player who never complains, criticizes, or condemns. Mr. Ross brings a positive vibe of peace and motivation to help students earn their diplomas.

Mr. Ross is a collaborative practitioner who shares his knowledge and experience freely with his colleagues and community leaders. He incorporates State frameworks and standards, current research and technology into his craft, which he perfects on a daily basis. Mr. Ross has played in integral role in the implementation of the Professional Learning Community Model and the new online learning platform, Edgenuity, that the school purchased with a grant from the state to help our school assist more credit-deficient students to graduate high school on time and with a solid career pathway in mind.

Mr. Ross' hard work paid off this last month, as he was not only recognized at a Los Angeles Clippers basketball game on Teacher Appreciation Night in their arena but also as the Educator of the Year for the California League of Schools!

Clifton Middle School

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



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

Aviation and Drones

Things are really taking off at Clifton Middle School! The new Aviation and Drone Club, advised by Mr. Tom Traeger, is in the process of planning activities and fund-raising efforts.

They currently fly drones and remote-control aircraft simulators at their club meetings every Tuesday at lunch. They intend to expand meetings to Fridays after school, when they will build rubber-powered models and fly them in the school gym on a Saturday evening once per month.

Mr. Traeger's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Innovation class is in the process of researching and engineering their own glider designs using

software provided by a STEM-based learning company. The software and kits, funded by PTSA, allow students to design their own gliders based on aeronautical engineering principles, test them, and virtually compete against other students. Students will build their gliders out of balsa wood and fly them with a catapult launcher in competition!



Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Code to the Future

Recently, Mayflower School proudly presented their first Epic Build Showcase of the year! Students, teachers, and celebrated the coding accomplishments of children in kindergarten through fifth grade. All were excited to participate and share in our epic journey of teaching and learning coding as a second language!

The showcase began with a slide presentation for guests, provided by 11 select Mayflower students. These students shared about Mayflower's four-year coding journey, which started in 2015. Following the presentation, parents toured classrooms and saw students acting as problem solvers, using precise commands and following specific directions while demonstrating their code projects.

At Mayflower, we are preparing students for the future. Through coding, students develop collaboration skills, become critical thinkers, and hone their ability to

communicate. Students are learning block-based coding and JavaScript as well as hands-on programming, robotics, and analog.

At Mayflower, we know that computer science is so much more than just computers. Beginning in kindergarten, students engage in projects that allow them to apply the logic of computer science, including loops, sequence, and animation. By second grade, students creatively build working maze games. Fourth-graders eagerly learn about projectile motion, and fifth-grade students skillfully combine coding concepts with an integrated story.

This year Mayflower moved forward in the coding journey by implementing coding in a cross-curricular manner. Students applied their coding skills to create projects that demonstrated their knowledge of science and math concepts.

Computer science is an important industry, and every other industry depends on computer science. Our students are learning skills that will help them to someday change the world. Mayflower Mariners are proud to be Code to the Future scholars.

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Professional-Development Field Trip

In November 2019, all of the Spanish dual-immersion educators who teach in the Monrovia Unified School District took a bus from Monroe Elementary School to attend a professional development at the satellite campus of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), located in Downtown Los Angeles.

The bilingual educators were part of a round-table discussion about the benefits of bilingualism with implications for teaching dual-immersion students. A panel of academics with expertise in bilingual education led presentations and facilitated discussions. The panelist included Dr. Marianne Akerberg (UNAM), Dr. Adrian Perez-Boluda (CSUN), Lydia Acosta Stephens (LAUSD) and Raul Avila (Colegio de Mexico).

The bilingual educators from MUSD had the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists, with implications for their practice with our students in Monrovia.



Monrovia *High School*

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

The Early College Golden Bell

Monrovia High School's Early College Program has won the coveted 2019 California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award! The Early College Program is a dual-enrollment partnership with Citrus College where MHS students are able to take real college courses taught by Citrus

professors, but in the comfortable surroundings of a high school campus. Students receive MUSD graduation credits as well as guaranteed transferable units for all UC and CSU campuses.

Students completing the four-year program can earn 54 transferable college units, which is the equivalent of two years of college-level work, or \$70,000 in tuition, books, housing, and other related costs to attend a UC school. Since its inception in 2017, the program's data points to an overwhelming success. Cohort students are passing their college-level courses at a rate of 95 percent, which surpasses their Citrus College counterparts by 25 percent.



Dual enrollment provides our MHS students with the perfect opportunity to experience the rigors of college classwork, a head start on earning college credits, and a dramatic reduction in the cost of a college education. The Golden Bell Award indicates a successful program that has now been shared statewide for other school districts to replicate. This is yet another successful program at "MHS: Home to Scholars and Champions."

Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

Computer Science Projects

On November 15th, Plymouth celebrated the amazing computer science projects that our students are creating!

The event started with a presentation by a group of student leaders who explained the importance of a technology-oriented education for college and career success. Our guests then enjoyed classroom tours where the students could present their block-based coding projects. These projects ranged from animations created by the kindergarten students to interactive games designed by students in the fifth grade.

Some of the most important learning actually occurred behind the scenes. In order to create successful projects our students engaged in critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity, all key areas of 21st-century learning!

Since 2016, Plymouth has also partnered with Code to the Future to move its students from being consumers to creators of technology. All of our students participate in computer science learning, and with technology integrated into daily instruction. In addition to block-based coding, our students also learn JavaScript, robotics, and analog programming.



Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

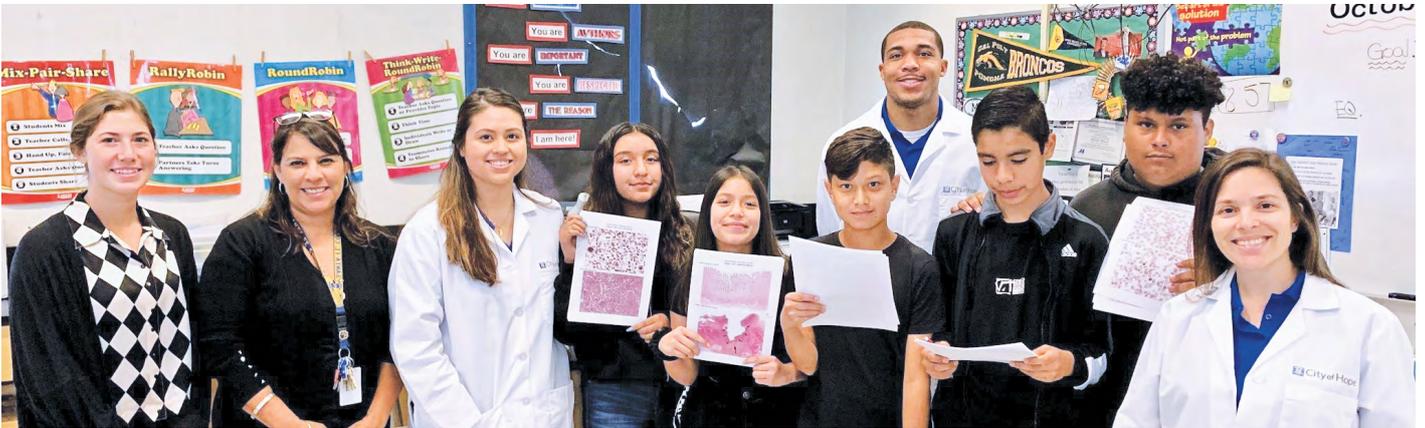
Researchers Visit!

Researchers gave a lesson on pathology, the study of diseases, to Santa Fe eighth-grade students. Bringing their world-class knowledge with them, Dr. Marissa Bowers and her team shared disease-discovering techniques that are used at the nearby disease-treatment center. Best known for its outstanding cancer treatment, this renowned local research facility has endeavored to share and promote learning with local schools.

This year, Santa Fe students will receive science lessons as part of a pilot program and then visit the treatment center to further their learning.

“The next generation of researchers are right here in this classroom,” said eighth-grade science teacher Mrs. Donna Monje. The science lessons also support the Next Generation Science Standards.

Santa Fe is thrilled to develop a relationship with one of its neighbors to give our students knowledge and learning experiences that will inspire them to be future leaders in discovery and wellness.



Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

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

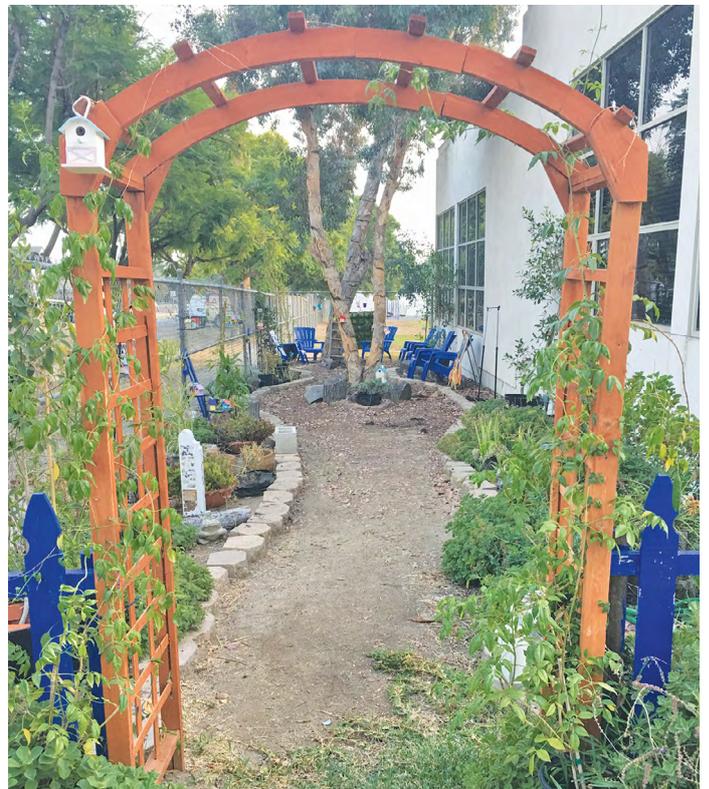


Penny Fraumeni
Interim Principal

Art Garden

On the corner of Wild Rose and Heliotrope Avenues, passersby enjoy butterflies, artwork, and nighttime fairy lights that grace the Wild Rose Art Garden. For the last three years, Wild Rose School of Creative Arts fourth and fifth graders have lovingly created and cared for their ever growing and evolving art garden. This club meets once a week to cultivate beauty on the grounds of Wild Rose.

Some call it a butterfly garden, some a place of meditation and relaxation, but most take pride in turning this blank canvas into a place of creativity and self-expression. Walk by or drive by sometime soon to enjoy this unique space that celebrates student artistic expression.





Ethan's Review

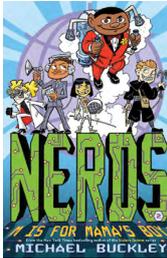


Ethan H.

N.E.R.D.S. Rule

N.E.R.D.S.: M is for Mama's Boy

by Michael Buckley is a book about kids who are constantly bullied at their school. Their weaknesses are turned into strengths by a machine that is powered



by a robot named Benjamin. N.E.R.D.S. stands for National Espionage Rescue and Defense Society. My favorite character is Julio "Flinch" Escala, because he has the power to turn sugar into strength and speed. Will N.E.R.D.S. be able to stop Albert the mama's boy and Simon's plan to hypnotize the world?

This is a very good book! I rate it 5 out of 5 stars. I recommend this book to people who love technology!

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

A Whole New World

Title: *Korean Celebrations*

Author: Tina Cho

Many cultures have different traditions, festivals, and holidays. In this book, *Korean Celebrations*, Korean culture is explained in depth. Words are explained and English pronunciations are provided. Holiday foods, gifts, and games are explained, and you can even replicate some of the rituals that they used during special events and holidays. The national anthem is translated, and you can learn about other sports that first occurred in Korea. One of the most interesting things in Korea is Children's Day. This holiday is a day just for children, where there is no school and children are able to go to amusement parks and receive presents from their parents. This book is recommended to those who want to learn more about the culture of another country. I give this book a five out of five stars.



Katie is in 10th grade. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to the kids who want to find more good books.

B is for Book



Bailey

An Oregon Tale

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie by Kristiana Gregory will always be my favorite historical book!

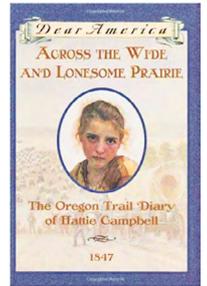
Hattie Campbell is going to Oregon! Before she knows, she is traveling the Oregon Trail

with 8 grueling months ahead: Rivers to cross, Indians, snakes, poisonous vegetables, it has it all! People everywhere are dropping like flies and everyone must fight to survive. Will Hattie fall among the fear, the blistering heat, and the losses? Or will she emerge at the end with memories, a new land and heart in Oregon?

Told as a diary, *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie* is an entertaining way of learning about the Oregon Trail. I really love how the author describes events, I feel like I'm in the story.

I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.



Sean's Book Review



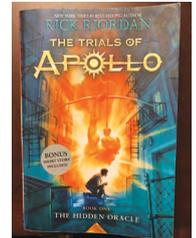
Sean

Banned from Olympus

The Hidden Oracle Book 1 of Trials of Apollo by Rick Riordan

Some of you guys may enjoy Greek mythology, and if you do, this is the book for you. Apollo, the god of poetry, music, and the sun, was banned from Mount

Olympus (the home of the Greek gods) and is now a wimpy, mortal teenager named Lester Papadopoulos. He starts his quest to show his father, Zeus, that he belongs in Mount Olympus. Apollo runs into many new and ancient encounters, such as Roman emperors and peach spirits. He works with a daughter of Demeter, Meg, who is his new master and helps him along the way his treacherous journey. I think that everyone who reads this book will enjoy the twists, jokes, and adventures that Apollo experiences. Overall, I loved reading this book and I enjoyed the way Rick writes because you can understand and imagine everything that's happening. I give this book a 10 out of 10.



Sean Cheng is a 5th grader who enjoys cubing (Rubik's Cubes), watching Rubik's Cube videos, and playing basketball. His favorite subjects at school are math and P.E. He loves his 3 guinea pigs and looks forward to summer vacations.

Note-ables



Kate Karp

A Frank Expression of Gratitude

Fred Rogers, better known as Mister Rogers, welcomed us into his neighborhood daily from 1968 through 2001. Through his comforting presence, gentle humor and downright decency, children learned about eating correctly, respecting one another and themselves, and what growing up really means.

“Thank You, Mister Rogers” is a frank expression of gratitude to a childhood mentor for having been so often and so kindly received into his home. The opener is, of course, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor.” It’s sung by the 1960s flower-power group The Cowsills, with their trademark sunny instrumentation replacing the familiar tinkling piano. Singer-actress Jaci Velasquez gives a lively Latin beat to “You Can Never Go Down the Drain,” about one of those childhood terrors that seem silly to adults but aren’t to children; and Sandi Patty performs “Please Don’t Think It’s Funny,” about the occasional but intense longing for security. Rita Wilson sings “Sometimes People Are Good,” which reminds us that everyone has their moments, good or bad. Wilson, by the way, is the wife of Tom Hanks, who plays Fred Rogers in the recent film “Welcome to My Neighborhood.”

“Thank You for Being You,” sung by all the artists, is the only song on the CD not written by Fred Rogers. It’s in his style, though, as a sincere tribute to the best neighbor anyone could ever want.

Small wonder that there’s been a Mister Rogers renaissance lately—a documentary, a biopic and now this collection., They’re all reminders of the outright kindness that’s needed so badly these days.

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

Gardening Terms – 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.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| SHOVEL | ROW |
| RAKE | FERTILIZER |
| HOE | SPADE |
| TRANSPLANT | SNAIL |
| POT | FOOD |
| NEMATODE | STAKE |
| WORM | HOSE |
| SOW BUG | SPRINKLER |
| FENCE | SEEDS |
| BED | PRUNERS |

Congratulations to Sadie Lightfoot
Winner of our November Word Search Contest!

Entries must be received by February 15, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card!

R	Q	Q	Z	D	G	F	J	O	H	S	X	S	F
L	E	V	O	H	S	W	I	I	C	M	M	V	E
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School News



20

YEARS

2020

Celebrate with us
all year long!

Contact me for more details:

Kay Coop

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