

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



Volume 8, Issue 37

November / December 2021

Principal Amanda Noriega Celebrates Fundraising Success



Board of Education



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Student Highlights from Monrovia Unified



Dr. Ryan D. Smith
Superintendent

We're about half way through our first full semester back in the classroom! Our students were excited to get back into the building to see friends, teachers and other familiar faces. It took a cooperative effort from everyone within our district to make sure this happened safely.

Throughout the semester we've had a number of student successes to celebrate. Here are a couple of examples I would like to highlight:

Monroe Elementary School raised an incredible amount of \$25,000 through an annual event. Principal Amanda Noriega promised to go through a slip-n-slide, covered in chocolate sauce and whipped cream, if the school was able to go beyond the \$20,000 mark. Since they beat that number, she honored that promise and slid through the sundae toppings to celebrate her students' work.

Monrovia High School fielded their first ever boys beach volleyball team in the school's history. The team closed out the season with it's first win against San Gabriel. The team is already looking to next year and hopes to build on their success from their debut season.

The Monrovia School Board also welcomed their new 2021-22 Board of Education Student Representatives. Monrovia High School senior Alexia Holt and Mountain Park Independent Study School junior Brianna Campbell

will serve as Monrovia Unified 2021-22 Board of Education student representatives, a role that enables them to expand on their passion for learning and to advocate for their peers.

These are just a few examples of how our students are thriving alongside their classmates and teachers. Monrovia Unified School District continues to provide "World Class Schools for World Class Students." We can't wait to share even more great stories with everyone as the year continues.



Monrovia High School senior Jan Luke Caldito sets up junior Ken Tsuo during one of their matches. The team finished 1-3 overall in their debut season, respectively.

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**Covering the
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Throughout this issue as you read the articles you can feel the student's excitement being back in the classrooms.

Thanksgiving will soon be here and I am thankful for family, good health, our dedicated educators and you — our loyal readers.

We have included student book reviews on pages 9 & 10 to help with your child's book choices. If your child would like to be a columnist reviewing favorite books, email me for specifics.

Our next issue is January 19, 2022. Until then be well and Happy New Year!





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Dr. Jayne Nickles
Principal

Pumpkin-Flavored October!

The Storybook Pumpkin Patch returned last month, and we had talented and creative students! Students decorated pumpkins based on a favorite character from one of their favorite books. This beautiful pumpkin patch could be found at the Bradoaks' Library through the end of October. Bobcats are readers

and future leaders!

Also in the month of October, all grades focused on the Next Generation Science Standards with creative, hands-on lessons all about pumpkins. Students observed pumpkins growing in the garden and decomposed pumpkins, discussed the gravitational force of a pumpkin drop, and questioned whether mass is a factor in the speed of something falling. In a culminating event, grade levels tested their hypotheses as our own Monrovia Fire Department firefighters assisted with the annual pumpkin drop from their ladder truck.

In early November, Bobcats will once again have the opportunity to participate in November Night Sky with Mr. Traeger. Astronomers and telescopes will be brought in for our young astronomers to view planets and constellations.

Way to go, Bobcats!



Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Fun Activities

September was full of fun and engaging activities for Canyon Early Learning Center and their families. On September 23rd Canyon Early Learning Center hosted its Back To School Night along with a community resource fair. Canyon Early Learning Center had an amazing turn out! Families got to enjoy seeing their classrooms and meeting with our Community Partners. Canyon Early Learning Center had a number of Community Partners in attendance including; Monrovia Reads, Monrovia Fire Department, and WIC.

On September 24th, Canyon Early Learning Center hosted a Family Play Date Night. Families were given the opportunity to stop by and play with all of the new equipment from LakeShore Learning. Families had a great time playing with their children. Canyon Early Learning Center students and their siblings were free to explore the new playground space and enjoyed seeing their classmates.



Family Play Date Night

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

Post-Secondary Success

By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal

At Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School, we instill in the minds of our students that when they come to school, they “Enter to Learn” then “Go Forth to Earn.”

However, not all career pathways

are the same- and that is OK. At the end of the day, our young adults need to gain the knowledge and attain the skills that will make them marketable individuals before they enter the work force. To increase these opportunities for our students, we have strategically allotted funds from the Comprehensive Support and Improvement grant to invest in acquiring

college and career ready labs. These learning modules include: STEM learning systems, Health Science Careers, and BuildingSkills. These tools will be installed in the next month into our classrooms so that students can immediately begin to ignite their passion for learning and earning.



Clifton Middle School

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



Scott Moses
Principal

The Fall Season has Begun!

Things are really moving and shaking at Clifton Middle School! I want to share what a wonderful experience arriving at Clifton has been for me.

What a very warm welcome I have received from Clifton and its students, families and staff members. There is a true

sense of positivity and school spirit that permeates the entire campus.

The students had a great time participating in our Day of Awesomeness presented by Step it Up and coordinated by our PTSA. For all students who participated, reward time was spent jumping, jamming, and navigating a number of outdoor obstacle courses and games. An incredible amount of funds were raised to support our entire school.

In athletics, we have posted some great achievements during our return to an in-person season. Cross country, football, and volleyball teams are winding down with some great showings. Next up, basketball tryouts are just ending and soccer is fast approaching.



In arts news, our drama department presented the production of *The 12 Tasks of Hercules* this last Friday, with students offering a short play and music. Also in arts, a big shout out goes to our student participants who were recognized this weekend by the Monrovia Association of Fine Arts! They were presented with recognition certificates for their outstanding submissions.

Please save the date for some upcoming campus events, such as the great time we had at an evening of karaoke that supported our band program in October. We hope folks will be able to attend these great events!

Finally, our leadership students were busy last month planning the “Night of the Undead Dance” and our annual costume contest, which was held right before Halloween. Clifton is truly an amazing place to learn, celebrate, and showcase talent in many forms.

Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

New Renaissance Team!

Mayflower is pleased to introduce their new 2021–22 Renaissance Team! The team has been selected and is ready to serve. Renaissance, a nationally recognized youth program, provides students an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills by organizing celebratory activities and service projects that build culture and climate on the school campus.

The team's focus will be on building respect, promoting recognition and rewards, and reinforcing the positive interactions among students and staff. After completing an application process, 24 students in third through fifth grades were chosen to serve on the Mayflower Renaissance Team. Under the direction of third-grade teacher Bethany Delisi, this team of student leaders has already begun planning schoolwide activities

aimed at building academic performance and character skills. They will seek to energize a culture of recognition and thoughtfully create opportunities to recognize others for their unique efforts. Additionally, this group will work to develop a culture that rewards actions and achievements that are aligned with school expectations and values.

We are thrilled to be growing our schoolwide Renaissance experience this year at Mayflower and congratulate our new Renaissance Team!



Monroe *Elementary*

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



Amanda Noriega
Principal

Lions have Been Busy!

The Mighty Monroe Lions have been busy! We successfully fundraised \$26,831.91 with our annual Jog-a-thon fundraiser. We also focused our efforts towards bully prevention as October is National Bullying Prevention month. We believe that the only way to combat

the culture of bullying is to enforce an anti-bullying culture and to celebrate our differences. Our lions took a pledge against bullying and participated in various activities such as creating an anti-bullying club, taking part in a national assembly and reading books about the subject through a read-aloud method. On October 27th, students presented a tableau vivant in an anti-bullying school assembly. A tableau vivant, French for “living

picture”, is a static scene containing one or more actors or models who are stationary and silent to capture and communicate the meaning of a concept. We look forward to November as we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month.



Monrovia High School

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Meet Our Commended Students

Monrovia High School celebrates three outstanding seniors who are Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students have shown exceptional academic promise as demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the PSAT last fall.

About 34,000 students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise, and MHS has three! Please meet the following Class of 2022 National Merit Scholars.

Matthew Hui is planning on studying business and finance in college, is active in the MHS Robotics program, is president of the Key Club, likes to volunteer, and is an avid photographer. Andrew Smithwick wishes to pursue studies in computer science, is the current president of the PC club, is involved in robotics, and loves his Game Development class here at MHS. Kristoffer Kaufmann is keeping his options open for his post-high-school studies but cites goals in video-game design, computer programming and creative

writing as potentials. He is passionate about robotics, game development and his French class.

MHS is fortunate to have dedicated, engaged and exceptionally talented students like these three. Congratulations to this year's National Merit Commended Students!



Plymouth Elementary

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



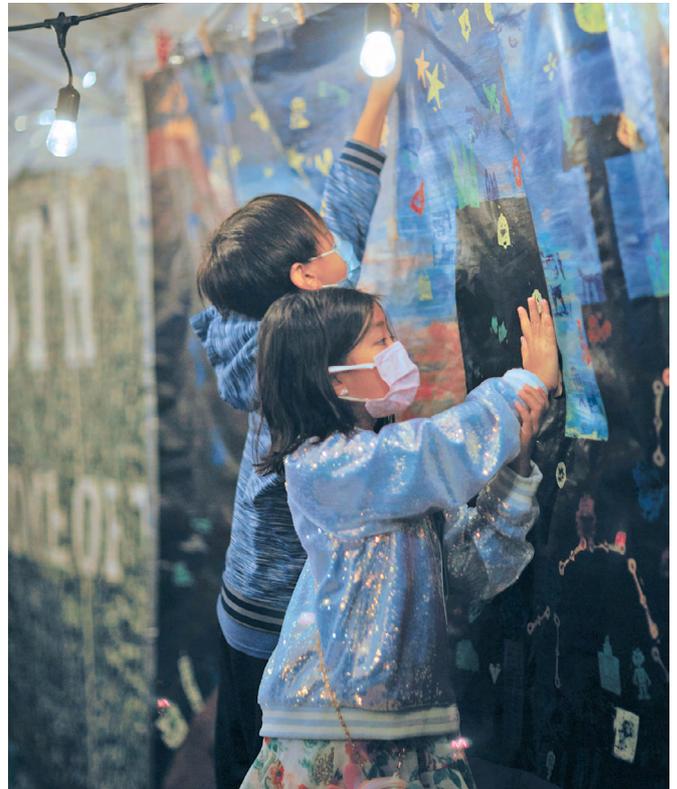
Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

Plymouth's STEAM Family Night

Plymouth hosted an exhilarating family event!

On October 8th, Plymouth students and their families gathered for our annual STEAM Family Night. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. The event was hosted by our PTA, and focused on providing interactive, educational, and fun activities.

Families visited five STEAM-themed stations: The Science of Composting was hosted by our partners at Food ED; The Old Town Sidewalk Astronomers treated families to amazing views of the night sky using their technologically advanced telescopes; Our partners at Amigos de los Ríos shared the engineering behind the new sustainability features on our campus; Creative World Art Center led families in a fun, collaborative art project; and two of our Plymouth teachers, Mrs. Williams and Ms. Curtis, recruited families to join in some math puzzles and games that required creative problem-solving and mathematical reasoning. What a fantastic STEAM-filled evening for our Plymouth families!



Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Make a Difference Day

In October, Santa Fe AVID students took part in Monrovia's Make a Difference Day. Our landscaping and environmental-design partners, Amigos de los Rios, provided plants and soil. Students planted dozens of California native plants.

Part of their day of service

included learning about how native plants can prosper in Monrovia and the importance of water conservation.

On the other side of campus, our Pollinator Garden received fresh soil and weeding. Our garden and green-science partners, Food ED, refurbished the Santa Fe boxed letters and filled them with natural materials to be used by



different pollinators. Moss, branches, cotton and other natural materials will allow pollinators to use them to make nests. Some letters were filled with pinecones for bug hotels, all of which contribute to our ecosystem by benefitting pollinators.

Also on hand was Monrovia City Council member Larry Spicer, who distributed water, supplies and lunch to the children for the event. It was a great display of our community working together to make our school greener and cleaner for our awesome Cougar Scholars.



Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

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



Paige Ramos
Principal

Bear News

What's shaking? On October 21st, Wild Rose School of Creative Arts participated in The Great California Shake Out. This gave us the perfect opportunity to practice safety in case of a real emergency. Our Safety Team is in the process of revamping old procedures and embracing new ideas. Indoors we practiced the three key steps for personal

safety during an earthquake DROP! COVER! HOLD ON! Our students also learned a new exit procedure where they created wagon wheels to ensure the safety of their classmates. Our staff and students did an amazing job and safety was the top priority. This is a great reminder to ask your student to share their experience and discuss your own emergency procedures at home.



Kailani's Review

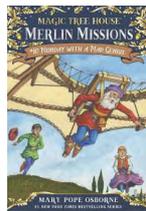


Kailani T.

Favorite Tree House Adventure

Monday with a Mad Genius

by Mary Pope Osborne is the 10th book in the series Magic Tree House. It is about two siblings of Frog Creek, Pennsylvania (Jack and Annie) who go back in time by the magic tree house. Their



mission is to help a magician named Merlin of Camelot find the secret of happiness. During the journey, the siblings travel to Florence, Italy and meet Leonardo DaVinci in the 1500s. Jack and Annie watch DaVinci fly the Great Bird and finish the Mona Lisa painting.

This was a fun book to read. The story is full of excitement and interesting information. I learned about Mona Lisa and Leonardo DaVinci. Reading that DaVinci was also an inventor, architect, stage and costume designer, horseman, chef, geologist, and botanist was fascinating. My favorite parts are when Jack and Annie figured out the secret of happiness and that DaVinci was also a horseman. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves adventures.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

Feeling "Inspired"

Book Title: *Inspired*

Author: Susan Schaefer Bernado

Imagine you've moved to a new home. You open a package, a seemingly harmless mirror, but somehow it opens up a whole new world. In a Harry Potter style escape,



Rocket grows out of her awkward self and finds new skills in the new world of Mount Olympus that she has found. Her nemesis turns out to be haunted, and she realizes that sometimes the only way to resolve conflict is to recognize that everyone could use a helping hand, even if they seem awful at first glance. She finds that she can connect to people, form relationships, and truly understand those around her. In short, she's been "inspired." To help not only others but to find herself, and to live to the potential that she has. I recommend this book to those who love Greek mythology references and to anyone who wants to feel like they have escaped to an alternate reality, one that we can all make our own.

Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.



Daniel's Review



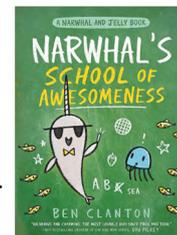
Daniel H.

Wafflematics

Title: *Narwhal's School of Awesomeness*
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to school. When they all get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold. Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Wafflematics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn't have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!



Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

David's Review



David H.

One Big Puzzle

Title: *Holes*

Author: Louis Sachar

Holes is about a kid named Stanley who gets sent to a camp as punishment where he and other kids have to dig holes in the ground each day, looking for something for the camp warden. What I liked about this book is that it's really 3 stories in 1. There are a bunch of "holes" in each story and the stories are like puzzle pieces that, when combined, make up one big fun story with bits of humor splashed throughout it. This is a "Mom, I know it's bedtime but can I please read the next chapter?" type of book. I absolutely loved this book and you will too!



David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

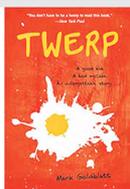
Sean's Book Review



Sean

A Bad Decision

Twerp is a humorous book by Mark Goldblatt about a 6th grader in 1969 named Julian Twerski. Julian is a good kid who makes bad decisions, which makes him seem like a "bad kid." When his English teacher, Mr. Selkirk, tells him that if he does a journal on his crazy life and decisions, he can get out of writing a report on Shakespeare (which Julian hates). Throughout the book, interesting stories are always being told by Julian. Some of the incidents include hitting a bird with a rock, helping out his BFF by writing a love letter for his best friend's crush, and accidentally burning off his friend's eyebrows! A middle schooler could relate to Julian's point of view on life. In conclusion, *Twerp* is a very fun and suspenseful book that can be enjoyed by all types of readers.



Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

Taeyoung's Book Review



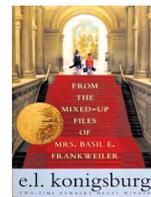
Taeyoung K.

Hideout at the Museum

Title: *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Author: E. L. Konigsburg

What do you think that the museum is for? There is a girl who thinks a museum is good for hiding. Claudia Kincaid has complaints about



her responsibilities at home and the things that make her uncomfortable. She decides to run away from home and makes a plan to go to the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York to hide so that nobody can find her. She leaves home and takes one of her brothers, Jamie, because he has some money that she needs to go there. Finally, Claudia and Jamie enter the museum and find a place to hide. Now, they start their adventure at the museum.

Can they keep hiding at the museum? Or will they get caught by the guards? What will happen to them at the museum? This book will lead you into the mysteries and adventures. Let's dive into it.

Taeyoung K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

Monsters aren't real...are they?

Percy Jackson's *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It's also the start to the Percy Jackson series and what a



start it is! I've read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have heard of the series but if you haven't, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kicked out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to take care and play with Chewie, his dog.

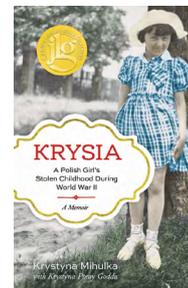
Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

Forced to Grow Up

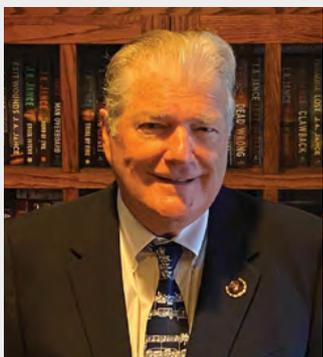
Kryisia by Krystyna Mihulka tells the true story of a 9-year-old Jewish girl's experiences during the distressing World War II, where her family is captured and forced to leave their comfortable



home in Lwów, Poland and must survive in a foreign prison camp in Kazakhstan, Russia. With her tranquil childhood torn apart, Kryisia lives through one of the darkest times in history, witnessing death and seeing victims suffer from starvation and sicknesses. Amidst depressing days with little food, Kryisia finds hope through letters from her father in hiding and a snowstorm that blocks Russian soldiers from irritating her family. This personal narrative appeals to readers who sympathize with struggles, are interested in history, and believe that goodness will prevail.

I give this book 4.7 out of 5 stars.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.



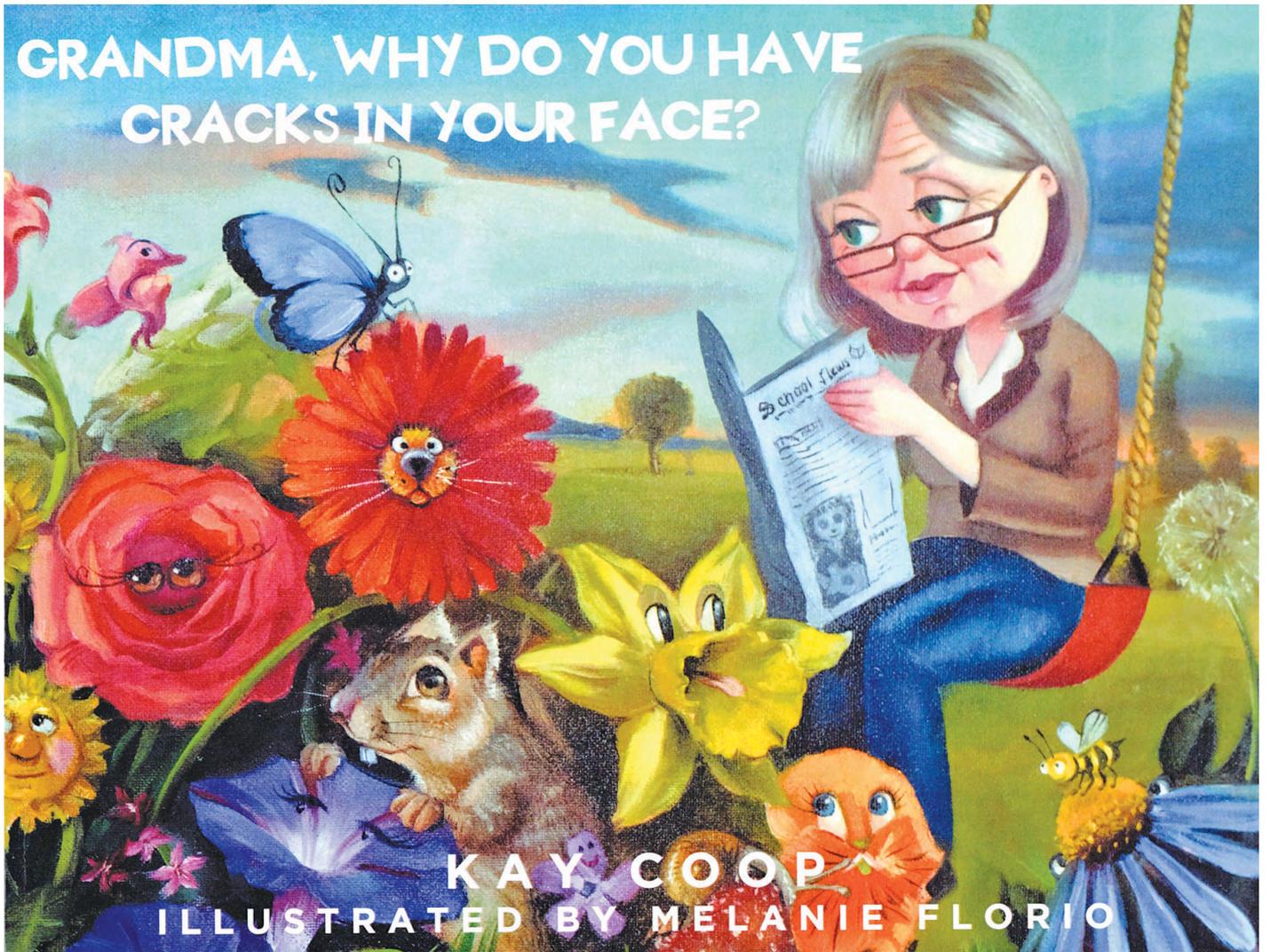
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GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



KAY COOP
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



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Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face? Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.