

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



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March / April 2022

Black History Month Arts Festival



Santa Fe students' collage-like artwork were among those that were featured at the Black History Month Arts Festival. Their art was inspired from studying the life of African-American artist, author, and songwriter Romare Bearden.

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Students Get to Shine in the Spotlight Again



Dr. Ryan D. Smith
Superintendent

As the school year has moved forward, we have been able to hold more events in-person again to showcase our students' talents and accomplishments by adhering to all state and county health protocols. It's been amazing to see

our families, teachers, and staff, and community members cheering on our kids at various events. There are two recent examples that I am so proud to share more with everyone:

First, Monrovia Unified was finally able to hold the Elementary Winter Concert for band, strings, and choir at the Taylor Performing Arts Center at Monrovia High School. This event is usually scheduled in December, but it was pushed back due to COVID. Students from all of our elementary schools put on an amazing performance for a packed house. You could feel the energy in the room every time a song was played because the crowd would erupt with applause and cheers. I would like to thank all the students, teachers, parents, and volunteers who helped put on a show to remember!



The other event would be our Black History Month Art Festival. Every wall in the Monrovia Community Center room was covered in student art pieces for the festival. In partnership with the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association (MDBAA), our

kids were able to put together projects that showcased and celebrated Black and African American icons throughout history. Awards were given to the top artists of the festival, but every single student who entered did a fantastic job.

It's amazing to be able to hold these kinds of events again as we move through the second semester of school at Monrovia Unified. I hope you're able to come to one of our future events to see the greatness of our students and teachers for yourself.





Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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School News

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**Covering the
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Dr. Smith begins this issue on page 3 with an update on in-person events.

In this issue you will read articles on such topics as: STEM Night, Literacy and the Joy of Reading, Robotics Honors, Wild Rose School of Creative Arts celebrates 110th birthday, and so much more...

Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss as we celebrate Read Across America.

Our next issue is May 11.



History Depot

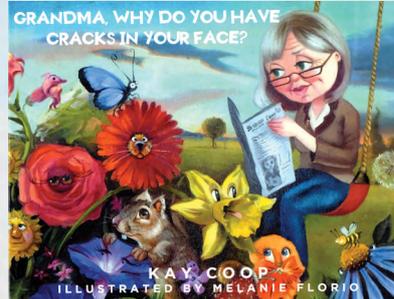


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History is about learning and understanding the past. The past does not change, but interpretations do. One cannot erase history and expect to remember the past.



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517 S Myrtle Ave., Monrovia, 91016

Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

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

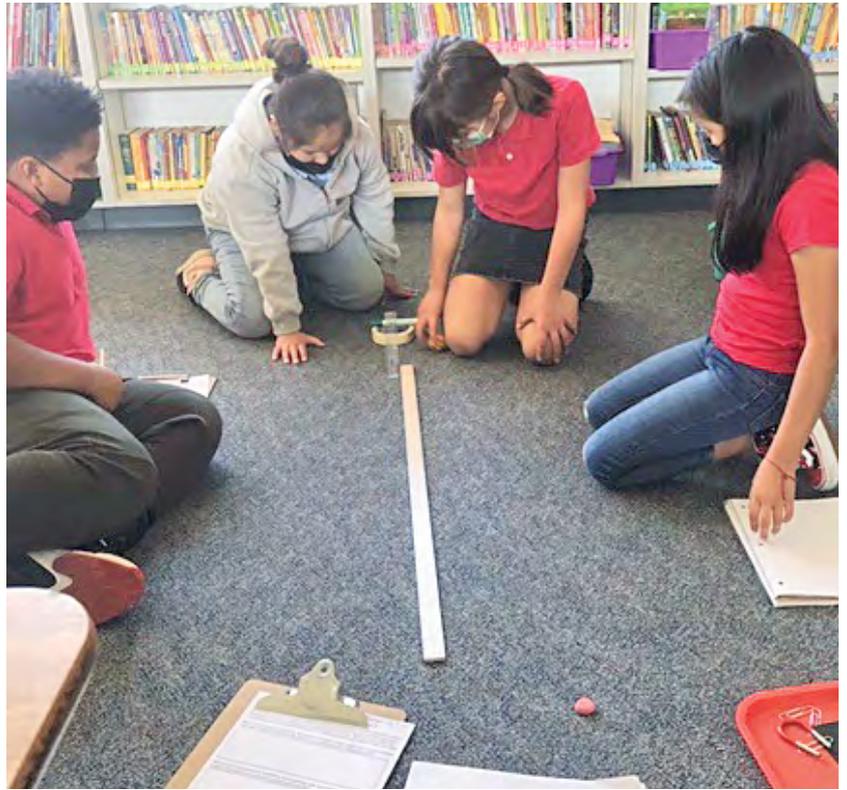


Dr. Jayne Nickles
Principal

STEM Night

The next couple of months will be busy for our young Bradoaks' scientists. In March, parents have planned a STEAM Night that will consist of five interactive stations; science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Students will have the opportunity to learn about food science, make their own glider and test it out, create a race track on the magnetic wall, mix their own paint and create, and solve math puzzles to unlock boxes filled with a surprise. Thanks to our parents and volunteers, this will be a fun night of science and food.

In April, the Bradoaks' Science Fair will be held. Students will find a topic of their interest and become the expert in that area. Students will think of a question, research it, and creatively present their findings on a posterboard. Our scientists will be presenting their projects on the greenscape on April 26th just prior to Open House.



Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Literacy Skills

Canyon Early Learning Center has an instructional focus on developing Literacy Skills and Reasoning Skills with our Preschool children. We are fortunate to have strong Literacy partnerships with Community Based Organization, like the Monrovia Public Library and Monrovia Reads. The Monrovia

Library staff has regularly scheduled visits to Canyon early Learning Center. The students in the photo are doing a literacy activity led by the Monrovia Public Library staff.

Canyon Early Learning Center's instructional focus on Literacy and Reasoning skills are addressed in the following ways; The Monrovia

Public Library has regularly scheduled visits to the facility to conduct learning activities, The Monrovia Reads Van visits the site monthly, we have Parent Education Nights that focus on literacy development and the CELC staff is given Professional Development in Literacy and Preschool Foundations and Framework. CELC students are gaining valuable literacy development skills during their time in our Preschool Program.



Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park/Monrovia Community Adult

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • <https://cohs.MonroviaSchools.net>



Flint Fertig
Principal

Service-Organization Scholarships

Over each of the past few years, a handful of graduating seniors from Mountain Park School and Canyon Oaks High School have each received between \$500 and \$2,500 in scholarship money. Organizations and clubs from all across the community continue to offer monetary assistance to the most hardworking students. Often, students have to write essays, be interviewed, or both in order to qualify for the reward.

Earlier this month, Calvin McKendrick was contacted by Alan Huber, a local Rotarian, regarding the George R. Hensel Ethics Essay Contest. George Hensel was the founder of the California Driving School, served as a merchant mariner, and had a 45-year record of perfect attendance to his Rotary meetings. Mr. Hensel went from sleeping on park benches during the Great Depression to earning a Ph.D. in business. His legacy was defined

in part by his philanthropy, giving millions of dollars to the community and Rotary. Today, his legacy continues through this essay contest. Participating students must submit an essay that expresses their views on an ethical dilemma that has touched their lives. They must include their personal definition of ethics and also include their view of the importance of ethics.

At the local Rotary level, students in grades nine through 12 have the opportunity to win and earn \$250, with the student's teacher receiving \$150. At the district Rotary level, students have the opportunity to win a grand prize of \$3,000, with the teacher winning \$1,000. There are also awards for three student runners-up who can win \$500 and their teachers \$200. Mrs. Grimmer has been working closely with our staff to ensure that these opportunities and incentives are accessible to all secondary students.

Through the efforts of the Rotary and other community organizations, scholarships will continue to help students achieve their post-secondary education and career goals.

Clifton Middle School

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



Scott Moses
Principal

An Amazing Place to Be!

Our student leadership once again did a great job of organizing a cool after-school hangout where students and staff enjoy food, festivities, and fun around our campus. The leadership students truly help keep our campus spirit

alive on a daily basis with inspirational posters, weekly events, and celebrating our staff members on their birthdays.

The Arts Academy continues to provide many great events for our students, including some of our more recent and upcoming community guests, and our Tuesday Arts on the Quad and Random Acts of Art activities. These offer dancing techniques, pantomime, improvisation techniques, science meets art, and even bagpipes! Our students and staff members alike really enjoy having moments to stop and take it in on our campus.



We are also fortunate to be developing a new partnership with the Day One program, and the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association, who joined us on campus to help celebrate Black History Month with information, literature, education, and student outreach. We look forward to continuing to offer

opportunities to bridge with our community partners.

In athletics, our boys and girls soccer teams are off to a great start, as the season is now getting underway. Our dedicated coaches and team members really put every effort into making our events competitive fun.

Finally, a shout out to Dr. Francois, who volunteered his time to share with our AVID students about the benefits of this program. The Advancement via Individual Determination Program focuses on developing organizational strategies to help prepare students for college eligibility and success.



Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Learning the Joy of Reading

Our Mayflower Mariners will kick off Literacy Month honoring Dr. Seuss and celebrating Read Across Monrovia. All month long Mariners will participate in a slew of fulfilled activities aimed at boosting and celebrating reading.

For several years, and in conjunction with National Reading Month, Mayflower has proclaimed the month of March as Literacy Month. With the help of

Monrovia Reads and many community members, our school begins the month-long celebration with wonderful guest readers visiting every classroom and a tribute to American children's author Theodore Seuss Geisel.

This year our Mariners will honor Dr. Seuss by tipping their hats to him and donning their favorite one at school. And each week will bring festive activities! A banner of poetry flags, created by the students, will hang from our pergola. Staff and students will wear readable shirts, enjoy a “books and blankets” lunch with family members, and culminate the month dressed as their favorite book character.



Reading is fun and fundamental to learning. Mayflower School is committed to growing literacy in all of our students and working hard to inspire them to find the joy in reading!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Amanda Noriega
Principal

Black History Oratory Showcase

The Mighty Monroe Lions celebrated Black History Month! We honor Black achievement all year long at Monroe Elementary and we are proud of how our students showcase Black excellence. We focus

on an ongoing celebration of diversity by recognizing that diversity is what brings us together. It helps us learn about people from different cultures and backgrounds. Monroe was the feature school at the 9th Annual Black History Month Children's Arts Festival that the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association organized. Our students also put together the 1st annual Black History Oratory Showcase. It gave students an opportunity to interpret a poem, speech, song, or book excerpt by a Black author or artist. They also presented two powerful words, equity and activist, though a tableau. A



tableau vivant, French for “living picture”, is a static scene containing actors who are stationary and silent to capture the meaning of a concept.

Monrovia High School

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



Flint Fertig
Interim Principal

Robotics Honors!

Congratulations, Monrovia Robotics! In February, Monrovia High School was honored to host the LA Regional Qualifying Robotics Tournament Competition.

This competition

determines the top robotics programs who will be moving on to the championship level. MHS had unprecedented success as every MHS team won an award and four of the five teams qualified for the LA Regional Championships.

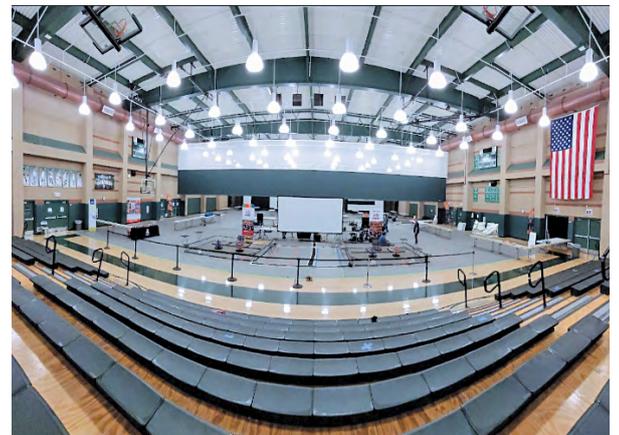
Team Spectrum, Team Suitbots, Team Loki, and Team Kings and Queens all qualified for LA Regional Championships. Each of these teams was awarded the prestigious Winning Alliance



Captain Award and will compete again when Monrovia High School hosts the LA Regional Championship here in Wildcat Country on March 12. Team Reboot won the Motivate Award for their extraordinary efforts in community outreach. The tournament accomplishments of each of our teams was the product of team member hard work and hours of preparation.

In addition, we want to recognize that future Wildcats from Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School, Cougar Robotics Alpha and Cougar Robotics Beta were strong tournament competitors against a field of mostly high school teams.

Please come out on March 12 to support our amazing students and see them compete at the championship level! Go Wildcats!



Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

Plymouth Celebrates Pick Two 2s Day with Two Free Books for Every Student!

On Tuesday, 2/22/22, Plymouth celebrated “Pick Two 2s Day” by providing every student with two books to take home! The books were provided through a partnership between our PTA and Reading is Fundamental (RIF SoCal). Now in the 5th year of this partnership, students choose exciting books to take home at different literacy events throughout the year.

Plymouth also celebrated this once-in-a-lifetime calendar occurrence by inviting students to choose two ways to show their school spirit, including: crazy hair, crazy socks, college gear, team jerseys, Plymouth gear, tie dye, or neon clothing.

In addition to the RIF SoCal books, our PTA also provides a free “birthday book” for every student to choose, even if their birthday occurs during summer. Inspiring a lifelong love of reading in our students is so important to our school, and events like “Pick Two 2s Day” provide a wonderful opportunity to support this mission!



Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Celebrating Black History Month

Celebrating Black Joy is the theme this year at Santa Fe for Black History Month. Art and wellness are a part of this year's celebration in addition to understanding and learning the important contributions of African-Americans to our society.

The Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association came to our school with books, health and wellness information, and fun activities and games. A festive atmosphere filled the air as students waited in line to receive their books. Local historians Betty Thomas, Sharon Morris, and Barbara Gholar were on hand to talk with students, share their stories, and help distribute books.

Mrs. Heather Gac's art students learned about black artists and their important contributions to the landscape of American art. Mrs. Gac selected artists whose work tells the story of the Black journey in American history. Students not only learned the history of each artist, they wrote a response to how this artist affected their understanding of the struggles of the past.



During Cougar Coaching this month, our social emotional learning focused on MLK, Inaugural poet Amanda Gorman, and the Tuskegee Airmen. These powerful lessons were brought to life through interactive Nearpod lessons that allowed students to see into the world of others, while also reflecting on the impact that these studying extraordinary figures had on their own lives.



Wild Rose School of Creative Arts

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



Happy 110th Birthday Wild Rose School of Creative Arts!

Wild Rose was built in 1912 and we celebrated our 110th Birthday on the 110th day of school. We had an assembly on the front porch of the school and recognized a historical moment in time. Our friends from the Monrovia Historical Museum joined us to share fun facts from 1912 to the current day. Our Wild Rose Family dressed up as if we were 110 years old and had a blast! Our staff performed “When I’m Sixty Four” by The Beatles with a little play on words to “When I’m 110” with Mr. Bogdon on guitar accompanied by Mrs. Jaramillo and Ms. Naugle singing vocals. Since we discovered that Oreos were invented in 1912 too, we skipped the cake and enjoyed Oreo cookies donated by our awesome PTA as a finale to an exceptional day!



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