

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 19

MARCH / APRIL 2018

## Celebrating 100 Days of Education and Achievements

By Dr. Katherine Thorossian,  
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified fosters students' curiosity and strengthens their desire to become lifelong learners. We build on our students' foundation of knowledge with tools and skills that will enable them to pursue new avenues of discovery.

Our schools took the opportunity to create excitement for learning by celebrating the District's 100th day of school. Each elementary school was filled with lively classroom and community activities to showcase student success and progress at the midway point of the school year.

Monroe Elementary celebrated the day by hosting a Grandparents and Special Friends Day with students reimagining themselves at 100 years old by dressing in shawls and sporting gray hair. Students shared color paper images of what they think they would look like when they turned 100 and gave tours of their campus to their grandparents and families.

"I liked seeing everyone all dressed up for the day and it was really fun to bring my aunt with me to school and show her what I do in class," fourth-grader Presley Jones said. "She wanted to visit and remember what it was like to be in elementary school because it's been such a long time since she was a kid."

Kindergarten students at Bradoaks Elementary School painted 100 gumballs, found 100 objects in a picture and strung together 100 pieces of cereal. Wild Rose Elementary school students participated in activities that involved counting to 100 and bringing collections of 100 items.

Mayflower Elementary School challenged students to read 100 books and write 100 words in one day. Plymouth students tried to find 100 pigs in their playgrounds, based on the book *Pigs in Hiding*, and matched the farm animal to a number line. They also held their 100th class meeting, said 100 hellos and built a wooden community block structure.



At Monrovia Unified, we are committed to providing essential opportunities for our students to flourish in school and in our communities. I am proud to represent a community that is so deeply invested in the success of our students.

## Supporting the Performing Arts

By Patrick Garcia, Director of Performing Arts

Monrovia Schools Foundation (MSF) was established in 1987 with the awesome purpose of securing funds to support Monrovia Unified School District programs and projects that enrich the lives of Monrovia students.

One area of focus for MSF is the Visual and Performing Arts. According to MSF President, Debbie Elliot-Penzer, "We know the Arts make a big difference and are delighted to support Monrovia Schools and students to provide access to the Arts." Recently, MSF purchased 340 tickets for Monrovia students from all



schools to attend Disney's Beauty and the Beast on December 2nd at the Taylor Performing Arts Center on the campus at Monrovia High School. After the performance, students were given an opportunity to take photographs with the cast.

Through these important sponsorships, MSF is investing in the future of this community while also providing access to exciting enrichment opportunities for Monrovia Unified School District students and their families.

### Board of Education



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

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • [www.MonroviaSchools.net](http://www.MonroviaSchools.net)



**Flint Fertig**  
Principal

## Out of Trout

*By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal*

When it comes to being creative, the staff and students at our alternative schools have a habit of thinking outside the box. Whether it is a water treatment lab or Skyping students in Costa Rica, Ms. Deneui personifies our school culture by constantly seeking new ways to bring real-life experiences into the classroom.

It was no surprise then when Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School applied to be part of a special program that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was offering to high school teachers. As anticipated, our schools qualified to be part of a plan to acquire fish eggs for raising trout in the classroom.

It was no simple task for us to prepare to house an incubator for a couple of dozen trout eggs! First, Ms. Deneui had to attend a Saturday workshop in Newport Beach. Then she had to find a partner organization (the Pasadena Casting Club), and a sponsor (the 48th Agriculture District). Once she was given the green light to start her “Trout in the Classroom” plan with CDFW, she then had to make a list of equipment needed, research the aquarium specifications, clean the fish tank, pick up the chiller in Los Alamitos, and provide a release plan.

Just last week a representative from the 48th Agriculture District dropped the eggs off at our school. The Santa Fe Dam Recreation Center has also graciously granted us permission to release the trout in their man-made lake. In the meantime, our students have made data tables and documented their daily observations as we anticipate the hatching! The project will culminate with a field trip to Santa Fe Dam to release our fish into the wild.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



A moment of silence  
in memory of the  
Parkland, FL students.

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**Covering the  
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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949-733-1855 • Fax: 562/430-8063  
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**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
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## Counselors Unlock True Potential

Tony Morrow has one goal for the students of Fallbrook High School—graduate ready for what comes next. With his guidance, young scholars and families put their plans for the future into action.



Fallbrook High School, College and Career Counselor: Tony Morrow '11, M.A.Ed. '12

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# Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



**Jayne Nickles**  
*Principal*

## Basketball Tournament

Under the guidance of our school counselor (who is also one of our advisors for Renaissance Leaders), the Renaissance Sportsmanship Committee put together a Bradoaks Basketball Tournament for fifth-graders. Before the tournament began, the Renaissance Sportsmanship Committee reviewed guidelines and expectations. They made decisions on all aspects of how the tournament should go, including how many points would be needed to win a game as well as the value of a basket.

The basketball tournament also provided students with another leadership role—serving as scorekeepers. The scorekeeper for each team not only recorded the baskets made, but also made notes of positive sportsmanship during the games. Scorekeepers looked for players who helped one another and gave verbal praise. They also made note of students who demonstrated Respectful, On task, Attitudes in check, and Responsible (ROAR) behavior.



The goal of the tournament is to provide students with a structured, competitive activity that builds responsibility, discipline, teamwork, and respect. Our Renaissance Sportsmanship Committee put much care into designing a successful and fun activity for our fifth-graders.

Way to go, Bobcats!

# Monrovia *High School*

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



**Kirk McGinnis**  
*Principal*

## Choice of Coursework

Monrovia High School is host to a number of quality academic programs that allow students to focus their studies during high school. In July, representatives from MHS visited every eighth-grade classroom at both Clifton and Santa Fe to showcase the options available.

Students are able to select a course of study in five different academies or pathways. The Humanities Academy is a four-year honors academy that provides the opportunity for students to focus studies through Advanced Placement (AP) English, history and the arts. It includes community-service hours and a junior project. The Math and Science Academy is a four-year honors academy providing the same community-service hours and junior project with AP classes that focus on math and science. The Early College Program is a dual-enrollment program in which students take Citrus College classes in a four-year cohort model right here on the MHS campus. These classes are completely free of charge and provide MUSD graduation credit and CSU/UC transferrable credit at the same time.

The Digital Media and Information Academy is a comprehensive program that integrates technical learning in the digital-media labs with core-content classes. It helps to prepare students for a successful career in the digital-media field. The Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program is a college-preparatory program that couples an elective class focusing on building college-ready skills with a rigorous course of study.

Each of these academies or pathways provides rigorous and supportive courses of study with dedicated professionals that will prepare students for the successes of their dreams. What a great time to be a student in Monrovia!



## SUMMER SWIM LESSONS 2018

Monrovia High School Pool  
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# Clifton *Middle School*

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



**Jennifer Jackson**  
*Principal*

## A Deep Partnership

Clifton Middle School hosted its second annual “Pastries with Parents” event on Friday, February 16th.

Pastries with Parents originated in the spring of 2017 from a leadership team comprised of Clifton administrators and teachers, back when it was determined that the school needed to be more informative about its academic expectations. The sole purpose of the event was to assist our parents with a deeper understanding of the school’s academic atmosphere and how better to support their children.

The event kicked off with a beautiful spread of pastries and beverages provided by Food Service Manager Richard Tamez. As our parents enjoyed their treats and settled in, the Clifton administration presented an overview of the school’s instructional focus and accompanying school-wide initiatives. This was followed by classroom visits to observe core instruction, led by the administration and school counselor. The event concluded with a question-and-answer session.

Clifton’s team is confident that our parents walked away with a new understanding of the school’s academic rigor in comparison to their own personal experiences. Our school-to-home partnership is valued by the Clifton school community, and is a contributor to student success.

# Mayflower *Elementary*

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



**Michelle Costarella**  
*Principal*

## Enrichment and Fun

Mayflower Elementary is committed to providing its students with strong enrichment activities. Our students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of after-school programs related to music, art, and science. They also have access to organizations on campus such as the Boys and Girls Club of the Foothills and the Monrovia Community Services Youth Sports Program.

In addition to our extracurricular activities, we also provide enrichment and fun during our lunch hour. Three days a week our students are invited to participate in a soccer-to-STEM athletics program on our campus field. This program is sponsored by Coast to Coast, and provides structure to our play time while also offering safe and organized fun for our students.



Facilitated by college athletic coaches, the students are led through a series of physically and mentally challenging games that center around a specific STEM topic. The program embraces aspects that are linked directly to the learning in our own school program, including STEM, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support framework.

Our Mayflower students enjoy this program, and benefit from the combined experiences of play and learning, while also developing their skills in academics, sports, and team work.

# Canyon Early Learning Center

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



**Penny Fraumeni**  
*Interim Director*

## Big Doings Here!

Our vision here at the Canyon Early Learning Center is to provide a safe, caring and creative environment as the foundation for all of our preschool-age children to become lifelong learners. Currently, we are in the midst of our big state audit that began early in March. We are purposefully concentrating on displaying original student artwork, promoting family learning, and developing exciting and engaging room environments.

We will also be doing a lot of campus beautification in the coming weeks as we plant seeds for flowers and vegetables in our planters around our campus. Our children will enjoy not only getting dirty with the actual planting but also getting excited as they water and weed and watch things grow! Hopefully in the spring, we will harvest the vegetables and enjoy eating what we have grown!

Our instructional theme this month in all of our classes is “Clothes,” in which all of our toddlers learn about all types of clothing. We are also beginning “*Abriendo Puertas*,” which means “opening doors.” This is a free parent-education program held every Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. for the next 10 weeks. Dinner and child care are provided. Parents will be engaged in meaningful learning and education about how to help their preschoolers do better in school.

We also welcome Penny Fraumeni as our temporary interim preschool director until a new administrator is hired.

# Plymouth *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Greg Gero**  
*Principal*

## Honoring Outstanding Employees

In January, two of Plymouth Elementary School’s outstanding employees were honored as Employees of the Month at the Monrovia Unified School District Board meeting.

Cecilia Vega was celebrated for her 11 years of exceptional service as Plymouth’s office manager. Displaying an unrelenting positive energy, Cecilia creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who set foot on our campus. Her genuine smile and joyful laugh are well known by those who frequent Plymouth.



Steve Cook, our Mandarin dual-immersion teacher, was celebrated for his outstanding contribution to Plymouth. Mr. Cook has been instrumental in building our dual-immersion program. He teaches one of the most difficult languages in the world to seven- and eight-year-olds, yet he does this with incredible artistry! Mr. Cook’s masterful teaching is complemented by an inspiring spirit of service and humility.

Employees like Cecilia Vega and Steve Cook are a big part of what makes Plymouth a world-class school!





**Dr. Lily Jarvis**  
*Principal*

**Grandparent’s Day  
We are 100 Days  
Smarter**

On January 30th Monroe Elementary School held the first ever Grandparents Day event. The celebration was in conjunction with the

100th day of school. Grandparents and special friends spent the morning in classrooms making crafts, singing and dancing to songs that commemorated the 100th day of school.

Many students were eager to show their school spirit and dressed as if they were 100 years old. Kids were very excited to enjoy the morning with a loved one in their classroom. The event was the first of its kind, the combination of grandparent’s day and 100 days of learning brought many family members to our campus, and we hope that this will become a long standing tradition at Monroe Elementary School.



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# Wild Rose *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Leslie Miller**  
*Principal*

## Cotsen Partnership

The staff at Wild Rose is an amazing group of educators, dedicated to supporting all students and their families. Within our group of superstars there is a team of teachers who are participating in a learning journey to deepen their practices and knowledge of teaching 21st century learners. This incredible opportunity is the result of a partnership with the Cotsen Foundation.

Lloyd Cotsen, CEO of a well-known skin-care corporation and founder of the Cotsen Foundation for the Art of Teaching, believed that the work of elementary school teachers shapes our future. Through the Foundation's support, five teachers have benefited from a professional partnership with experts in the field of writing, reading and math. With ongoing professional training in effective instructional practices from skilled mentors from UCLA and Columbia University Teacher's College, their students are benefiting from this incredible endeavor.



## CONTEST!

This student is in a picture somewhere in this publication.

When you find her,  
email the **page number** to:  
[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Please put Monrovia in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by April 15, 2018.  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a  
GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

# Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



**Dr. Geoff Zamarripa**  
*Principal*

## Science Strengthens Opportunities

The Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School continues to grow its 21st-century learning endeavors!

Cougarobotics, our award-winning robotics team, is in the midst of another successful season. This year, two teams of Cougar scholars have designed, built, and competed with their robots. Our robotics team continues to outpace many high schools, and we are proud to send many of our scholars on to Monrovia High School to strengthen and deepen their understanding of the technology.

Likewise, our Code to the Future program is enhancing our students' ability to become skilled workers in tomorrow's marketplace. Santa Fe also offers a Science Olympiad that, through annual competitions, can grow our students' understanding of how scientific creativity can be applied to future learning.

These three programs are giving more of our students a competitive edge as they enter the prestigious Math and Science Academy and Digital Arts and Information Program at Monrovia High School. Giving our students tools that they can directly apply to the future world of work makes Santa Fe a World Class School!

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# The Grass isn't Always Greener



Bailey

*If I Were You* by Leslie Margolis is a book that has magic in its own way. I can totally relate to the characters and their feelings.



Katie and Melody have been best friends ever since they were little. But the truth is, Katie is very jealous of Melody. Her house is huge and she's so pretty! But also, it turns out that Melody is equally jealous of Katie. She has fun little brothers and family dinners every night. On the last summer of vacation, at the same time, they wish the same wish: that they were each other. Their wish comes true! Will they realize the grass is not always greener on the other side?

I enjoyed this book because I feel like the reader can relate to the emotions of the characters: being jealous of others, knowing or not knowing the pros and cons of their ups and downs. I give this 4 1/2 stars out of 5.

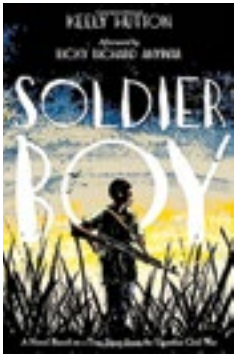
Bailey is a 6th grader that likes to read fantasy and daydream about adventure when she isn't dancing ballet or playing with her friends and siblings.

# Soldier Boy



Lucy Davis

Author: Keely Hutton  
"Can we go and watch the road?"



One simple request will change Ricky Anywar's entire world. What was an innocent wish soon turns into a journey as he and his brother and friends are forced to join the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel force fighting in the Ugandan civil war. They fight to stay alive on the battlefield, witnessing death, destruction, and enduring hundreds of kilometers of land on foot. Many are lost and all abductees carry the burden of being a child soldier.

In this true story, Keely Hutton works closely with Ricky himself to shed light on what it is like to be a child soldier, telling his story that are like hundreds of others. Although the subject matter is dark and at times highly disturbing, the final message of hope and forgiveness is truly one to admire. Five out of five bookworms well earned!

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

# Adventures 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Monrovia in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2018  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- |           |              |              |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| CRUISE    | CLIMBING     | SIGHT SEEING |
| JET PLANE | SURFING      | MUSEUMS      |
| HIKE      | GEOCACHING   | GALLERIES    |
| MINING    | BIRDWATCHING | RIVERBOAT    |
| RAFTING   | SCUBA DIVING | SAILING      |
| FISHING   | SNORKELING   | ROAD TRIP    |
| HUNTING   | THEME PARK   | ZIP LINE     |



Congratulations to **Jamaal Abron** and **Landon Cooper**  
Winner of the January Word Search Contests!

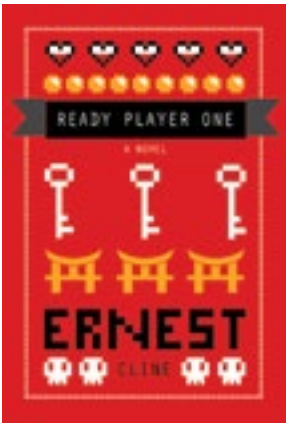


# A Virtual World



Katrina D.

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline is all about the OASIS, a virtual world where you can be anyone, do anything and enjoy life to the fullest. And that’s pretty important, seeing as the world is currently dirt poor. Creator James Halliday however, leaves his players one last surprise on his deathbed. Located within the game are three hidden keys, and whoever can find them and unlock all three gates, will inherit both his wealth and the OASIS itself. Though for five years, no one has any luck. Only for teenager Wade Watts to find the first key. Now the world is scrambling to find the keys, especially the IOI, an internet company intent on turning the free OASIS into a playground for the rich and powerful alone. Despite the dangers, Wade and his friends continue to search for the keys, and won’t stop until its GAME OVER for everyone. Thrilling and fast paced, this book is a shocking theory of what our own future as a society could look like in a few decades. A great read for lovers of 80s pop culture and gaming in general. I give this book 4 out of 5 crescent moons.



Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

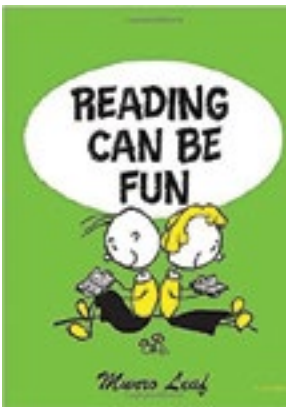
## Katie’s Review

# Reading Can Be Fun



Katie C.

By Munro Leaf  
This book is for anyone, old or young. This book is about why reading can be fun! It talks about how many of you may think that reading is boring. But then this book talks about without reading, your mind won’t grow. Reading can take you places that you’ve never been in before--for example, an exotic jungle!



More so, however, reading will teach you how to WRITE. To become a good writer, you need to read, so you can see how authors write and try it out in your own writing. So, the next time someone asks you to read, say yes. It will not only be a lot of fun, but it will also give you the experience of learning. *Reading Can Be Fun* is an amazing book that made me read more. I rate this book a five out of five stars. Go on, read it! It will be a lot of fun.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

# Interesting Problematic Cycle



Christina J.

*The Secrets to Ruling School (Without Even Trying)*  
by Neil Swaab

The story is written in third person, and plays out as smoothly as a movie. You are a new student at William H. Taft Middle School and are approached by Max Corrigan, your life coach, who will help you to become popular among the cliques at school, so you start by trying to join into the Class Clown table that won’t let you in, unless you can get them a good artists for their comics, so you go to a good artist who agrees to help you, only if you get the Band geeks away from their table at the cafeteria, so she can display her graffiti on that wall, they agree to leave, but only if you help them raise money to save their Music program, so you ask a rich girl for money, she agrees to help, but only if you rig the football team to lose, so she could win a bet... and this interestingly problematic cycle continues on and on, until you reach your goal. I really liked reading this book, so I will give it 5 out of 5 stars.



Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project “Quilts for the cold” last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody’s Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

## Isabella’s Book Review

# Life from Another Perspective

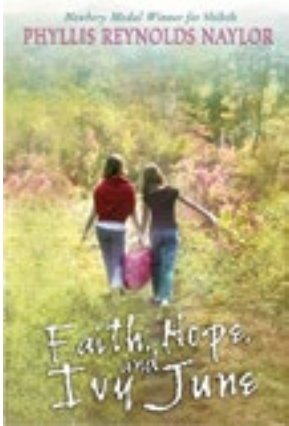


Isabella A.

*Faith Hope and Ivy June*  
written by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor  
is a marvelous story. The author is the winner of the Newberry Medal for her book, *Shiloh*. The beginning of the book describes how Ivy and Catherine will trade places. I felt bad for Catherine because no one likes Lexington.

Ivy lives in a small house with her large family. Catherine lives in a mansion. Catherine’s Grandmother does not welcome Ivy. Rosemary apologizes and offers to take Ivy shopping, Ivy declines. She didn’t want people to think she changed. Catherine at Thunder Creek cannot wash herself everyday uses an outhouse and learns to deal with tragedy. Ivy’s great-grandmother toe gets infected. Ivy’s mom has a heart condition and her granfather goes missing after the mine flods.

A five star book. It is an amazing story that allows the reader to view life from the perspective of another person.



Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children’s books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

First we learn to read — Then we read to learn