

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2018

Multi-Dimensional High Quality Education



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified's resources are dedicated to providing our students with a high-quality education which immerses them in rewarding experiences that will guide them to a fruitful life in college and beyond. The phrase "high-quality education," in Monrovia's schools is multi-dimensional: embedded within the core academic areas and enriched by the arts, athletics, service, and citizenship. The teaching and learning in each of these areas has become increasingly more robust and relevant. Science, for example, encompasses more than biology, chemistry, and physics. It includes computer science, robotics, and engineering – the interrelationship between which has emerged an exciting area of focus for us.

To prepare students for an interdependent and technologically based future, we offer collaborative opportunities from age 4-through adulthood.



Coding

Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School hosted a robotics league event in which 15 area teams, 10 representing Monrovia Unified middle and high schools, competed against each other by designing, building and maneuvering a robot to complete various tasks to score points. Four Monrovia Unified teams snagged the top spots, and will continue in the competitions for the opportunity to advance to interleague championships.

Two of our elementary schools and one middle school held open houses for students in kindergarten through grade eight to exhibit their work in coding, which include video games, projectile motion and integrated projects. Our partnership with Code to the Future, a computer science immersion program, works closely within our classrooms at least one hour a week for students to learn code-writing during the program's three seven-week learning cycles.



Robotics

Through a partnership with Pacific College, our high school and adult school students may enroll in an Early College Cyber Security program through our Monrovia Community Adult School. This series of courses, offered outside of traditional school hours, provides instruction in Information Systems and includes a A+ Certification.

The rigor and achievement in each our schools reflect the expertise of our faculty, the support of our parents and community, and the persistence of our students. For these reasons, and so many more, we are so very thankful and wish each of you a merry holiday season and a joyous 2018.

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- Session 4: July 23- Aug 2
- Session 5: Aug 6 - Aug 16

Pre-competitive team:
Mon- Thur 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

For more information and registration visit us online at MAXAQUATICS.org



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!
It is always fun to begin a new year with renewed focus and goals. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Thank you for entering our Word Search Contests, which are open to all ages. Congratulations Isabel Aragon our November winner!

This issue is a fun read with topics ranging from Coding to Gardening to an Award Winning Band. Also, included are several student book reviews. Enjoy!

Next issue is March 7.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



Jayne Nickles
Principal

Flag Ceremony

Bradoaks Elementary School is rooted in many important traditions. One of the many valued traditions is the flag ceremony. Twice a month, school begins around the flagpole in front of the campus, where students, staff, and parents gather to celebrate successes and hear announcements. Under the direction of their advisors, Mrs. Macias and Ms. Rubios, the Bradoaks Student Council leads the ceremony. Each student council member performs a part of the ceremony with pride and respect.

One of the most anticipated elements to the flag ceremony is the esteemed Honor Pin Recognition. Throughout the month, students work hard on their academics and strive to make good choices to earn honor pins. Other Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) incentives, such as the Golden Lunchbox and the monthly pull of Bobcat Bucks, are awarded at the flag ceremony as well.

Bradoaks' Flag Ceremony is a tradition which our alumni remember fondly. It is a time to come together to celebrate our students as they reach their goals.

Go, Bobcats!



Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Mariana Sanchez
Director

Lovely as a Tree!

The children at Canyon Early Learning Center have spent the last few weeks investigating trees. They spent time observing and comparing trees to find answers to the following questions: *What are the characteristics of the trees in our community? Who lives in trees? What food comes from trees? Who takes care of trees? How do trees change? What can we do with parts of trees?*

The children took a tree walk around school to discover what characteristic make up the trees in our community.

They discovered that some trees are evergreens and some are deciduous. The visit from "the bug lady" was lots of fun. The children learned about beneficial and harmful insects, animals that live in trees and different types of animal habitats.

Children practiced math skills such as number sense of quantity and cause-and-effect when they poured, measured and mixed ingredients for apple sauce and apple bread as they discovered what food comes from trees.

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

Attitude of Gratitude

By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal

As the holidays arrive, most of us turn our hearts and minds to thoughts of the extended quality time that we will soon share with our family and friends.

The teachers at Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School consider our students and staff a part of their extended family. Thus, with the needs of our schools in mind, three of our teachers applied for (and received) classroom grants from the Foothill Federal Credit Union.

Mr. Jason Edwards teaches math to teenagers who have struggled with the subject far too often in the past. Over the years he has relentlessly shared his passion for helping students obtain the fundamental principles of Common Core Integrated math. The funds received from FFCU will be utilized to purchase calculators, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, protractors, compasses, rulers, and so forth. Money from the grant will also help students prepare for the state assessments in the spring.

Clifton *Middle School*

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



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

Wonder

Clifton Middle School's PTSA brought an amazing opportunity to the school community on November 17 by providing the means to take every student to see the newly released movie "Wonder." Clifton launched a kindness campaign this school year, and this is one of the many activities that align to the vision of the plan.

"Wonder" tells an inspirational story of a student with facial deformities and his courageous journey of entering public school. The movie focuses on the themes of acceptance, kindness, tolerance, friendship, and love.

Students took part pre- and post-movie activities to bring relevance to the field trip and to allow the movie's theme to continue to positively impact the culture at Clifton. Each student was provided with popcorn and a drink, which was a special bonus.

While taking an entire school on a field trip was quite an undertaking, Clifton is thankful for this opportunity and the amazing support of PTSA, which made it all possible!



Ms. Anna Deneui has taught science and Spanish at Canyon Oaks for three years. She was also granted money by FFCU to purchase a dissolved oxygen meter that will be used to observe the effects of rising water temperature on marine organisms. This piece of lab equipment used to be borrowed from TOPS at a cost of \$700. Since we could no longer afford to use it, Ms. Deneui used her spirit of resourcefulness in order to find a new way to maintain the tradition of carrying out this vital experiment!

Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michelle Costarella
Principal

Coding for the Future

This month, Mayflower proudly presented its first Epic Build Showcase of the year! Children, teachers, and parents celebrated the coding accomplishments of our students in the kindergarten through fifth grades.

Everyone was excited to participate and share in this Epic journey, one where we teach and learn coding as a second language. During the Showcase, our parents toured our classrooms and witnessed their students acting as problem solvers who used precise commands and followed specific directions to demonstrate their various projects in coding.

At Mayflower, we are preparing our students for the future. By learning code, students are also developing collaboration skills, becoming critical thinkers, and honing their ability to communicate. The students utilize their block-based coding and Javascript skills. They even engage in hands-on programming techniques, robotics, and analog activities.

We know that computer science is so much more than just using computers. So beginning in kindergarten, our students also engage in projects that will allow them to apply the logic of computer science, such as loops, sequences, and animation. By the second grade they are building a working video game. Our fourth-graders then eagerly learn about projectile motion, and our fifth-grade students skillfully combine these coding concepts with an integrated story.

Computer science is an important industry, and every industry also depends upon it. Our students are learning skills that will help them to perhaps some day change the world!

Our Mayflower Mariners are proud to be “Code to the Future” scholars.

Monrovia *High School*

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Awarding Winning Band

The Monrovia HS Marching Wildcats Band & Color Guard just finished an outstandingly successful competitive season culminating in a performance at the SCSBOA 2A Field Championships. Performing their fall field production “Double Agent,” a fun show full of Spy vs. Spy mayhem and intrigue, the Marching Wildcats won 1st place division 2A Band at the Rowland Field Tournament, the Golden State Field Classic, Hart Rampage, and at the Savanna Field Tournament. Their ongoing success qualified the Marching Wildcats as Finalists in the SCSBOA Field Championships, seating 5th out of 60 division 2A bands.

The student performer-athletes of the Marching Wildcats now prepare for their winter/spring seasons with festival and competitive performances in Symphonic Band, Winter Guard, Winter Drum Line, and Jazz Ensemble. Follow the Marching Wildcats and our other instrumental music performing ensembles at www.facebook.com/MonroviaWildcatMusic.



Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Our Garden is Growing!

A few years ago, a Monroe Elementary School parent was inspired with the idea to create an outdoor learning space on campus. With the full support of the community, Monroe applied for and received a school garden grant from a national home improvement store chain. With help from parent volunteers, students, and LA Compost, the Monroe school garden has become a source of much excitement for our students.

Each Friday, our Transitional Kindergarten students experience multi-sensory lessons about concepts they have learned in the classroom. Parent volunteers design fun, engaging, and experiential lessons that our students eagerly anticipate, including nature scavenger hunts, leaf prints and rubbings, the creation of a class gratitude tree, and so many more. As they learn, students are surprised by unexpected visitors—squirrels, butterflies, and praying mantises.



We continue to grow fruits, vegetables, and plants so that our garden remains a source of enrichment for our students and the entire community.

School News



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Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

A Literary Partnership!

Plymouth has partnered with Reading is Fundamental (RIF), the nation's largest literacy organization, to bring high-interest books to our students. Our PTA wrote the grant that will provide each student with three free books to immerse themselves in at home during the school year.

In October, students and families gathered for the Moon & Stars Family Night, hosted by our PTA. The event corresponded with the Mid-Autumn Festival, also called the Moon Festival, a major holiday in China when families celebrate togetherness and good fortune. Guests viewed the moon, planets and stars through four high-powered telescopes provided by the Old Town Sidewalk Astronomers group. They enjoyed a performance by Mr. Cook's second-grade Mandarin dual-immersion students of the story of Chang'e and Hou Yi, a traditional Chinese moon legend.

Students also participated in Chinese lantern-making, constellation mapping of the night sky and moon-cake sampling. The Moon & Stars Family Night was an amazing event!



Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Our Excellent Staff

Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School has a great staff! Our staff works hard for the community we serve, and at the very heart of our work are our awesome Cougar scholars.

In addition to the rigorous Common Core State Standards instruction taking place every day in every classroom, our teachers provide opportunities such as band, orchestra, coding, after-school homework club, Cougarrobotics, Science Olympiad, Advancement Via Individual Determination, drama, visual arts, and championship sports teams. All of the adults who work at Santa Fe work to create a warm and inviting atmosphere that gives our school a close-knit family feel.



Last month, one of our teachers, Mrs. Lisa Herald, was selected as Educator of the Year by the California League of Schools Region 8. Mrs. Herald's dynamic teaching and school-wide leadership are a great example of the quality staff members who make Santa Fe such a special place to be. #santafestandup

Wild Rose *Elementary*

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



Dr. Leslie Miller
Principal

Sharing Holiday Cheer

With lights blinking and bells jingling, our Wild Rose families and staff members participated in the annual Monrovia City Holiday Parade. This year our Bears showed their spirit with decorated scooters and bikes. Many of the children loved the opportunity to carry our school banner and wish the on-lookers a season's greetings.

Those on scooters found the crowd to be excited by their fancy moves and figure-eights as they wove along the parade route. One parent commented on how this is their fourth year participating in the parade, and that his student always feels like a celebrity when walking up Myrtle Street to the cheers of the crowd.

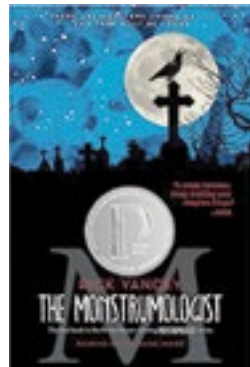
Dr. Miller led the school by ringing a holiday bell and waving. It was great to have our Wild Rose students and families sitting along the parade route and cheering as our group went past. What a great opportunity to kick off the school holiday season and share our school pride!



Breathtaking Writing Style



The Monstumologist by Rick Yancey is undoubtedly one of the finest pieces of Gothic fiction I've ever read. Our main character Will Henry works for the local Monstumologist, Pellinore Warthrop, after the unpleasant death of his parents.



Katrina D.

As the man's 'invaluable' assistant, he follows the doctor on his searches to investigate a string of brutal murders, the work of a breed monsters called Anthropophagi, gigantic humanoid cannibals that have managed to leave their native Africa and come to the Americas. As Warthrop and Will Henry investigate, they find there's far more to the beast's arrival than meets the eye. This has to be Rick Yancey's finest work, with morbidly funny characters, a breathtaking writing style and a plot that will have you gagging. His descriptions are positively disgusting, and for anyone looking to read a well written novel on what goes bump in the night, this book is absolutely perfect. I rate this book 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.

A lighthearted Read



Alana F.

Carter and Sadie Kane are hardly alike. They are so different, in fact, that it's hard to believe they're even related. Their similarities? They're both Egyptian sorcerers and they have to save humanity- together. Follow this unlikely pair as they travel the world, battle sweat monsters, defeat a goddess with salsa, and play basketball with monkeys in a tale of two kids who have no idea what they're doing. As they turn into chickens and fight goddesses with ribbons, they somehow manage to make readers laugh and roll their eyes at the same time.



I'd give this book seven out of eight triforme shards overall. It is almost perfectly written, with some of the most hilarious jokes I have ever had the privilege to read. I absolutely adored how the author made some of the most dull, boring, or depressing topics lighthearted and fun with a few well placed lines.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd". When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 triforme shards with 8 being the highest

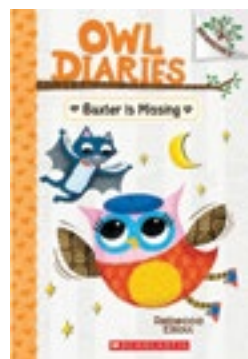
It is Owlsome!



Owl Diaries-Baxter is Missing

Author: Rebecca Elliot

Do you have a diary? Do you like writing in the diary? There is an owl named Eva. She has a diary and writes in it every day. This story is about Eva's pet bat going missing. When Eva was



Jenna C.

at school, her teacher Mrs. Featherbottom told the class about a story contest. Whoever wins gets owl Ninja books signed by the author! Some kids in Eva's class had stories already. But Eva had no idea what to write about. Then Eva went back home. The next morning, she found that her pet bat, Baxter, was missing! Eva started a new club called Baxter Bunch to find Baxter. Her club friends started helping Eva to search for Baxter. Can Eva find Baxter after all?

I like this book because Eva talks about her daily life with flaptastic illustrations.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

A Life-Changing Story



Sofia Atoofi

Wonder by R. J. Palacio is a life-changing story about Auggie, a boy with a facial difference. He's had so many surgeries that he never had time to go to school. He enters fifth grade at Beecher Prep as a new kid. He goes through all types of bullying including Julian, one of the mean boys at school. Though Auggie is just an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face, but can he prove this to people at school?



I think this book teaches you a great life lesson: to accept and treat right all different kinds of people, whether they are different or not. I rate it five out of five stars because it keeps your eyes glued to the page and it was an enjoyable read. So do yourself a favor and read this book. You will be amazed by the results.

Sofia is a fifth grader who loves writing. When she isn't submerged into a book, she enjoys doing gymnastics, acting, and singing. Her favorite kind of books are informational books, as she loves learning about new topics. She wants to become a writer or designer when she grows up, and hopes to someday publish a book, called *Painting a Path*, which she wrote for a school competition.



Katie's Review

Three Wishes



Katie C.

My Unfair Godmother

Author: Janette Rallison

What if you had three wishes? What if your fairy godmother was just an average tooth fairy? What if your fairy godmother had an annoying leprechaun assistant?

Well, unfortunately, that was the case for Tansy Miller. After the news of her parents' divorce, she hated the world. When her fairy godmother arrived, she hoped that her world would change. She ended up in the story of Rumpelstiltskin, unfortunately.

In order for Tansy to return her and her family back home, she had to make a moral for her story. She tried many, but none worked. Tansy almost gave up on coming back to the 21st century.

Until she realized: love. Love was more important than wealth. Throughout her journey, Tansy Miller experienced love, stronger than she had ever felt before. With her family, and with the unbreakable bond of friendship.

I give this book a five out of five stars. It is a story that will give you warmth as Tansy finds out what true love means.



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.

Note-ables

Rise, Shine, #Woke—Alphabet Rockers



Kate Karp

"We want to grow children to shape the country," said the creators of Rise, Shine, #Woke. Grow, not mold them into the mainstream. Woke is an African American Vernacular English term that means to be connected, to not be placated, to think for oneself, and to not remain 'cool' but ever active in social justice. That's the substance of Rise, Shine, Woke.



This is the weightiest, most powerful collection I can remember reviewing. The no-fooling lyrics deal with resolving conflicting messages, persevering and celebrating differences instead of subscribing to the ideal of everyone being equal.

"It's easy to say that we're all the same and that for the most part, we're equal. That's not what we see...", sing the artists on "Turn on the Light." This is a "woke moment" for anyone who is or feels "different" in culture, race or nationality or as an outsider. It's also discussion material for all children, no matter the experiences or culture.

The catchy "I'm Proud" goes beyond simple comfort in one's skin. "The Nitro" gets you moving as the lyrics fly right by. You'll want to download those lyrics from the link provided with the CD—you'll need them!

The music is interspersed with conversational raps by children and inspirational dialogue from President Barack Obama, Maya Angelou and other African American guiding lights. The songs themselves could be thought of as the spirituals of the 21st century; like spirituals, they're composed for jumping up, shouting out, and ultimately moving in a positive direction.

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

Christina's Book Review

A Fun Read



Christina J.

Chomp is a fun story about a boy named Wahoo Cray and his father who is an animal wrangler. The Cray's Family backyard is a zoo full of rescued animals - boas, raccoons, turtles, monkeys, a crocodile, and an alligator. The family doesn't have much money as most of it goes to animal care, so they jump at the offer

to let a reality show called Expedition Survival shoot some scenes with the domesticated giant alligator named Alice. As the crew arrives, Wahoo realizes how staged the show is, with the main star Derek, a supposedly strong rugged man actually being a foolish, clumsy, egotistical spray-tanned fake, who constantly does something dumb and causes troubles left and right. After provoking Alice the alligator Derek nearly got ripped to shreds, but thinks he looked good taking on an alligator, and demands to do the rest of the episode with wild animals instead of the domesticated ones. More troubles... I liked that the main character is a calm, likable kid who is trying to earn money to save their house and is willing to tough out the ridiculous calamities. I give this book 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).

Lucy's Book Review

Turtles All the Way Down



Lucy Davis

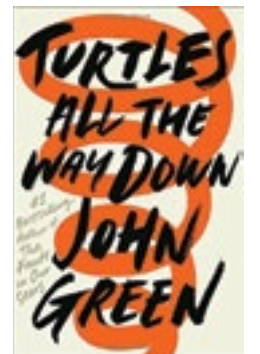
Meet Aza Holmes. The sidekick, the best friend, the student. Every day, her thoughts condense and spin in what she refers to as 'thought spirals' - where one follows the other and then they don't stop.

Soon, she and her best friend, Daisy, go looking for a reward: \$100,000 to anyone who can provide information about Russell Pickett, a billionaire gone missing. With that much money on the line and the possibilities it could offer, their lives become a mess of night vision cameras, Applebee's, Star Wars fan fiction, and one very lucky tuatara.

Once again, John Green creates a story that makes you laugh, frown, and gets you to think in ways you never thought you could. I expected a lot from this book, and while it was wonderful and enjoyable, the things that I expected seemed to be its inefficiencies.

Four and a half bookworms that are very much deserved.

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.



Another contest...listen to our Contest podcast

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com/audio-2

to hear the word of the month and email to

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

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)

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

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| SHOVEL | WORM | PLANT FOOD |
| RAKE | SOW BUG | STAKE |
| HOE | FENCE | HOSE |
| PLANT | BED | SPRINKLER |
| TRANSLANT | ROW | SEEDS |
| POT | FERTILIZER | PRUNER |
| NEMATODE | SPADE | |



Weather 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)

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

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| TORNADO | SLEET | HOT |
| CYCLONE | WIND | FREEZING |
| EARTHQUAKE | STORM | FROST |
| RAIN | HEAT WAVE | SANDSTORM |
| THUNDER | TSUNAMI | THAW |
| LIGHTNING | CHILLY | FLOOD |
| SNOW | COLD | HURRICANE |



Congratulations to Isabel Aragon
 Winner of the November Word Search Contest!