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School News

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Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



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Monrovia Unified Works Toward Hybrid Model of Instruction



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Monrovia Unified Works Toward Hybrid Model of Instruction



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Just a few months ago, we began the 2020-21 school year and though it has been the most nontraditional school year any of us expected, I am continually impressed by our students' success and achievement during this time.

Our teachers, administrators, and staff are working tirelessly to ensure our students and families have the tools and resources they need. We continue to check in with our families and have provided our entire school community with devices to use during distance learning.

Though we are still on track to continue on with distance learning into 2021, our COVID-19 task force groups have been hard at work to develop a hybrid model of instruction we can implement as soon as it is safe to return to classrooms.

In creating our new instructional model, we have studied hybrid models from districts that have reopened and solicited input from our teachers, students, and families to ensure everyone has an opportunity to share

what schedules work best for them. In December, we also held a webinar that focused solely on the hybrid model of instruction; this gave our school community insight regarding the work that has gone on behind-the-scenes.

Though we are working toward a hybrid approach, all students and families will have the choice among a hybrid model of instruction, continuing with distance learning, or staying enrolled at Mountain Park School for independent study.

We remain uncertain of when we will be able to reopen our schools, but our team continues to prepare all sites for our students' return. Classroom desks are being arranged six feet apart and touchless water-filling stations have been installed. We have also revised our cleaning schedules, purchased Personal Protective Equipment such as masks and face shields, and all front offices have installed plexiglass barriers.

We cannot wait until we are all back in school together again; but, the health and safety of our entire school community must be our top priority. Thank you for your continued patience and support during these difficult times.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By now students are settled into their routines during this unusual time.

In this issue, Superintendent Dr. Thorossian brought you up to date on the District's continued efforts to maintain their focus on academic, health and safety standards for the school community. You will read about students giving to others during the holidays, a running club to maintain a healthy lifestyle away

from computer screens, celebrating student successes, and much more...

Hopefully, soon we will look back on these COVID-19 days and be proud of the many innovative ways administrators, parents and students came together to make the best of a very difficult time in our lives.

Please take a minute to enjoy the word search below. The contest is open to all ages to enter.

Our next issue is March 3, 2020.



Lacrosse—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)

Word Search by Kai Coop

Entries must be received by February 15, 2021

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ATTACK | MOUTH GUARD |
| CLEATS | NET |
| COACH | PLAYERS |
| CREASE | RULES |
| DEFENSE | SCORE |
| FIELD | SHAFT |
| GOAL KEEPER | SIDE LINES |
| HEAD | STICK |
| HELMETS | TEAMS |
| MIDDIES | UNIFORMS |



Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

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



Jayne Nickles
Principal

Literacy/Science

As a Science Academy whose school motto is “Roaring Reading, Future Leaders”, we understand the importance of integrating literacy with

science design challenges especially during our current time of distant learning. The current challenge is the deSTEMber Storybook Challenge where students are encouraged to use their imagination to creatively find a solution using items found around the home. For this challenge, Ms. Littlefield, our Literacy/Science Challenge Coordinator, has created an interactive slide for our students to choose a fairy tale from a list and then select a challenge related to that story. Pictures of students’



creations will be put into a video for the school community to enjoy and celebrate. Participating in Literacy Design Challenges is a great opportunity for families to work together and have some fun.

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Reimagining the Fall Season

Canyon Early Learning celebrated the fall season in a couple of different ways. CELC created Parent Engagement Night for the CELC students, staff and families. CELC staff created the Harvest Night fall-themed event so students and their families could participate in a

Zoom meeting of literacy activities, pumpkin decorating, games and more. The event was a big hit for students, staff and their families!

Canyon Early Learning Center staff also participated in the Halloween drive-by candy pickup. Working with the Monrovia Unified Food Services Department, CELC staff decorated tables for the drive-by food distribution and candy pickup. Students and their families had the opportunity to drive by CELC and pick up their meals in addition

to some of the traditional trick-or-treat goodies that are normally passed out on Halloween. The drive-by candy pickup was a nice way to celebrate Halloween during this time of Covid-19.



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

Thanksgiving Tradition Continues!

*By Calvin McKendrick,
Assistant Principal*

Although our traditional Thanksgiving feast was not an option for our students this year, food and good cheer were delivered to homes all around Monrovia. To make this happen, Mr. TeDese Ross partnered with Karli Gordon and Jaine Lindsay of the Pomona Valley National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). NCNW is a civil rights organization committed to advancing opportunities and quality of life for African American women as they support their families and communities. Their response came in the form of turkeys and meals to families of our students at Canyon Oaks High School. Led by Mr. Ross, staff members Mr. Duisberg, Mr. Medina and Mr. McKendrick distributed the turkeys and all of the fixings from NCNW to the homes of COHS students and families. This Thanksgiving, NCNW spread their mission and purpose far beyond those directly associated with their charter!



Clifton Middle School

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



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

On the Move!

Clifton has been focused on getting students moving during distance learning, and the Human Highlighters runners have been the catalysts for the movement. Because of current circumstances, the Clifton Running Club has made the pivot to an online running/walking club. In place of in-person practices, over 60 team members have joined the Clifton Running Club Google Classroom where they find the link to the weekly Tuesday meetings at 3:15 p.m. In place of time trials at Recreation Park and hill workouts north of Foothill Boulevard, the team takes on weekly running/walking challenges on the run-club app hosted by Coach Gina Ayala. Members who complete challenges and come to the team meeting are entered into a raffle for prizes.

Athletic director Vickie Velasco continues to support the club by participating in team meetings, completing



challenges, and designing the team shirt. The team voted on a slogan for their traditional neon practice shirts: “Six feet ... behind me, please!”

Many staff members have also been inspired to get away from their Zoom screens when possible and get moving. Students

enjoy comparing their mileage to those of their teachers, including Ms. Bravo, Mr. Cardet, Ms. Godinez, Ms. Fielding, Mrs. Hoopes, Mrs. Barron, Mr. Wallick and Coach Ozzie. Principal Jackson has also recently joined the group.

In the month of November, staff members made the goal of running a total of 50 miles, and the competition was fierce. The hope is that more students and staff members join to emphasize the importance of a healthy lifestyle that includes regular exercise.

Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Congratulations, Mrs. Salsman!

Kenzie Salsman, beloved fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at Mayflower Elementary, has taken on a new role as Cotsen mentor. Last spring, Mayflower

was selected to participate in the Cotsen Foundation's Art of Teaching program. This amazing program aims to transform exceptional teachers, elevating them to the highest level of teaching excellence.

Five of our outstanding teachers were chosen to be a part of this intensive



two-year fellowship, and Mrs. Salsman was selected as their mentor. In this new and exciting role, Mrs. Salsman is responsible for a wide variety of activities that focus on teacher support and guidance. Each week, she meets with her fellows individually in lesson observations, debriefs and planning sessions. She spends much time researching best practices and attending professional development that expands not only her growth and expertise but that of the fellows as well.

Mrs. Salsman and her team collaborate and explore, learning together with some of the top experts in the education field.

Through strategic data collection, guidance in the reflection process and facilitation of monthly inquiry discussions, Mrs. Salsman is skillfully leading our teachers to the next

level. We are thrilled to have her serving Mayflower in this new capacity!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

The Spirit of the Mighty Lion

Over the years, students at Monroe have participated in school events that promote school spirit and pride. More than ever, it is crucial that students have opportunities to express school spirit and

remain connected to their school. With the support of our amazing PTA, Mighty Monroe Lions continue to be honored at virtual monthly Pride Gatherings where students are recognized for their character and citizenship. Our students also have a chance to bring joy and laughter to our virtual classrooms during Spirit Days. Many families showcase their school pride by uploading images to our Padlet, a secure photo sharing website/gallery. In December, our school looks forward to hosting our first ever virtual talent show. As we make our way through this unbelievable time in history, we are proud that our students are connecting virtually in the spirit of —The Mighty Lion!



Monrovia High School

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Among 40 Clubs ...

Monrovia High school is committed to preparing our Scholars and Champions with the skills and experiences that will help them be successful and positive contributors to our world. The robust and diverse course offerings coupled with the dedicated instructional staff who are committed to seeing our students be successful is one aspect of meeting this goal. An equally important component comprises the extracurricular activities, such as clubs, that help engage and connect students to our school community.

We have over 40 different clubs on our campus, and there are some new clubs added this year that have gained a great deal of energy; each of which has figured out how to still thrive in a distance-learning mode. The Aviation and Drone Club is designed to spark and focus student interest in all aspects of aviation where students will be able to study, build, and fly their own devices. The Baking Club gathers students together to share favorite family recipes, learn from one another, and bake treats for their families. The Forge Interactive Club is dedicated to all things video games—members design, program, play, advertise and



Baking Club Thanksgiving Challenge Submissions



create game merchandise. The Speech and Debate club is a collection of students participating in weekend debate tournaments, learning valuable skills such as teamwork and public speaking.

A special thank-you to these, and all, club advisors for helping make meaningful opportunities for our students.

Plymouth Elementary

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

At-Home Makerspace!

Last year, our PTA opened our amazing Plymouth Makerspace—a place where students are provided with the inspiration, access and tools to explore and create things with their own two hands. Although distance learning has prevented our students from using our makerspace at school, our PTA was determined to bring the makerspace to students at home. This led to the launching of the Mini Maker Kits, an innovative program that provides students with all of the necessary materials to participate in fun, hands-on STEAM-based, experiences at home.

The first Mini Maker Kit, which was sent home in October, engaged our young scientists in creating a chemical reaction to form their own play-dough using flavored-drink-mix powder. Students mixed ingredients and shared their creations in a specially designed makerspace Google Classroom.



Our PTA is planning on sending more exciting kits home with students this school year. We can't wait to see what's next!

Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Pollinator Garden Takes Root

Santa Fe has partnered with Food Ed, a nonprofit organization located here in Monrovia that is dedicated to reimagining gardening and food science in the San Gabriel Valley. In the green space located in our school's science quad, Food Ed is installing a pollinator garden. A pollinator garden is a habitat that helps our local ecosystems by providing beautiful plants and a suitable environment for songbirds and pollinators to make a home in. All of the plants in the garden are drought tolerant and locally sourced with California native species. Of note is the native milkweed, which will create a certified monarch butterfly way station. The garden will include outdoor seating and umbrellas

for students and teachers to use as a learning space as well as a lab.

"This space will give students the opportunity to learn how an ecosystem operates and how this connects to our watershed and how food is grown," explained Dr. Kristin Ritzau, executive director of Food Ed.

The garden will also include two raised vegetable beds out of which students and teachers will be conducting experiments. Food Ed will provide Santa Fe with seeds to grow vegetables, around which experiments will be conducted.

"We are so excited to run this project with Santa Fe," Ritzau said.

The garden will also make interdisciplinary connections with Santa Fe's STEM lab, which offers a food science and nutrition module.

Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

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



Paige Ramos
Principal

Bear News

As we bring the first trimester to a close we celebrated with a unique virtual assembly. Mrs. Ramos and Ms. Naugle created individual class videos to celebrate student success. Awards were given out based on our virtual learning environment & more!



Our theme this year is Superhero and we developed creative names for each award that relate to virtual learning. Awards were given out to Ready-for-Action Zoom Heroes to

acknowledge being on-task during Zoom meetings as well as participation with synchronous work. We also acknowledged Super Web Heroes for those who are focused on doing a great job independently with asynchronous work at home.

We are so proud of our bears and wanted to recognize all of their hard work and dedication to being awesome in this virtual setting. Our Wild Rose family showed school spirit by dressing up as superheroes themselves on Superhero Day!