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School News

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Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

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World-Class Opportunities



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Spring is nearly here, and enrollment is now open districtwide. Monrovia Unified School District is proud to invite families into a tight-knit community that provides world-class programs promoting technology, arts, and culture that ignite and inspire students to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively.

We have expanded our Spanish Dual Immersion program to a second school and currently have spaces available for Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten students at Wild Rose School of Creative Arts. Through dual immersion, students learn culture and literacy in a second language, broadening their horizons, increasing their appreciation for diversity, and gaining invaluable skills for the future. Our Mandarin Dual Immersion students at Plymouth Elementary School experienced an incredible opportunity to exercise their skills and enrich their cultural understanding in January, when Monrovia Unified hosted 105 international students from our sister schools in Jiangsu Province, China.

Thanks to its promising potential, Wild Rose School of Creative Arts earned a prestigious theater arts grant. Students and teachers are working directly with industry professionals as they prepare to bring "The Lion King" to the community in April. Wild Rose is one of only five schools in Los Angeles County selected for the honor. Our students also will perform a selection from the musical at the Ahmanson Theatre as part of the grant opportunity.



Students from our middle and high schools have worked hard and collaborated for months to design, build, program, and test robots that they are controlling in local competitions. We proudly root for the continued success of our robotics teams as they compete throughout March for the chance to advance once again to the national contest in Houston, Texas.

Our students succeed thanks to the dedication, hard work, and support of our incredible educators and staff working in partnership with families and our local community. In an on-court presentation on February 13, the Los Angeles Clippers recognized Clifton Middle School teacher Daniela Mazzeo for her commitment and passion to helping students in English/language arts, robotics, and yearbook.

Through exciting, engaging, and enriching programs available to students of all ages, we are encouraging the next generation of leaders to achieve their full potential.

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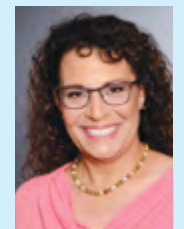
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



In this issue you will read a variety of topics ranging from students celebrating 100 days of learning to a school becoming a 1:1 school...enjoy! As Superintendent Thorossian said in her message on the front page, students are inspired to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively. It would be fun to be a student for a day!

Thank you for your comments on your contest entry emails. Have fun with the Word Search on page 4.

Our next issue is May. Have a wonderful Spring Break!

School News Roll Call

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Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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Bradoaks *Elementary*

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Jayne Nickles
Principal

An Active Partnership

Back in the middle of January, the Gifted and Talented Education program (GATE) at Bradoaks began working with doctors and researchers from a genetics/DNA lab at the City of Hope. This partnership with the City of Hope provides our students with the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities involving genetic and DNA science.

For example, the students have created DNA-sequence models using RNA and proteins within the helix. They are able to distinguish as well as understand how traits are passed on genetically based upon dominant and recessive alleles.

To culminate the six-week course, our students are also given a tour of the City of Hope facility. Here they can engage in activities around the campus while also cultivating their collaboration, problem-solving, and higher-order thinking skills.

A couple of the activities included an experiment about taste buds and how some chemicals can be tasted by others but not by all people, as well as DNA extraction through the use of bananas and other fruits. These are just a couple of the many activities that we have participated in, and will continue to do so, through our partnership with the City of Hope.

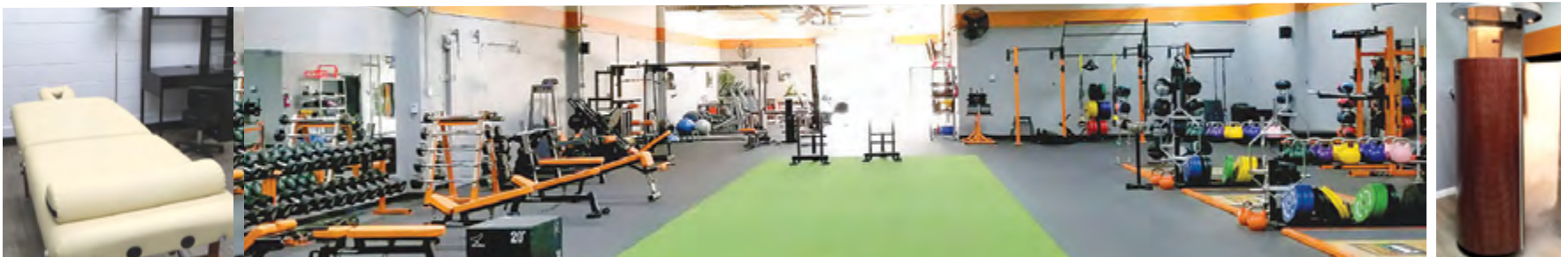


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Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Fun and Celebration

Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC) celebrated in a variety of ways in the months of November and December. First, we had our Winter Wonderland-themed book fair. Students and parents were encouraged to drop by for storytelling, thematic pictures, and special guest readers, including some friends from the Monrovia Public Library. Each class visited the book fair and listened to a reading by one of our guest readers. This fund-raiser and book campaign was a huge success for students, families, and staff!



CELC also had its first field trip of the year. Morning classes boarded buses and drove to Wild Rose Elementary School for their performance of "Aladdin." This was a first bus trip for many of the students, and they were a wonderful audience for the Wild Rose performers, who sang, danced and performed beautifully. This was a fun highlight for many of the students!

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

Determination Nation

By Calvin McKendrick, Assistant Principal

Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School pride themselves on their continuing community partnerships within the City of Monrovia. When School Resource Officer Mr. James Ruano offered to have an assembly with our incoming students during their recent semi-annual "Success Week," everyone embraced the idea.

This assembly gave our students the opportunity to listen to the unique experiences that Officer Ruano had as a child while growing up in Guatemala. He shared examples of how negligence, ignorance, and bad decision making at a young age can lead to a rough life. The assembly ended with a valuable question-and-answer session.



Officer Ruano's efforts have set the tone for a productive, positive, and safe school environment for the second term of our school year. Our students are determined to turn their lives around and create more opportunities for themselves as they pursue their post-secondary goals and dreams.

Camping 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 April 1, 2019

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| MAP | KNIFE | MATCHES |
| BOOTS | TENT | FLASHLIGHT |
| JACKETS | BLANKET | FLARES |
| COMPASS | WATER | CELLPHONE |
| GPS | FOOD | CAMERA |
| BACKPACK | SNACK | BUG SPRAY |
| THERMOS | BEDROLL | COT |



Congratulations Susan Pilcher winner of our January contest!

Clifton *Middle School*

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



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

AVID Elective Class

The seventh- and eighth-grade students who are enrolled in Clifton's AVID program are being challenged to be the best that they can be every day by teachers Mrs. DuRose and Mr. McQuaid!

AVID is an elective class that helps prepare students for high school, college, and beyond. Participants take part in biweekly tutorials with college tutors. They are taught specific WICOR skills (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading). They also research careers and colleges and participate in team-building and collaborative activities.

The students recently received a taste of college by visiting Cal State Fullerton. They also attended a UCLA football game, and in April they will visit Cal Poly Pomona. Our eighth-grade students took the PSAT 8/9 to get an idea of where they are in their preparation for the college admission process. Guest speakers are also being invited into our classes to talk to the students about their career journeys and preparation.

Applications for the 2019-2020 class will be available beginning in March. They will be due by March 22. Questions about AVID can be directed to Clifton counselor Mrs. Jones, Ms. Smith, our AVID Coordinator, or to elective teachers Mrs. DuRose or Mr. McQuaid.



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Monroe *Elementary*

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Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Celebrating 100 Days of Learning

On January 29th our Mighty Monroe Lions celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing like they were 100 years old.

Grandparents and special friends were welcomed in classrooms and they made fun and creative crafts around the number 100. In some classes students sang and in other classes students showcased how much they've learned by reading in Spanish to their grandparent and/or special friend. Our school's PTA graciously set-up interactive writing stations so that students and special friends could express their appreciation and love to one another.

Our classrooms were filled with joy, love and laughter in celebration of 100 days of learning!



Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Sister-School Exchange Program

In January, we welcomed 53 students and 12 teachers and administrators from our sister school, Li Xue Primary, located in the Jiangsu province of China. The week began with our fourth- and fifth-grade student council members leading an assembly and a school tour after a welcome ceremony. All students participated in a panel discussion, sharing interesting facts and answering questions about their school life and culture. The exchange students participated in daily school activities, learning about math, language arts and science in Mayflower classrooms. They participated in coding, art and music lessons and took an exciting field trip to Monrovia Canyon Park.



Li Xue teachers and administrators also spent time with Mrs. Costarella learning about the American education system. They observed classroom instruction and discussed roles and responsibilities of teachers and administrators.

Friendships were forged, and much was learned about similarities and differences among students and learning. We look forward to future visits from our sister school, Li Xue!



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Monrovia *High School*

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Kirk McGinnis
Principal

High School Showcase

Monrovia High School began the new calendar year by hosting the third annual High School Showcase. This event is designed for incoming families to visit the school to learn about the special programs, academies, pathways, clubs, athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Student leaders and MHS staff were on hand to share their programs, pass out application information, and answer questions from future Wildcat students and families. Monrovia High school is rich with opportunities that will challenge and engage all students—there is something for everyone. The Humanities, Math and Science academies each tailors a four-year course of study, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses with a junior project and service hours. The Early College Program is a dual-enrollment cohort in which MHS students take Citrus College courses here on our campus and receive dual credit—MUSD and college credits—absolutely free of charge. The Arts Conservatory allows students to create a sequence of drama or stage-technology courses to prepare students for advanced training. The Digital Media Information Academy prepares students for careers in the computer-programming or video-production fields, and Sports Medicine joins other established career-pathway programs.

Over 40 extracurricular clubs are active on campus, with the award-winning championship robotics teams. Monrovia High School is home to scholars and champions and is a great place for students to learn and thrive.

Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

A Dream Come True

Our Plymouth library has gone through an amazing transformation, and is now the most popular place on campus!

About a year ago a team of volunteers embarked on a library makeover. Led by current and former librarians, the team donated hundreds of hours to organize, label, and create a more inspiring space for our students to read.

Winning the \$10,000 Scholar Dollars Grant was a game changer, and we have used the funds to take our library to the next level. Students now have comfortable places to sit, new laptops to research topics, and hundreds of exciting new books to explore! The walls are filled with a masterpiece of colors and art, creating an exhilarating place for children to immerse themselves in the wonder of reading.



Plymouth is grateful for the volunteers who made this dream come true. Our students will reap the benefits of this work for years to come!

Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Tech for Everyone!

Santa Fe will become a 1:1 school! The term *1:1* is used for schools that give a laptop device to every student in the school. Santa Fe will be the first such school in the Monrovia Unified School District.

This initiative has gained popularity not only as a response to increasing technology-based learning opportunities but also with a clear understanding that these tools will give our awesome Cougar Scholars an edge with the world of work they will assume in the future. Likewise, students who demonstrate mastery with web-based applications, coding and problem solving will enhance their leadership capacity.



#santafestandup

Research is now emerging that links 1:1 schools with evidence of a positive impact on student achievement. To meet this challenge, Santa Fe teachers continue to expand and enhance their skills as teachers that integrate technology into their lessons.

Tomorrow's leaders will be adroit and efficient users of technology. Santa Fe is proud to expand our students' opportunities as a launching pad to becoming these leaders!

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Wild Rose *Elementary*

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Dr. Leslie Miller
Principal

Command Performance!

Here's a big thank you for supporting Wild Rose's command performance of *Aladdin* at the Louise K. Taylor Theater in January! With a cast of over 75 students from kindergarten through fifth grade, our young actors thrilled the audience as they brought to

life the ancient desert city of the Arabian Nights. This was the first time one of the Monrovia elementary schools had performed on this major stage!

One member of the cast pointed out the excitement of having her parents sitting in the audience while she sang, illuminated in the spotlight.

"I loved that everyone watched me dance," a first-grade cast member said.

Wild Rose is now looking forward to our Disney Musicals in Schools production of *The Lion King*. We hope to see everyone Friday, April 19, at the Louise K. Taylor Theater for our community production. It will be a roaring good time!



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