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School News

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Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

MAY 2015

Ready for Summer



Dr. Katherine Thorossian

This issue celebrates the many springtime events and opportunities dedicated to the students of Monrovia. While we celebrate the achievements of today, we also shift our focus to the immediate

future. The summer months are not only a time to relax but also to regroup and prepare. All students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer. Knowing the pitfalls of summer allows for an opportunity to prevent the dreaded "summer slide."

Simply reading is probably the most effective way for students to maintain their academic skills. Whether it's a novel, newspaper,



magazine, or blog, summer reading is a fun and easy way to stay sharp. At Monrovia schools, summer learning opportunities will be offered for elementary through high school students. A flyer with specific information may be found within this publication. Monrovia Parks and Recreation offers myriad opportunities for our young people to flex their minds, as well as their muscles, during the summer months. Finally, programs in the arts, science, and outdoor education may be found with a quick online search. Explore the many options and find one that works for you and your family.

Most importantly, the flexibility of the summer months allows us all to take the time to play. Spending time with family and friends, finding some quiet time, and catching a wave are all activities that help restore some of the balance we lose during the school year. We hope you enjoy these moments and create wonderful memories.

A New Direction

Technical Career Pathways and Academies—A new direction for Canyon Oaks High School, Mountain Park School and Monrovia Community Adult School programs.



Flint Fertig
Principal

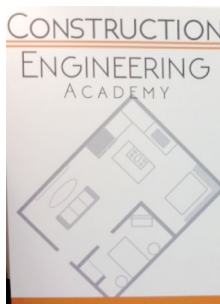
We hosted a very successful and unique Open House program on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 to introduce our newest four Technical Career Pathways and Academies. This event was attended by our community partners including Monrovia City Council Member, Becky

Shevlin, District Superintendent, Dr. Katherine Thorossian, District Administrative Cabinet, Board President, Ed Gililland, Canyon Oaks/Mtn. Park parents, staff, and students as well as Monrovia Community Adult School staff and students.

Our new Pathway Academies were introduced to this group for the first time through a series of short, interactive workshops. The new pathways are:

- Construction Engineering Academy
- Medical Services Academy
- Media Arts Academy
- Performing Arts Academy

Each pathway leads to either a certification for immediate employment, or includes intended coursework for Community College or a four year University degree. Students will be asked to select a pathway or academy as they enter our schools beginning in the Fall of 2015.



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The end of this school year is near and students are testing and focused on achieving their academic goals. Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

As Superintendent Thorossian said in her front page article, reading is especially important during the summer months. (You will need this page number for the contest on page 7.)

Thank you for including School News among your reading choices.

Our next issue is September 9th. Have a wonderful summer!



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Celebrating Our Community

By Heather Warren, President
Monrovia PTA Council

The second half of the school year is packed full of activities for each of our eight PTA chapters. During the next few months, we will be fund-raising through school auctions, book fairs, festivals and jog-a-thons. There are so many ways you can be involved and help contribute, if you are willing.

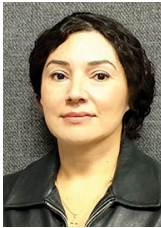
The reason that I personally love this time of year is all of the acknowledgements that we give to our selfless volunteers. Each PTA celebrates

Founder's Day, a celebration of the founding of PTA for that school. We call it PTA's birthday, but instead of celebrating ourselves, we celebrate all of the amazing people who donate so much of their time, money and energy for all of our children.

Our students wouldn't be as successful without all of our incredible parents and community members who realize we are all instrumental to the development of Monrovia students. For that, I am grateful to be a part of our community of volunteers.

Canyon *Early Learning Center*

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



Work and Play

Our family picnic and Open House were a huge success. The children enjoyed spending time outside of school visiting with their families. They were excited to show their families how much they have learned this past school year. Thank you to all the friends and families who came out to support Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC).

The children have been experiencing the joys of spring in their classes. Children planted bean seeds in clear containers so they could see both the roots and the stems. They have been watching the tomatoes and lettuces grow right here in our very own garden! They are also learning about how caterpillars change into

butterflies by reading books and watching real caterpillars in their classrooms!

Registration packets for the 2015–2016 school year are now available in the school office between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. School tours for prospective families are available by appointment; call the school office for more information.

Thank you to all the CELC families for helping us to make this school year a success. I wish you all a great summer at school, at work, and, most importantly, at play!

Mariana Sanchez
Director

Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Let's Celebrate

Spring has officially begun, and the celebrations at Mayflower continue to blossom! Our teachers and students have been working extremely hard in the classrooms to prepare for the upcoming district assessments and Smarter Balanced Common Core tests.

As we have begun to embrace the Common Core Standards, our staff continues to demonstrate their dedication to the children. Although some expected challenges lie ahead, we are confident that with the district's support, our staff will be moving the Mayflower ship further towards increased student achievement and growth.

In April, our student leadership teams (Renaissance, Peace Patrol and Student Council) teamed up with Renaissance team representatives from Clifton Middle School to host a school-wide Kindness Assembly. Demonstrating kindness and respect remains at the forefront of our daily work. Our motto, "Kindness is the New Cool," will be headlining our powerful student-led assembly.

We want to thank our staff, parents, and fabulous PTA for their time, dedication and love for our school. With such a strong backbone there's nothing we can't accomplish. Let's Celebrate 365!

Dr. Tamar Kataroyan
Principal

Monrovia Schools Foundation 2015 SUMMER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

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Elementary Grades K-5 • Plymouth Elementary School
Middle School Grades 6-8 • Clifton Middle School



JUNE 11, 2015 to JULY 15, 2015
High School Grades 9-12
Monrovia High School

The course offerings and registration forms will be available on the Foundation website:

www.monroviaschoolsfoundation.org

Courses may be paid for by check, money order, or through PayPal on the Foundation website.

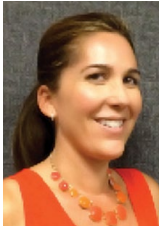
The completed registration form may also be mailed to:

Monrovia Schools Foundation, P. O. Box 2447, Monrovia, CA 91017

If you have any questions, please email debb35day@yahoo.com

Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



Aimee Dyrek
Principal

A Great 58!

Bradoaks celebrated 58 years of serving the students and families of Monrovia. Classrooms hosted special activities and parties to recognize another year passing. Sweet treats, Pajama Day and family literacy activities are just a few ways the Bobcats said “Happy Birthday, Bradoaks!”

As Bradoaks celebrates another year, students at Bradoaks continue to receive unique educational experiences. The Bobcats had the opportunity to be a part of the Imagination Machine, an assembly sponsored by the Bradoaks PTA. This interactive assembly took stories written by the Bradoaks students and brought them to life. Students from all grade levels were surprised and amazed to see actors on stage performing their creations!

Arts education has grown at Bradoaks. Our kindergarten Bobcats started weekly vocal music instruction. Indeed, we are proud to say that a form of arts instruction is now happening for each student in our school community. The efforts we are making in the arts parallel those we are making in promoting a college-going culture. Students from our GATE program took field trips to UCLA and Dodger Stadium. Students got a glimpse of college life at UCLA and learned about the numerous careers that exist behind the scenes at Dodger Stadium.

Finally, as we celebrate our 58 years, we realize that our success comes from the amazing individuals within our Bobcat community. Bradoaks was proud to recognize Monrovia Unified School District Outstanding Employees of the Month for March, first-grade teacher Tonya Sherman and before-and-after-school Village Program site supervisor Mary Lou Pichardo. These two staff members give their all every day to ensure that our students receive the very best.

Clifton *Middle School*

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



Jennifer Gates
Principal

Putting Students First

Clifton Middle School is very focused on recognizing both students and staff members for their hard work and service to the school! Two very special employees were chosen to be recognized as our Monrovia Chamber of Commerce Employees of the Month: Danny Ray and Richard Tamez.

Danny Ray is our social science and Renaissance Leadership teacher. Colleagues say that Mr. Ray “pushes his social science students to work harder and really grasp the information they are being taught in different and fun ways.” He truly goes above and beyond for the entire school community by planning events and activities that connect, engage, entertain, and recognize so many. He is a dedicated educator who never misses a day of work, works long hours, and simply comes to work every day to “change lives.” His leadership class is built upon the mission of students making a difference on campus. The list of things Danny is responsible for at Clifton is a very long one indeed; he handles Courteous, Polite, and Respectful (CPR) snow cone Fridays, school dances, lunchtime activities, academic rallies, motivational messages, and honor cards and acquires monthly sponsors, all while being an excellent teacher.

Richard Tamez is our food services manager. Colleagues say, “Richard has a can-do attitude. Nothing we throw at him—assemblies, bell schedules, field trips, lost ID cards, concerned parents, last minute requests—fazes him. He’s always willing to help, and he does it with a smile on his face.” Richard truly understands the concept of exceptional customer service and demonstrates it for every person he encounters. His food services team loves working for him, which is a testament to his leadership, caring attitude, and commitment to his job.

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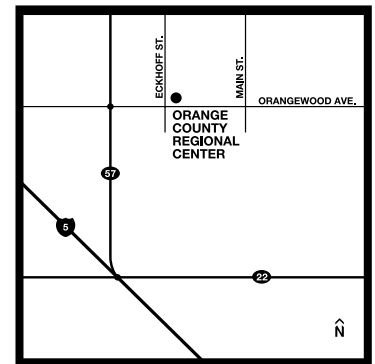
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Monrovia *High School*

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

College Bound!

At Monrovia High School, spring brings many celebrations and opportunities for new beginnings. College applications have been submitted, students have received their acceptance letters, and now our college-bound students are faced with choosing the right school for next year.

The tradition at our school is to recognize our scholars and champions at a lunchtime ceremony called Sign on the Line. Sign on the Line is sponsored by our Renaissance students and is an opportunity for students, staff, families and friends to applaud the achievements of these Wildcats and their commitment to continuing their schooling into postsecondary academia. Currently, MHS students are entertaining offers from prestigious public and private institutions from Berkeley to BYU, from USC to Syracuse and many more in between. If you know a high school senior who will be signing on the line, be sure to celebrate this laudable achievement!

Check our website for students' "sign on the line" dates and colleges of choice. Go Wildcats!

Plymouth *Elementary*

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Suzanne Heck
Principal

And the Silver Medal Goes to...Plymouth Elementary!!!

For the last fifteen years, Plymouth school has participated in the Los Angeles County Science Olympiad. This year was the 29th Annual Los Angeles County Science Olympiad which took place on February 28th at Occidental College in Eagle Rock. There are 188 schools that participate in the Science Olympiad. Of the 188, only 67 are elementary schools. The students are expected to participate in twenty events. Some of these events are "Crime Busters", "Egg Drop", "Mystery Architecture", "Name the Scientist", "Tennis Ball Catapult", "Weather or Not" and "Starry Starry

Night". The Science Olympiad Team is comprised of 15 students who compete in teams of two. Teams receive points for the completion of tasks ranging from 15 – 35 points. Plymouth earned 505 points placing them in the silver category. The students were recognized and celebrated at the March 11, 2015, Monrovia Unified School District Board of Education meeting. Teachers Susan Sauvageau and Jeff Crowell commented, "They (the students) worked really hard and took it seriously. It was obvious, they had fun too." Next year, we are going for the Gold!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Cynthia Lathrop
Principal

Global Learners

Monroe Elementary School proudly offers a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in Spanish for students who turn five between September 2 and December 2. Meet Señora Loera, a native speaker of Spanish, who is the current TK Spanish teacher. Her family is from Aguascalientes, Mexico. Señora Loera is certified to teach Spanish and has eight years of teaching experience, five of which are in Dual-Language Immersion programs.

Señora Loera uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age- and developmentally-appropriate to prepare students for a successful kindergarten year. Students are learning Spanish and using academic and social language throughout the day. They are also learning fundamental skills, including reading, writing and number sense, and developing social skills, all of which are needed for success in school.



Kindergarten registration has begun. If you are interested in learning more about Monroe's Spanish program, please call the school office at (626) 471-2300. School tours are also available.

Santa Fe *Middle School*

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



Dr. Caroline Sweeney
Principal

Under Construction

If you have been anywhere near Santa Fe Middle School over the last six months or so, you have probably seen the traffic cones that no longer allow parking on Duarte Road.

Or, perhaps you've seen the caution signs blocking the sidewalks, or construction crews digging, pouring, and otherwise changing the landscape. If so, I have one thing to say about this: thank you! That's because Santa Fe is "under construction" both outside and inside.

The City of Monrovia and the Metro Gold Line have both been in our neighborhood making changes, and the plans they have for our future are bold. They have included Santa Fe every step of the way by making sure that we are safe and treating our students like their own. Besides gaining a new sidewalk, will soon be getting new plants in our curbside planters, a median installed on Duarte Road, and a light at Peck Road! All of these improvements will benefit our community, and for this we are definitely lucky.

Changes are occurring inside our gates as well. The district is renovating the ball field, and new bulletin boards are being installed in the classrooms to highlight exemplary student work. For lack of a better phrase, Santa Fe is getting a "facelift"! All of this work will be completed by August of 2015, and the big revealing at our Back-to-School Night in September will be something to behold.

So Santa Fe wants to say thank you to the Board of Education, the City of Monrovia, and the Metro Gold Line for what they have done for us. We are a diamond getting polished, and will proudly show off our shine next school year.

We may be under construction, but there's no need for caution. Come on in and see Santa Fe. And go, Cougars!

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Wild Rose *Elementary*

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Stacy Ayers
Principal

Arts for All!

Wild Rose Elementary School supports the visual arts, dance, instrumental music, and choir.

This month our fifth-graders had an opportunity to paint a mural on the front of the school. It was based on "Blue Boy" by Thomas Gainsborough. Later this year they will visit this masterpiece at the Huntington Library. Our fourth- and fifth-grade students also receive art history lessons and create a visual masterpiece of their own once a week.

For the primary grades, the Wild Rose PTA funds an additional art teacher to support arts education once a month. Our fourth-grade students also participate in weekly dance routines choreographed by the California Dance Institute. These programs are supported through a generous donation from the Boone Foundation.

Thanks to an Arts for All grant, Wild Rose has choir for the kindergarten and the second- and third-grades. The fourth- and fifth-graders also have the option to participate in band and strings after school.



Seek 'n Find Contest!!

This library girl is hidden in this publication. When you find her, email the **page number** to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Monrovia in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by July 15, 2015. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

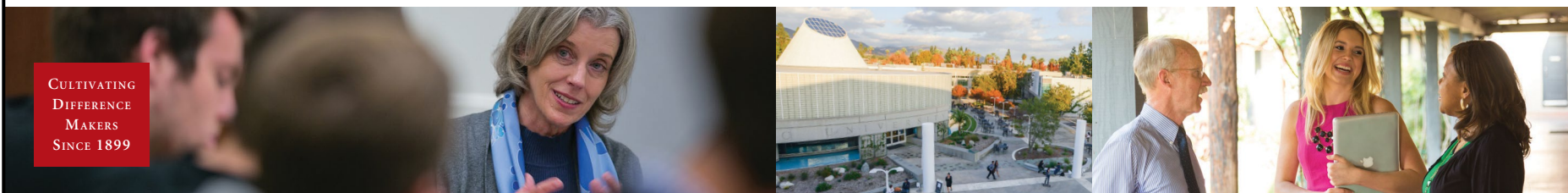


Congratulations to Norm Martin
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