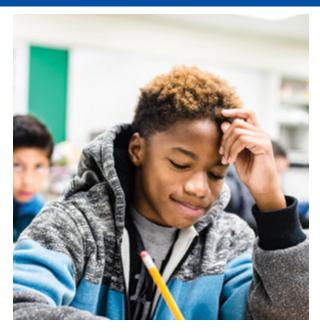
Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 20 MAY 2018







Standards of Success

Spring is a time when students put their best efforts toward state tests in English language arts (ELA), math, and science. These tests are part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), which gauges student understanding of the California Standards.

These annual tests are part of an integrated cycle that includes lesson development and interim, local testing. Teachers monitor students' progress in each subject and use benchmark tests to more formally assess individual and collective achievement levels. Teachers discuss the benchmark data to determine best practices, identify areas for reteaching, and tailor lessons to meet the needs of individual students. Similarly, when we receive the results from the CAASPP tests, we use them to inform practices, refine pacing guides, and review resources.

More important than the teacher discussions is the discussion with students about their achievement. When students are able to track their own progress and set goals based upon their test results, they soon discover that they control



Dr. Katherine Thorossian *Superintendent*

their learning: their scores become indictors of their study habits and their effort – and not of just being "smart." As students recognize the correlation between effort and achievement, their persistence in tackling tougher problems increases. Persistence is only one of the skills we strive to instill in our students as it is a skill that will lead them to success throughout their lives.

The effort to increase test scores during the state testing season is simply a culminating activity for the work done in our schools all year. It reflects student proficiency in terms of the state standards and may be used as one of many measures to best match students with academic programs. The effort expended by teams of educators at each school are part of a long-term strategy to prepare students for college and careers.

We hold our students to a high standard of excellence and we believe that the work we do in our classrooms will help every student achieve at increasingly higher levels and gain confidence with the skills and knowledge they attain to throughout their educational journey.

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It is the end of another school year. Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read about a science fair, talent show, students fly fishing, learning to build and so much more.

We have included our popular student book reviews on pages 6 & 7 and a word search contest on page 7. Be sure to include the library among your summer activities.

Our next issue is September 12. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer!



www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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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.monroviaschools.net



Jayne Nickles Principal

First Annual Science Fair

In mid-March, Bradoaks' PTA sponsored our first annual science fair. The entire event was organized by parents with the goal to encourage students to learn and have fun while following the scientific method. This involved students asking a question, creating a hypothesis, and performing a test to see if their

hypothesis was correct. Our young scientists

represented all grades from kindergarten to fifth grade. The inquisitiveness of our students could be seen in the wide variety of experiments conducted. On the night of the science fair, students enthusiastically and proudly explained their projects and answered questions from family members and staff. Alongside the science fair were many exciting activities including the book fair and bingo. It was a great night filled with fun and pride!



Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Cynthia Lathrop Interim Director

Building Knowledge

Students at Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC) are learning about buildings this month. They are expanding their knowledge about the characteristics and features of buildings, the people who build them, and the roles that buildings play

in their communities. The unit also includes exploring the

social studies concepts of shelter and jobs.

One classroom built their own building—a playhouse made of recycled materials! The students used their creativity and imagination to decorate their building, but they also considered the necessary forms and functions, including doors, walls, and ceilings.

At CELC, the classrooms are alive and bustling with activity from start to finish. Through their play, young children enjoy the learning process and develop a lifelong love of learning.



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

Spring has SprungBy Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal

On Thursday, March 29, the entire student body took a bus with the Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School staff to the Santa Fe Dam Recreational Park. It was a cool, sunny day, with the man-made lake reflecting the beautiful San Gabriel

Our guest speaker, Ethan Jenkins, came to share his journey of recovery and hope. The students were enthralled with his words of wisdom and sat with him later while he signed

his book that the Monrovia Schools Foundation had so graciously donated. Eventually, the Casting Club of Pasadena arrived and instructed students in the fundamentals of fly-fishing.



After the lessons ended, students lined up to release the trout that had been transported to the lake for release. Over 90 percent of the fish survived, as they were placed delicately into their new home.

The day ended with a lunch in the park and a picturesque view of the lake and mountains.

Clifton Middle School

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



Jennifer Jackson Principal

Honoring Our Students

Clifton Middle School uses the basic principles of Renaissance to ensure students are recognized for their efforts and achievement in a variety of ways. This mission includes the five Rs: Respect, Rewards, Reinforcement, and Recognition to get

This program includes teachers choosing students monthly as their Most Valuable Cubs, identifying students for recognition in academic rallies, celebrating growth in the area of reading and math, being in class and on time daily, and recognizing students

for their character development by demonstrating courteous, polite, respectful (CPR) behavior.



We hope these celebrations instill a level of confidence in each student and encourage them to give their best in every situation, even those that are challenging. At Clifton, we feel it is important to recognize students in a variety of ways in order to reach many students who are deserving of honor. We know that sometimes the smallest of rewards can mean all of the difference in the lives of students and their families.

Mayflower Elementary

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



Michelle Costarella Principal

Mayflower Olympians

The Mayflower Elementary School Mariners are proud of their seventh championship win at the Monrovia Elementary Olympics (MEO)! On March 29, students in fourth and fifth grades from across the district competed in multiple track and field events at Monrovia High School as part of the annual MEO games.

Our fourth- and fifth-grade students ventured to the high school on a beautiful Thursday morning. They energetically filled the stands, as 30 of our top athletes prepared for the Olympic events, which began with opening ceremonies.

After the parade of athletes walked the track, the events began with the long races. The Mariners placed in multiple events with excitement. Following the long races, all students participated in various



Mariner athletes

field events, including the long jump, paddle ball, jump rope, and more. The short races concluded the competition, and Mayflower emerged on top.

Students gathered for a barbecue lunch in the quad as points were tallied. The event ended with an awards ceremony honoring first-, second-, and third-place winners in each event.

Monroe Elementary

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis *Principal*

We've Got Talent!

In April, more than 40 Mighty Monroe Lions showcased their talents in a noncompetitive talent show that featured acting, dancing, poetry, martial arts, gymnastics, opera and other mesmerizing skills. The show featured 17 acts, many of which were solos; others included duos or groups of students. Most of the acts were choreographed and directed by the children themselves.

Fourth-grader Andres Casillas loves opera and sang "Vesti la Giubba" from Pagliacci.



"The talent show allowed me to sing beautifully in front of an audience," Andres said. "Growing up, talent shows were super-important to me, and it is important for children to show what they work hard for and keep the arts alive," said Sarah Gallegos, event coordinator and parent.

A special thanks to Sarah Gallegos and event volunteers Kelly Greer and Alex Jimenez. It was a great exhibition of talents!

Monrovia High School

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



Kirk McGinnis Principal

Togetherness Week

The Associated Student Body (ASB) hosted Togetherness Week from March 20–23. During the week, student clubs and organizations came together to celebrate and support one another.

The week began on Tuesday with an extended lunch period,

which allowed students to explore various support systems provided by the school and community. Healing Connections, a local organization committed to the health and well-being of our young Monrovians, partnered in the organization of this event.

On Wednesday, we hosted Open House, showcasing our programs for current families and incoming eighth-graders. The Theater Arts Conservatory performed "Tarzan," our spring musical, for students and guests during the



day. In partnership with the Red Cross, our Wildcats hosted a well-attended blood drive on Thursday. And Togetherness Week wrapped up on Friday with yet another extended lunch and another performance of "Tarzan."

Thanks to all the community teams that came together in support of our students!

Plymouth Elementary

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



Dr. Greg Gero *Principal*

Scholar Dollars Grant

Plymouth competed against over 100 schools to earn a \$10,000 grant to update our school library! The grant, provided by Scholar Share 529, was awarded to the schools with the highest number of online votes during a two-week period in March. Plymouth received over 10,000 votes, placing second among schools in the same-size-population category.

This award will allow us to update our library collection with hundreds of relevant and exciting titles, including books that support our school's computer-science and Mandarin-immersion

programs. Funds will also be used to purchase a computer to promote students' research skills, to create a parent resource library, and to renovate the library space to foster students' joy of reading.

We are grateful for the immense support Plymouth received in pursuit of this grant, and we look forward to the impact that this will have on our students for many years to come!



Santa Fe Computer Magnet School

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa *Principal*

Setting Goals for Success

All schools want their students to be successful. Indeed, our teachers and students work together on this every day through our teaching and learning. But a vital ingredient that can help our children learn and improve their skills is the act of goal-setting.

The heart of goal-setting is the individual child, and so Santa Fe is working with its students around their personal goals. The students set goals that will guide them to improved outcomes. The GPA Outline (Goal, Plan, Action) allows them to develop their own academic goals, study goals (how you'll get there),

classroom behavior goals, and character goals.

At Santa Fe, we want to prepare our students to be able to apply their acquired academic skills, and we also seek to develop a citizenry that can positively impact the community. Parents, setting weekly goals with your children can help them see how effort and goal-setting will definitely get results. Try it out!



We celebrate when we meet our goals! These Cougar Scholars were recognized for their growth in Mrs. Sparks' Math Class.

Wild Rose Elementary

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



Dr. Leslie Miller *Principal*

Sharing Our Pride

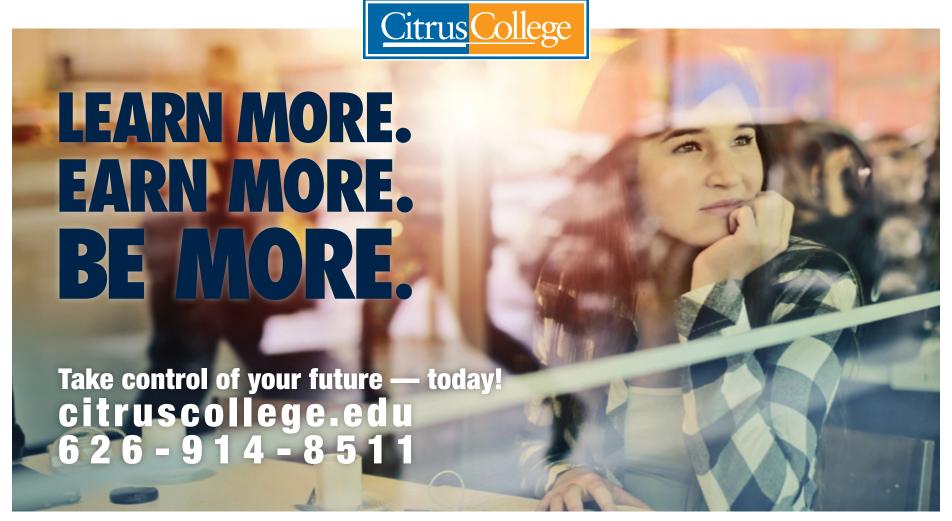
This spring, Wild Rose Elementary School added four new masterpieces to the main gallery hallway. With our artist in residence, Shanon Fitzpatrick, all fifth-grade students had the opportunity to recreate a piece of American artwork. This year, as an added touch, our teachers joined the excitement and added a portrait of Chief Osceola to the gallery.

Our goal is to build on our students' experience of visiting a museum right here at school by recreating works of the American masters. Several of the canvases featured are works found in the Huntington Gardens American Collection.



As students finished their class canvases, they smiled with pride. Several congratulated each other about how talented they were, and they could not believe they could paint something so amazing.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick shared that the recreation of Moran's "Colorado Cliffs" by Mrs. Velez's class was magnificent. I think all our students' did an amazing job!



Alana's Book Review

An Enjoyable Read



Lucy Davis

Brooding YA Hero: How to Become a Main Character (Almost) as Awesome as Me

Author: Carrie DiRisio

Broody McHottiepants had always been the protagonist — it was who he was.

So when an Author tells Broody that he can't be in anymore novels, something in him changes. That couldn't be right. He was Broody McHottiepants, the par excellence. Then, an idea hits: what if



he could write his own book, telling the world how to become main characters like him? Yes. That was what he would do. And nobody — not even his evil ex girlfriend —could stop him.

Reading this book was definitely an experience for me. At first, I disliked Broody's personality, because he was shallow and conceited. However, as the story progressed, his character arc was interesting to observe. Through his experiences, he realized that change can be good. Overall, it turned out to be a enjoyable read that left me with a new look on the young adult genre. Four out of five bookworms

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.

A Whole New World



Alana F.

We all know the classic story of Aladdin. The street rat in love with a princess, finding his happy ending with faith and a magic lamp.

But what if Aladdin never found the lamp?

Witness Aladdin, Jasmine, and unexpected allies fight for all they've ever known. With no magic

wishes for aid, they must forge their own path to victory. Will they save Agrabah, or will Jafar bring it to ruin?

I'd give this book seven out of eight triforce shards for being deep, thoughtful, and educational. I could hardly believe it was

published by Disney. From what I've seen, Disney's tales are almost always missing just a bit of something- except for this one. Poverty, economics, social divides- these are things that Disney needs to be acknowledging more oftenthings that teach us valuable lessons. I honestly can't wait to see how other kids enjoy this book.

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 triforce shards with 8 being the highest

Christina's Book Review

Greek Mythology



Christina J.

This is the first book of Pandora series, which are based on ancient Greek mythology. Pandora, a 13-year-old demi-god (because her dad is a god and her mother is a mortal) is sent on a quest to retrieve the seven deadly sins that were in her dad's safekeeping that she's accidently released. The sins are jealousy, vanity, laziness, greed, anger,

lust and fear. This book is about Pandora having to catch jealousy. She and her family are summoned before Zeus, the main god in Greek mythology, who

threatens to destroy all of human kind and her family if she doesn't catch the sins and evils within a certain time. Along with the hardships of tackling the task, Zeus's wife, the most powerful goddess Hera goes out of her way to foil Pandora whenever she can.

I enjoyed reading this book and the entire Pandora series. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

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 Studentreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Richard's Book Review

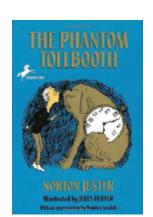
The Phantom Toll Booth



Richard J.

This books starts with a boy named Milo being incredibly board. One day after coming home Milo finds a toll booth in his room. He decides to go through to see what would happen. Suddenly he finds himself in the land beyond, in a town full of creatures, which wouldn't go anywhere or do anything until the time keeper - a dog

named Tock- scares them into getting on with their lives. Milo befriends Tock the dog. Together they go through a great adventure. They meet King Azaz, who rules over letters and words, and other magical creatures.



I liked this book because it is strange, but fun. Milo learns great lessons that make him appreciate different things in life. I recommend reading this book to understand the great story where so many magical things happen. I give this book 5 out 5, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bikeriding and running, reading and spending time with his family.



Congratulations Class of 2018!



Reading

Bu D.H. Coop

Reading is an elementary key to success in the educational system. Take, for example, a teacher assigning a reading exercise that will take an hour of reading. That assignment was based on a certain amount of time that it would take to do the reading, say, 500 to 800 words per minute. If one reads at a rate of 250 words per minute, then that reading time has just become a minimum of twice as long for that individual. I was one of those individuals and therefore identified as a slow learner.

I was not a slow learner. I process information differently, and the method of teaching reading did not allow for that difference. When I was taught to read, they started by telling me to use my finger to point at each word as I said it out loud. When I mastered that, they told me to stop using my finger. Later, I was told to stop saving the words out loud. Finally, I was told to stop moving my lips, and that ended the lessons on how to read.

The problem was, I was still saving each word mentally, and that slow my ability to read fast. My mind would jump ahead of my reading and try to finish the sentences before I read them completely, and I would have to start all over and reread a number of times, slowing the process of reading even more. Therefore, I learned the tricks of not reading to pass assignments that most students use to get their work done on time. Plus, I developed a method of listening and memorizing material in class to compensate for the poor reading skills. I can honestly say that I did not read a book until I was around 20 years old.

One Solution!

So, how did I learn to become a reader? The solution for me was to break the habit of saying each word mentally as I read. The problem was not that I could not read. I could read, but just slower than my mind was willing to wait. The key was to go back to the finger and move it faster, allowing my eyes to move across the words without giving them time to pronounce the words. When one



SUMMER SWIM LESSONS 2018

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Session 1: June 11 - June 21 Session 2: June 25 - July 6

Session 3: July 9 - July 19 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

enters a room, he or she does not pronounce everything they see mentally in the brain. The brain registers every item without having to pronounce it mentally. The same principle can be done with reading.

A simple method to increase one's reading speed is to first find out what your reading speed is. Read for one minute and then count the words, and that will give you an idea of your speed. Then for practice, use your finger or a guide to move across the page fast enough so that you do not pronounce the words mentally. Do this for five minutes each day, and within 30 days, your reading rate should double. This will be frustrating at first because you're retraining your mind to work more efficiently without the conflict of trying to pronounce each word as you read it.

This will develop your reading skills and is not shortcut as scanning or skimming skills they are different from reading skills. Reading skills allow you to comprehend at a faster rate of speed when reading and makes reading more enjoyable. However, this is not a solution for all reading problems. It is a method that one can try—it did work for me. I am never without a book now.

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

Things in the Sky - 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 July 15, 2018

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

STARS	MARS	SLEET
SUN	MERCURY	WIND
MOON	SATURN	CLOUDS
AIRPLANE	URANUS	SMOG
KITE	PLUTO	FOG
BALLOON	RAIN	RAINBOW
JUPITER	SNOW	ROCKET

Congratulations to Kristen Olafson-Segal and Matthew Ramirez

Winners of the March Contests!

М	L	Z	L	F	S	R	Α	M	В	G	J	0	M
В	S	В	J	U	Р	1	Т	Е	R	Х	Р	Е	Т
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F	S	G	C	D	P	E	E	Χ	S	K	X	P	Р



EMBASSY CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT

Embassy Consulting Services, LLC is committed to building and maintaining safe, respectful and inclusive school communities. Our Safe Schools Summit is designed to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders to provide education, awareness and knowledge to help create safe schools.

EVENT INFORMATION

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Alpert Jewish Community Center 3801 E. Willow Ave. Long Beach, CA 90815

Early Bird Registration \$119.00 before July 1, 2018

> General Registration \$139.00

Morning and Afternoon Refreshments and Lunch Included

TOPICS & THEMES

- Building a Safe School Climate
- Assessing and Managing Students of Concern
- Responding to an Active Shooter Incident
- Debrief of the Santa Barbara Isla Vista Shooting
- Expert Panel Discussion
- How to Prevent the Next School Shooting
- Conducting Effective Threat Assessments

FEATURED KEYNOTE

Antoinette Tuff

The Inspiring True Story of How One Woman Saved an Atlanta School Under Siege.

Antoinette Tuff's courage and faith prevented tragedy for 870 children while a school was under siege by a heavily armed gunman. As the nation faced yet another Sandy Hook story of tragedy, one woman rewrote the ending. Antoinette will share her survival techniques that she used on that fateful day to disarm the shooter.



FOR EVENT DETAILS AND TO REGISTER VISIT