

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Monrovia Unified School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 25

MAY 2019

## Committed to Inspiring Students



Students participating in Wild Rose SOCA's Production of "Lion King Kids"



Monrovia High School's Kings and Queens and Clifton Middle School's Hippy Bots at the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championships in Houston, Texas.

By Dr. Katherine Thorossian  
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified School District is committed to its mission of inspiring students to engage in meaningful learning in a safe and nurturing environment as well as challenging students to be productive members and leaders of the community. This school year, we have seen many of our students rise to the challenge by not only taking their learning to the next level but participating in community events as well.

At the elementary level, our students participated in theater productions such as *Aladdin* and *Lion King Kids*, emphasizing the importance of the arts in our community. Students immersed themselves in our Code to the Future curriculum, which allows them to work on projects while applying the logic of computer science, such as loops, sequence and animation. Our Code to the Future program strengthens student preparation for technology-oriented education and career paths.

Monrovia High School's Kings and Queens and Clifton Middle School's Hippy Bots represented the district at the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championships in Houston. We are very proud of our students for their perseverance and determination!

At the high school level, students are gearing up for graduation and their transition to college. Monrovia High School programs such as the Early College and Career Technical Education programs provide real-world experience for college-bound students. Our college-going culture presents students with activities that include college fairs, college visits, and college-application and financial-aid workshops, which help our students stay on track for postsecondary education.

As we near the end of the school year, we want to remind our students of the importance of staying connected to education during the summer months. We encourage families to explore the community, stay active, and take part in the many summer enrichment programs available for students through the city and our local library.

We are excited about all the wonderful things we accomplished across the district this year and look forward to welcoming back our students on Aug. 14.



Monrovia Elementary Olympics (MEO) Participants

### Save the Date:

Monrovia Unified School District presents State of the Schools on Oct. 15 at Monrovia High School's Performing Arts Center, 845 W. Colorado Blvd., Monrovia.

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# Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



**Jayne Nickles**  
Principal

## MEO Spirit Stick

We have spirit, yes we do! And that's exactly what the judges thought!

Bradoaks Elementary proudly marched off the field at this year's MEO games with the Spirit Stick in hand. Students, staff and parents clad in red cheered, chanted, and "roared" loudly as the games were underway. Pom-poms waved and banners flew as everyone cheered on our school and our athletes.

With the direction of fifth-grade teacher and MEO coach, Mr. October, students sang songs and held up signs to rally our team.

They kept up the school spirit as each class headed to the activities in the gym and displayed Bobcat pride. Along with our awesome classes, even our mascot, Bobcat, made his roar heard throughout the stands and on the field.

It was a great day, and even our lower grades joined in the school spirit as the Spirit Stick made its way around campus. Go Bobcats!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



As this school year comes to a close I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. It is a privilege to publish the excellence from the classrooms. Our next issue is September 11. Have a wonderful summer!



# School News

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MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# Canyon Early Learning Center

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



**Tom McFadden**  
Director

## Reading is Fun!

The Canyon Early Learning Center celebrated the months of January and February by working on our instructional focus of “Developing Language and Reasoning Skills.”

The CELC instructional staff recently attended a professional development that centered on how to best develop language and reasoning skills in the classroom setting. We have implemented an instructional practice called “Language Dance” that is being infused into our daily instructional practice. CELC staff are also using language and reasoning development techniques during their staff-to-student interactions.

With the emphasis on language and reasoning, CELC recently celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday in the preschool classrooms by having volunteer readers visit and read to our students. The students also performed thematic activities such as Dr. Seuss art projects, storytelling, small- and large-group reading activities, and Dr. Seuss-related indoor and outdoor games.



The teachers also tied Dr. Seuss into our Creative Curriculum Unit on the study of clothing. Our students really enjoyed Dr. Seuss Day at CELC because it made reading and language acquisition fun!



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# Clifton *Middle School*

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



**Jennifer Jackson**  
Principal

## Coding Program

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) program at Clifton Middle School is really heating up with a new three-year course sequence that allows students to develop skills and unleash their creativity with coding and robotics.

In sixth grade, students build personal websites using HTML, code small games using code.org and learn to drive and program VEX IQ robots to conquer various challenges. In seventh grade, students build on that foundation, creating more advanced games and modifying their robots to tackle more difficult challenges. In eighth grade, students create polished, arcade-style games using Scratch, make commercial quality two- and three-dimensional games with Unity, and control hardware devices using JavaScript and the Adafruit Circuit Playground.

Courses are self-paced, with specific goals, instructional videos, and teacher support. Students with prior coding skills can accelerate and plug into the course that's right for them. Clifton is proud of this flourishing program!



# Canyon Oaks H.S./Mountain Park/ Monrovia Community Adult

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • [www.MonroviaSchools.net](http://www.MonroviaSchools.net)



**Flint Fertig**  
Principal

## Break a Leg

By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal

As we begin our last semester of the year at Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School, our students continue to push through to the finish line—Graduation Day. Opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom are available for all students.



In addition to the most recent trout-release excursion, Mr. Chacon escorted a group of drama students to a play called "Lackawanna Blues," produced by the Center Theatre Group. Students rode the Gold Line to the Mark Taper Forum in downtown Los Angeles to watch this dramatization of a character named Ruben Santiago. Born in Puerto Rico and raised by a nanny in New York during the 1950s and 1960s, Ruben acts as a one-man show. Interestingly enough, the actor narrating the story portrays more than 20 other characters!

At Canyon and Mountain, all students enter to learn and go forth to earn.



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# Mayflower *Elementary*

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



**Michele Costarella**  
*Principal*

## Valued Role Models

The launch of our “Watch D.O.G.S.” program has proven to be a valuable one for the students and families of Mayflower School.

Mayflower began a special program in November that is aimed at building culture and providing students with good mentor support.

Known as Watch D.O.G.S., or “Dads of Great Students,” this is a nationally recognized program that welcomes fathers and father-figures to spend time on campus working with our students both in and out of the classroom.

There is a core group of dads who have participated in specified training and regularly offer their time on campus. Some of their roles and responsibilities include welcoming students upon arrival, assisting in the classroom, participating in recess on the playground, and ushering students to the car line.

These great dads volunteer their time, serve as vital male role models to our students, and support the Mayflower community in so many ways!



# Monroe *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Lily Jarvis**  
*Principal*

## Mighty MonroeBots!

This February, Monroe Elementary School launched a new and exciting after-school robotics program—the MonroeBots. Eighteen enthusiastic Mighty Monroe Lions form the first robotics team at the elementary level in Monrovia Unified School.

The robotics coaches are parent Tammi Rogers, Monroe’s computer-lab technician Eva Kum, and the lead robotics coach of the Kings and Queens Robotics Team, Brian Johnson. During their after-school sessions, the MonroeBots are supported by student members of the award-winning Kings and Queens and Hippie Bots.

Our school community is both proud and amazed by the focus, engagement and enthusiasm shown by the MonroeBots. We fully believe in our new after-school program, and we predict big things will come out of their collective talents. Go Mighty MonroeBots!



# Plymouth *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Greg Gero**  
Principal

## Kiwanis K-Kids Club

In February, a group of over 25 enthusiastic first-through-third-grade students gathered after school to launch Monrovia's first Kiwanis K-Kids Club, a service-leadership

program for students, sponsored by Kiwanis Monrovia and Kiwanis Arcadia. The club is led by Dr. Maria Akl and Mrs. Susana Reveles, who serve as the faculty advisors and facilitate the bimonthly meetings. K-Kids members choose service projects to make meaningful contributions to the school and the community.

The K-Kids Club provides a forum for students to collaborate and build partnerships with their peers, unlocking their call to leadership. As students engage in service projects, they begin to see their potential to make a difference in the world. The club promotes four key skill sets: growth mindset, habits of mind, happiness habits and social-emotional skills.



Special thanks to parent advisor Annie Fan, who played a large role in bringing this amazing program to Plymouth!

## 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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# Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



**Dr. Geoff Zamarripa**  
*Principal*

## Our New Netbooks

All Santa Fe Middle School Cougar scholars have received netbooks! These devices have already begun to transform student learning, growth, and achievement.

New, Web-based curricula in both social studies and science is being piloted by teachers. The recently adopted English language arts curriculum also

relies heavily upon online content to strengthen and deepen student understanding of text while offering greater and more frequent opportunities to respond in writing. Many teachers use the powerful district Google platform to enhance and promote opportunities for students to collaborate and share ideas in real time at any time.

Students have also been learning a second language: coding. Students who learn to code will have a multitude of game-changing job opportunities waiting for them in just a few short years.

Santa Fe is proud to be the computer science magnet school of Monrovia Unified School District.



# Monrovia *High School*

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



**Kirk McGinnis**  
*Principal*

## A Winner!

Monrovia High School sports medicine student Gabriela Fajardo was recently selected for a prestigious internship working with the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles and Arcadia. Gabriela earned an internship working in the Sports Medicine Division under the direct supervision of Sport Medicine Director Dr. Ryan Kelln.

During her first year as a sports medicine student at Monrovia High School, Gabriela proved how deserving she was of being awarded the first ever Monrovia High School/CHLA Sports Medicine Apprenticeship working in their medical-based clinic in Arcadia. Since beginning her training as a sports medicine student in September, Gabriela has proven to be deserving of the opportunity. She has demonstrated excellence in the classroom and is a steward of professionalism throughout the MHS campus.

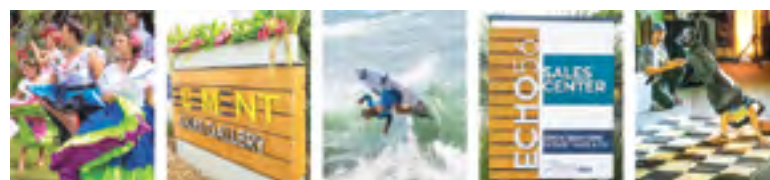
Gabriela has had a passion for the medical profession since enrolling in the sports medicine program last year. She also "aced" a medical school-based Skeletal Anatomy Laboratory Practical Examination. She is one of only three students to have ever earned a 100 percent in the seven years of the examination!

Gabriela, who also goes by Gigi to those who know her, developed a strong interest in working with children last summer as a dedicated intern with the City of Monrovia in their YES Program. She is also an outstanding student who has achieved an overall GPA of 3.8 over her four years at Monrovia High School, and is a four-year varsity athlete and former captain of the girls varsity soccer team.

Gabriela has a strong interest in taking her experiences as an athlete, as well as the knowledge gained from her classroom and work-based learning experiences as a Sports Medicine Pathway student, to pursue a career in pediatric medicine. Please help me congratulate Gabriela for a job well done, and for being highly motivated in pursuit of her career aspirations.

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## Traditions and Community Spirit

Fourteen years ago, the MEO games were born from a spark of inspiration and a grant application from the Monrovia Schools Foundation completed by Mrs. Elliott and Mr. Cady! The Monrovia Schools Foundation continues to sponsor the MEO Games.

**Dr. Leslie Miller**  
Principal

The Games combine track and field events with sportsmanship and spirit. The “T,” the teacher team, originally felt that not all athletes will develop from club and tournament sports, and so they thought the Games would give some of our students another avenue to develop their athleticism.

The Games are now a regular opportunity for our fourth- and fifth-graders to represent their current elementary school while also competing against their future MHS classmates. The students are awarded medals for their efforts on the field, as well as the school’s audience spirit in the stands.

For our students, the traditions of this friendly competition are well-loved and respected. This year was particularly sweet, as our school was the overall medal winner in the Games!



# Office 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Monrovia in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by June 30, 2019**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 Gift Card to Barnes & Noble!

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**Congratulations to Oscar Eguia**  
**Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**



## Encouraging Teens to Read for Pleasure



The amount of time that teens spend reading for pleasure has declined a lot over the past few years. Whether this is due to the rise in short-form reading, the prevalence of multitasking, time spent with screen media, or other factors is unknown.

Fortunately, we do know the way to encourage readers of any age: Keep books in the house, set aside daily reading time, and read yourself. For teens specifically, it may help to tap into whatever they're passionate about. From music and fashion to video games and the Victorian era, if you can name it, there's a book about it.

In a world filled with entertaining diversions, it can be difficult for teens to find reading material that really motivates them to read. Check our reviews (you can sort our book reviews by age, genre, and topic).

Here are some more ideas:

- **Try an ereader.** Ereaders offer your teen a bit more independence, flexibility, and privacy. And they're great for travel.
- **Consider humor.** Some teens just need the funny.
- **Draw inspiration from pop culture.** Late-night comedians, musicians, and even software developers (think Steve Jobs) are great subjects (or authors!) for teen reading because they're relevant to teens' lives.
- **Insist that they read the book before seeing the movie.** If they want to see a story on the big screen, hand them the book first.

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## Isabella's Book Review

# Amazing Message



**Isabella A.**

*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens is an amazing book with a very complex person as its main character. Scrooge begins the book as a very mean cold hearted man. As the book goes on, Scrooge repents and tries to change.

The reason for this starts when his dead business partner, known as Marley, pays him a visit. During this visit, Marley prophesizes that 3 spirits will come.

The first spirit still comes that night. The Ghost of Christmas past shows Scrooge how happy he once was. It also shows him how he changed into the greedy person he is. Scrooge is sorry for what he has done and takes the first step to change.

The next night, the Ghost of Christmas present shows Scrooge how poor his clerk is and how much he is suffering. Scrooge sees that his clerk's son is very sick and that the family does not have the money for treatment.

The next night, Scrooge sees what will happen if he continues the way he is going.

Will Scrooge change? Can Scrooge change?

I would rate this book a 5 out of 5 because it is very emotionally enticing and it has an amazing message.



Isabella is a 7th grader and just published her first short story in a school anthology of young authors after winning first prize with her work. She rates books on a 5 star scale.



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Richard's Book Review

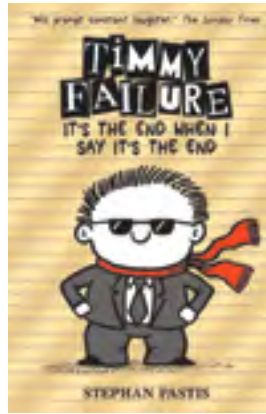
# Timmy Grows Up



Richard J.

*Timmy Failure It's the End When I say It's the End* by Stephan Pastis

This is the 7th and last book of the *Timmy Failure* series. Timmy and his imaginary polar bear named Total (T. Failure + Total = Total Failure of Total Failure Inc. Detective Agency) take on a task of solving the world's problems and defeating crime. Timmy also has to do routine things like writing a script for his class project. But then a new student takes over the show and ruins Timmy's vision of Greatness. The script gets stolen and more Christmas shenanigans follow.



I liked these book series because despite it's ridiculous, over-the-top narration by Timmy, you can see he's just a young kid with great imagination, producing action-packed scenarios, which help him escape the harsh reality of struggles — like getting a new step-dad, finding his real dad and trying to get him to participate in his life, and not realizing his aunt, with whom he and his mom lived during hard times, is dying. But in the end Timmy grows up and lets go of his imaginary sidekick Total by helping him find his long-lost brother and releasing Total to the Arctic. This book is definitely 5 out of 5 stars.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

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