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Volume 7, Issue 35

May 2021

Monrovia Unified Reopens Schools One Year After Closures



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As this school year comes to an end in many ways it feels like the beginning. It is wonderful to see a bit of normalcy returning to our lives and that begins with students back in the classrooms. Zoom took on a whole new meaning to children as they spent hours in front of a computer screen instead of in a classroom. There are many milestones in a child's life, but none of us were prepared for anticipating the next milestone of not wearing a mask. That will be a happy day.

In this issue you will read how each school has welcomed students back on campus.

On pages 9-11 are student book reviews to help with your book choices this summer. Also, be sure to enter the word search on page 11 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is September 15 in time for the new school year. As Superintendent Dr. Thorossian said in her message, planning is already being done by the district for reaching their goal of having all students on campus again.

Have a fun summer!



**Congratulations
Class of 2021!**

Monrovia Unified Reopens Schools One Year After Closures



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified School District is committed to the academic success of all our scholars. Over the course of one year, how we taught and prepared our students for their future has been completely altered.

After tireless work and schedules that spanned beyond the normal work day, our Elementary and Secondary Task Forces created Hybrid Instructional Models based upon the needs of our students, staff, and families.

March 29 and April 19 marked two important milestones we had been anxiously awaiting; for the first time in over a year, elementary and secondary students, respectively, were welcomed back to campuses for in-person instruction.

To ensure the health and safety of our entire school community, the District established protocols such as daily health screenings, social distancing, wearing masks, hand sanitizing stations, and directional signs. These protocols, as well as other guidance, were explicitly recommended by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

While the reopening of our schools through hybrid learning has been exciting, we continue to engage some students in full distance learning, and our teachers have done an excellent job providing them with the same high-quality education our in-person students receive.

As the 2020-21 school year comes to a close, Monrovia Unified is already looking ahead. As we prepare for end-of-the-year celebrations, we also have begun the planning for the 2021-22 school year and expect to realize our goal of having all of our students back on campus again.



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Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

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



Dr. Jayne Nickles
Principal

Plant the Moon Challenge

Through the partnership with FoodEd, Bradoaks Elementary Science Academy is participating in NASA's 'Plant the Moon' challenge. This supports NASA's Artemis Program which is the United States' new initiative to return to the Moon and explore the lunar surface. Bradoaks will be hosting an experiment on

campus where we will be growing vegetables in artificial moon dust (lunar regolith simulant) which will be helping NASA scientists and the academic community at

large learn the best lunar conditions for growing crops. Additionally, students will learn about the history of food in space, what it would take to grow food in space and growing a lunar habitat. We are



excited about participating in this challenge, learning if it is possible to grow earth vegetables in garden soil and lunar regolith, and sharing what we learn with the science community. Way to go Bobcats!

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Canyon Early Learning Center Prepares for the Re-Opening of School

On March 29th, Canyon Early Learning Center welcomed back its students in a Hybrid Learning Model. The classroom picture illustrates the changes and inside of classrooms made

in preparation for the return of students. Canyon Early Learning Center staff have spent the last few months preparing the classrooms and the outdoor spaces on campus to adhere to the Early Care Guidelines from Los Angeles County Public Health. The site has socially distanced students, given students their own materials and baskets, painted one-way foot traffic patterns in outside areas, posted age appropriate signage for handwashing, mask wearing and social distancing.

The Hybrid Model developed for the re-opening of school features in person learning in small class settings,



distance learning for families wanting to remain with virtual learning and staggered teaching days for our AM and PM classes. It is very exciting and rewarding to see the students back on the CELC campus!

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

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • www.MonroviaSchools.net



Flint Fertig
Assistant Principal

Back on Campus

*By Calvin J. McKendrick,
Assistant Principal*

After much planning and preparation by administrators, teachers, and classified staff, Canyon Oaks High and Mountain Park School students were finally able to come on to campus for direct instruction on Monday, April 19th. There was a “First Day of School” vibe all throughout the halls and classrooms as teachers and students met for the first time.

Impromptu campus tours were conducted as staff realized that many students had never attended their classes in person! The enthusiasm, energy, and optimism were palpable as each individual greeted one another for the first time in what seemed like an eternity. Staff and students alike were excited to finally return to a work immersed in the “new-normal” learning environment. Although verbal communication had to be articulated carefully and voices had to project for others to hear, everyone quickly acclimated to the nuances of working and learning during a historic global pandemic.



Clifton Middle School

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



Dr. Jennifer Jackson
Principal

Dual Language Program Flourishes

Clifton’s Spanish dual-language program has spent the school year adapting its approach and strategies to accommodate the current reality. Whereas the manner in which how teachers reach students has changed, Mrs. Bravo and Mr. Ochoa—the two department teachers—remain committed to the goals of teaching and supporting students to achieve high levels of language proficiency and academic achievement.

Together, they share the goals of helping students develop an understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures both abroad and in the United States.

To engage students in distance learning, Mrs. Bravo and Mr. Ochoa have focused on the use of thematic units. Such an approach has proven to be accessible and of interest

to our diverse group of language learners. For example, students have learned to explain the causes and effects of climate change; led discussions on the importance of protecting the environment; written haikus about Mars as part of an interdisciplinary unit in honor of the arrival of Perseverance on the Martian surface, and created videos on a variety of topics.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our dual-language students and look forward to our reopening, when teaching and learning will adapt again. Preparing students to continue their language development in advanced-level courses at Monrovia High School in pursuit of a biliteracy diploma keeps Clifton working hard to provide the highest-quality instruction.

It’s awesome to see the great number of opportunities that open all over the world for our bilingual students!

Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Celebrating Special People

PTA Founder's Day is celebrated each year as a way to honor the legacy of the founding members of the National Parent Teacher Association. According to pta.org, the founders—Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler—worked to better the lives of every child's education, health and safety. Every February, we celebrate dedicated, hardworking PTA volunteers who have committed their time and efforts to our schools. This year, Mayflower Elementary School is proud to honor several parents and teachers for their ongoing and outstanding service to our district, our school and our students. We are pleased to announce the 2021 Founder's Day Award recipients and acknowledge their service.

Bill Wysock and Joanna Gee are the recipients of this year's Very Special Person award for special service to our school community. Mr. Wysock, a longtime parent, has supported Mayflower special events with his expertise in

lighting and sound. Ms. Gee has supported Mayflower PTA with behind-the-scenes work on a weekly basis.

Teachers Jennifer Dana and Gwen Graber received the Honorary Service Award, which is given to those with outstanding service to children. Both Ms. Graber and Ms. Dana have been exemplary teachers at Mayflower for over 25 years.

The Continuing Service Award was given to Sabin Parsi and Jeana Cass for their ongoing and continued service to Mayflower School. Ms. Parsi and Ms. Cass have both assumed multiple roles within PTA. Ms. Parsi has facilitated our book fair and Ms. Cass has chaired our Red Ribbon Week event for over five years

The most prestigious award, the Golden Oak, was awarded to Sarah Edgington for her significant contribution to our school. Ms. Edgington has served the Mayflower community in multiple capacities for over nine years and will continue her service across the district.

Mayflower graciously thanks all of these special individuals for their time, effort and dedication as volunteers.

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Overjoyed at Reopening

On March 29, the Monroe campus safely reopened our campus for in person instruction! While some things feel very different---daily health screenings, unidirectional hallways, designated gates, and grab and go lunches---the most important things are still the same. Our students, continue to be at the center of all of our decisions.

Over the past year, our parents and families have demonstrated love and compassion to their children, our teachers and staff members have shined in their determination, strength of character, and commitment to education. Our students have astounded us all, as they make history together. Through all of this, our mighty community has shown that "teaching and learning" is an endeavor of the heart, and that we are in this together! We are overjoyed to see so many of our kiddos on campus, and are convinced that the Monroe Community can do hard things!



Monrovia High School

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Hybrid Learning

On Monday, April 19th, as part of our “Secondary Hybrid Instructional Model,” Monrovia High School opened its doors to welcome students back to campus for in-person learning. Our families were able to select to have their child attend school on campus or remain in complete distance learning through the end of the school year.

Students returning to campus are placed in two cohorts, and attend school on campus for two days in a 90-minute block schedule. The remaining three days are conducted remotely via Zoom. The two cohorts alternate their days on campus to allow for smaller numbers of classroom students to safely social distance. The distance-learning students continue to Zoom into their classes daily.



Our classroom teachers and students have done a remarkable job of making the needed adjustments to teach and learn with this new model. The manner in which the lessons are delivered and classroom discussions occur may have changed, but our dedication to providing meaningful growth opportunities for the students continues.

Our students are seen here collaborating with each other, some in person and some via Zoom, in a lab experiment. Monrovia High is truly home to scholars and champions!



Plymouth Elementary

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

An Amazing Transformation of Plymouth’s Campus!

If you haven’t set foot on Plymouth’s campus in a while you might not recognize what you see! Over the past several months, our campus has undergone a dramatic transformation,

including the planting of dozens of trees, picturesque

bioswales, a scenic running path, and the creation of outdoor learning spaces. This project was made possible through our partnership with Amigos de los Ríos, a local non-profit dedicated to creating networks of green spaces in the San Gabriel Valley.

As soon as students returned to school, the outdoor classrooms became the most popular areas on campus. Composed of large boulders strategically placed in semi-circle formations, these spaces

provide students with the opportunity to learn outdoors while enjoying fresh air and panoramic views of the San Gabriel Mountains. More improvements are underway, with plans for a vegetable garden, and the replacement of asphalt with cool colored concrete. What an amazing transformation!



Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Santa Fe Reopening: Emotions, Hopes Run High

On April 19, 2021, after an unprecedented 13 month closure, students stepped foot on Santa Fe's campus. Teachers and staff were there to cheer

them on, check them in, and ensure a safe arrival. For many, it was the first time they had ever seen each other face to face. The reopening

of school was emotional and hopeful. After being home for more than a year, Santa Fe Staff, known on campus as The Awesome Cougar Team, were excited and admittedly a bit anxious to return to what they are most passionate about: teaching and learning with students. Student reactions to the return were positive. Seeing friends, relishing a day together, learning, playing, running, and enjoying a meal together during lunch were all elements of their lives that had been missing since last March. To see more about Santa Fe's reopening, scan this QR code with your camera.



Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

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



Bear News

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts has hit the ground running with our new Hybrid Learning Model. We would like to express our gratitude toward each of our families for being patient and understanding as we make adjustments to our new plan. Our staff continues to work diligently to make any necessary changes as seamless as possible with little impact on our students.

At this time we have been successful in welcoming approximately 60% of our students back on campus with in-person instruction. Our students have been amazing and have adjusted to the new safety protocols with ease. It is exhilarating to welcome our students back on campus and begin the process of returning to school. We continue



to learn creative ways to best support our Roomers and Zoomers simultaneously during the school day. Our ultimate goal is to continue to work with our families and support individual learning needs. Wild Rose Families, We appreciate you!



Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Funny and Silly

Title: *Cat Kid Comic Club*

Author: Dav Pilkey

Do you like funny and silly books? If you do, you will love *Cat Kid Comic Club* because it's about Li'l Petey from the Dog Man series and this book will make you laugh!



Li'l Petey starts the Cat Kid Comic Club where he and his friend, Molly the tadpole, teach their friends how to make comics.

My favorite part of the book is the show and tell party where everyone in the club shows the comics that they created. Everyone agrees that it's okay to make mistakes because you can always improve yourself.

You should read this book because it is a funny book that has no scary parts, no violence, and teaches a good lesson. The author also uses silly words and pictures in this book. I read this book very quickly with a smile on my face and you will too!

Daniel is in first grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.



David's Review



David H.

Funny Mystery Book

Title: *The Boxcar Children #157 - Science Fair Sabotage*

Author: Gertrude Chandler Warner

Would you like to read a funny mystery book? If so, you should read *Boxcar Children #157 Science Fair Sabotage*.



The main characters are siblings Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden. Henry is calm, Jessie is curious, Violet likes photography, and Benny loves food.

Jessie is doing a science fair project on pollution and finds that the stream she's studying is shrinking but can't figure out why. The plot is tricky but the kids work together to solve the mystery. You have to pay attention to the story and details, but if you do, it's worth it because you get to solve the mystery and feel good about yourself!

I liked the book because the author wrote the book in a witty and funny way that makes you feel like you're right there with the Alden kids.

If you love puzzles like I do, this is the book for you!

David is in third grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.



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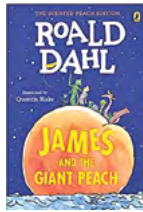
Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Whoa, a Giant Peach!

James and the Giant Peach is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl. The story is about James, an orphan boy who was forced to live with his wicked aunts after he lost his parents in a horrible rhinoceros accident. One day,



James received a bag of magic crystals from an old man. The man said these crystals would change his life forever. James accidentally spilled the crystals on his aunts' peach tree. The peach fruit kept growing bigger and bigger. It grew big enough for James to fit inside. From that point on, his adventure began.

The story is magical and suspenseful. Reading this book taught me the importance of friendship and having hopes and dreams. I recommend this book for anyone who loves magic and mystery. Since this book is not very warm and fuzzy, it may be best for kids who can separate facts and fiction or younger kids to read with parents.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

Riches to Rags

Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be rich almost your whole life then become poor all of a sudden? Well this is the story of a girl named Esperanza. She used to live a luxurious life



but one day when her father died everything went downhill. Esperanza's Uncle asked Esperanza's mother for a hand in marriage, of course she denied but then Esperanza's Uncle wasn't expecting that answer. Later one night her uncle set their nice house on fire! Then, Esperanza's mother accepted the proposal. But, something no one knew was Esperanza's mother planned an escape for California where they were free. They managed to escape secretly with a few friends, leaving her grandmother behind. They later landed in California in a camp that provided food and a place to stay as long as they worked. But, a few months later her mother got sick! Do you think Esperanza can save up enough money to bring her grandma? Do you think her mother will survive? I give this book 5 out of 5.

Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

Katie's Review



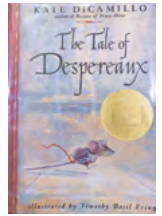
Katie C.

An Adventurous Mouse

Title: *The Tale of Despereaux*

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Have you ever felt like an outsider? Or like someone who didn't fit in? That's exactly how Despereaux, the tiny mouse with large ears, felt like in his family of mice. He



learns to read (which is forbidden) instead of eating books, and despite the consequences he faces, he continues to stay curious and explore the human world that has been largely left untouched for many years. Once he meets Princess Pea, he realizes that humans aren't as bad or dangerous as the mice claim to be. Rather, he wants to get to know them more and be able to live harmoniously with them, as they had once done before. In multiple adventures and close scares, Despereaux, accompanied by his companions, set out to rescue the princess from the danger that awaits. Will he be able to save her and unite the mice and humans? Read to find out! If you enjoy reading adventurous books, I recommend this book to you.

Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

School News

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**Covering the
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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ADVERTISING SALES:

562/493-3193

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung

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Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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21 YEARS



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Sean's Book Review



Sean

The Tomb of a Dead Emperor

The Tyrant's Tomb is the fourth book in Rick Riordan's series, Trials of Apollo. Apollo (aka Lester Papadopoulos) was banished from Mount Olympus (home of the Greek Gods) by the



almighty Zeus. During his exile, he experienced many adventures and losses. Meg, his 12 year-old gifted assistant, travels with him to a Roman demi-god camp, where they are greeted by lots of old war friends. Apollo has a vision and tells the camp to prepare for a gruesome war caused by two evil Roman emperors, both with whom Apollo had treacherously fought recently. He then needs to go on a dangerous journey investigating a Roman ghost tomb for crucial information. The vivid details of the battle preparation and fighting scenes are riveting. Overall, this book is a solid 5/5 and I hope you eventually read this amazing series!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

Every Day is a Gift

"Finding The Worm" by Mark Goldblatt is a great book that tells the troubles of Julian Twerski. Julian is just entering middle school in 7th grade and he



goes through crazy adventures that make you smile. You'll be attached to the Thirty-Fourth Avenue Gang while going through the book. *Finding The Worm* has twists and turns that you would never expect. Mark Goldblatt does an outstanding job in hooking the reader. I'm usually not the biggest reader, but after reading this book, I want more of what Mark Goldblatt writes. This book is the continuation of the first book, *Twerp*, but you don't have to read the first to read the second. This is probably one of the best books I have ever read, and I give it a 10 out of 10.

I hope you will enjoy reading this awesome book!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to play with his dog and meeting new neighborhood friends!

Novelist – 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, 2021

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

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PRINTER	BING
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NOTEPAD	KEYBOARD
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IDEAS	IMAGINATION

**Congratulations to
Mary Anne & Abi Carnahan
Winner of our March Contest!**



Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

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