

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Monrovia Unified School District**



Volume 8, Issue 40

May 2022



**Clifton Middle School partnered with Centre Stage, Inc. in the production of 13, The Musical. Cast and crew members consisted of students from Clifton and Santa Fe.**



## Board of Education



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## Celebrating A Full Year Back in the Classroom



**Dr. Ryan D. Smith**  
*Superintendent*

It is hard to believe that the 2021-22 school year is nearly over and that we are preparing for graduations, promotions, and end-of-the-year celebrations. While COVID has presented many challenges this year, I am pleased at how our teachers and staff worked together to ensure that our return to in-person learning was successful. It has been a pleasure seeing our students thriving and excelling academically.

Graduation has always been my favorite event of the school year. On one hand, graduation represents the end of a chapter in the lives of each of our students as they celebrate over a decade of outstanding achievement and life-long memories and friendships from their time in our schools. On the other, it represents the beginning of a journey as we wish them continued success in their academic, career, and personal pursuits. It is also a time for our teachers and staff to reflect on the profound impact they have had on our students' lives and how their hard work has helped to prepare them for the future.

As we prepare to say goodbye to the Class of 2022, we are already preparing to welcome back returning students and new ones to our schools for the 2022-23 school year. It is an exciting time to be a Monrovia Unified student as we offer so many incredible programs for our kids. We are working tirelessly to provide all students with an exceptional education, ensuring all graduate fully prepared for college, career, and life.

At the elementary school level, we have a number of programs to help grow your child's interest. MUSD's Dual Immersion program offers opportunities for students to become bilingual in Spanish or Mandarin, while learning English and other core subjects. Computer Science is offered as early as TK and the program develops a student's skills with coding and technology at an early age. For those interested in theater, we have our 'Disney Musicals In Schools' drama program. We are so proud to partner with LA's own Center Theatre Group who works with our elementary students and teachers to bring Disney Musical shows to the stage.

At both of our middle schools, there are many avenues for students to continue developing their knowledge from elementary. Middle schoolers also have opportunities to build leadership skills through programs like AVID and Renaissance that help promote a positive learning environment for each and every student and cultivate a college-going culture. At this level, students can dive even deeper into their interests in athletics and the arts. Our arts programs bring arts education, expression, and vibrancy to middle school. For athletics, students will be able to compete against other schools in football, basketball, softball, volleyball, and more.

At Monrovia High School, our students have the opportunity to prepare for life beyond our schools through rigorous coursework and pathways that serve to prepare students for college, career, and life. MHS has a variety of programs to help earn college credit while still in high school. This is available to students enrolled in our Early College, Advanced Placement (AP), and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. Getting hands-on experience in industries such as robotics, sports medicine, digital design, and much more. Our athletics teams compete at a high level in the Rio Hondo League with our football team being the latest league champions with an undefeated 2021-22 season. MHS' award winning performing arts program makes school an exciting place for students - a place where they are encouraged to explore, to create, and to reach their fullest potential.

These are just some examples of how Monrovia Unified helps our students grow from the time they enroll at one of our schools, until they graduate with a diploma. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making my first year as your superintendent an outstanding one. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know our schools, district, and community and am truly grateful for this wonderful opportunity to serve you.

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

Superintendent Dr. Smith begins this issue with his message on page 2. This has certainly been an eventful year with challenges met and goals accomplished. We congratulate the class of 2022 and wish them well on their next journey to higher learning or into the workforce.

Thank you as always for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is September 14th. Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activity choices.



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## Ask Dr. Shari



**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

### Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIn: Dr. Shari Sweetnam




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# Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

930 East Lemon Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2100 • [bradoaks.monroviaschools.net](http://bradoaks.monroviaschools.net)



**Dr. Jayne Nickles**  
*Principal*

## Annual Science Fair

As a Science Academy, Bradoaks is committed to intentionally building a strong academic foundation where science is integrated in all content areas while fostering a passion for learning and curiosity. A part of this foundation emphasizes inquiry-based learning and making connections among the fields of math, science, engineering,

and technology to solve real-world problems. This includes providing students opportunities to get involved in their learning through collaboration, thinking critically, being creative problem-solvers, and building communication skills. We want all students to be challenged and engaged in a rigorous science program that will nurture the skills necessary for future success.

Late April, students had an opportunity to demonstrate their inquisitiveness at the annual Science Fair, where students enthusiastically shared their projects of choice and answered questions from friends, family, and staff. It was a great night filled with fun and pride!



**Student Colette Torres with her project presentation.**

## Canyon Early Learning Center

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



**Tom McFadden**  
*Director*

## Open House

Canyon Early Learning Center celebrated a very engaging and successful Open House on March 31st. The Open House was preceded by a Universal Pre-Kindergarten overview that was open to the public. The Universal Pre-Kindergarten meeting gave families and the public an opportunity to see Monrovia Unified's approach to the state of California's Early Childhood Education Expansion initiatives.

Following the Universal Pre-Kindergarten overview, parents and families were treated to a student performance on the CELC South Play Yard. The students sang and performed to the delight of the families in attendance. Families were then invited to visit classrooms for student led classroom tours. Families also had the opportunity to attend a literacy presentation put on Monrovia Reads. Finally, families were able to visit community partners who were on hand to disseminate information to the families. All in all the Open House was huge success for Canyon Early Learning Center students and families.



# Clifton Middle School

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



**Scott Moses**  
Principal

## Arts and Activities

*By Scott Moses, Principal*

Clifton! What an amazing place to be! We were thrilled to have been able to present the musical *13* on May 4 and 6. Our Clifton cast performed a preview for our community, school board, and leadership groups at the most recent board meeting. In collaboration with Centre Stage, our production told the tale of the transitions, friendships, and events that middle school has to offer.

We have been hosting several community guests and performers on campus as we continue to focus on the arts, which includes fine arts lessons, dance, culinary and decoration, calligraphy and graphic design, radio shows, poetry, and music. Our arts have truly benefited from the generous support of community partners like the Monrovia Rotary Club and the Monrovia Association of Fine Arts.

In athletics, our boys' volleyball team, girls' softball team, and track and field participants are off to a great season. It is really a great rallying moment to see all of our staff, students, and families show up to support these amazing teams!

Clifton is also very fortunate to have such a supportive Parent Teacher Staff Association, as we celebrate and recognize our staff members for their incredible work. The PTSA has done a tremendous job of providing special gifts, refreshments, and support to all of our staff and students. Thank you for all that you do!

On a final note, our students are hard at work participating in state testing. They are also preparing for their final exams and projects, and are steadily heading towards the conclusion of the school year. We look forward to celebrating our eighth-grade students who will be participating in their end-of-year promotion on June 7. It continues to be a phenomenal year here at Clifton Middle School.



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

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • <https://cohs.monroviaschools.net/>



**Flint Fertig**  
Principal

## Spring Ahead!

*By Calvin J. McKendrick, Assistant Principal*

Students and staff at Mountain Park School and Canyon Oaks High School came back from spring break and hit the ground running! With a flurry of essay writing and interviews held for local scholarships, students took full advantage of the plethora of opportunities offered to help pay for education after high school.

Most of the scholarships offered by various community organizations are targeted for college-bound, graduating seniors from both schools. This year, however, we were given an additional chance to offer money to students in grades nine–12 through Rotary District 5300. Participating high school students have the opportunity to earn up to \$3,000 for a winning essay written on a specific ethical dilemma. In addition to the winner earning a reward for their efforts, a cash award of \$1,000 will be given to the teacher that helped the winner.

This year, our graduating seniors should earn over \$12,400 in scholarship money. The Monrovia Schools Foundation, the Citrus Bright Futures, Kiwanis Club, Latino Heritage, Monrovia Reads Foundation, Terrance Hall Memorial, Oscar Garcia Memorial and ACSA all contribute to the hardworking efforts the teens at the alternative schools put in toward their education. We would like to publicly thank all of our partnerships in the community who continue to grant our graduating seniors scholarships year after year.

In addition to the scholarships we make available to our graduating seniors, we offer enrollment in career pathways through the Monrovia Community Adult School. Adults over the age of 18 can enroll in high-demand programs such as medical assisting, pharmacy tech, certified nursing assistant and construction. Graduation will be held this year in the Clifton Auditorium at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 6. The future looks bright for the Mountain Lion Pride!

## Mayflower *Elementary*

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



**Michele Costarella**  
Principal

## Planning for Recognition

This month, Mayflower Elementary School will apply to be recognized as a Bronze Positive Behavior Intervention and Support School with the California PBIS Coalition.

After only three years of dedicated implementation, our school community is looking forward to the vetting and application process.

Mayflower has diligently worked with the Los Angeles County Department of Education Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) training program, systematically implementing specific evidence-based interventions at the Tier 1 level. As part of a Multi-Tiered System of Support, these interventions aim to maximize academic learning as well as social-emotional and behavioral



outcomes for all students. We have established the core foundation for delivering consistent support and preventing unwanted behaviors by explicitly teaching and appropriately acknowledging expected behaviors schoolwide. Through the early use of research-based interventions, monitoring student progress, and using data to inform decisions, we have not only committed to the core principals of PBIS but have also created a school community where safety and good behavior are visible and valued.

Mayflower looks forward to achieving this goal, setting our sights on Tier II, and continuing to dedicate time and resources to promoting a positive school culture.

# Monroe *Elementary*

402 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2300 • [monroe.monroviасchools.net](http://monroe.monroviасchools.net)



**Amanda Noriega**  
*Principal*

## School Carnival

At Monroe Elementary School we pride ourselves in providing our students with a positive school environment along with a rigorous differentiated instructional focus. We believe in a growth mindset and in the power of yet. The word YET reminds us that everything is achievable. We would not be able to serve our students without the support from our dedicated PTA organization. They have hosted various school assemblies from the Music Center, like Futa Toro West African Dance Ensemble and Ballet Folclorico do Brasil. Our PTA also organized an amazing Student Talent Show where we definitely talked about Bruno! At the end of April, they brought our entire school community together with a School Carnival. We enjoyed student entertainment, ate delicious food and fundraised through a silent auction and carnival games. We are so thankful for their tireless dedication and for believing in us. We're the mighty lions, hip, hip, HOORAY!



**Monroe's School Carnival was held on Friday, April 22, 2022.**





# Monrovia *High School*

845 West Colorado Blvd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2800 • [mhs.monroviashools.net](https://mhs.monroviashools.net)



**Adrian Ayala**  
*Principal*

## Mr. Monrovia

One of the highlights of the month of April at MHS was the return of Mr. Monrovia on April 14th. This fan-favorite event is hosted by the Monrovia Renaissance program and was sponsored by local real estate agents Donna Baker and Gina Ammon. The Mr. Monrovia tradition began 17 years ago

and returned to the Taylor Performing Arts Center after a 2-year absence due to the pandemic. 12 seniors competed for the prestigious title and Matthew Orbigoso was chosen at the end of the competition. Devon Woods won the “Audience Choice” award. This event serves as the primary fundraising source for the Renaissance program each year, and this year we had the largest crowd ever!



# Plymouth *Elementary*

1300 Boley St., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2400 • [plymouth.monroviасchools.net](http://plymouth.monroviасchools.net)



**Dr. Greg Gero**  
*Principal*

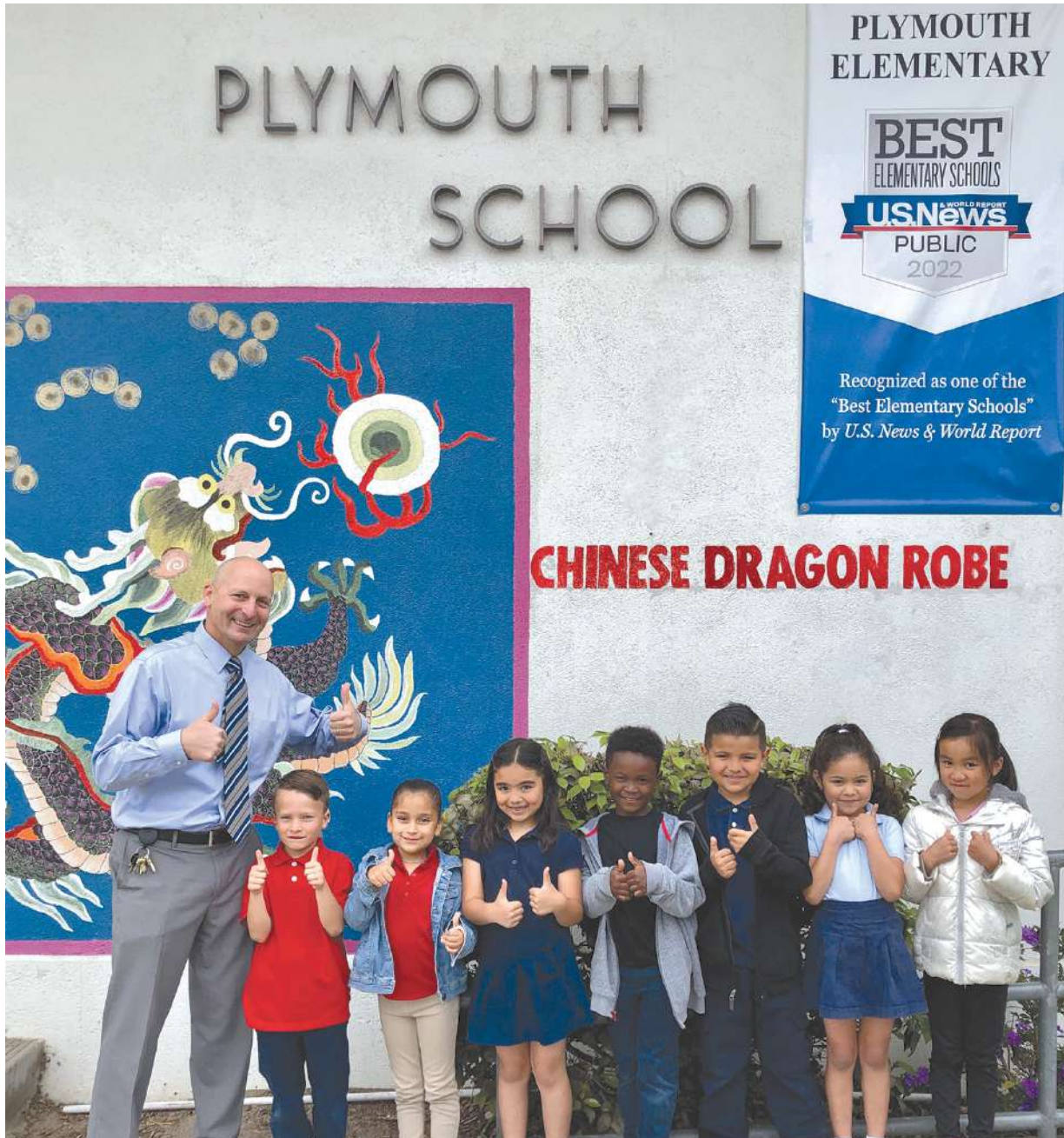
## Plymouth Earns Best Elementary Schools Award!

U.S. News & World Report has selected Plymouth as a recipient of the “2022 Best Elementary School” award! Rankings are based on performance on state-required tests and how well students are prepared for high school.

This award reflects the ongoing dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families. Over the past several years, Plymouth has reinvigorated the education that we provide our

students, with an increased focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and literacy. Essential to our success has been our partnerships with families. Teachers and parents work closely together, conducting virtual visits, parent workshops, and volunteering in the classroom. Our PTA continues to support our students through literacy programs, arts instruction, and our amazing makerspace! At least as important has been our school-wide focus on fostering a growth mindset in our students.

Our Dragons have much be proud of, and we look forward to continued success in the future!



# Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

148 West Duarte Rd., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2700 • [santafe.monroviashools.net](http://santafe.monroviashools.net)



**Dr. Geoff Zamarripa**  
*Principal*

## Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 23, Santa Fe celebrated Earth Day with fanfare, planting more than 100 new plants and hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Santa Fe formally recognized the dedicated work of Amigos de los Rios, which has transformed our school into a beautifully landscaped and welcoming campus with outdoor learning spaces as well as budding outdoor labs.

The San Gabriel Mountains and River Conservancy, which funded much of the work completed at Santa Fe, was also in attendance. The Monrovia Unified School District Board of Education; Claire Robinson, executive director of Amigos de los Rios; Mark Stanley, executive director of the Mountains and Rivers Conservancy; and our district cabinet all convened for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially celebrate the

great work completed at Santa Fe. Board of Education president Selene Lockerbie addressed those gathered with an impassioned plea for Monrovia to continue developing world-class schools that include outdoor learning spaces that not only promote health and wellness but also give all students a greater sense of belonging to their school.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, students and community members went to work in the front of the school to continue planting, cultivating, and landscaping. Amigos de los Rios uses California native plants that are drought tolerant. One of the benefits of all of the landscaping is that it uses less water than grass. Much of the areas landscaped include the installation of aquifers in the ground, which ensures that water from either irrigation or rain does not run off into storm drains but percolates back into the ground and improves Monrovia's vital water table.

Santa Fe is now a more environmentally sound campus that offers more learning space and opportunities for our students.

## Leadership 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 July 15, 2022**

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

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
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# Wild Rose School of Creative Arts

232 Jasmine Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-2500 • [wildrose.monroviashools.net](http://wildrose.monroviashools.net)



**Paige Ramos**  
*Principal*

## Bear News- Now Featuring: School House Rock!

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts is busy working on our next big show School House Rock! Our 3rd-5th grade students will be performing the show on May 19th and 20th on our school stage in the cafeteria. Stay tuned for details regarding ticket sales. We are beyond ecstatic to show off our students talented skills on the stage as well as the



set design that has taken place behind the scenes. Our staff has worked diligently together on the details of the show and it is coming together perfectly. Please mark your calendars and save the date to support our school. This will be an exciting event and you do not want to miss out!

