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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



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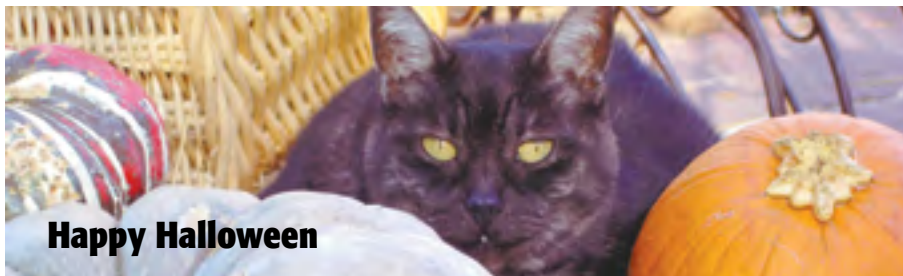
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Welcome back to a new school year. We are looking forward to publishing the excellence from the classrooms. On the following page Superintendent Thorossian gives you an update on programs slated for this school year and the facility updates during the summer.

This is our 7th year publishing the Monrovia Unified School District *School News* and we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue will be Nov 6.




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Another Incredible Year



Dr. Katherine Thorossian
Superintendent

Monrovia Unified School District is committed to continually inspiring our students and engaging them in meaningful learning in safe and nurturing environments. The success of our scholars is at the heart of everything we do.

A promising 2019–2020 academic year is already underway at Monrovia Unified. A slate of innovative programs—including coding, dual-language immersion, robotics, and performing arts—allows students

myriad opportunities to explore new interests and develop new skills. Our team—composed of expert, experienced, and enthusiastic professionals—enriches the thriving programs in our nationally recognized schools. At the end of the school year, we are able to recognize all of the hard work accomplished through student success stories, promotion ceremonies, and graduations.

When our students returned to school this fall, they were greeted with facility updates completed during the summer months. Facility work began with the replacement of the air-conditioning systems at Plymouth Elementary School and Clifton Middle School.

In July, the Monrovia High School Wildcat Stadium underwent a full renovation, which will benefit our students and community for 10 to 15 more years. Thanks to the leadership of the Monrovia Unified Board of Education, the upgrade, which was expected to occur a few years from now, was made a priority and offers remarkable benefits. The project included releveling the field, upgrading to a cool-fill product, and relocating communication boxes to outer parts of the field, ensuring the continued safety of students.

Our mission is to provide world-class schools for world-class students, and we invite the entire community to learn more about our extraordinary people and programs from our Board of Education during our State of the Schools Address on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Monrovia High School's Performing Arts Center, located at 845 W. Colorado Blvd.

This school year is already shaping into yet another incredible year for our students with so many more opportunities to discover in the months to come.

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Bradoaks *Elementary*

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



Jayne Nickles
Principal

Working Together

After a fun and rejuvenating summer, our Bradoaks community is excited about what the new school year will bring. Our staff and teachers have been busy getting the classrooms ready, while our custodial and maintenance crews have worked tirelessly to prepare for the arrival of our students. If you

have the opportunity, please come and check out our newly renovated garden. Our Bobcat campus is beautiful both inside and out!

During the first few days of school our students were busy learning the routines and expectations of a new grade level. Many activities in this new school year also focused on building community and developing friendships. Activities such as a math lesson that involved building a house and not exceeding a budget required our third-graders to think critically and work together to find possible solutions.

Witnessing our students laugh and share ideas while working together is inspirational. Bobcats, we are off to a great start!



Students learning to build a house on a budget.

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Summer Professional Development

Monrovia Unified's Expanded Learning Programs, Canyon Early Learning Center (preschool) and the Village Program (before- and after-school programs) had a very busy and productive summer. Both programs spent a significant amount of time participating in a variety of professional-development workshops aimed at increasing student engagement and strengthening

academic outcomes. The CELC and Village staffs were thoroughly engaged in the trainings, and we are looking forward to amazing educational experiences for Monrovia's preschool and after-school students.

The Village Program staff started the summer by attending Village Curriculum Bootcamp. This professional development focused on training Village staff on the Spark Physical Education curriculum, developing thematic curricular units called Village Learning Activities, and providing academic assistance in after-school and character-education lessons and design. Village staff

also participated in professional development aimed at providing math support to students after school and creating an inclusive after-school program. Village staff finished the summer professional development with the NPASS Science and Engineering Project, which Village will use to offer students project-based hands-on engineering experiences throughout the school year.

The Canyon Early Learning Center staff also had a full summer of professional development. CELC staff spent two days of their own going through a curriculum boot camp and aligning the curricular units to preschool foundations and framework. CELC staff also received training on strengthening family engagement from Quality Start Los Angeles as well as training on developing literacy for preschool students from the California Preschool Network. CELC staff is very excited to start the school year off with an aligned curriculum that has a large degree of parental involvement.

Village and Canyon Early Learning students are sure to enjoy a very robust and engaging program with purposeful learning experiences for students and their families!

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

Sunny Days

*By Calvin J. McKendrick,
Assistant Principal*

Our Canyon Oaks and Mountain Park staff members spent the summer bonding, brainstorming, and collaborating. Both teachers and

administrators spent three days in sunny San Diego at the "Culture Keepers: Principal Leadership in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at Work Institute." The main focus of the conference was to embed a systematic culture into our workday that will establish and maintain effective learning and planning teams.

These teams, or PLCs, leverage data and resources in order to raise the overall graduation rate at our continuation high school. As a result of this training, the staff members at the alternatives schools have resolved to continue to build strong relationships with our students, staff, parents, and the community in order to observe, support, and monitor instructional practices and student proficiency.

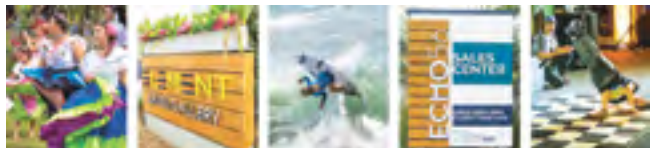
This PLC conference allowed our staff to strategically embed shared leadership practices and student achievement into our Mountain Lion Pride's culture and curriculum.



Canyon Oaks HS staff at a conference in San Diego

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Clifton *Middle School*

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



Jennifer Jackson
Principal

New Assistant Principal

Clifton Middle School is pleased to announce the hiring of new Assistant Principal, Richard Morrison. Mr. Morrison began his educational career in 1996 and joined the Monrovia team in 1997 teaching at Bradoaks. Additionally, he has worked for the District's nutrition program, Wildrose Elementary, and as a math instructional specialist. He is a proud parent of two boys,

Travis and Patrick who attend Clifton and Monrovia High School. His wife Tamara is the Office Manager at Mayflower elementary. It is safe to say, the Morrison family is dedicated to Monrovia and the success of our schools.

When asked about how he feels about his new job, he

responded with, "I am soooo excited and thankful for the opportunity to serve the Clifton students, staff, and parents as Assistant Principal. I am looking forward to immersing myself in the school culture, activities, and learning. When you see me on campus, please reach out and introduce yourself and let me know how I can support you."

Mr. Morrison, in his free time, enjoys classic cars, camping, traveling, and soccer. Some of his favorite middle school memories include being able to switch classes from period to period learning from many different teachers, playing sports, and making lifelong friends. Clifton is excited for Mr. Morrison to join the cubmazing team utilizing his expertise in the areas of technology and instruction. His humor, energy, and dedication will be a perfect fit for Cub Nation.

Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Our Learning Garden

Mayflower Elementary School is excited to announce the opening of our new learning garden! Thanks to a partnership with a local

garden organization and support from our PTA, this year our students will have access to a beautiful, edible garden.

In August, eight raised beds and a drip irrigation system were installed. Mayflower families and other volunteers worked together to take an unused space on our campus and transform it into the beginnings of a lush, inviting garden, where students will learn.

Along with the structure and foundation of the garden, the garden organization will provide a "garden ranger," who will teach interactive and interdisciplinary lessons and help to care for the garden.



Two students build a garden with the support of Enrich LA

Our students will spend valuable time outdoors and enjoy the garden-based learning opportunities centered around topics such as nutrition and environmental stewardship.

We can't wait to watch our garden and students grow!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Dr. Lily Jarvis
Principal

Bullying Prevention Program

Last year, Monroe Elementary School launched an anti-bullying program designed to prevent bullying at school and promote student advocacy. We opened the 2019–20 school year with ROAR Assemblies to remind our Lions of our school rules: we don't bully others, we help others, we include others, and if we see something, we say something.

One of the goals of this program is to empower students to become “up-standers” who stand-up against verbal, physical bullying and cyberbullying. As a means of reaching this goal, their teachers will facilitate regular class meetings intended to build a strong and positive bully-free school culture. Monroe has committed to and will continue to build on our successes by deepening our character-development program and positive-behavior initiatives. Parents can support their children by supporting our rules and encouraging their children to be buddies and not bullies.



Students holding up a sign with anti-bullying rules.

Appliances—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 October 15, 2019

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

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SKILLET

STOVE

KNIFE

FAN

CLOCK

MIXER

**Congratulations to Emmet Harrington
Winner of our June Contest!**

D	R	Y	E	R	V	E	C	F	Y	J	X	A	N
I	A	E	V	A	W	O	R	C	I	M	E	F	K
S	D	C	T	E	B	I	O	O	V	L	A	C	G
H	I	H	V	U	D	M	C	U	N	N	O	Z	A
W	O	O	E	G	P	S	K	I	L	L	E	T	O
A	T	H	E	A	I	M	P	V	C	K	B	V	R
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R	N	E	N	P	Y	V	R	U	P	W	E	A	F
O	L	K	O	R	E	X	I	M	N	T	T	W	N

Monrovia *High School*

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



Kirk McGinnis
Principal

Continuing Our Tradition

Welcome to the 2019–20 school year at Monrovia High School: Home to Scholars and Champions! We had a memorable year that continues to cement our school's legacy, including celebrating 125 years of service to the students and families in our community, a full six-year WASC Accreditation visit, being named on the Honor Roll by the California Business for Education

Excellence, and again named as a *US News and World Report* Silver Medal School. We also celebrated a CIF championship and state track and field competition, a field-band championship, and a robotics team that competed at the World's Championship.

There are amazing students at the school excelling in all areas of study and enrichment. Monrovia High School offers a robust academic program on a beautiful and safe campus with a personalized approach to student engagement. We offer multiple AP classes, a Math and Science Academy, a Humanities Academy, a Digital Studies Academy, an Early College Program, an Arts Conservatory, Sports Medicine Pathway, over 40 student-run clubs and a dedicated teaching staff all focused on engaging students in meaningful learning experiences.

Come see what we have in store! Tours and more information are available by contacting the principal's office. Go Wildcats!

Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Dr. Greg Gero
Principal

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders!

Plymouth students began the school year on the path to becoming tomorrow's leaders in solving the complex challenges of the future!

Students in every grade and in every class began the year immersed in critical-thinking and problem-solving tasks. With a renewed commitment to promoting 21st century

skills, teachers designed learning tasks that require students to collaborate, to apply their creativity, and to communicate their learning to others.

But it's not just about the knowledge and skills—we know that mindset matters! All of our teachers and staff are promoting a growth mindset, perseverance and grit within every student. We envision our students growing into the leaders who not only have the wisdom and ability to make a difference but also the motivation to make it happen!



5th grade teacher Karla Becerra helps student Lilliana Stockton explain her mathematical reasoning to her classmate, Angie Lopez.

Santa Fe *Computer Magnet School*

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



**Dr. Geoff
Zamarripa**
Principal

To a Successful Year!

It was the return of the Chromebooks at Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School during our recent early registration. Our students attended registration a week before school began and were able to receive their personal Chromebooks along with their class schedules!

We continue to be proud to be a one-to-one school that provides digital access to each and every one of our Cougar Scholars. We are also proud to provide a supportive

experience in registering students for their Aeries portal accounts, submitting the necessary paperwork, and signing up for the services that our school provides.

This registration experience is also a great way for us to welcome the students and families to a new school year. We believe in Cougar Pride, and registration is our first opportunity of the year to begin to connect with students and families.

A special thank-you goes to our staff members and the PTSA for working together to welcome and support our students. Happy successes during this new school year, Cougar scholars and families!

Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

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



Penny Fraumeni
Interim Principal

Back to School Night

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts had an awesome Back to School Night. The teachers were introduced to the parents and families by portraits that were composed and created by our own 4th and 5th grade students.

Our PTA sold treats, memberships, and T-shirts, and our GATE students sold "Back to School" grams. It was simply a fantastic night!

The entire teaching staff holding up their special pictures before meeting and greeting everyone in their classrooms.



Katie's Review



Katie C.

Daydreamer

Title: *Words with Wings*

Author: Nikki Grimes

Gabby is what you would call a daydreamer. She always seemed to be in her own world and sometimes it got her in trouble.

Daydreaming was a way

to escape from her parents' arguments.

She daydreamed at home, at school,

everywhere — until it became a way of life. She seemed to meet everyone that discouraged her dreams, until she meets a new teacher. This new teacher shows her that her dreams can help her, that they can spark imagination and cause her to create great things. Gabby finally realizes that rather than daydreaming everything, she can WRITE. This book is a collection of poems that shows the mental growth of a girl who was lost in her own world.



Katie is in 10th grade. Her passion is to write, specifically poems. She loves to be around little kids and help them. Running is also one of her favorites.

Yoona's Review

The Princess's Vacation



Yoona C.

The Princess in Black takes a vacation

The Princess in Black was tired because she had battled monsters all night. Then in the morning again, she had to go defeat another monster. She had 15 monsters to defeat this week. Suddenly, The Goat Avenger came and said to the



Princess that she needed to take a vacation. So the Princess packed up to go to the beach. When she was at the beach, a sea monster roared. She had to do something. While she was fighting with the sea monster, the Goat Avenger tried to protect the goats. Can the tired Princess in Black finally take more vacations at the beach? Can the Goat Avenger complete his mission? I like this book because it is related to summer vacation.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to make stories as well.

Richard's Book Review



Richard J.

Finding the Right Way of Doing Things

Big Nate Flips Out by

Lincoln Peirce

Nate is a 6th grader, known by everybody for his sarcasm and sloppiness. A lot of things happen with Nate and his friends. The main thing



is that Nate and his friend Francis are participating in putting together a school yearbook, but things do not go easy. Another student Gina, also involved in this project, hates to work with Nate, because he's messy and irresponsible. One problem after another, and Nate runs out of patience and excuses for himself. He takes a drastic step and asks a hypnotist to hypnotize him to become neat and responsible. But does it work and does he and his friends like it? You'll have to read the book to find out.

I enjoyed this book, it is funny and relatable. Half of the book are comics, which are fun to read. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Richard is a curious 5th grader. His favorite subjects are math and P.E. He likes to play sports with his friends, read funny books and watch nature documentaries. He likes writing book reviews, because he hopes they will interest other kids to read these books.

Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

Half Man Half Dog

Dog Man Unleashed

is a great book. It is very humorous. The best thing about *Dog Man* is that it is very entertaining. Once you read it for a while you get addicted to it.



My favorite characters are Petey and Dog Man. I like them because they are very smart and witty. It is a great choice for someone who does not like to read. My favorite pages are the "flip-o-rama" pages that show animation. I also like how Dog Man fights against injustice.

Manhar M. is in First Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

Back to School!



Common Sense Media

5 Simple Steps to a Healthy Family Media Diet



Many parents struggle with exactly how much screen time is OK for their kids. Is a half-hour show OK but a full-length movie “bad”? How much gaming should you allow when your kid also uses his computer for homework? Does Wikipedia count as “reading”? And when does a passion for say, video games, become problematic?

The truth is, there is no magic formula. And just as every family differs in what they eat, when they eat, and what they like, a healthy media diet is different for every family. The key is making sure that the things that are important to your family are fairly balanced over the long term.

A healthy media diet balances activities (games, social media, TV), time (15 minutes? Three hours?), and choices (YouTube, Minecraft, Star Wars) with offline activities (sports, face-to-face conversations, daydreaming). At some point, kids will be able to manage their own media diets. In the meantime, these tips can help set them up for success. (Learn more about the screen time habits of families with kids under 8 in Common Sense Media’s most recent research.)

Find balance. Instead of counting daily screen-time minutes, aim for a balance throughout the week. Get your kids to help plan a week that includes stuff they have to do and stuff they like to do, such as schoolwork, activities, chores, reading, family time, and TV or gaming. Decide on limits and behavior using our Family Media Agreement.

Walk the walk. Put your devices away while driving, at mealtimes (learn about our Device-Free Dinner initiative), and during important conversations. Kids will learn habits from you.

Talk about it. Ask questions about kids’ favorite games, shows, and characters. Discuss ideas and issues they read about or learn about through a TV show or a game. This is an opportunity for bonding, learning, and sharing your values.

Create tech-free zones. Set rules that fit your family, such as “no devices during dinner,” “no social media during homework,” or “all screens off before bedtime.”

Check ratings. Choose age-appropriate, high-quality media and tech for your kids.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org



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