

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



Volume 9, Issue 41

September 2022



Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC) friends celebrate their first day at school together, Aug. 17th, 2022.

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Monrovia Schools Off to a Great Start for 2022-23



Dr. Ryan D. Smith
Superintendent

We were thrilled to welcome our students back to school for the 2022-23 school year on August 17th! Seeing so many excited faces on the first day of school was beautiful. Since then, it's been a fantastic start to the school year, and I'm excited to share how our students grow over the coming months. Here are some key updates I'd like to share with you as we begin the school year.

We are proud to congratulate five Monrovia schools for receiving recognition from the California PBIS Coalition for implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a set of ideas and tools that schools use to promote safety and good behavior. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior expectations and strategies. Congratulations to Mayflower, Plymouth, and Bradoaks for earning a silver medal and Monroe and Santa Fe for attaining bronze. Way to go, MUSD!

We've completed back-to-school nights at several of our schools, and each has been a success! The sites opened their doors to welcome new and returning families, allowing parents to meet their student's teachers and better understand how each class will go. Seeing our classrooms full of people was a joy.

The Board of Education approved a budget that included funding to ensure each elementary school has a full-time counselor. School counselors are an integral part of assisting with the mental health needs of our students, and we are delighted that these educators will be available to support our students and their families. Our elementary school principals have formally introduced their new team members to their school communities.

MUSD had eight teachers undergo the Femineer Robotics Training Program over the summer. They built their robots using different materials, coding, and teamwork to prepare for the first group of students in Femineer. The Femineer Program provides K-12 students with project-based learning for current and future STEM leaders. The goal is to inspire more female students to pursue science-based studies with highly creative, hands-on activities.

The new school year is already off to a hot start. I'm excited to continue my second year as the MUSD Superintendent and endeavor to work with you to make this school year the best at Monrovia Unified!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to a new school year. This is our 9th year collaborating with the district for their *School News*. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 8 (all ages may enter). If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for specifics. kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

The next issue is November 2.



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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

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



Dr. Jayne Nickles
Principal

Off to a Great Start!

After a fun and rejuvenating summer, the Bradoaks' community is excited about what the new school year brings. During the first several days of school, students are busy learning the routines and expectations of a new grade level. Many activities of the new school year focus on the social emotional well-being of

our students while building community and developing friendships.

Over the summer, our garden was relocated to an ideal area with more sunshine. Along with new garden beds, tables and umbrellas, a mural was painted to welcome our students and brighten the surroundings. If you have an opportunity, come check it out.



As a Science Academy, we have several fun science-themed activities scheduled for the near future. Coming in October, all grades will be focusing on the science standards with creative hands-on lessons all about pumpkins. The culminating activity is our traditional Pumpkin Drop.

The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start!... go Bobcats!

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Tom McFadden
Director

Successful Opening Day!

Canyon Early Learning Center started the 2022-23 school year with the families attending a parent orientation and workshop. Over 60 parents attended the parent orientation. Canyon Early Learning Center policies, procedures, mission and vision were discussed. Parents were also actively involved in learning activities that the students will be introduced to.

The parents participated in a rock-paper-scissors competition that was fun and engaging for them. Canyon Early Learning Center's community partner, Monrovia Reads, was on hand to present the parents who made the "finals" with a welcome back-to-school basket. We are proud of the partnership with Monrovia Reads and how they support literacy for the Canyon Early Learning Center Families!

Canyon Early Learning Center's first day of school was Aug. 18. Families were invited to join their children on the first day of school. The students were excited and could not wait to see their new classrooms and new teachers and to make new friends. It was amazing to see the energy and enthusiasm from the students! They could be seen wearing



their My First Day of Preschool T-shirts and taking pictures with the My First Day of Preschool sign.

The Canyon Early Learning Center staff was just as enthusiastic to meet and greet the students and their families as the students and families were to meet them. It was a very successful opening day at Canyon Early Learning Center!

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

Focus on Writing

Students at Mountain Park School—ninth through 12th grades—and Canyon Oaks High School started the year off by participating in a schoolwide all-write. For three days, students utilized close-reading skills as well as essay-writing strategies to complete their first DBQ prompt. After reading several articles and analyzing multiple charts, graphs and timelines,

students were tasked with taking a position on the topic and writing an argumentative essay.

After collecting the essays, teachers collaborated to calibrate and began the process of scoring the essays to identify students' writing and to analyze areas of strengths and needed areas of growth. Using the

results of the all-write, teachers in all subject areas plan to create opportunities for student writing in order to provide frequent writing practice as well as opportunities to target specific writing skills.

The early assessment of student writing is intended to help teachers target specific individual-learning needs as well as to support schoolwide improvement of writing skills that students will demonstrate in coursework such as essays, lab reports and mathematical-reflection statements and during assessments such as the DBQ, Common Writing Assessments (CWAs) and SBAC.

By starting off with a focus on the importance of developing reading and writing skills, the staff at Canyon Oaks/Mountain Park hopes to see all students' skills grow considerably over the course of the 2022–23 school year.

Clifton Middle School

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



Scott Moses
Principal

Achieving Personal and Academic Success

It's great to be a Clifton Cub! This year has really started off with a very positive and progressive environment at Clifton Middle School. We have refocused on what it means to be a Cub, how to be a successful student, and how to work to foster strong and supportive relationships among all of our stakeholders.

We started off our very first day with assemblies that taught us how every Cub is expected to be Courteous, Polite, and Respectful (CPR). This lifesaving acronym is easy to remember, and it really helps us focus on how we are expected to treat ourselves and our peers. We have also refocused on our core values of Respect, Empathy, Accountability, Compassion, and Hope (REACH). These values help drive our daily expectations. They also

reflect our main goal at MUSD that every student will be fully prepared for college, career, and life.

Through positive incentives and actions, we will also continue to focus on building and strengthening our students' capacities to achieve success on their own personal and academic journeys. Students at Clifton continue to have a myriad of ways to be involved on campus. This extends from leadership and athletics to an array of electives and clubs, and to our arts and public events. We look forward to an amazing, positive, and productive school year.

We also want to give a shout-out to our families, staff members, and students for helping to start the year off right with everyone who showed up to take part in our Back To School Night. We continue to look forward to incorporating our learning community with our local community!



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Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

SEL in Practice

Mayflower Elementary School is pleased to have been selected to participate in a pilot program with the Cotsen Foundation for the Art of Teaching. This year, our school community will engage in a schoolwide social/emotional learning (SEL) initiative, aimed at fostering inclusiveness and building empathy and community. The Cotsen Foundation graciously provides funding and access to various high-quality resources.

Mayflower is thrilled to have this exclusive opportunity and has benefitted from being a part of the Cotsen Foundation for the past two years. Cotsen mentor Kenzie Salsman and fellows Jackie Sanchez, Caitlin MacDonald, Bethany Delisi and Raylynn Roland have been a part of the program, honing their teaching practices and infusing these methods across campus. Through a variety of

professional-development trainings, our entire staff will this year be empowered with common language, strategies and systems that afford calm classrooms, and explicit social-emotional support to students. These practices are transformative, and research indicates that schools engaged in SEL lay the foundation for a safe and positive learning environment and enhance the ability of students to succeed.

SEL practices have long been embedded in the teachings at Mayflower. Most recently, the school was recognized by the California Positive Behavior Intervention Support Coalition as a Tier One Silver Medal award recipient. Mayflower is proud of the work that has been done, focusing on increasing student self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making and behavior. We look forward to growing in our SEL practices and rooting all we do in these important skills through our partnership with the Cotsen Foundation.

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Amanda Noriega
Principal

Positive and Safe Learning Environment

Monroe Elementary School welcomed the Mighty Monroe Lions to the 2022-2023 school year! We are excited to witness how our students will flourish! Our amazing PTA has begun fundraising efforts for our annual Jog-a-thon event. We

will celebrate our students' fundraising efforts with Picnics & Popsicles, Bubble Recess and Pizza with the Principal, amongst other prices. Once our fundraising goal of \$25,000 is reached, we will Silly String the Principal at an assembly.

One of our school goals is to provide students with a positive and safe learning environment. We achieve this by implementing PBIS. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. The core values of Monroe's PBIS include:

Using the acronym ROAR (Respectful, On task, positive Attitude, and Responsible) to teach and reinforce behavior and academic expectations. We were recognized by the California PBIS Coalition with a Bronze Implementation Award for our work during the 2021-2022 school year.



Monrovia High School

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



Adrian Ayala
Principal

Breaking Down the Walls

The climate and culture at Monrovia High School is continuing to evolve as we face the many challenges presented by the pandemic, social unrest, and the general societal difficulties that our world and school deal with on a daily basis.

Five years ago, the position of Climate and Culture Coordinator was created to provide a title for the staff member who is responsible for ASB Leadership (activities), Renaissance Leadership (student and staff recognition), and Link Crew Coordinator (ninth-grade mentoring). The intent of this position is to provide a strong hand to help guide the development of a climate and culture that embraces our diversity while also encouraging our unity. The goal is to create a school that no one wants to leave and that everyone can call home.

A three-part plan was conceived and set into motion.

Part 1 was the creation of an advisory period, known as “Seminar.” The seminar period is designed to provide every student with a place that is similar to their home base. Students are in a seminar with the same group of students for all four years of high school. The classes are composed of an even number of ninth- through twelfth-grade students. An SEL curriculum was adopted in 2021 to provide lessons for the 30-minute period that meets each Wednesday. The Climate and Culture Coordinator advocated for the adoption of the Character Strong curriculum, and that is what is being used campus-wide on most Wednesdays and with various levels of success.

Part 2 was the introduction of a “House System” in the fall of 2021. The students were divided into one of four

houses based on their seminar classes. Students and staff members participate in the House Competition where they can earn house points for participating in various spirit activities, dress days, and attending events. At the end of the first semester of the House competition we had 63 percent of our students participate in at least one activity, and 43 percent of the students participated in two or more events.

Each student received two shirts at the beginning of the year to encourage participation: A green spirit shirt that they all have, and a house shirt representing their house color. The back of the house shirt embraces the spirit of the competition: “Four Houses, One Home.”

Part 3 is an event that took place in March of 2022, known as “Breaking Down the Walls.” This event brought together 150 students from our school community and taught them that their differences are much smaller than their similarities, and that if we take the time to listen and learn the stories of those we come to school with every day, then ours is a unity that can be grown, and has been out of our reach for a very long time. There are two separate days of this event, and over 300 students will have the opportunity to participate. This event will be repeated in January of 2023 with an entire group of new students.

The continued nourishment and growth of the climate and culture at MHS is dependent upon the acknowledgment of the importance of Social Emotional Learning in the lives of our students, and by everyone in our school community, from the board of education and superintendent to our site administration, staff, faculty, and students.

Plymouth Elementary

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



Jennifer Maljian
Principal

Plymouth Dragons S.O.A.R to a Silver Medal Recognition!

Plymouth Elementary School has been committed for the last several years to fostering a strong and impactful Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system. PBIS is an evidence-based tiered framework that integrates all of the data, systems, and practices that impact



student outcomes. PBIS helps to create schools where all students succeed. Plymouth staff, students, families, and our PBIS committee have spent countless hours creating and implementing a PBIS system where students’ success and safety are top priority. We were just notified recently that Plymouth Elementary won the PBIS Silver Medal Award. We are recipients of this award due to the dedication of making sure S.O.A.R is at the forefront of all areas on campus and the whole child’s success is top priority!

Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Dr. Geoff Zamarripa
Principal

Cougar Culture: Our Foundation

Santa Fe CSMS is a great place for middle school students to learn, to grow, and to prepare for the rigors of high school. Our school takes great pride in raising young people to not only be proficient in academics but to also learn how to be positive, productive and happy members of our community. An absolute core value to this vision is how the Santa Fe Staff treats students as well as one another. Our staff works intentionally to create this culture.

This past year, we have been working to enhance, develop and clarify what Cougar Culture is to our students and to our community. We have used the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework to guide our work and mold it into Cougar Culture to best serve all of our Cougar Scholars, community and staff.

The school staff was guided by our Santa Fe PBIS Site Team. Using the PBIS Matrix Process, the team received input from students and staff to guide their work. A formative review took place last fall that revealed areas for improvement and growth. The team reconvened several times, and then a formal final review took place at the end of April. Working with Dr. Kimberly Cabrera, MUSD director of Student Support Services, Santa Fe submitted its application for statewide recognition. We were recently notified that Santa Fe will be recognized with a state of California PBIS Bronze Recognition! This is our commitment to our children and our community.

We take pride in teaching the whole child to produce good and positive members of our Monrovia citizenry. We do this with much excellence, hono, and Cougar Pride!

Wild Rose *School of Creative Arts*

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

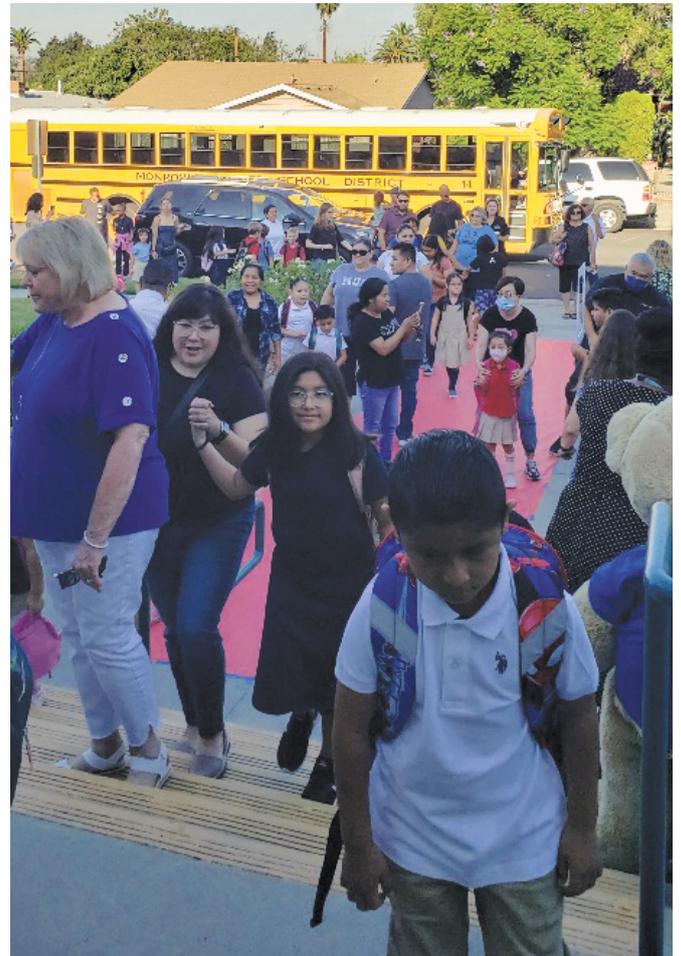


Paige Ramos
Principal

Bear News

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts rolled out the red carpet to welcome our families to the 22-23 school year. Everyone was overjoyed to see one another and energy filled the air with excitement. Our staff greeted families on the steps of the school with music, photo frames, and smiling faces. We finished off the week with our PBIS rally and had a blast. This was certainly an awesome way to kick off the school year. We

can't wait to show off all of the amazing work we've been doing over summer to prepare for their return. GO BEARS!



Aubtin's Review



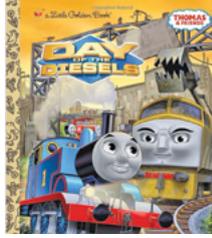
Aubtin M.

Teamwork

Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*

Author: Christopher Awdry
On the Island of

Sodor, Thomas the tank engine and Percy the small engine are best friends. When Belle; the fire engine comes, she becomes Thomas's new friend.



Percy feels very left out. Percy goes to the Diesel Works to see if the Diesels want to make friends with him. Percy leads the Diesels to the Steam Works, when he discovers that Thomas is held prisoner in the Diesel Works. What will happen to Thomas? Will Percy save him? I recommend you read this book to see what happens.

I learned about friendship, teamwork and cooperation from this book. I hope you will too. You will find great pictures in this book.

Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, and music. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

Yoona's Review



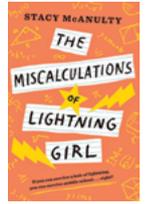
Yoona C.

The Math Girl

Title: *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

Author: Stacy McAnulty

The main character's name is Lucy. Lucy was struck by lightning. She loves math, and



is actually a genius with math! Lucy most of all loves pi. If she doesn't sit, stand 3 times pi appears and keeps going in her head. Lucy is homeschooled and lives with her Grandmother. She is ready to go to college, but her grandmother insists and forces her to go to middle school for at least 1 year. Her grandmother says to make 1 friend, join one activity, and read one book. Later on, the school has a project where you have to help places, or people in need. Lucy and her friends plan to help a dog shelter. She later finds a dog named Cutie Pi and instantly falls in love. Lucy's Grandmother soon finds a school that is good for her intelligence, but she's not sure if she wants to go...Does Lucy decide to leave the school and friends? I like this book because there are a lot of changes in this book, which makes it more interesting.

Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

Word Search Contest Words Associated with School

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, 2022

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

Achievers	Focused	Principal
Character	Homework	Recess
Classrooms	Instructors	Reunion
Curiosity	Integrity	Student
Discipline	Learning	Success
Educators	Mentors	Technology
Encourage	Nutrition	Thinkers
Excellence	Parents	Workers

Congratulations to **Nicholas Nguyen
Winner of the May Contest!**

