

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



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Students Perform at the State of the Schools Address



Monrovia Unified Hosts State of the Schools Address 2022



Dr. Ryan D. Smith
Superintendent

On October 19th, the Monrovia Unified School District hosted a spectacular State of the Schools Address for the public. The event is used to help inform our community of all the successes and challenges our school district faces. We'd like to thank everyone who came out to attend the event at Monrovia High School. It was wonderful to see so many people in the auditorium seats.

Each of our board members highlighted a different aspect of MUSD. They recapped the accomplishments of the 2021-22 school year while giving insight into where our district is heading in the future. We are thankful to everyone who showed up for the event or live streamed it from home to tune in.

Topics from the event included:

- The District's mission and vision
- Classrooms, facilities, and infrastructure assessment and needs
- Pre-K through Adult learning successes
- How MUSD has maintained a sound budget
- The expansion of student support systems
- Athletics achievements

The community also witnessed some outstanding performances from our students during the address. Our middle school orchestra brought the energy into the Louise K. Taylor Performing Arts Center as they serenaded everyone in attendance. Musicians from both Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School and Clifton Middle School showed off their skills with the songs they've been working on this year.

The MHS Theater Conservatory students performed "Show People" from the Broadway musical "Curtains." These Wildcats put all their talents on full display as they took over the stage to close the event with a rousing performance and applause. It was a perfect way to end such an important event.

If you weren't able to attend the State of the Schools Address, we have the entire event on our [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#). We're thankful for community partners like KGEM to help us reach more of our families in Monrovia.

I'm looking forward to finishing the first semester of the 2022-23 school year off strong as we head toward the holidays. I can't wait to update you all with more fantastic things happening around the Monrovia Unified School District later this year!



Monrovia Board of Education Maritza Travanti, Member, Traci Gholar, Vice President, Selene Lockerbie, President, Rob Hammond, Member, Jennifer Anderson, Clerk, and Dr. Ryan D. Smith, Superintendent and the State of the Schools Address.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

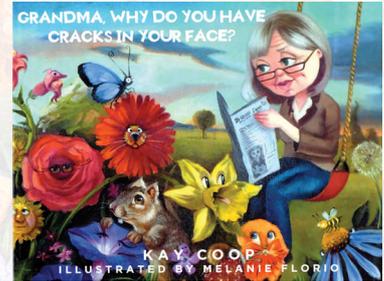


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Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?



By Kay Coop | Illustrated by Melanie Florio

Dr. Smith begins this issue with his review of the State of the Schools Address evening and included the YouTube link in the event you missed the occasion.

As we prepare to enjoy Thanksgiving, I want to take this opportunity to say how thankful I am to be collaborating with the Monrovia School District to publish their *School News*. I am thankful the students are back in the classrooms face-to-face with their friends and learning in person. And I am thankful for readers like you who are interested in education and the success of our youth. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is January 18. In the meantime, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from our *School News* staff.

Happy Thanksgiving!




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Dr. Jayne Nickles
Principal

From Maker Space to Night Sky

Our Maker Space has been open during lunchtime with the awesome help from volunteers. The Parent Science Committee planned fun activities for the students in all grades, working around themes such as the changing colors of leaves in September to a candy pumpkin catapult in October.

Also, in the month of October all grades are focusing on the Next Generation Science Standards with creative, hands-on lessons all about pumpkins. Students have discussed the

gravitational force of a pumpkin drop, and questioned if mass is a factor in the speed of something falling. In a culminating event, grade levels will test their hypothesis as our own Monrovia Fire Department firefighters assist with the annual pumpkin drop from their ladder truck.

In early November, Bobcats will once again have the opportunity to participate in November Night Sky with Mr. Traeger. Astronomers and telescopes will be brought in for our young astronomers to view planets and constellations.

Way to go, Bobcats!



Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Richard Morrison
Interim Director

Family and Community Engagement

Canyon Early Learning Center's school year is well underway! Classrooms are bustling with learning activities and lessons, and students are engaged every day in their learning.

CELC is looking forward to continuing parent-outreach programming by offering engaging, fun and informative events that strengthen our partnership with parents.

This month, we were fortunate to have community partners and business leaders participate in the annual Read Across Monrovia. These awesome community members read stories to our students to promote the love of literacy, and CELC is very appreciative of them.

This month, CELC hosted two parent-engagement events: the annual Alumni Playdate, where past and present students gathered on the playground and enjoyed fellowship and a variety of play activities for both students and parents; and CELC's Pumpkin Patch-Movie Night event, which happens each year and is loved by students and their families. Students were also excited to participate in a theme-based week where students got to wear their pajamas to school, had a crazy-hair day, a silly-sock day and a superhero/Disney shirt day, all of which brought an element of fun into the learning environment!

We want to thank our CELC families, both past and present, for their ongoing support of our school. The families are active members of our team and a huge part of our success.



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

Fall Brings Opportunities

It's hard to believe that it is already two months into the school year. Mountain Park students in grades nine through twelve have had the opportunity this year

to attend weekly "Learning Labs" hosted by their English, math, social science, and science teachers. During these labs, students are provided with opportunities to come and work with teachers on projects and labs for their courses, in addition to learning to use resources such as PAPER to access live tutoring any time it is needed.

Recent Learning Labs have included topics such as DBQ writing support, science labs and lab report write-ups, as well as an opportunity for the twelfth-graders to receive support from their counselor and senior advisory teacher to help interested students complete their UC/CSU applications.



Our youngest Mountain Lions in grades one to five had a recent fun opportunity to come in and trick-or-treat from classroom to classroom following their advisory meeting with their teacher, Ms. Moraga. As we move through the holiday season, there will be several opportunities for our students and parents to come in and take part in fun seasonal

activities while also being able to meet with their teachers and monitor student work and progress.

Our Canyon Oaks' students have been hard at work completing courses for their first semester, which ended on October 21st. In addition to completing work in core academic areas such as English, math, science, and history, our students have had the opportunity to tap into their creative side too as they created a variety of film projects in Mr. Chacon's video production class, as well as discovering their hidden talents in drawing class.

Clifton Middle School

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



Scott Moses
Principal

Keeping Busy!

Clifton continues to find ways to offer new opportunities to keep its students engaged socially and academically. We just celebrated our annual "Day of Awesomeness" hosted by our outstanding PTSA, which offered our students prizes, games, obstacle courses, music, and a great time simply for supporting the school in its "Step It Up" fundraiser.

In athletics, our volleyball and football seasons are wrapping up, and we are moving forward with boys and girls basketball. We are also extremely proud of our "Human Highlighters" X-Country team who participated in the MSAC Cross Country Conference, recently taking third-place overall and with individual achievements earned among our runners as well.

In our Clifton arts programming, we are continuing our family and community partnerships by providing Tuesday Arts on the Quad, and our Wednesday Master Classes which are open to our students. Classes have included cooking, fine arts, painting, music, and chalk art, just to name a few. We have also kicked off our "Bagels and Books" mornings in the library to invite and encourage our students to enjoy library time, social time, and have a little breakfast to boot!

As a final note, we recently hosted our club rush, where students were able to network and learn about all of the incredible clubs we have to offer, including musical theater, STEAM, pride, robotics, debate, and gardening just to name a few. At Clifton, we are proud of what we can accomplish, and we continue to focus on a campus where every Cub is Courteous, Polite, and Respectful!



Mayflower *Elementary*

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



Michele Costarella
Principal

Watch D.O.G.S. Program

Mayflower School is proud to be launching the Watch D.O.G.S. program again this year! This program has proven to be valuable and helpful to the students and community at Mayflower School.

Several years ago, we began a special program aimed at building culture and providing students with mentor support. The program, Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), is a nationally recognized program

that welcomes fathers and father figures of students to spend time on campus, working with students inside and outside the classroom.

Five years ago, our inaugural launch drew participation from a core group of nine dads. These D.O.G.S. gave support to various school events and activities and were visible on campus any day of the week. Watch D.O.G.S. has been key in boosting our positive school climate, as dads are a part of welcoming students upon arrival, assisting with learning in the classroom, participating in recess on the playground, and ushering students to the car line.

This year, we are proud to see that we have over 15 dads willing to serve our community. We look forward to growing this group, as all dads are welcome. These Watch D.O.G.S. dads volunteer their time, serve as vital male role models to our students, and support the Mayflower community in so many ways!

Monroe *Elementary*

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



Amanda Noriega
Principal

We Did It!

Monroe Elementary School raised over \$25,000 during our Jog-a-thon fundraiser! The proceeds will be utilized to send students to educational field trips and to bring exciting assemblies

to the campus. The staff is grateful for the immense support our PTA and families provide. They are such amazing partners in education!

The Monroe community is excited to welcome Ms. Alana Elliott as our school counselor this year. Our counseling team's priority is to help support students and families as they navigate elementary school and beyond. They provide classroom lessons and meet with students individually and in small group settings throughout the year to assist them with their social emotional skills. Every month we have a theme to concentrate our efforts, such as feelings. Our feelings have a great influence on our behavior. This past month we focused on empathy and communicating our feelings in a healthy way.



Monrovia High School

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



Adrian Ayala
Principal

Upcoming Events

The Visual and Performing Arts (VaPA) program of Monrovia High School supports our students as they prepare to become college- and career-ready, while also offering a creative outlet for their artistic talents through drawing, ceramics, music, and theater arts. Two of our programs are currently setting the stage for their fall productions: The Marching Wildcats Band and Color Guard and Wildcat Theater.

On Saturday October 22, the Marching Wildcats won first place in their competitive debut at the All-Valley Band Tournament held at Pierce College. The Marching Wildcats' field production is entitled *The Road Less Traveled*, and is a musical interpretation of Robert Frost's poem.

The Marching Wildcats will continue their season with performances at College of the Canyons (Nov. 4), West Covina HS (Nov. 8), Duarte HS (Nov. 11), and Moorpark HS

(Nov 12), with the goal of returning to the SCSBOA Field Championships. For more information, or to learn how to support the Monrovia Marching Wildcats, please visit <https://www.Monroviamusic.org> or follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/MonroviaWildcatMusic.

The Theater Arts Conservatory is excited to bring Broadway's smash hit comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong* to Monrovia High School. This year's fall production is a classic whodunnit story with a murder at a country manor and an inspector set on the case to find the culprit. However, when this plot is given to the accident-prone thespians at The Cornley Drama Society, everything that can go wrong...does! The actors and crew battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, and with hilarious consequences!

Do you ever find out who murdered Charles Haversham? Come see for yourself at MHS on November 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th. All shows begin at 7:00 p.m, and tickets can be purchased at wildcattheater.com.



Plymouth *Elementary*

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



Jennifer Maljian
Principal

Makerspace a Place to Create, Produce, Inspire

A place to design, not consume. A place that facilitates inventors. A place where you feel like you can make anything! Thanks to a hardworking group of Volunteers and funded by our amazing P.T.A. and solicited donations, Plymouth Elementary students have access to a place to make meaning - our very own Makerspace. What started as

an idea has evolved into a one stop shop for students to interact in adult-student mentorships, time for students to engage in quick lessons, as well as a space for students to create, problem solve, and develop skills, talents, thinking, and mental rigor. Makerspace first opened to students in January 2020 and was only open a few months before we had to shut down on March 13th. Our Volunteers switched to take home "Mini Maker Kits" for the 2020-2021 school year and officially reopened in fall of 2021. Plymouth Volunteers average about 20 hours a week in our Makerspace to allow all students access to all the space affords them. The new addition this year is our floor to ceiling Lego wall! If you're ever in the area, please come and visit Plymouth's Makerspace - you'll walk away with the same experience our students have - one you'll never forget



Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Megan Esquer
Interim Principal

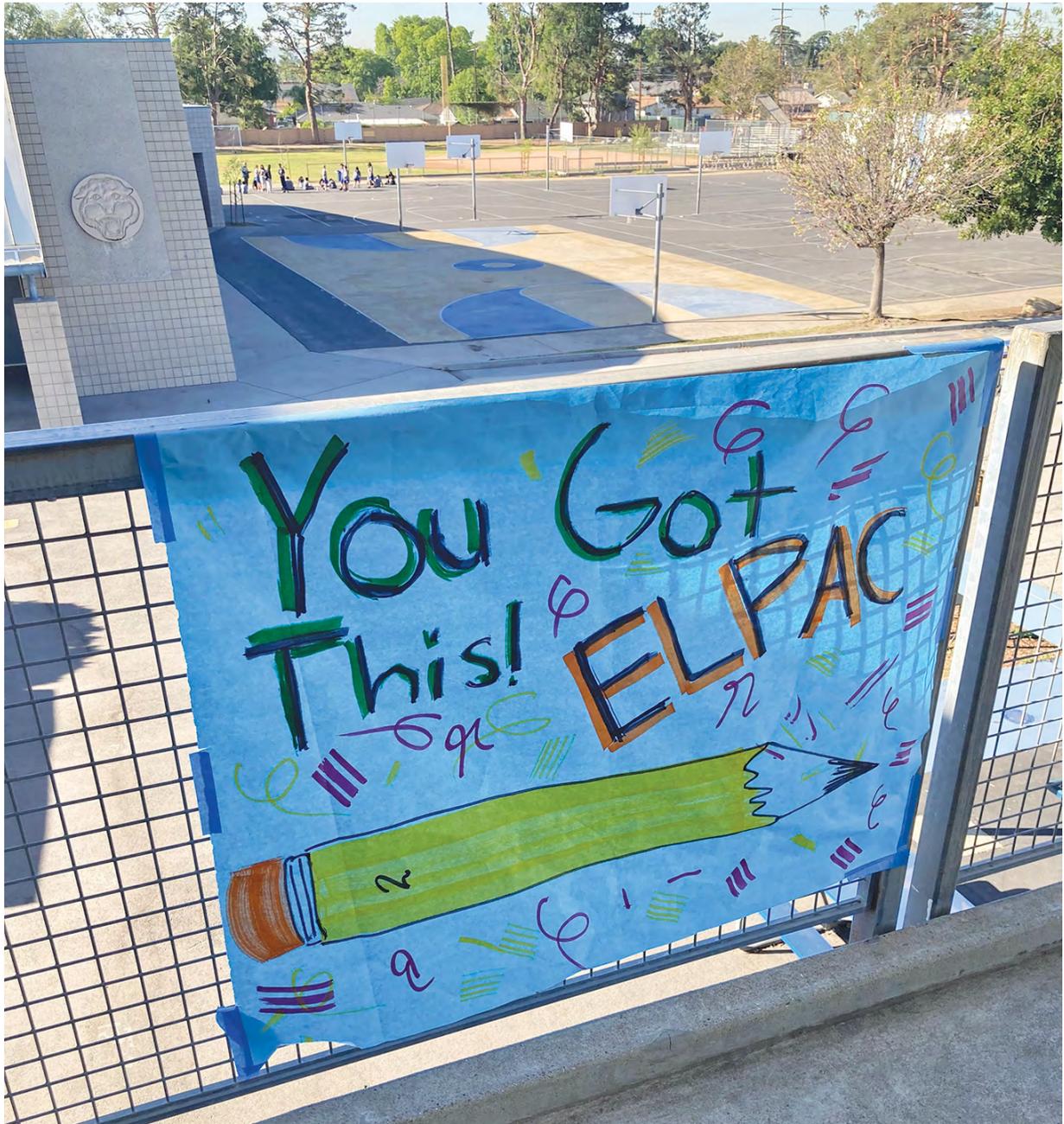
ELD Goes Beyond Language

Santa Fe is excited to feature our English Language Development (ELD) Program this month! We are pleased to reclassify and recognize 14 students who reclassified this school year! ELD at Santa Fe is a unique class that not only helps students hone their English skills but also ensures they are in charge of their learning.

Students work with Professor Egghead to build engineering LEGO challenges as

a group to practice speaking skills while also testing their challenges. They work at their own pace to build their own design and then share with the class or even combine designs. When not busy designing, students work in rotations, aiding each other in work and practicing skills taught in class. Students often apply ideas taught in ELD in their other classes.

All our teachers support student-learning needs in ELD throughout all class subjects. They learn about major life themes such as stereotypes, bias, determination and social-media addiction to empower them in their current life and beyond.



Wild Rose School of Creative Arts

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



Bear News from Wild Rose School of Creative Arts

Our Wild Rose Families were delighted to join us at Camp Wild Rose! Our first community event sponsored by our wonderful PTA was a huge success. Everyone had a blast while they enjoyed

free face painting, a movie on the big screen, the book fair, food, and so much more! This was a great opportunity for our families to join one another and share a fun filled night. Camp Wild Rose is an awesome annual event and families truly enjoy the experience. Thanks again, PTA!

Paige Ramos
Principal



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Parent To Parent

A Helicopter Parent



Jodie Lynn

Q. I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

A. There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids.

However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Let go of this habit, even if it takes a lot of time; it's necessary. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own and whatever the outcome, it's all going to be okay in the end. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. Just be sure that you stop yourself if you think about interfering unnecessarily, even if you know that they're heading for something rough. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations. We have to be allowed to fail.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author.
www.ParentToParent.com



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