

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



Volume 9, Issue 43

February 2023

## Femineers Program



MUSD introduces the Femineers program to the first batch of students at Monroe ES. The Femineers program aims to encourage female students to engage in STEAM careers at an early age.

### Board of Education



**Traci Gholar**  
President



**Jennifer Anderson**  
Vice President



**Rob Hammond**  
Clerk



**Maritza Travanti**  
Member



**Selene Lockerbie**  
Member

# Voted Best-In-State Credit Union

Since 1934, we've been helping school employees and their families achieve their best future. Experience for yourself why our Members voted us best in California.

Learn more at [schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin)



**CANDICE W.**  
Secondary Education Teacher  
Member Since 2003



## Making 2023 Our Best Year Yet in Monrovia



**Dr. Ryan D. Smith**  
Superintendent

It's been a fantastic start to 2023 at Monrovia Unified School District. Our students, families, and staff returned motivated from Winter Break to make this year the best one. Here are a couple of things at Monrovia

Unified School District that I would like to highlight:

For National School Counseling Week, we thank our school counselors for all their hard work supporting our students, parents and families, and colleagues at our school sites. This includes all of our elementary schools that now have full-time counselors to support student learning. Instead of a usual monthly meeting, our counseling team was surprised with free breakfast, gifts, and time to relax with each other. National School Counseling week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students succeed in college, career, and life.

This February is our 10th year working with the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association (MDBAA) to honor and celebrate Black History Month in Monrovia. MDBAA helped lead discussions regarding voter suppression, Fredrick Douglas, voter rights, and more. Our elementary and middle schools also hosted their annual Black History Arts Festival at the Monrovia Community Center. The room was full of unique pieces that showcased and celebrated Black and African American icons throughout history. Awards were given to the top artists of the festival, but every single student who entered did a fantastic job.

Monrovia Unified hosted its first-ever School Showcase on Thursday, February 16th. The best of the best from our sites filled the MHS Event Center from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., highlighting what makes each of our schools so unique. Monrovia families, community members, and alumni enjoyed incredible student performances and tasty



**MUSD School counselors were honored and celebrated during National School Counseling Week last February 6-10, 2023**



treats from food trucks. Thank you to everyone who helped organize this fantastic event for our families and staff.

Finally, our first group of students is going through our brand new Femiiners program. These students are learning critical 21st-century skills in the classroom, such as coding, engineering, and collaboration with their classmates. Femiiners encourages female students to engage in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) careers at an early age.

Monrovia Unified is building upon the successes of 2022 and ensuring we continue to grow together as a district in 2023. I look forward to sharing more with you later this year!

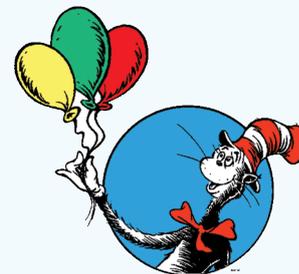


**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Dr. Smith begins this issue with his message on page 3. It is always nice to be appreciated and the counselors were honored and celebrated during National School Counseling Week. So many opportunities are available to students today including their new Femineers program.

Our next issue is April 19.



## Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! March 2nd

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS**



**Gina Ammon**      **Donna Baker**  
Realtor                      Realtor  
DRE 01498679              DRE 01308772  
310.489.1021                626.487.0820  
Gina.Ammon@elliman.com      Donna.Baker@elliman.com

**517 S Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016**

Team at Douglas Elliman Real Estate  
The Power of Two

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



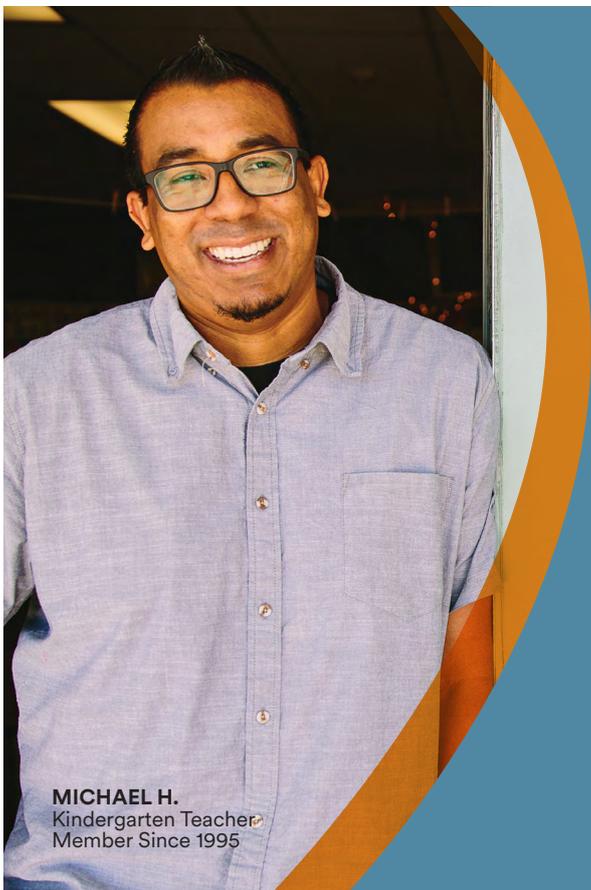
### Covering the MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop 562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com  
**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193    **CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:** Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura  
**COPY EDITORS:** Kate Karp, Anna Zappia    **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/493-3193  
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Monrovia Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



**MICHAEL H.**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Member Since 1995

## Our Members are unique. So are their financial needs.

### Explore products and services designed just for school employees.

#### Summer Saver

A high-yield savings account, currently 6.00% APY,<sup>1</sup> helps you set aside funds to get through the months you may not receive a paycheck.

#### School Employee Mortgage

No Private Mortgage Insurance and low down payment option.

#### School Employee Auto Loan with "Summers Off"

Skip a payment or two during the summer.<sup>2</sup>

## You're Eligible to Join

[schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin](http://schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin)

All loans subject to approval. Rate is valid as of 02/01/2023, accurate as of last dividend declaration date, variable and subject to change after account opening. **1.** APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rate is accurate as of the last dividend declaration date; rate is variable and subject to change after account opening. Deposit any amount between \$1 and \$2,000 per month. New Summer Saver accounts are limited to current school employees; retired school employees are not eligible. One Summer Saver account per Membership. **2.** Available on select terms. Restrictions apply. Interest will continue to accrue during the skip payment period.



Insured by NCUA.



# Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

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



**Dr. Jayne Nickles**  
*Principal*

## Off to a Great Start

The Gifted and Talented Education Program (GATE) at Bradoaks is off to a great start! Our GATE students have been enjoying weekly science workshops led by Monrovia High School Math and Science Academy students, known as MASA Mentors. The MASA Mentors provides our Bobcats with engaging hands-on activities. So far, our

Bobcats have learned about different types of energy by building cars out of cups to race, they have learned about the phases of the moon by carving the frosting inside Oreo cookies to represent each phase, and they have learned about density by building their own lava lamps. Our Bobcats have also enjoyed hearing about the different fields of science the MHS MASA Mentors are studying and asking questions about high school. It has been especially fun that many of the Mentors are former Bradoaks Bobcats!



# Canyon Early Learning Center

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



**Angel Arias**  
*Director*

## Literacy Partnerships

Canyon Early Learning Center has an instructional focus on developing the literacy and reasoning skills of our preschool children, and this focus is addressed in many different ways. CELC staff participates in professional development in literacy as well as preschool foundations and frameworks.

We are fortunate to have strong literacy partnerships with community-based organizations like the Monrovia Public Library and Monrovia Reads.

The Monrovia Public Library has regularly scheduled visits to the facility to conduct learning activities. On their last visit, the children's librarian, Annette Simpson, read to each of our classrooms in the multipurpose room. The students enjoyed hearing a story about zoo animals and their silly visit to the library. They also used their gross-motor skills to dance to music and shake egg shakers to create a lovely tune.

The Monrovia Reads van visits CELC monthly and provides books to our students. Students are encouraged to keep track on a chart of how many books they read or are read to them. Once the chart is complete, the students submit it to their teacher and are awarded a brand-new book by Monrovia Reads.

CELC also has Parent Education Nights that focus on literacy development. At our last literacy event, in December, parents were given whiteboard books to teach their child pen control and provide them with extra practice to support their fine-motor skills. Monrovia Reads also gave our parents a mini-lesson on the importance of reading to their children every day, especially at the preschool level.

CELC is grateful for our staff, parent and community partnerships.



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

930 Royal Oaks Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016 • 626/471-3000 • [cohs.monroviaschools.net](http://cohs.monroviaschools.net)



**Flint Fertig**  
Principal

## Our WASC Visit

Both Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School are preparing for the upcoming three-day virtual visit of the Western Association of Schools Accreditation Committee (WASC), which is scheduled from March 20-22. Staff and site administrators have been working hard since the beginning of the school year to prepare a report that highlights the full range of opportunities and programs that we have available to our students at the schools.

The visiting committee will be provided with a virtual school tour video as well as virtual classroom visits, which are both produced and led by our own video production students. The visiting team will also meet with our

students, staff, and parents to discuss the school's various programs and services. District leadership and school board members will also be meeting with the visiting team to discuss the school and how it services our families and community.

We are excited to be highlighting for them the new technologies which were recently installed in all of our classrooms. Our classes are now equipped with either one 75" or three 65" smart LED TVs. Additionally, our teachers have been provided with new laptops that can be used to wirelessly cast lessons and other classroom resources.

Our teachers are excited to be exploring the full capacity of their new technology, and they are developing engaging lessons and student activities that will utilize this new equipment.

## Mayflower *Elementary*

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



**Michele Costarella**  
Principal

## Creative Robotics Course

This year, a group of our fifth-grade students have had the amazing opportunity to join and be a part of the Femineer program, Created and funded by Cal Poly Pomona's College of Engineering, this program was designed to inspire students to pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) in both their education and in their future careers.

Currently, students are a part of year 1: the Creative Robotics course led by Mr. Hernandez, Mrs. Shaver and Mrs. Salsman. This encompasses a 30-hour project in which students learn basic electronics in a fun, engaging way. They are introduced to the use of hand tools that include screwdrivers, tape measures and hammers. In Creative Robotics, students learn about electronics, wiring, sensors and motors as well as operation of the Hummingbird microcontroller, using Scratch programming language. Through this experience, students are not only learning how to code and engineer but are also deepening their problem-solving skills and learning to persevere while also collaborating with their peers.

As they work their way through various workshops, students will start creating a project that includes all that they have learned! They will then have the opportunity to present their robots at our MUSD showcase and at Cal Poly Pomona's showcase toward the end of the school year.

We are so proud of our students and what they have been able to accomplish so far! We can't wait to see their wonderful, completed projects soon!



# Clifton Middle School

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



**Scott Moses**  
Principal

## A Commitment to Learning

Clifton continues to find new ways to offer its students the opportunity to keep actively engaged both socially and academically. We are continuing the road to excellence, with the honor of now being re-designated as a California School to Watch®. Within the framework of the Schools to Watch® initiative, the expectation for a designated middle school is that they are

academically excellent, they are developmentally responsive, and they are socially equitable. We look forward to our recognition ceremony in March.

Clifton also continues to build strong community partnerships. In February, we helped to celebrate Black History Month with a community hosted event by the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association. Its purpose was to help our students become more familiar with understanding our rights and how we can all work to help build a better community.

We also continue our commitment to the arts with ongoing Random Acts of Art, Tuesday's Arts on the Quad, and Wednesday's after-school Master Class. These offerings have been really engaging for our students. They include watercolor painting, abstract and mosaic art, chalk art, improvisation, and the upcoming hip hop dance class.

In athletics, our boys and girls soccer teams are off to an impressive season. Their hard work and practice is certainly paying off. We will soon be recruiting for our softball and upcoming track and field season as well. We are also excited that our MUSD middle school production of *Grease* is well underway too, with students now cast and attending rehearsals through the next few months! Please save the dates of May 4 or 5, 2023.

Finally, we are preparing for a few upcoming events where we can share all of the wonderful programs and events that Clifton has to offer. We will be participating in the MUSD District Showcase on Thursday, February 16, and our Open House is on March 23. We hope to see our community there.

As always, at Clifton, we are proud of what we have accomplished. We will continue to focus on a campus where every Cub is Courteous, Polite, and Respectful!



## Monroe *Elementary*

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



**Richard Morrison**  
*Principal*

### **Bustling with Activity**

Happy new year! Learning and activities are back in full swing as we begin 2023.

Monroe continues to offer a wide variety of learning opportunities and campuswide activities to our students. Feb. 1 was the 100th day of school. Monroe students celebrated the day with a variety of classroom activities that included art and mathematics, and students and staff were encouraged to dress as if they were 100 years old. Monroe also hosted a TEAL Family Paint Night where families were invited to share a dinner, view some of our student artwork, and participate in a TEAL art lesson.

Monroe was very lucky to welcome readers onto our campus from the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association as part of our celebration of February's Black History Month. Student artwork was submitted to participate in the Black History Month's Children's Art Festival.

Monroe continues to improve our programs and systems related to social-emotional learning through our PBIS initiative. Within this system, our Monroe Lions ROAR (respectful, on task, positive attitude, responsible) and focus on increasing self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making and behavior, which contribute to their

overall success academically. Monroe looks forward to being recognized as a Silver Medal award recipient by the California Positive Behavior Intervention Support Coalition.

Monroe is thankful to all of our staff and community partners that contribute to making Monroe a great place to learn for our students!



## Monrovia *High School*

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



**Adrian Ayala**  
*Principal*

### **Career Paths Start Now**

Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers Monrovia students the opportunity to develop a strong academic foundation and valuable real-world technical skills while they are still in high school.

Monrovia High currently offers Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways in automotive mechanics, sports medicine, engineering, software development, and graphic design. Our CTE programs are taught by industry trained professionals, which means that our students receive high-quality instruction from well-qualified industry instructors. These hands-on experiences provide a rich and engaging curriculum that will prepare our students for their future college and careers.

Through CTE, students can explore career paths and gain valuable insight into the world of work. MHS students who complete CTE pathways will fulfill a vital role in the workforce. As our economy becomes increasingly digital, these graduates will be able to meet and close the skill gaps that many industries face when recruiting new talent. MHS graduates who complete the CTE pathways will have the skillsets and confidence they need to become competitive industry professionals.

CTE programs are a great way for our students to gain the skills necessary for entry into the workforce, or to continue their education after high school. By receiving quality training early on, our students can begin their career paths without having to spend time and money on obtaining additional certifications or degrees later. With these valuable skills at hand, they can readily achieve success both now and in the future.

## Plymouth Elementary

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



**Jennifer Maljian**  
Principal

### Reading is FUNdamental!!!

For over six years, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) in partnership with hundreds of volunteers, companies, and Plymouth PTA has built a tradition mindful that all children have the right to learn to read. In the last six years, Plymouth Elementary and RIF have distributed more than 8,000 books and resources and have impacted the lives of hundreds of Plymouth Dragons. This year our RIF event was themed, "Reindeer Readers." We had all participants dress up in all their reindeer gear and students got to select the book of their choice out of dozens of options and it's their very own book to keep and cherish for years to come. Additionally, each year RIF selects 10 bookmark design winners out of thousands. This last year, our very own 4th grader, Eleni, had her bookmark design selected as a winner! We are so thankful



to our Plymouth PTA and volunteers and the Reading is Fundamental program that makes owning and loving books a reality for so many students.

## Santa Fe Computer Science Magnet School

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



**Becky Perez**  
Principal

### 2023 Resolution: Build Community

What's the best way to start a new year? Ground yourself in what matters most! Team Santa Fe, along with all MUSD secondary teachers and instructional assistants, launched the new year with a two-day Capturing Kids' Hearts training, which centers on developing a relationship-driven culture, nurturing school connectedness, and supporting emotional well-being.

Team Santa Fe, which has long believed in getting to know students well and in nurturing strong relationships, learned new techniques for facilitating social contracts and for developing positive relationships with and among students.

Tools for building positive relationships included practices like greeting students at the door, starting the day with sharing out "good things," sharing positive

affirmation with students and with staff, and team-building activities. All of these strategies help break down walls and build trust, crucial elements required in a social setting like school, which requires risk taking and creativity. Once students feel comfortable and safe, they are more likely to share their ideas, ask questions, and solve problems.

The Social Contract tool is designed to prevent and address challenging dynamics at school. Every teacher for every period at Santa Fe has facilitated a Social Contract conversation in which the class decides together how they want to treat one another every day, even when there is a conflict. Being able to think about group norms helps a learning community leverage these agreements when needed and build a stronger sense of community, accountability and belonging within a group.

Coming together as a team for two days to think about the most impactful strategies for supporting a positive school culture was a powerful way to launch the new year!

# Wild Rose School of Creative Arts

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



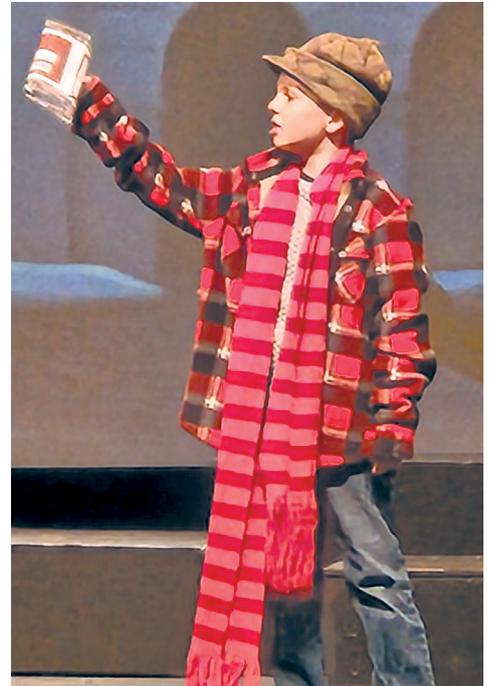
**Paige Ramos**  
Principal

## Bear News

Congratulations to our staff and students who participated in Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Junior at the Louise K. Taylor Performing Arts Center this fall. This star-studded event brought in a packed house of eager audience members. Fourth grader Noemi Gonzalez who played Willy Wonka and all the cast members didn't disappoint their fans as scenes of candy, chocolate,

bubbles, and dreams filled the room. Willy Wonka Junior was a true testament to a children's production as students were responsible for the entire show. A special thanks go out to Mrs. Velez and Ms. Naugle for directing another fabulous musical. Countless hours were spent to ensure that Wild Rose School of Creative Arts once again had a sensational show and Willy Wonka Junior was a HUGE success!

We are the Music Makers and we are the Dreamers of Dreams... -Willy Wonka



# HELP YOUR CHILD BUILD A STRONG FINANCIAL FUTURE

The Membership benefits you enjoy can be shared with your kids. Find out all the ways we can help them establish good financial habits.<sup>1</sup>



**Richard B. and Family**  
Members since 1995

Learn more at [schoolsfirstfcu.org/youth](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/youth)

<sup>1</sup> Supporting documentation required. Junior Varsity Club Memberships (age 12 and under) require a parent/legal guardian joint owner on all shares; Varsity Club Memberships (age 13–17) require a parent/legal guardian joint owner on certain products and services.

Insured by NCUA.

**SCHOOLSFIRST**   
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION