

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Monrovia Unified School District



Volume 9, Issue 44

April 2023



Scott Moses, Alison Meloserdoff, and Samara Hirsch celebrate the STAR awards after the inaugural event on April 11, 2023.

Valentin Miranda was also awarded a STAR award, but was unable to attend.

Board of Education



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Member



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Member

Celebrating Monrovia's STAR Educators and Employees



Dr. Ryan D. Smith
Superintendent

This year, we are pleased to announce the start of a new tradition, the STAR Awards. This event recognized 40 employees across our schools and district who their peers nominated for all they do on behalf of Monrovia students. Spectacular, terrific, amazing, and remarkable (i.e. STAR) are all words that describe this impressive group of educators. One nominee from each category was named that evening as the person of the year and will go on to represent our district in county-wide recognition events if applicable. Congratulations to our following award winners!

- MTA Teacher of the Year: Alison Meloserdoff - Wild Rose School of Creative Arts
- CSEA Employee of the Year: Valentin "Val" Miranda - Warehouse Drive
- Support Provider of the Year: Samara Hirsch - Counselor, Monrovia High School
- Administrator of the Year: Scott Moses - Principal, Clifton Middle School

My vision for the STAR Awards was to host a ceremony that brings Monrovians together to celebrate the tremendous work of the exemplary educators who serve our students so well in a variety of essential roles. I am grateful to the entire Human Resources team for making this vision a reality by delivering a first-class, exciting, and memorable experience for all. It was wonderful celebrating with everyone and their families!

I would also like to thank the Board of Education, the Personnel Commission, and the leadership of both CSEA and MTA for supporting all of our employees and this event. Big thanks also to both Foothill Credit Union and Imprintability for providing "swag" and behind-the-scenes support. Major kudos to our Food Services team

for providing the terrific hors d'oeuvres at the reception. Thanks to the MHS custodial team, Principal Ayala and his assistant principals, and our MOT division for working through the event's logistics together. Finally, a big round of applause for Clifton Middle School student Sofia Grace Federico for kicking things off last night with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.

Congratulations to all of our Employees of the Year and to everyone who was nominated!



Mark Tremper, Natalie Macchia, and Flint Fertig celebrate their STAR award nominations at the event on April 11, 2023.

Sara Valenzuela was also nominated from Alternative Education but could not attend.



All 40 MUSD STAR Award nominees pose for a picture after the event on April 11, 2023. These employees were nominated by their peers for their outstanding work in our schools.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

Have a fun summer
and please remember to
include the library among
your activity choices.

Our next issue is
September 13.



**Congratulations
Class of 2023!**

**Covering the
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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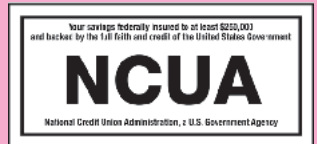
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517 S Myrtle Ave, Monrovia, CA 91016



MONROVIA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2022/23
*Promotion/Graduation
Ceremony Dates*

School	Date	Time
MCAS	Thurs, May 25	6 pm - 7 pm
MHS	Weds, June 7	5 pm - 7 pm
COHS/Mt. Park	Tues, June 6	6 - 7:30 pm
Clifton	Tues, June 6	9:00 am
Santa Fe	Tues, June 6	8:30 am
Bradoaks	Weds, June 7	8:10 am
Mayflower	Weds, June 7	8:30 am
Monroe	Weds, June 7	9:00 am
Plymouth	Weds, June 7	8:30 am
Wild Rose	Weds, June 7	9:00 am







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Bradoaks *Elementary Science Academy*

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



Dr. Jayne Nickles
Principal

Planting Seeds of Action

Bradoaks is committed to intentionally building a strong academic foundation where science is integrated with all content areas while a passion for learning and curiosity is fostered. A part of this foundation emphasizes inquiry and making connections among the fields of math, science, engineering and technology to solve real-world problems.

Recently, one of the fifth-grade classes participated in a project-based learning unit built around the letters of concern they wrote to the principal. Students wanted a voice in replacing the roses that had been taken out by their classroom. Combining this interest with their social studies content standards resulted in students recommending and planting drought-tolerant plants and learning about how to make a difference in their local community.



There are two events where students can participate in STEAM activities. The first event, the Family STEAM Night, took place in late April, with students doing activities based around Earth Day. In late May, students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their inquisitiveness at the annual Science Fair. Students will share their learning about their projects of choice with friends, family and staff. Way to go, Bobcats!

Canyon Early Learning Center

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



Angel Arias
Director

Reading Made Fun

The Canyon Early Learning Center celebrated the months of January and February by continuing to work on our instructional focus of developing literacy and reasoning skills. CELC staff members recently attended two days of professional development that increased their knowledge in making their classroom Early Child Environmental Rating Scale-friendly (ECERS) for our students and families. As well as having a refresher course on the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) assessment tool, our staff uses DRDP to follow a child's progress in their development and learning over time.

The Canyon Early Learning Center's instructional focus on literacy and reasoning skills is addressed in different ways. The Monrovia Public Library has regularly scheduled visits to the facility to conduct learning activities; the Monrovia Reads van visits the site monthly; we have parent education nights that focus on literacy development; and CELC staff members are given professional development in literacy and preschool foundations and framework.



CELC students can also earn books to keep at home from Monrovia Reads. The students are encouraged to keep track on a chart of how many books they read or have been read to them. Once the chart is complete, the students then submit it to their teachers and are awarded a brand-new book provided by Monrovia Reads.

In March, CELC participated in "Read Across Monrovia" in the preschool classrooms. Our students were so excited to have had volunteer readers visit and read to them in class. CELC students also had fun celebrating their favorite storybook character, "Pete the Cat." They had a week of thematic activities dedicated to Pete the Cat, including art projects, storytelling, small- and large-group reading activities, and fun opportunities to dress like their favorite storybook character.

Teachers also connected the theme to our creative curriculum unit. The students enjoyed our Pete the Cat theme at CELC, and we made reading and language acquisition fun!

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

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



Flint Fertig
Principal

Alternative Programs Accreditation

In March, both Canyon Oaks High School and Mountain Park School hosted a Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

visiting committee that validated both schools' full self-study reports and school-improvement process. This accreditation is critical because it allows COHS/MPS students to apply to University of California and California State University campuses and means that the classes that students pass are transferable to any other WASC-accredited schools.

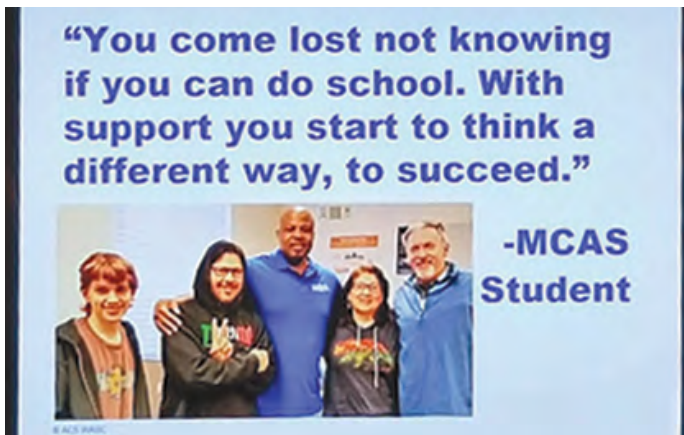


The WASC process asks staff, students and educational partners to engage in a thorough self-study that culminates with a comprehensive self-study report. An accreditation visiting committee visited the school in virtual form for three days to validate the

self-study report and award the terms of both schools' accreditation. The team found that the schools were in a great place and doing wonderful things for the students and community of Monrovia!

WASC allows us to take an objective look at ourselves and continue to explore ideas, think at higher levels, synthesize, and use data to create better learning opportunities for our alternative students. Because of the relentless hard work, collaboration and commitment of our staff and students, both of our alternative programs can celebrate successful visits and feel assured that our efforts are on the right track to help our population of students.

In short, Canyon Oaks High and Mountain Park School will continue to lead the way in providing exemplary programs for MUSD and our community.



Clifton *Middle School*

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



Scott Moses
Principal

Taking a Moment

Clifton continues to find ways to offer opportunities to keep our students engaged socially and academically. As we move into spring, time seems to move so much faster! Finals. End of year events. Promotion. Planning for summer. It is always good at this hectic time to take a moment, slow down, and appreciate the moment. At Clifton, that is what we are encouraged to do.

We recently welcomed to our staff our new assistant principal, Ashley Leone, who joins with a great attitude, knowledge and great middle-school sense. While we do take our time to enjoy, we are always busy at Clifton! We recently participated in the inaugural MUSD Showcase of

Schools, where we were able to share some of the great things that go on at Clifton as represented by every one of our departments.

Our robotics team put on a really great display for all the families! Our Clifton team was in full force to meet the community and encourage families to check us out! Our awesome PTSA brought us some outstanding and inspiring BMX riders to show their talents and get our student body engaged with great interest in some major bike-riding talent.

Continuing our dedication to arts on campus, both our drama and music departments showcased their talents recently with a production of *Alice in Wonderland* by our wonderful thespians, and our band and orchestra recently competed in San Juan Capistrano, with our

orchestra achieving a superior ranking. We also hosted an amazing Open House with dinner, performances, a successful book fair, and our student work displayed well beyond the classroom. It was a joy to see so many Clifton families celebrating their accomplishments and meeting so many families who have an interest in being Clifton Cubs in the future.

Finally, we are busy preparing academically for our state testing. In athletics, we are in the heart of our volleyball, track and softball seasons; and in our areas of arts and enrichment, we enjoyed our Music Department's spring production and our middle school production of *Grease*. We hope to see our community there.

As always 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

Founders' Day Awards

On Monday, April 10, Mayflower Elementary celebrated Founders' Day with a schoolwide awards ceremony and awards reception. Founder's Day is held in honor of the legacy and work of the PTA founders. In conjunction, we celebrate those who keep their legacy alive through their work and commitment to our school community.

This year, three Mayflower staff members--Laurie DeHart, Virginia "Ginger" Garcia and Viviana Cervantes--were among the seven award recipients.

Ms. Garcia received the Very Special Person Award for her service to our school community. Ms. Garcia has worked in the Monrovia Unified School District for 15 years and currently serves as a campus supervisor. She is full of positive, upbeat energy; connects with the students; and helps them on an individualized level. Our students love to talk with "Miss Ginger," and she is so appreciated by all.

Mrs. Cervantes received the Outstanding Teacher Award in recognition of her outstanding service to our students. Though joining the Mayflower staff only a few years ago, she is no stranger to MUSD. She has taught

here for nine years. She currently teaches fourth grade and participates as a teacher leader in many capacities. Moreover, she is an amazing educator! Mrs. Cervantes brings out the best in her students while challenging them each day. She positively fosters a sense of community in her classroom, which lets students know they are welcome and safe.

Mrs. Dehart received the Honorary Service Award, signifying her outstanding service in going above and beyond all expectations. She has dedicated 36 years to the Mayflower community, serving in a variety of classified employee roles. She quietly goes above and beyond the usual call of duty, taking work projects home and serving on a number of leadership committees after school. She is knowledgeable about child development and the strategies and tools needed to promote success in students. Currently, Mrs. Dehart supports the growth and learning of our youngest students in kindergarten. Students and staff appreciate her warm, loving demeanor and know that her experience is unmatched and invaluable.

We congratulate all the Mayflower Founders' Day Award recipients and sincerely appreciate their efforts and dedication.



Mayflower Founders' Day Award recipients Ginger Garcia, Laurie DeHart and Vivian Cervantes.

Monroe Elementary

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



Richard Morrison
Principal

Spring's in Full Swing!

Spring is in full swing! The Mighty Lions of Monroe Elementary School have been busy at work. Monroe was able to participate in conjunction with the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association (MDBAA) in their annual art contest and art gala. As Monroe students celebrated Black History Month, they created beautiful artwork that was submitted and displayed at the gala.

Many of our Mighty Lions were award-winning artists and were recognized at the event. The school also welcomed community members from MDBAA into our classes to share their school experiences and read stories to our students.

Monroe also hosted its annual talent show. The stage was filled with talent that included a singing Spiderman, piano playing, skits and lots of other acts. Our audience was standing room only! It was a fun night to celebrate student talent.

Monroe welcomed Extreme Science Wizard Hagerman as he conducted a science assembly for all students to expose them to various science concepts through interactive demonstrations. Monroe students, teachers and staff worked diligently on projects and learning that were displayed and presented as we welcomed our families to campus for our annual Open House event. This was a chance for students to show off all their hard work and efforts to their parents and be proud of what they have accomplished. Well done, Lions!



Black History Month Art Contest Winners



Extreme Science Assembly Static Electricity Demonstration



Talent show Performance

Monrovia High School

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



Adrian Ayala
Principal

Robotics Continues to Grow and Innovate

There are many programs that make Monrovia High School a special place to call home. One such program is Robotics, led by Mr. Tom Dobson. The program started in 2010 with one team of 10 students. It quickly grew in size to six teams with as many as 90 students. This year we had 65 students who participated in after-school robotics.



The Monrovia High School Robotics Program competes in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics competition where students design, build, and program a robot to compete in an alliance format. Teams are required to develop strategy and build robots based upon innovative and sound engineering principles. Awards are given for robot performance as well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments. This year, three of our teams advanced to the SoCal Regional Championships, the Suitbots, Kings & Queens, and Neptune. Over the years we have always had at least half of our teams advance to the SoCal Regional Championships.

There are two things that Mr. Dobson is most proud of. The first is the pipeline that exists between our two middle schools, which provides students with experience before they set foot on the MHS campus, placing them directly into one of our veteran teams. The second is our fantastically successful “Rookie” team program. Each year, after veteran students are placed on the veteran teams, a rookie team is formed that is made up entirely of MHS students with zero robotics experience, which gives anyone who is interested in robotics the opportunity to join. This year there was so much interest in our robotics program that two rookie teams were formed.

They competed along with our veteran teams, but because they are separate teams, they were allowed to grow and progress at their own pace. This allowed them to make their own mistakes and fix them, which is the most powerful way to build ownership and learn.



Through the hard work of Mr. Dobson, Mrs. Alyson Barrett, and Mr. Richard Montenegro, the robotics program continues to grow and prosper. In addition to hosting many other robotics events, MHS has also been the host of the SoCal Regional State Championships since 2012. This event brings together the top teams throughout the SoCal region to compete for slots in the World Championships. Due to our strong partnership with the Regional Championships, and the success that our teams have achieved over the years, Monrovia High School is recognized as one of the top robotics programs in the region.



Plymouth Elementary

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



Jennifer Maljian
Principal

Our Successful Open House

We are thrilled to announce that our recent Open House event at Plymouth Elementary School was a resounding success! Parents and families had the opportunity to explore the school and learn more about its programs and activities. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all of the families who made this event

such a wonderful experience.

Open House provided an opportunity for parents and families to get a first-hand look at our school and all that it has to offer. We were delighted to see so many families take advantage of the chance to experience our campus, speak with our teachers, and view our students' exceptional work.

The event, which took place on Tuesday, March 28th, showcased the hard work of our teachers and students through classrooms decorated with student work and projects that exhibited creativity and hard work. We are delighted to have had so many families attend our Open House, as it was wonderful to see the community come together and celebrate the achievements of our students and teachers.

Plymouth Elementary School is committed to providing an exceptional education for its students, and seeks to foster a strong sense of community among families and staff members. Open House was a huge success, and we look forward to hosting similar events that will engage our families, students, and community.



Santa Fe *Computer Science Magnet School*

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



Becky Perez
Principal

Honoring the “Hart” of Santa Fe

You can’t miss Dave Hart at our school. His signature bright sports gear, coordinating bucket hats, booming greetings, and bounding energy have lit up the entire Santa Fe campus for the last 35 years.

On my first visit to Santa Fe as the new principal, Dave stood up at our Meet and Greet and proudly presented me with a bobblehead Cougar pin and warmly

welcomed me to Cougar Pride. Since then I have witnessed endless examples of Dave welcoming others, championing student voices and growth, and skillfully navigating systems and challenges to ensure a healthy community of learners.

Dave is the consummate coach and cheerleader for all of us, consistently going above and beyond to take care of his team. As athletic director, MTA representative, safety committee leader, PTA member, and PE teacher, he leads by example with diligence and dedication. Always looking out for others, anticipating needs, and taking the initiative to preemptively solve problems, Dave has

earned the trust and respect of his Santa Fe family and community.

I’ve seen Dave worry about individual scholars, take them under his wing, and advocate for and provide support. He believes in all young people and finds ways to connect with those who are shy, all the while creatively building new connections to increase their sense of belonging at school.

This year Dave was nominated as Santa Fe’s STAR of the Year. When Tzuriel, a Santa Fe eighth-grader, first heard the news, he was eager to celebrate his favorite teacher and made time to personally cheer him on during the MHS STAR Celebration. When asked why Mr. Hart is extraordinary, Tzuriel responded, “Mr. Hart is calm and patient. He’s inclusive and finds ways to help people who need friends. He’s an angel.”

Over the years Dave has earned several titles. He’s known as Captain Cougar, cape included, as well as the “Hart of Santa Fe.” As he retires after 35 years of nurturing and leading, Dave leaves behind a powerful legacy, one that we can all aspire to, along with important lessons about courage, commitment, and positivity.



Wild Rose School of Creative Arts

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



Paige Ramos
Principal

Congratulations Mrs. Meloserdoff!

Wild Rose School of Creative Arts is BEARY EXCITED! Please join us in celebrating as our very own Mrs. Maria Lomelin passes the honor and torch of Teacher of the Year to yet again another Wild Rose Teacher Mrs. Ali Meloserdoff!! Mrs. Meloserdoff is a third grade teacher at Wild Rose who truly exemplifies being

a phenomenal teacher. She is a 21st century classroom teacher, Femineer's Coordinator, Leadership Team Member, Watercolor Teacher, and so much more. We are delighted to celebrate this honor with Mrs. Meloserdoff. We look forward to a fun filled year honoring all of her accomplishments. Congratulations, Mrs. Meloserdoff!





Love to Read

Daniel's Review



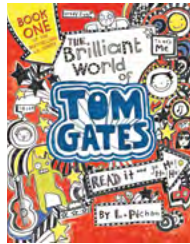
Daniel H.

Very Funny Book!

Title: *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*

Author: Liz Pichon

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates is about a boy named Tom. Tom and his best friend Derek are in a band called Dog Zombies



and they both want to go to a Dude3 concert but Tom has many silly problems to deal with. Read this book to see what happens and to laugh out loud! This book is very funny and has really funny pictures. I loved this book and can't wait to read the other books in this series!

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.

Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

Have it all!

Title: *Almanac 2021*

Which language has the most first language speakers? You might want to hit up for an almanac. What's an almanac? It's basically a book that speaks facts. Maybe you



don't like that type of person, but you might like that type of book. Maybe you can also learn more things like, do you want to know where Alexander the Great was buried? How future homes may be built? Studying rocks? It has it all. From wanting to study stars to knowing about the coolest cats, you can imagine. It's as real as red being red and green being green but, as versatile as the library books.

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

David's Review



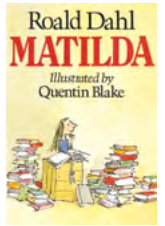
David H.

Smart and Funny

Title: *Matilda*

Author: Roald Dahl

Matilda is a book about an intelligent girl whose parents neglect her. When she starts going to school, she meets a nice and caring teacher, Miss Honey. Matilda



later discovers that she has a special talent. What is her special talent? You should read the book not just to find out but also if you want to laugh! The things that Matilda does throughout the book were funny and the author's writing is hilarious. This is one of my favorite books and I'm sure it will be yours too!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.

Maple's Review



Maple

A Dangerous Journey

Title: *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone*

Author: Jaclyn Moriarty

Bronte is ten years old when her parents suddenly die. She lives with her Aunt Isabelle when she finds her parents' will. It says that she must visit all ten of



her aunts, except for Aunt Isabelle, and give them gifts. There is ancient magic in the will, and if Bronte does not do what it says, then her town, Gainsleigh, will be ripped apart. On Bronte's journey, many wonderful things happen, such as visiting a beautiful library and learning to speak some of the Dragon language. This book has fun mini quests, and some pretty big ones too. If you enjoy books about danger and tough girls, you will love this book. I adored this book, and I bet you will too!

Maple is in 5th grade. They love reading, petting their dog, and playing with their friends. They want to be a librarian when they grow up.

Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

Be Brave

Title: *Geronimo Stilton – The Treasure Of Easter Island*

Author: Elisabetta Dami

Geronimo Stilton is a best-selling author running a newspaper called The Rodent's Gazette. He lives in New Mouse City, Mouse Island. Geronimo's sister Thea went to Easter Island in hope of finding treasure there. But then she was captured by pirates! Geronimo went to Easter Island looking for the same treasure in hope of finding Thea. Can Geronimo find Thea? Will he also find the treasure that Thea had been looking for in the first place? I recommend you read this book to find out.

This book is very funny and makes me laugh. I hope it will make you laugh too. This book also has very nice graphics and pictures.

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



Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

A Not-so Imaginary Friend

Title: *Crenshaw*

Author: Katherine Applegate

Moving homes is a hard process, especially for children. Ten-year old Jackson knows that better than anyone. Even though he had to leave his old life behind, it's still difficult for his family. If this continues, Jackson will have to move yet again.

No one wants to be ignored, but Crenshaw is. He's a cat. Large, but outspoken and on top of that, imaginary. The reason he's in Jackson's life? To help him, and he does. The two soon become friends, and the story takes a deep dive into Jackson's life. Crenshaw might be able to help Jackson with small dilemmas, but can one imaginary friend save a family on the edge of stability?

Author Katherine Applegate brings readers a book with heartwarming messages that people of all ages can enjoy. Taegyong K. is a 7th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.



Day at the Beach –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 June 15, 2023

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

SUN BLOCK	SURF BOARD
TOWELS	FLOAT
SWIM SUIT	SHIRT
SUNGLASSES	SANDWICHES
UMBRELLA	SHORTS
HAT	CHAP STICK
FLIP FLOPS	FIRST AID KIT
PAIL	COOLER
SHOVEL	DRINKS
BLANKET	SNACKS
BOOK	

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