The Palmdale School District Launch Pad

Launching a lifetime of learning

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

Pauline Winbush

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Pauline Winbush and I am currently serving the District as the Interim Superintendent of Schools in Superintendent Gallizzi's absence. I have been with the Palmdale School District for 22 years and have served in various positions such as classroom teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Human Resources and most recently Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. My passion for providing students with the best education possible is what drew me to the Palmdale School District and I share in the District's commitment to maintaining a student focused environment. I look forward to working together with all district employees, parents, students and community members to actively promote the District's vision.

Duck Race Results

Quail Valley

Tumbleweed

Dos Caminos

Cimarron and Shadow Hills

By Dr. Stacy Bryant, Chief Leadership Officer

The 8th Annual Kiwanis Rubber Duck Race was held on Saturday, September 14th with 9,000 rubber ducks floating down City of Palmdale's Dry Town Lazy River. Students and staff at all twenty-five Palmdale School District schools participated in the fundraiser selling duck "adoptions" to family and friends. Each year the Kiwanis Club of Palmdale West sponsors the event which benefits the South Antelope Valley Education Foundation (SAVE), Antelope Valley College, and the Assistance League of Antelope Valley. Students in the Palmdale School District sell ducks under the umbrella of the SAVE Foundation and the money earned goes directly back to the schools. The Kiwanis Club would like to thank all the students, parents, staff, and administrators who participated this year and give a special shout out to all the race winners.

See **Duck Race Results** • *Page 4*

Importance of Wellness & Physical Activity

By Todd Cherland, Director Child Nutrition, Health and Physical Well-Being

After passage of the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, U.S. schools began pushing for higher achievement in reading and math achievement. According to the May 2013 report from the National Institute of Medicine, a growing body of evidence suggests that increasing students' physical activity and fitness may improve academic performance in math and reading. "Even a single bout of exercise changes blood flow to important areas of the brain and helps children with cognition and memory," said Harold Kohl III, professor of epidemiology and kinesiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health and chairman of the committee that wrote the report.

Students need at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity, and schools should take a primary role in seeing that they get it, the report said.

"When you think about it, most kids have contact with schools for 10 or more hours each day, including time commuting to and away from home, and before- and after-school activities," Kohl said. It's not all up to schools, he said — families play an important role, too. But schools can serve a center place for organizing activities and providing information and support, he said.

Schools are under tremendous pressure to fit more and more academic work into the school day, Kohl said. However, physical activities can be used to reinforce learning concepts during reading, math and science classes. Students can get most of their physical activity through a quality PE program that is complemented by activities before, during, and afterschool, as well as in recess, other physical activity breaks, intramural and physical activity clubs, interscholastic sports, and walks and bike rides to school.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

This is our second issue covering the Palmdale School District. I appreciated your emails acknowledging the first issue. We do not have additional copies in our office; however, the entire publication is posted on our website or you may sign up to receive a digital copy emailed directed to you each issue. We print September, November, January, March, and May.

Happy Thanksgiving to you. We are always mindful of the service men and women who are not home with their families. We appreciate their service.

Our next issue is January 15, 2014... Happy New Year!

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Covering the PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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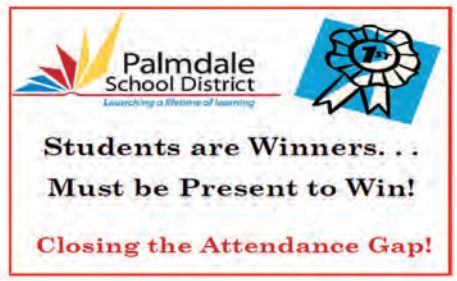

Palmdale School District Cabinet

Pauline Winbush
Interim Superintendent

Pauline Winbush was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and raised in various states throughout the Midwest. She moved to California in 1986. Ms. Winbush received her B.A. in Theater Arts from the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her M.A. in Educational Administration from the California State University, Bakersfield.

Ms. Winbush began her career in education as a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1989. She joined the Palmdale School District family in 1992 as a teacher at Palm Tree Elementary School. Since then, she has served the District as a Curriculum Resource Teacher, Assistant Principal (at both the elementary and intermediate grade levels), Principal, and Director of Human Resources. She currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

Ms. Winbush is a member of the Association of California School Administrators. She enjoys spending time with her family and supporting her children in their various activities including sports, clubs, and community events.

Cathy Shepard
Chief Business Officer

Cathy A. Shepard has been a member of the Antelope Valley community since 1980. She began her career in public education in 1993 with the Antelope Valley Union High School District. During her career with the high school district, she held the position of Categorical Programs Manager and Chief Financial Officer. She joined the Palmdale School District in 2008 as the Chief Business Officer. Mrs. Shepard received her Associates of Science degree from the Antelope Valley College and both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Business Administration from the California State University Bakersfield. She received her California School Business Officials Certification in 2000.

The Chief Business Officer is responsible for the operational functions of the school district. This includes areas such as technology, child nutrition, facilities, transportation, and finance. Prior to her career in public education, Mrs. Shepard owned and operated a private corporation which serviced the business sector in records retention and retrieval.

Mrs. Shepard is a member of the Association of California School Administrators, the California Association of School Business Officials, the Association of School Business Officials, and the Coalition for Adequate School Housing. She is also a member of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.

Judy Hall
Asst. Superintendent Educational Services

Born and raised in New York, Mrs. Judy M. Hall moved to California when she was eleven years old. She graduated from El Camino Real High School in Woodland Hills in 1971 and moved forward to pursue her career in education. She earned her Associate of Arts degree from Pierce College, her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge and her Master of Science from National University.

Mrs. Hall is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, honor society of California State University Northridge. She has attended and received certification in advanced leadership training at UCLA, Arthur Anderson Graduate School of Management & Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. Additionally, she has just completed a 20 session ACSA Academy in School Business and Finance. She is currently serving as ACSA Region 15 Representative for the South for Curriculum and Instruction.

She is a 35 year veteran educator that has had a career of varied experiences. Prior to coming to Palmdale School District in 2009, she was a principal of a K-5 elementary school in Los Angeles Unified School District. Her experiences in the field of education include: teacher of 14 years, Gifted Magnet School Coordinator, Curriculum Specialist, LAUSD District Reading Program Coordinator, Principal and current position of Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in Palmdale School District.

When not at work, Mrs. Hall enjoys interior decorating and cooking. She is a member of the Kiwanis of Palmdale West and participates in the volunteer efforts of the club.

This is her sixth year serving the Palmdale School District. It has been a rewarding experience. She looks forward to working together collegially with all members of the District and we move forward in our quest for improving student achievement and closing the achievement gaps for all learners in our district.

Dr. John Porter
Asst. Superintendent Special Education-Student Services

Dr. John Porter is a second generation employee of the Palmdale School District. His mother, the late Carolyn Porter, was a long-time 1st and 2nd grade teacher at Manzanita School. Dr. Porter attended both Manzanita School and Juniper School before being promoted to Palmdale High School, where he was elected freshman class president and later, president of the Associated Student Body.

After high school, Dr. Porter attended Antelope Valley College, before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Long Beach. For graduate studies, Dr. Porter earned a Master of Arts degree in Special Education from California State University, Northridge. He later earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California, where he was honored for academic excellence by being inducted as a lifetime member into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Prior to his appointment as Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Porter served the District as a Special Education teacher, A Special Education Program Specialist, an Assistant Principal and Special Education Director.

Dr. Porter is active in the community and serves on the boards of directors for the Palmdale West Kiwanis Club (where he is also Vice President) and the Lancaster Performing Arts Center Foundation. Additionally, he is a lifetime member of the Friends of the Palmdale City Library (and a former director), a member of the Palmdale Sheriffs Boosters and is a former Board of Directors member of the Anteloe Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Lastly, Dr. Porter was recognized by the Association of California State Administrators (ACSA) as the 2011 Special Education Administrator of the Year for Region 15. More recently, Dr. Porter was honored in 2012 by being inducted into the Palmdale High School Hall of Fame.

Dr. Stacy Bryant
Chief Leadership Officer

Born and raised in Palmdale, Dr. Stacy Love Bryant, attended Maryott Elementary and Sage Intermediate before graduating from Palmdale High School in 1977. Dr. Bryant earned an Associate of Arts degree from Antelope Valley College, her Bachelor of Arts from Fresno State, and her Master of Science from University of LaVerne. She completed her doctoral studies in Organizational Leadership finishing her dissertation study on student transition from 8th to 9th grade.

Dr. Bryant was hired as a teacher at Palmdale High School in 1985, worked as a guidance counselor at Lancaster High School, served as principal of Highland High School, and finished her 25 year career with AVUHSD as the Director of Student Services. She transitioned to the Palmdale School District July 1, 2010 as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. In July, 2011 she was named the District's Chief Leadership Officer.

Dr. Bryant is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Palmdale West and has served as a board member, secretary and president. She sits on the Antelope Valley College Foundation Board and currently serves as president-elect. Dr. Bryant has received many accolades during her twenty-eight year career in education including a Distinguished Service Award and a Special Service Award from the Antelope Valley Union High School District. Additionally, Highland High School was named a California Distinguished School under her principal leadership. Dr. Bryant was inducted into the Palmdale High School Hall of Fame (2008) and Antelope Valley College Whit Carter Hall of Fame (1991). As a student athlete at Antelope Valley College she won the Central California Conference singles tennis championship (1978 & 1979) and the Conference doubles champions (1979) and was named Most Valuable Player both seasons. She coached the only Women's Tennis Championship Team at Antelope Valley College in 1986.

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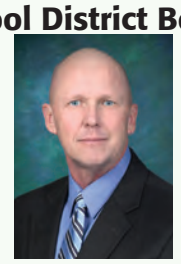

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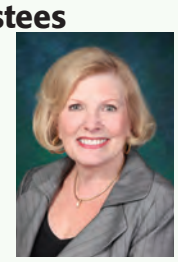


Carol Stanford
Member

Duck Race Results • *From Page 1*

All Schools Race Final Results:

1st — Westside School District Office
2nd— Los Amigos Elementary School
3rd — Chaparral Elementary School
4th— PSD Cabinet
5th — David G Millen Associated Student Body
6th— David G Millen Intermediate School
7th — Ocotillo Elementary School
8th — Manzanita Elementary School
9th — St Mary's School
10th—Palmdale Learning Plaza
11th—Barrel Springs Elementary School

Duck Buddy Race

(for schools who sold 100 or more $5 ducks - for each 100 ducks sold 1 duck goes into the water). This race occurred at the Tagging Party on Thursday the 12th.

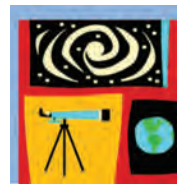
1st— Palmdale Learning Plaza
2nd—Dos Caminos Elementary School
3rd—Cimarron Elementary School

Best Dressed Ducks

1st— Early Childhood Education
2nd—St. Mary's School
3rd—Gregg Anderson Academy
4th—Chaparral Elementary School
5th—Cimarron Elementary School

Palmdale School District's Sage Planetarium

Located at the corner of 20th Street East and Avenue R



Astronomy Events for The Public

By Jeremy Amarant, Director

November 15— Public Night ($5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts

December 6 — Public Night ($5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
Public Star Party (Free):
7:30 Telescopes in front of the SAGE Planetarium

December 20 — Public Night ($5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts

Duck Sales

1st— Dos Caminos Elementary School - 799
2nd—Cimarron Elementary School - 303
3rd—Palmdale Learning Plaza - 265
4th—Golden Poppy Elementary School - 210
5th—Los Amigos Elementary School - 161
6th—Buena Vista Elementary School - 109
7th—Shadow Hills Intermediate School - 108
8th—David G Millen Intermediate School - 107
9th—Cactus Intermediate School - 86
10th—Desert Rose Elementary School - 85
10th—Yellen Learning Center - 85
12th—Juniper Intermediate School - 79
13th—Desert Willow Intermediate School - 69
14th—Quail Valley Elementary School - 68

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Palmdale School District

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Palmdale, CA 93550
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Barrel Springs *Elementary K–6*

3636 Ponderosa Way, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-9270 • www.palmdalesd.org

Kimberly Wright
Principal

21st-Century Skills

Preparing students to compete globally in the 21st century is a goal of the newly-adopted Common Core State Standards. According to researcher Tony Wagner, 21st-century skills include the seven survival skills which are: critical thinking and problem solving; collaboration; agility and adaptability; initiative and entrepreneurialism; effective oral and written communication; assessing and analyzing; and curiosity and imagination.

To achieve this endeavor Barrel Spring Elementary School's teachers work diligently in Professional Learning Communities planning together in the following areas: accountable talk; text complexity; eight mathematical practices; and depth of knowledge. For example, accountable talk helps create a safe supportive learning community and holds students accountable and responsible in developing their viewpoints while using academic language in conversations with peers about complex text.

To help create a safe supportive learning community with a trusting environment for collaboration, Barrel Springs holds Class Council weekly. Class Council gives teachers and students an opportunity to build trust and learn to collaborate, communicate, and resolve conflicts, which will help develop the students' social and emotional well-being. Class Council allows teachers to meet the academic needs of students and also provides opportunities to address issues such as: appreciation/gratitude; goal setting; character education; problem solving; positive mindset; empathy; appreciating similarities and differences; and learning to get along with others.

Cactus *Intermediate 7–8*

3243 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-0847 • www.palmdalesd.org

Ruth James
Principal

A High Level of Quality

Cactus Intermediate School has received a six-year term of accreditation, with a three-year review, from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Cactus will now be recognized throughout the country as the only public intermediate school in Southern California and one of just four public intermediate schools in California to be accredited.

Accreditation by the nonprofit association means the school has been judged by outside reviewers to be operating at a high level of quality, consistent with its mission. As part of the self-study process, WASC accreditation includes the development of expected school-wide learning results and the creation of a long-term action plan for improvement and development of the school. A six member WASC accreditation team visited Cactus in March to meet with students, parents, and staff before issuing the six-year accreditation.

Principal Ruth James said, "The self-study process was good opportunity for us to reflect on the effectiveness of the programs we have in place and to look at the changes that need to be made to move all of our students toward proficiency and 21st-century skills."

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Buena Vista *Elementary K–6*

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Chris O'Neill
Principal

New Recycling Program

Buena Vista is very excited to be one of six schools in the Palmdale School District piloting a new recycling program called Goat Ninja. Our new recycling bin was just delivered, and we are preparing to launch a communitywide recycling project. We are hoping to get our local community actively involved in recycling while earning money for our school.

We will have a weekly collection day where participating students can earn tickets to be entered into a drawing for fabulous prizes, including gift cards to local businesses. A quarterly e-waste (electronic devices or anything that plugs in) collection day will be an added attraction for anyone in the community. This is a great way to incorporate going green and educating our youth, the caretakers of the future.

Please help support Buena Vista's recycling program by bringing paper or cardboard, plastic, aluminum and e-waste.

Chaparral *Elementary K–6*

37500 50th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9777 • www.palmdalesd.org

Tom Pitts
Principal

The Writing Wall

One of the interesting and unique features of Chaparral Elementary School is the Writing Wall. This wall contains grade-level examples of student writing. Chaparral is committed to being a school of writing excellence. Our writing wall contains student writing from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Parents and visitors regularly stop at the display in our main hallway to see our students' work and the resulting developmental writing process in action.

Shelley Edwards and Kate Malechikos were instrumental in working with the staff and creating this wonderful display. Several years ago, the idea of having a writing wall was borrowed from a sister school in the district. Since that time, Chaparral teachers have regularly changed out their grade-level sections on a monthly basis. Mrs. Edwards stated that our teachers are quite proud of their students' work. Mrs. Malechikos commented that it is motivational for our staff to see their grade-level contributions to the writing process on display.

Mrs. Malechikos pointed out that in kindergarten, students use sight words along with pictures to start learning how to write. She continues to explain that students at Chaparral learn the four-square writing process to organize their thoughts prior to writing. The use of graphic organizers is an essential prewriting tool in all Chaparral classrooms. Mrs. Edwards noted that all Chaparral teachers need to be commended for their commitment to the teaching of writing and our beloved writing wall.

Cimarron *Elementary K–6*

36940 45th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9780 • www.palmdalesd.org

Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Detailing California's Four Regions

Cimarron's fourth-grade team of Ms. Foster, Ms. Johns, Mrs. Konter and Mrs. Van Sant has been implementing our new Common Core curriculum. Our first unit, using our social studies book, focused on teaching students how to identify the main idea and supporting details in expository text. Students developed charts about California's four regions, using our unit focus of main idea and supporting details. Students then worked in groups, used the informational charts they generated, and created flip books on each region.

As a culminating activity, students created salt-dough maps at home that depicted California's four regions. The projects were presented to the class as students again shared California's four regions, the main idea and several supporting details about each.

Desert Rose *Elementary K–6*

37730 27th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/272-0584 • www.palmdalesd.org

Tonsie Thomas
Principal

Leaders in Science and Technology

A team of Desert Rose fifth- and sixth-grade students are excited about becoming a part of an international program called FIRST.

FIRST stands for "Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." We are very thankful to our community supporters, and especially to NASA, for their generous contributions.

We are also pleased to have dedicated teachers like Mrs. Ibarra and Mr. Malechikos serve as coaches for our team. Student mentors from the Aerospace Academy and Lancaster and Quartz Hill High Schools are also volunteering their time as well.

Our goal is to help young minds develop their business, leadership and communication skills, and their self-confidence. We achieve this by inspiring students to be science and technology leaders. Those who continue in this program through high school have gone on to study at major universities.

Over $14.5 million in college scholarships are available for students involved in FIRST. We are very proud of our FIRST team, and are looking forward to their success in the upcoming competitions.

Desert Willow *Intermediate 7–8*

36555 Sunny Lane, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-5866 • www.palmdalesd.org

Martin Herrera
Principal

Facilitating Student Learning

Excellent things are happening at Desert Willow Intermediate School.

The Desert Willow family is diligently working on the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. In doing that, we are targeting the Established School-Wide Learning Results (ESLRs). Mrs. Moshier, Assistant Principal, has been instrumental so that Desert Willow's ESLRs become part of the school culture.

In addition, the intervention and enrichment class offered during fourth period has been revamped to focus on the learning needs of math students and improving writing skills in English language arts.

Accountable Student Talk and Text-Dependent Questions continue to be a focus at Desert Willow. Mrs. Debra Jamison, Coordinator of Professional Development and Intervention Services, addressed this focus with a presentation at a staff meeting in September.

Dos Caminos *Elementary K–8*

39175 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-1849 • www.palmdalesd.org

Marlene Batista Calcines
Principal

Helping Those in Need

On Tuesday, October 8, Dos Caminos joined with the Palmdale Learning Plaza to welcome an orphan dance group from Nicaragua.

The Dos Caminos community supported this event in a variety of ways, including selling Otter Pops and "Friends of the Orphans" bracelets after school. Ms. Maricela Sarmiento, of the Dos Caminos EL Leaders, helped support the PLP PTA in this fundraiser by organizing parents from our ELAC group to donate food for the event.

Eighteen second-grade students recently volunteered their time during lunch to practice a salsa dance number, and later brought their families to the festival to perform it. Overall we had a phenomenal time. We were able to practice our Dos Caminos' mission of service learning within the community, and also help those in need abroad. We look forward to participating in events like these again in the future!

Golden Poppy *Elementary K–6*

37802 Rockie Lane, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-3683 • www.palmdalesd.org

Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Walking the Talk!

Golden Poppy has started the year on a positive note by celebrating an eight-point gain on our Academic Performance Index score and meeting or exceeding all growth targets set forth by the state. We are also pleased to announce a fully staffed PTA board with many exciting activities planned for the year, such as the recent National Walk to School Day celebration in October. Nearly 200 students, parents and staff members met at Domenic Massari Park and made the one mile journey to Golden Poppy, with support from Deputy Diaz and Dr. Porter from our district office.

Golden Poppy is gaining momentum as a top-tier school in Palmdale with a dedicated staff, involved parents and support from our community to complement a great group of students!

Juniper *Intermediate 7–8*

39066 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-0181 • www.palmdalesd.org

Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Getting Set for Success

Juniper Intermediate School begins the year with new administrators. Principal Dr. Donna Campbell and Assistant Principal Mrs. Terrie Dowling both bring a wealth of experience to the school. This year's faculty also consists of some new faces in the classroom, in addition to our veteran Juniper teachers.

We're sure our students will have a positive academic experience this year as we implement the Common Core State Standards. We will be focusing on critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity to prepare them for success in college and careers.

Juniper is pleased to offer many opportunities for parents to become involved at school. They can volunteer for the English Language Advisory Council, School Site Council, District English Language Advisory Council, or various site needs. They can also participate in the Parent Academy, which allows them to discover how the district works and what it offers our students and families.

Juniper's band, art, business and journalism programs provide an outlet for many students. Last year's band played at the promotion ceremony, and also gave mini-concerts at several elementary schools. Our parents were proud to discover how much their children had learned in just a short period of time.

Art classes with an eye on technique and originality are also provided for students who wish to express their creativity in a different manner.

The staff at Juniper Intermediate is working very hard, every day, to create a positive and welcoming school climate for all students. We are looking forward to an academically rewarding and successful school year.

Joshua Hills *Elementary K–6*

3030 Fairfield, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9992 • www.palmdalesd.org

Regina Tillman
Principal

The Future Is Now

Joshua Hills teachers are working hard at implementing the new Common Core Standards. Our teachers are currently working in Professional Learning Community teams (PLCs) before and after school to look at ways to better meet the needs of our students.

Our focus this year has been on incorporating 21st Century Learning Skills in our classroom so that we can prepare our students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers. We understand what our students need to know to be competitive in the 21st century, and we are working hard to build a community of learners at Joshua Hills. We also know that this can't be done alone. We have to work with our parents and community to prepare our students for the future. We invite you to join us in our effort to educate our children and prepare them for the 21st century.

Los Amigos *K-8*

6640 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-1546 • www.palmdalesd.org

Maria Elena Esquer
Principal

A Special Evening

Los Amigos was proud to welcome Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos from Nicaragua on Monday October 7, 2013. This Nicaraguan dance team performed for our guests in the audience and inspired and uplifted every heart in the room.

To prepare for their visit, our students and teachers stayed busy learning about this wonderful country and its culture. They studied the flag, flower, geography and culture of Nicaragua. Our cafeteria was also beautifully decorated with the visual representations of what we studied.

We would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone who participated, and to the Los Amigos family of staff, faculty, students and parents who helped make this evening special.

Additionally, a big thank-you and hug to our wonderful visitors. They were spectacular dancers, and even more, such spectacular individuals!

Manzanita *Elementary K–6*

38620 33rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/947-3128 • www.palmdalesd.org

Kelly Jensen
Principal

Breakfast + Classroom = A Great Start to Our Day!

If you were to visit Manzanita Elementary on any given morning, you will not see lines of students waiting to eat breakfast, nor will you find their custodian sweeping and mopping the cafeteria. What you will see are students quickly walking to their classrooms and immediately getting to work.

The working breakfast is offered to all students at the start of the school day. It is served, eaten and cleared during the first 10 to 15 minutes of class while students work on a morning assignment. The Breakfast in the Classroom Program gives a whole new meaning to *working lunch,* or in this case, *breakfast.*

Students are enjoying having a daily nutritional breakfast with their friends in the comfort of their own classroom. No matter how you add it up, the Breakfast in the Classroom Program provides all Manzanita students with more instructional minutes as well as a free, healthy breakfast.

David G. Millen *Intermediate 7–8*

39221 22nd Street West, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3075 • www.palmdalesd.org

Brian Williams
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

David G. Millen Intermediate School is taking on our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) focus with both hands.

The new Common Core State Standards are bringing a level of rigor to our schools that has never been seen before. Millen is meeting the challenge by bringing relevance to the rigor through hands-on and project-based activities.

Millen is beginning to select and train participants for the 2014 Aerospace Valley Regional Science Olympiad. Millen will be having a school-wide Science Olympiad to pick the teams that will go on to compete in 23 events at the Regional Science Olympiad at Antelope Valley College.

We are also keeping a strong focus on the arts. Our music, drama, film, and dance electives are going strong. Check out our Web site at dgmillen.com for upcoming performances.

Mesquite *Elementary K–6*

37622 43rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-8376 • www.palmdalesd.org

Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Learning is Fun

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow" is the theme song of our first graders as they travel through the land of Oz and learn many things in common core. They recently showed some of their learning artifacts at the October 2, 2013 board meeting. As the students were reading some of their literary responses and singing, a powerpoint presentation of their many writing, math and art examples was displayed. Mesquite First Grade Performance was under the direction of Kelly Hill, Marjorie Butler, Sherry Rill and Barbara Houston.

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

38136 35th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-1548 • www.palmdalesd.org

Mike Perkins
Principal

Replacement Behaviors

The Oak Tree Learning Center highlights a program that focuses on replacement behaviors such as respect, discipline, leadership and structure to implement academic achievement.

Students who are assigned to Oak Tree are challenged to develop skills in the area of social skills, leadership, responsibility and academics. Approximately 80 percent of Oak Tree students experience the active role of leadership before leaving the program.

Students are successful at Oak Tree because they feel safe, the expectations are clear, and the staff cares. In October, 12 students who successfully completed the program returned to their regular comprehensive campuses where they will be continually monitored by staff. We hope to maintain our recidivism rate of about 16 percent, which means that 84 percent of the students released from Oak Tree do not return.

Ocotillo *Elementary K–6*

38737 Ocotillo School Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-9987 • www.palmdalesd.org

Ken Young
Principal

BEST

Every day at Ocotillo, students are given BEST Behavior blue tickets for exhibiting their "best behavior!" This can be anything from walking in the cafeteria to assisting another student with classwork.

Each classroom on campus has a bucket where students can deposit their tickets. Each Friday, the principal and assistant principal walk through the classrooms and pick one ticket from the bucket, and the student whose ticket was drawn gets a prize. The last Friday of the month, each classroom teacher picks a ticket from the bucket, and the winner gets to attend the BEST Behavior Breakfast held in the library. Students are treated as "very important people" and are served a healthy snack as they participate in activities with Mr. Young and Mr. Lueck.

Ocotillo's principal, Mr. Young, celebrating at the BEST Behavior Breakfast with September's winners in grades kindergarten through sixth.

Palm Tree *Elementary K–6*

326 East Avenue R, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9357 • www.palmdalesd.org

Gerald Luke Jr.
Principal

Guiding Our Students to Learn

Palm Tree is very proud of its Ready to Learn (RTL) program. Students in kindergarten through third grade from other sites are sent to the RTL program when their behaviors are not appropriate for the larger classroom. The RTL program provides a lower class size, a better student-to-adult ratio, a structured system and behavior-modifying social-skills training.

Students are in a temporary placement on the Palm Tree campus with the goal of improving behavior to the level at which the student can return to his or her home school. We are excited that three of our students have been successfully returned to their campuses. These students have shown that they now know how to appropriately handle the rigors of school on a daily basis. We are also excited that, within our level system, all of our students achieved levels three and four all at the same time. This has never before been done. All students participated in the level party—a behavior incentive—and they had a great time together.

At Palm Tree, we beam with joy over our RTL students because we know they will grow into shining stars when they level out of our program and move on to greater things at their home schools.

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K–8*

38043 Division Street, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/538-9034 • www.palmdalesd.org

Danny Feroze Kanga
Principal

A Global Community

The Palmdale Learning Plaza has been busy!

On October 6, the Tzu Chi Medical Foundation provided free medical and dental care for over 1,000 members of our community. They provided cleanings, fillings and extractions. Doctors performed diabetes testing, mammograms, acupuncture and other health care services.

Our PTA was also out in force, busily serving pancakes and eggs for breakfast and chicken sandwiches for lunch. We thank the Tzu Chi Foundation for supporting the people of the Antelope Valley!

On October 8, the PLP hosted our NPH (Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos) orphans from Nicaragua. The students raised over $1,400 for the orphans by selling wristbands and giving contributions. The visit culminated with a spectacular dinner, as well as a dance program featuring our Nicaraguan visitors and students from PLP and Dos Caminos.

The Learning Plaza, an International Baccalaureate school, is living up to its mission by helping to serve our local and global community!

Quail Valley *Elementary K–6*

37236 58th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7100 • www.palmdalesd.org

Donna Lebetsamer
Principal

New Assistant Principal

Quail Valley is proud to have Beverley Martin as our new Assistant Principal for the 2013-2014 school year. Mrs. Martin has worked for the Palmdale School District for the past 10 years in various degrees of leadership. Currently, she is in her second year of doctoral studies at Fresno State University. She has lived in Palmdale for over 23 years and her children have all attended Palmdale School District Schools. We are very excited to have Mrs. Martin as part of our leadership team here at Quail Valley. Welcome to the Chameleon Family!

Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7–8*

37315 60th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7400 • www.palmdalesd.org

Barbara Gaines
Principal

Exploratory Education

Shadow Hills Intermediate School added two new exploratory classes this year. Culinary arts, taught by Mrs. Sowell, teaches students the "art" of food. Students have learned how to set a table following proper table etiquette rules, how to bake pies and have made sour dough dinner rolls. Their final will be a cake decorating project requiring them to design the cake, bake it from scratch, and execute their decorating plan.

The business marketing class, taught by Mr. Schneider, is now competing in a real-time stock market competition against other novice middle school teams in Los Angeles County. The teams, consisting of four students, have been researching companies and have $100,000 to invest. The prices are based on real-time market data. During the 10-week competition, each team is required to make three additional trades. The goal is to increase the portfolio value by the end of the 10 weeks.

Tumbleweed *Elementary K–6*

1100 East Avenue R-4, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4166 • www.palmdalesd.org

Huberth A. Morales
Principal

Coffee With the Principal

Last month, we started a new series of meetings for parents at Tumbleweed: Coffee with the Principal. These meetings are the perfect forum to discuss pertinent grade-level information with parents. Last month's focal point was attendance. Mr. Morales explained what constitutes perfect attendance, the incentives for perfect attendance and the difference between an excused absence and an unexcused absence. Mr. Morales also discussed ways in which parents can get involved in school.

This is the perfect forum to get information about school policies in a relaxed atmosphere with a cup of coffee with other parents who share the same interest. The topic for discussion in November will be dress code. Hope to see you there!

Yellen *Learning Center K–8*

37015 Goldenview Way, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/456-1600 • www.palmdalesd.org

Colleen Sawyer
Principal

A Special Student

We are proud to highlight our Student of the Month for September, 2013.

Biontay Myles is a sixth-grade student. During the course of this school year he has displayed outstanding behavior in the areas of citizenship, responsibility, respect and safety. In addition to being a model member of the student population, Biontay has also shown great academic responsibility and progress towards his own goals.

This year the Yellen Learning Center students have undergone some big changes within the classroom setting and on campus. Biontay Myles is a student who has proven that he can face unexpected challenges and changes with a positive attitude and perseverance. We are proud to have Biontay as a successful member of our student body.

Biontay Myles

Summerwind *Elementary K–8*

39360 Summerwind Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3863 • www.palmdalesd.org

Roberto Lopez
Principal

Summerwind Welcomes a New Split Pea!

Mr. Koenig

Mr. Koenig is a first-time assistant principal and nine-year educator who travels a fair distance to Palmdale each day. But he does so with a smile on his face, because he loves working with the students, teachers and parents every day.

Although Mr. Koenig is well educated through the bachelor's, master's and credential programs, he considers himself a life-long learner, and imparts this belief in his students (scholars he would say) in every interaction, every hour, every day.

Mr. Koenig has experienced most grade levels from K–12 in the public, private and charter schools, including college as well. He is very dedicated to his wife and two daughters, and enjoys family outings and supporting his children's sports and performing arts interests.

Believe it or not, Mr. Koenig is also a certified professional tennis coach, six-time Los Angeles Marathon runner, and has successfully accomplished a zero-gravity parabolic space flight (and he has the jumpsuit to prove it!)

Yucca *Elementary K–6*

38440 2nd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-5052 • www.palmdalesd.org

Pamela Egbert
Principal

Teacher of the Year

Angie Bohannon

I can think of no one more deserving of the honor of being named Yucca Elementary School Teacher of the Year and Palmdale District Teacher of the Year than Angie Bohannon. Angie has been assigned to three schools during her six years with the district. She loves a challenge and meets it head on. As the teacher in the Ready to Learn classes at Palm Tree, she found ways to reach students who displayed severe behaviors.

Angie's mantra is "Be the Change." She is not satisfied with the status quo. She seeks daily to change the lives of her students through rigorous academic challenges and high expectations. Angie makes a point to know her students and their families. She believes deeply in the home-school connection and its vital role in the success of her students. She works with her students during lunch, counsels them at recess, brings clothes to school for them, and brings furniture to their homes. She realizes the realities of working at Yucca and the challenges her students will have on their road to success. She truly gives of her heart and of herself.

Angie is a remarkable leader, leading her third-grade team to many successes. Her colleagues admire her determination and commitment to the students. She is most deserving of Teacher of The Year.

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