

SUPERINTENDENT



Raul Maldonado

Greetings Families

Our winter break is just around the corner, which means we have completed half of the school year together. It's now time for our schools to begin decorating for the festive holidays for students to enjoy.

I am excited to share our friendly Footsteps2Brilliance literacy challenge with our amigos at Pomona Unified School District. The first school district to read 500 million words through our Footsteps2Brilliance app wins the victory! Our faculty and staff are very eager to get students reading.

With that said, help us get your child motivated to read more. There are many benefits a child can receive by reading. Children will improve his or her literacy and writing skills, expand their vocabulary, improve

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

"I'm Going to College" – Palmdale PROMISE



*By Barbara Gaines,
Director of Curriculum and
Instruction for Middle Schools.*

As we continue to focus on making dreams come true for our students through our Palmdale PROMISE, Palmdale School District (PSD), Antelope Valley College, and the Marroquin Family, owners of several McDonald's restaurants in the Antelope Valley, collaborated together on Saturday, October 1, 2016 to host a fantastic tailgate party at the AVC Homecoming game. The goal was to bring college awareness to PSD students and to raise money for future student activities. Dance teams from various elementary schools performed at the party which was emceed by Principal, Tim Howell. The Palmdale Honors Band and Flag Team performed the National Anthem before the game and at half-time while the Oak Tree Color Guard presented the

See **PALMDALE PROMISE** • Page 11



Greetings

By Juan Carrillo, President

It's that time of the year to begin the festive cheer! Time has gone by quickly and efficiently for our school district. Our faculty and staff have been working hard on our Palmdale Promise to help students succeed.

The board of trustees has had many opportunities these last few months to observe students participate in a variety of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematical (STEAM) activities.

Our students have been able to tour Mars in a virtual bus, tour the Antelope Valley College, gain new project lead the way electives such as medical detectives, explore and learn with 3D printers and much more thanks to the Palmdale Promise.

Most recently, we approved the expansion of our Model United Nations program. More of our students will get the chance to serve as delegates in the Antelope Valley Family YMCA's Model United Nations program, which aims to teach youngsters leadership and public speaking skills as they learn about other cultures. Students from Cactus, Desert Willow, David G. Millen, Los Amigos and Palmdale Learning Plaza will have the opportunity to join the program.

It's always a good habit for all parents to stay informed with your child's principal about exciting new opportunities. I can assure you that the school board is consistently opening new doors for our students to excel.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Please feel free to join me at our monthly school board meetings. It's always a pleasure for the board to see the support of our PSD families and have the opportunity to speak with you individually.

On behalf of the board of trustees, we would like to wish all our Palmdale families a relaxing winter break.

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President



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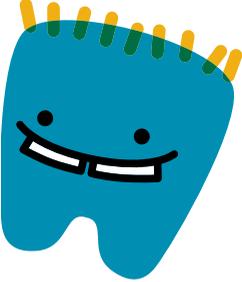


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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy Holidays!

After the holidays please consider donating your holiday cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. They recycle the cards to support their programs and services for abused, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families. The Operated by Kids' Corp. children and volunteers make the "green" cards Vist their web site for specifics www.StJudesRanch.org.

Our next issue is March 8, 2017. In the meantime, have a fun Winter Break, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

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The Pumpkin Connection



Donna Lebitsamer
Director

Tiger pumpkins, striped pumpkins, orange pumpkins, white pumpkins! Learning about the letter “P” turned into a pumpkin extravaganza at Ocotillo with four very talented ECE teachers: Ms. Somoza (Double Session), Ms. Barnard and Ms. Moya (Head Start), and Ms. Ramos (State Preschool).

These teachers followed the children’s interests and fascination with pumpkins by carrying the theme all through the month. It culminated in a fall fair, where they dissected pumpkins and held a pumpkin taste-test with the students and their families. Throughout the month the children also explored the different sizes and varieties of pumpkins in their science center, discovered how they grow, created a pumpkin patch of artwork, and talked about X-rays and hypothesized about what pumpkins look like on the inside.



Parent volunteer helping with the garden.

Congratulations to our Ocotillo teachers for an excellent example of engaging students through the “My Five Senses and Seasons” curriculum.

Counselors Corner

39139 North 10th St., Palmdale, CA 93550 • www.palmdalesd.org

Building a Strong Foundation



Stacy Bryant
Deputy Superintendent

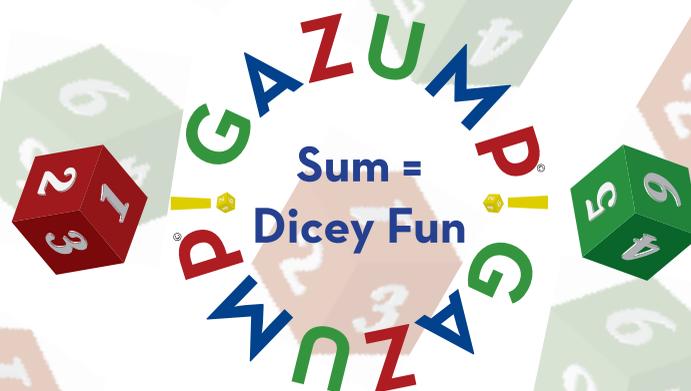
The new Palmdale School District (PSD) school counselors have been busy building the foundation for a district-wide comprehensive guidance program. Since the start of the school year, the counselors have presented classroom lessons on transitioning to middle school, college and careers, and digital literacy and cyberbullying.

Earlier this year, students from the middle schools were selected to attend Antelope Valley Union High School District’s annual college fair and Salute to Youth with their school counselors. The college fair allowed students to interact with representatives from colleges from all over California. Students who attended Salute to Youth were introduced to the variety of career and higher education opportunities available in the Antelope Valley.



In October, the PSD school counselors attended the California Association of School Counselors conference in Riverside, where the focus was “Mission Possible: Student Success!” Attendees heard from leaders in the field on best practices and discovered new innovations to bring back to their respective schools.

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Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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Kimberly Wright
Principal

Bulldogs Drop, Cover, and Hold!

Every school year, all schools in the Palmdale School District participate in the Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill, and this school year was no different. In October, the students are taught to automatically, drop, cover, and hold on in order to protect their bodies so that if it starts to rattle or shake around, they are under a secured structure, like a desk or a table.

Teachers remind students to hold their position until it is safe to evacuate.

Barrel Springs students did an amazing job this year of following the directions of the teacher, which they have been taught since the beginning of each school year. In addition, students are taught how to make safe choices so they can become their own little superheroes regardless of where they are in the community, school or home.

For the Great ShakeOut, scenarios were created for the Release Gate and Search and Rescue teams. The drill went well. Great job, Bulldogs, parents and staff who participated!



Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

37005 Hillcrest Drive, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-4158 • www.palmdalesd.org



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Golden Panda Paw

The culture and foundation of schoolwide discipline at Buena Vista are designed and implemented around the cliché “It takes a village...” and the old adage “Together we stand, and divided we fall.” It goes without saying that our teachers do collaborate for a common good, so based on the concept of it taking a village, our students are working cooperatively as a classroom team in managing their own behaviors. Therefore, the big idea here is for students to utilize their social contracts in the classrooms and following the schoolwide rules during unstructured times to earn a Golden Panda Paw as a group instead of individually.

When a classroom earns 20 Golden Panda Paws, the classroom is recognized and celebrated for positive behaviors. The concept of students holding other

students accountable for positive behaviors is now golden and riding high among the parents, teachers and the students of Buena Vista Learning Community responding to it. Although most humans are by nature social creatures, cooperative group work is not something that comes without effort. Such group activities as monitoring one another’s behaviors require a sense of trust built between the students and their teachers as well as a feeling of shared responsibility. This means a responsibility to carry your own weight in the group as well as a responsibility to all of the other members of the group.

Bravo to Buena Vista Pandas!



Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Danny Kanga
Principal

Future Engineers

The Cactus Intermediate School LEGO EV3 Mindstorms Robotics team is learning robot design and robot programming (RobotC), which allows them to compete in various robot challenges. We will compete in an official First LEGO League (FLL) tournament on November 12 in Rialto, with the theme of “Animal Allies.”

In this tournament, students build and program robots to meet challenges, perform Internet research to solve a conflict between animals and humans, and interview real-world professionals in the marine biology, engineering, and veterinary fields. Students also complete

a core values assessment, where they present facts about the journey, what they learned, and how they worked together as a team to reach their goals. They must also answer questions regarding their robot and program design.

To prepare, the students have interviewed three manufacturing engineers and a marine biologist, which has helped our engineers gain some insight and inspiration.



Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Halloween Spirit

Chaparral School brought in the Halloween spirit enthusiastically by conducting the annual Halloween Costume Parade for the Chaparral families, students, and staff. This has been a popular tradition for several years for the Chaparral community and it continues on strong. All of the classes grades TK through 6 participated in parading the students, teachers, and staff around the Chaparral school yard with hundreds of parents and family members watching and cheering on the students. It was also great to have one of Palmdale School District’s Board members, Nancy

Smith, come out and enjoy the occasion! Our students, teachers, and staff came enthusiastically in their fabulous and creative costumes. It was wonderful to see so much of the Chaparral community come together to celebrate. This was such an exciting and memorable event for our Chaparral families and we look forward to it every year!



Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Millions of Words Read!

One morning in October, Cimarron School hosted a Footsteps 2 Brilliance pep rally and webcast with Pomona Unified School District. Footsteps@Brilliance (F2B) is a free app for all families in Palmdale that will help our students become better readers.

Palmdale School District has challenged Pomona School District to see which district can read 500 million words first. Cimarron was honored to host this rally and was chosen because we have read more words than any other school in our district! As of this writing, Cimarron has read 9,452,461 words! Our district

as a whole has read 69,042,379 words!

It was a very exciting morning, with Superintendent Raul Maldonado and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Elena Esquer leading the cheers for Palmdale School District while Pomona district officials cheered their district on. Pomona had read 2,000,000 words by then. We are confident that Palmdale will win the challenge, with Cimarron School leading the way!



Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Attacking Art Skills

Students and teachers alike are excited to be learning artistic skills this year at Desert Rose. Each classroom is using Arts Attack, a video-based visual-arts curriculum. It has empowered teachers with little or no art education background to successfully teach real art to their students. Both teachers and students are attaining remarkable outcomes with this program!

Arts Attack emphasizes both the basics of art and creative expression. It covers many art elements and principles. This includes drawing technique, self-expression, artist appreciation, art history, multicultural art and media diversity.

Studies indicate that education in the arts has a positive influence on overall student achievement. It engages many areas of the brain and also has extensive effects on the learner's mind. Arts education also promotes creative thinking, problem-solving skills, self-expression, risk-taking and positive self-concept. And most importantly, it's fun! Who didn't look forward to Art Day at school?

Ask your children what they have created lately in their classroom!



Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Gerilyn Cherland
Principal

Keeping the Promise

Our Desert Willow Diamond Backs are experiencing exciting times. Along with the implementation of a plethora of new electives – such as science lab, digital journalism, musical theater, choir, and our Associated Student Body (ASB) – the Diamond Backs have popular, diverse and engaging after-school activities to meet our students' academic and creative interests.

Honor Band is an after-school activity open to students who have completed at least one year of band and have a passion for music and performing. Thus far, Honor Band has performed at Antelope Valley College's Homecoming Game, and are looking forward to participating in the Palmdale Annual Christmas Parade. Along with the band is the high-stepping, flag-waving Color Guard. The Color Guard's purpose is to interpret the music of the band in a synchronized display of flags and dance.

The Diamond Backs at Desert Willow also have an after-school sports program. Coached by current staff, the illustrious young ladies of Desert Willow recently won an all-district volleyball tournament! In addition to volleyball, Desert Willow has basketball for both boys and girls. Dance is also offered for students after school.

Last, but certainly not least, is the opportunity for every student to receive additional academic support through Desert Willow's after-school tutoring program. Students who are challenged by specific standards or skills are encouraged to sign up and attend.

With the Palmdale Promise in mind, Desert Willow Intermediate is teeming with new, exciting classes and numerous after-school activities to engage all students!

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Marlene Batista
Principal

A Rewarding Opportunity

The staff at Dos Caminos believes in highly motivating its students to become successful in both English and Spanish.

This is the first year that Dos Caminos will participate in the fifth-grade Pathways to Bi-literacy Award program. Those who pass a Spanish proficiency exam in the fifth grade can choose to put together a portfolio of four book reports (two in English and two in Spanish), one English essay, and one Spanish essay. They can then deliver a Spanish oral presentation to a younger class to be eligible to receive their certificate and medal of Bi-literacy, which we hope will be the pathway to earning their later Seal of

Bi-literacy in high school.

To motivate the students, Tyler Martin, a graduate of Los Amigos and son of Assistant Principal Dr. Beverly Martin, came to speak to the fourth- and fifth-grade students and explain how knowing two languages has made an



impact in his life, and how appreciative he is to have been given the opportunity to be bilingual, bi-literate, and appreciate multiculturalism.

The students were inspired by his beautiful speech, which he performed bilingually, and saw themselves in him as they grow up. It was such an exciting opportunity for our Dos Caminos students.

Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

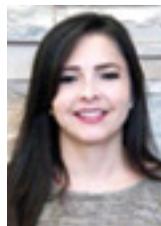
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

The wonderful PTA of Golden Poppy Elementary never misses an opportunity to engage with our parents and students! At the end of September, they hosted our very first Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration! It was an amazing event that featured tables beautifully decorated to represent many different countries, a variety of tasty authentic foods, many cultural artifacts, and beautiful attire. Our amazing Golden Poppy Folklorico Dancers also performed a few dances for entertainment, and we had a special guest come to sing.

It was great to see the rich culture that each country brings and our students showing their pride in their heritage. The event was well attended by families of all backgrounds, and a good time was had by all! We look forward to doing this celebration again next, and our PTA is planning to make it even bigger!

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

Mind and Body, Cuerpo y Mente

At Los Amigos, students not only have the opportunity to challenge their minds in both English and Spanish but they can also exercise their bodies. Los Amigos students and staff are thrilled to welcome Adolfo Sanchez and Rick Myers as our new PE teachers. Our students are having more fun during PE than they have had in years, and that is because of the great efforts of our new teachers. They are providing our students with exciting physical education activities in the most fun ways, and our students have taken notice.

Our students never want to miss a day of PE. Teachers report that students frequently begin the day by inquiring whether they have PE on that day. Our health aide, Mrs. Reynoso, also reported a reduction in health office referrals on PE days. Students want to stay in school and participate in PE!

As teachers, we are excited because we know that in addition to the fact that regular physical activity can reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases, which can have a positive impact on student attendance, there is also some research that suggests that health-related physical education may also have favorable effects on students' academic achievement.



Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Footsteps to Brilliance

This year Joshua Hills is well on its way to using F2B to increase the number of books read by the students. Third grade teacher, Mrs. Bulmer has created a competition for the school where the class with the most read books gets a pizza party. In her class, her highest student Rylen Rashid has already read 210 books! When asked how she did this, Rylen said "I read it at school and at home on my iPad. I read to my three-year-old brother and I read when I am bored." Another third grade student Michael Castillo said "I like F2B because of the games that are quizzes and because you can create your own stories and because I know 71,593 vocabulary words!" A third student Kimora Grant said "I like F2B because I am learning about animals and insects and I like having my own journal."



Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Capturing Hearts

In building relationships within our community, Manzanita has invited School Resource Officers Deputy Reader, Deputy Wilson, Deputy Diaz, Deputy Lovvik, and our other local community deputies to participate in the "Deputy Challenge" with our fourth- fifth- and sixth-grade students.

Our students participate in biweekly Deputy Challenges where deputies come to the school site and engage in a game or activity with the children to help build the relationship between our students and the deputies.

For each deputy challenge we also have a pep rally with our school cheerleaders. Two deputies come to the school with their vehicles and uniforms, and the children are divided into two deputy teams. The teams



participate in soccer penalty kicks, basketball free throws, football toss, and other games. All of the students who participate receive a prize from the deputies.

This activity has really helped to create a positive relationship with our school resource deputies and students. In addition, our staff and students are always excited and look forward to these challenges.

Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Unique Art

Visual art is truly alive at Mesquite Elementary School! Our students and teachers have been very busy and very creative with visual arts this school year. With the new Arts Attack curriculum, the students and teachers are now able to participate in more in-depth art projects. The video lessons permit students to visually observe and simultaneously engage in the art process, while also leaning the technical aspects of art. Additionally, all of our students had the opportunity this school year to use their art skills, which were honed through the Arts Attack program, to participate in our Square 1 Art



Fundraiser. Students were able to create a distinctive and unique piece of artwork. Then, these pieces were submitted to Square 1 Art where they could be transferred onto a variety of items such as coffee mugs, potholders, jewelry etc. for purchase.

The Square 1 Art products make terrific mementos and keepsakes. With their newly developed artistic skills, it has been great to see our students develop as artists!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Hands-On Work

Oak Tree Community Day School continues to make progress in redirecting students and modifying behavior. We use positive behavioral interventions to support students in taking responsibility for their actions and helping them see the effects of their decisions.

The Oak Tree Honor Guard recently performed for the Antelope Valley College football game, and presented the United States colors for the National Anthem. The students were very excited to perform, and took pride in their efforts.

Students at Oak Tree also had the opportunity to experience their first field trip to the Los Angeles Rams football camp. The students accepted responsibility and positively participated in all of the activities.

The Oak Tree Leadership program, Restorative Justice, and Cooperative Teams help students develop the skills that can prepare them for 21st-century success. These leaders are given opportunities to self-correct behavior, model appropriate behaviors, and work as a team to solve conflicts and problems. They learn to work with their peers and become accountable for their decisions.



At Oak Tree, behaviors are addressed, positive strategies are agreed upon, and a plan is implemented. Students learn strategies on how to improve conflict resolution, and mutual trust is developed within the school. This "hands-on" work is leading Oak Tree to the promise with passion, direction, and success.

David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Millen Students Excel in School and On the Court

In addition to providing a first class education, David G. Millen offers opportunities for students to distinguish themselves by offering clubs, activities, and athletics. During the fall, students are able to compete in cross-country, volleyball, and basketball. This year the 7th and 8th grade boys volleyball teams each took first place in the Palmdale School District Tournament. Coaches Mr. Butler, Mr. Florence, and Ms. Livingston were proud to bring home the banners and trophies for both teams.



Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

A Student Success Story

Last year, a student named Ruo xi Wu joined the Ocotillo Elementary School family as a third-grade student. When she arrived, Ruo spoke no English. Making things more difficult for her was the fact that she spoke

a language no one on campus spoke, Mandarin Chinese.

Ruo was immediately placed in the Imagine Learning program, which she attended every day. She was the first one to arrive every day and the last to leave. During the lessons, Ruo was heard speaking and singing along with the program. Her enthusiasm quickly paid off. Soon, she was asking and answering questions.

Ruo continues to be an eager learner who is always willing to ask for assistance from her teachers and classmates. In fourth grade, she is an active participant in classroom discussions, and her math skills are amazing.

We couldn't be prouder of Ruo xi Wu. Her positive attitude will earn her the success she deserves.



Palmdale Discovery Center

1330 W. Elizabeth Lake Rd., Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/274-0849 • www.palmdalesd.org



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Moving Right Along!

We have been off to a busy start this school year at Palmdale Discovery Center. We have a full calendar of training events on our modified Wednesdays so that staff can have continual education on research-based strategies to implement within their classrooms. We also have staff participating in the Capturing Kid's Hearts training and are all excited to implement the tools from that program across our campus.

Staff and students at Palmdale Discovery Center are headed into the holiday season full force. Staff and students at PDC participated in the Great Shake Drill, and it was a success! In collaboration with the campus of Ocotillo, we fulfilled our obligations of the drill with timeliness and efficiency.

In October, we participated in Red Ribbon Week. The theme this year for the campaign is "You Only Live Once, YOLO Stay Drug Free." We are thrilled to see so many of our staff and students showing school spirit at Palmdale Discovery Center!

We are looking forward to continued success and student growth for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year at Palmdale Discovery Center!



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Michael McNelis
Principal

Student Commitment and Service

PLP sent six students to Salute to Youth: The Career Connection, which was hosted by the AV Career Prep Council and the Antelope Valley Union High School District. The students were introduced to many career opportunities, and were also able to participate in some fascinating activities.

ASB students attended the CADA's Area E Regional Conference in Pasadena. They listened to keynote speakers and attended a variety of workshops. The event, titled "Area E - One Love," was an incredible experience, and they are putting the things they learned to good use here at PLP. They have been active in many activities, and are now planning on taking their service global to help the orphanages in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Our International Baccalaureate Service Club (IBSC) joined with over 10,000 other volunteers from across Southern California to clean up local beaches, rivers, creeks, and parks. Along with parents and staff, the students picked up trash on Santa Monica Beach. Armed with buckets, they helped to "Heal the Bay." You make our world a better place!

Our commitment to community and global focus is a priority as we work towards being active, making the world a better place, and being involved!



Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

The Male Presence is Important!

We were excited at Palm Tree on September 19 to be able to celebrate with the "National Fathers Take Your Child to School Day." Palm Tree had over 60 fathers bring their children to school and greet our students that morning.

It was great to see our fathers at both entrances in the morning high-fiving and encouraging the students as they arrived for school. The fathers came in shades of blue to celebrate the

Palm Tree school colors of blue and green, and to show solidarity. After the students went to class, I met with the fathers and answered questions and brainstormed ways to get them more involved. The fathers were excited and the school was abuzz.

Palm Tree is also pleased to announce that our new vision statement is as follows: "Palm Tree, an oasis of education." This came from a year-long process, and now we are working to finalize it. Our work will be anchored to our vision and mission statements.



Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

QV is Bully Free!

Quail Valley kicked off its bully free campaign by taking the first week in October to collect signatures from all 771 students, and then had them sign posters dedicating themselves to keeping QV bullyfree. They pledged to make a difference by reciting the following: “To not bully others, to listen to my teacher, to be helpful and kind, to be a good friend, be good to others and to pledge to make a difference.”

This was followed by a three screen multimedia assembly put on by Camfel Productions entitled The Pledge, where students were shown several scenarios about what bullying looks like, but more importantly, what they can do to help stop it from happening.

Every morning our students are reminded by a school-wide chant, “No one is in control of me except for me.” Students understand that no one can make them bully anyone or make a poor decision; that is a choice they make themselves. They can choose to do the right thing or not. But they are also reminded that every day is a fresh start to make good choices, and that no matter what yesterday brought, today is a new day.

Quail Valley ended the month with Red Ribbon Dress-Up Week, and a “Trunk or Treat” event where Fire Station 93 was on hand to pass out fireman helmets to all of our Chameleons.



Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Election Buzz: Every Kid Votes!

This month, Mr. Bowlen's, Ms. Mayoral's and Ms. Hasuo's classrooms participated in Every Kid Votes, which is a free mock election held across the country. The teachers were provided with resources for students to explore each candidate and make up their mind before voting. The students felt a buy-in to politics, and they used their academic language to discuss the differences in a courteous manner. Each student was given every opportunity to make an educated decision about their candidate of choice.

In Mrs. Mayoral's class, students were able to research individual candidates and then cast their votes for the upcoming presidential election. Eighth-graders, especially those who are currently 14 years old and will be eligible to vote in the next election in 2020, took particular interest. Students weighed in with the following comments:

“I feel like I finally have a voice,” Joselyn Martinez said.

“It was a very hard decision for me, because it was a very controversial choice,” Sophia Perez said.

“It was a very exciting way to vote, because we kids don't have the option to do that,” Darlene Mendez said.

And Anthony Argueta said, “Our next president is our next mistake,” commenting that he didn't care for either candidate.

Each student voted anonymously, using their “voting machines,” aka Chromebooks. Several made anonymous comments about their choices. Overall, students seemed to really enjoy the process.



Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Dr. Linda Brandts
Principal

Math Night Empowers Families

Summerwind Elementary School's Second Annual Math Night brought out students and families. Teachers presented math lessons, allowing parents to be the student. Parents learned the how and the why math homework has looked different over the past two years. Parents learned how to use Web sites such as Moby Max, Footsteps 2 Brilliance, and Eureka Math.

After visiting the classrooms, families were invited to play math games in the cafeteria. Student volunteers from Antelope Valley College staffed math game tables. A life insurance company provided free identity kits for students. Each grade level presented a different game to strengthen grade-level math skills while having fun. Staff members, teachers, parents, and students were able to interact in a different environment, which helped to build relationships.

Families left with new knowledge, take-home math games, and the knowledge that Summerwind teachers and staff are here for them.



Contest!

This picture is in one of the articles in this issue.

When you find it, email the page number to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put Palmdale in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by December 30, 2016. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations to
Syeda Fatima Tirmzi and Cheryl Black
Winners of our October Contests.**

Tamarisk *Elementary K-6*

1843 E. Ave. Q-5, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/225-9647 • www.palmdalesd.org



Martin Herrera
Principal

Positive Relationships

Three months have passed and we continue on building positive relationships with our students. We just recently had the Helpful Honda Guys and Project joy come to our school to provide our deserving students with treats and arts and crafts projects, as well as handing out pumpkins to our students. We also continue with our positive behavior assemblies which have been a great success! Students receive Tiger tickets for demonstrating positive acts of respect, responsibility and safety with their peers and staff. We just had our Fall Festival which turned out to be a big success. We had students dress up, face painting, art activities and games. Just another way in which we continue building not only positive relationships with our students but with are community as well. Happy Fall!!!



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Linda Jaramillo
Principal

Buckets of Positives

Yellen Learning Center enjoyed a super visit from an LASD K-9 unit to help us celebrate Red Ribbon Week. The students had a great time listening to an LASD deputy explaining why Red Ribbon Week started and how the K-9 unit works.

The students were super-excited when the deputy had his partner find an object on the stage. The deputy also took time to answer many questions from the students and the adults. It was an absolutely beneficial assembly in celebration of Red Ribbon Week.



We also took the opportunity this week to celebrate our library clerk. We have spent time at Yellen talking about "filling buckets with positives," and our library clerk has filled our buckets over the past couple of years by encouraging our students to read, by finding appropriate books for them, and by implementing essay and trivia contests related to the library.

The students love Ms. Holloway. They recently found out that she was leaving to go to another state, and they wanted to do something for her. So we had an assembly and surprised her with cards and well-wishes along with a lot of hugs.

Teaching students to fill buckets and then seeing them put into practice what they have learned is priceless! Go, Eagles!

Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Jennifer Pesavento
Principal

The Joy of Reading

Tumbleweed's librarian, Mrs. Linda Duran, is passionate about instilling the joy of reading in all of our students. Recently, with the help of a retired Tumbleweed teacher, Mrs. Ramona Jackson, she transformed our library into a restaurant where students had "book tastings" that exposed them to new choices and genres that they might not ordinarily experience.

The tables inside the library were covered with red and white checkered tablecloths, trays with flower vases, candles, genre signs, and several books to "taste." As the students were seated at the tables, they had a placemat with a book, menu card, book mark, and reflection napkin. After they got a "tasting" of the books, they discussed them with peers, and then rotated to other tables to sample more genres during the experience.



The students all wrote reflections, and many shared comments such as, "I hope you do this again," or, "I had fun reading the books." We also heard, "I liked every single book at each table," and, "You are awesome when you do these things for us!"

Mrs. Duran is committed to providing a relevant and enjoyable library experience for our students. This helps our school continue to build a positive school climate built on a foundation of relationships.

Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Getting Everyone Involved at Yucca

Yucca Elementary school is continuing to focus on the Palmdale PROMISE. At Yucca we believe that all students will go to college. Chris Riley, our administrative intern, dressed as a Super Hero to get students excited about the possibility of going to college. Mr. Riley

also encouraged the students to take their parents to the District's 1st Annual Tailgate Party that was at Antelope Valley College Homecoming game. Yucca Elementary students were excited to purchase a backpacks and attend the game. Students and parents that attended the game totally enjoyed the college experience.



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Raul Maldonado

their memory and enhance their focus and concentration to name a few.

Make sure you download the free Footsteps2Brilliance app by visiting our website PalmdaleSD.org to access hundreds of interactive books, educational games and more in both English and Spanish.

Don't forget your involvement plays a big role to help our students succeed. Please take the time to check in with your child's school to learn how you can get involved. Studies have shown that parent involvement helps children succeed academically.

Together with the Palmdale Promise we will lead our students on the path of success.

As always, my doors are open to discuss our district's future. Feel free to send me an email or give me a call.

Most importantly enjoy your winter break with friends and family. I will make sure we are well prepared for the return of all our students in January.

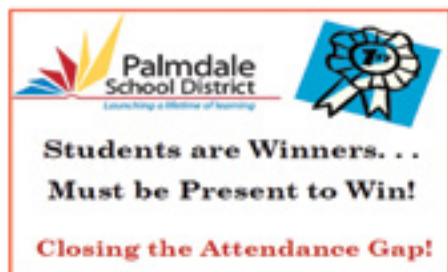
Happy Holidays.

PALMDALE PROMISE • From Page 1

colors during the National Anthem. Hundreds of parents and students were in attendance and enjoyed the various foods such as hot dogs, hamburgers, tacos, corn and other delicious items. Community dignitaries such as Congressman Steve Knight, Assemblyman Tom Lackey, President of AVC – Mr. Ed. Knudson and the Superintendent of Palmdale School District – Mr. Raul Maldonado were on hand to enjoy the festivities. The Palmdale School Board members not only served on the event committee, but were also present making sure the event went well and that all of the children and their families had a wonderful time. Recognizing the value of a college education is a dream of Hernando and Fran Marroquin for all young students in the Antelope Valley!

District Office (661) 947-7191 • Emergency (888) 474-8107
39139 North 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550
www.palmdalesd.org

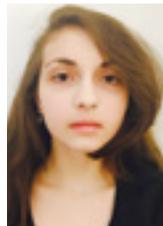
Welcome and Enrollment Center	537-6100 (8am-3pm)
Child Nutrition	266-7280
Educational Services	266-7233
Health Clinic	537-6137 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)
Special Education	456-1452
Student Services	456-1457
Superintendent's Office	266-7222 & 266-7220



Community Meetings 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	AAPAC Topics	Location
January 26, 2017	Affirming Black Culture in Schools	Palm Tree
February 09, 2017	Black History Performing Arts	Buena Vista
March 30, 2017	Developing Strong Self-Confidence & Self Respect	Shadow Hills
May 25, 2017	Black Girls Matter Too!	Joshua Hills

Christina's Book Review

Power of Determination



Christina J.

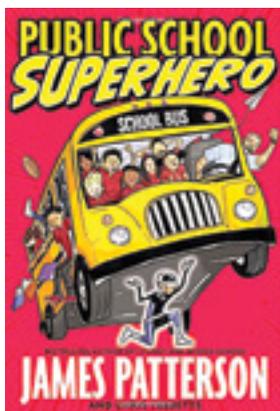
Public School Superhero

By James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts

The story is about a middle school student named Kenny Wright, who imagines being a powerful superhero named Stainlezz Steel. Kenny lives in a bad area that has gangs and drugs on the streets and he meets older students, trying to influence him into

doing things that will get him into serious trouble.

Kenny goes to an underfunded, overpopulated school run by bullies. Kenny is known at school as "Grandma's boy" and, while he is constantly a target for the 7th and 8th grade bullies, he must try to get through the school year without being peer-pressured into doing wrong things that his alter ego Stainlezz Steel would never, ever do. At one point Kenny meets a bully named Ray-Ray, whom he has to teach chess to. After a while Kenny sees that Ray-Ray is a normal person, living in a bad home environment, and starts to understand why he is so aggressive to everyone. Overall, the book is about a boy's determination to get through life with the best possible outcome, with a little bit of action comics mixed in. I liked the book and it's fun, quirky attitude, and it's deep emotional conflict that gives the story a deeper meaning. I give the book a 4 out of five stars, with 5 being the best..



Christina J. is a 7th grader. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself, in 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Richard's Book Review

A Twist On a Classic



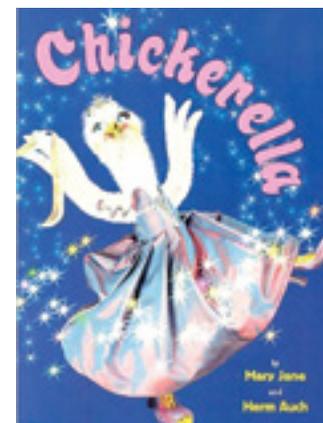
Richard J.

Chickerella

Written and Illustrated by Mary Jane Auch

In the beginning it is like the usual Cinderella story about how chicken Cinderella, named Chickerella gets an Evil Stepmother, and starts living in a coop behind the house. Then, because of her poor diet, the eggs

she lays become more and more transparent, until they are pure glass. When it's time for the Prince's ball, the Fairy Goosemother appears and helps Chickerella go to the ball, but warns her that she must be back by midnight. So, Chickerella goes to the ball, meets the Prince, and when the clock strikes midnight, Chickerella runs away and leaves behind a glass egg! The next day the prince sends his servants to look for the chicken who laid the glass egg. When they find Chickerella, the Prince tells her that instead of getting married, he wants to start a fashion line with her! When the Fairy Goosemother hears this, she appears and asks if she could help and design clothes for the line. In the end the three friends start a successful clothing line and live fashionably ever after! I liked that the book starts like the usual Cinderella story, but has a funny, unexpected twist, ending in a fashion show instead of a happy marriage.



Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

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Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



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*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to 529.morningstar.com. Past performance does not predict future results. Source: 529.morningstar.com



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit ScholarShare.com for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.