

SUPERINTENDENT



Greetings Students, Parents, and Staff!

The 2017-18 school year has just started and we are very excited for it! The Board of Trustees and I are confident that this year will be much more exciting for all

Raul Maldonado

of us as we venture into new and unprecedented territory. With the Grand Opening of SAGE Academy, we were able to achieve another very important milestone in regards to the Palmdale PROMISE.

SAGE—**Space and Aeronautics, Gateway to Exploration**—is a S.T.E.A.M. Academy focusing on providing our students with a drastically different and more effective approach to learning. The City of Palmdale’s Mayor, Congressman Knight, school district staff, parents, students and other community members participated in our inaugural ceremony on August 3, 2017. We were honored and proud to have them present, helping us welcome SAGE Academy to the Palmdale School District.

Our highly skilled staff, teachers, and principals are ensuring that our students receive the best public education and cultural experience possible to prepare them for high school and beyond.

At SAGE Academy, research-based instruction includes hands-on activities, student collaboration, and project-based learning. To ensure our students have a well-rounded middle school experience, students also have course choices in the Fine Arts, such as music, art and thematic units.

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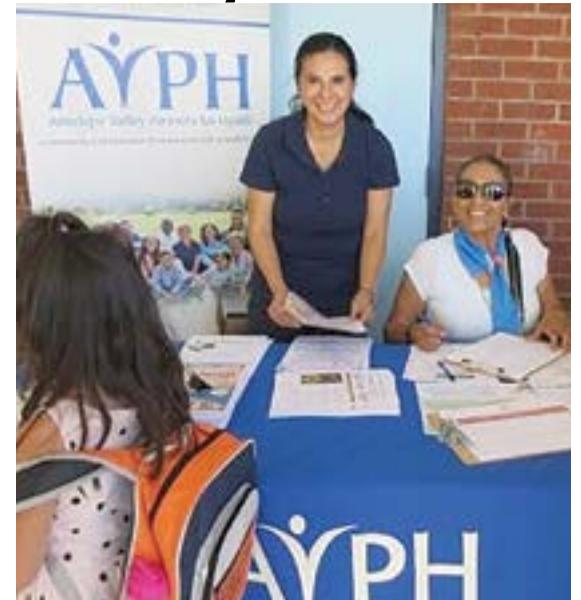
Inaugural Backpack Giveaway

By Janet Simons, Coordinator of State & Federal Programs

Two weeks before school started, we held our first annual Backpack Giveaway at SAGE Academy.

Our goal was to give out 3,500 backpacks to the students of the Palmdale School District ensuring that all students were ready to start the year with the tools they needed. Seventy-seven volunteers met over the summer on a weekly basis to stuff the beautifully embroidered backpacks with school supplies.

In the Palmdale School District small activities often become large events, and the Backpack Giveaway was no exception! Approximately 25 community organizations attended the event. They provided our families with information, school supplies,



and even had STEM activities for our students to participate in as they showed off their backpacks.

There was definitely a party atmosphere at SAGE Academy thanks to our wonderful food vendors and D.J.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Joyce Ricks
President

Greetings Palmdale School District Families!

We are all thrilled to see our students settling into their new classroom environments, meeting their new teachers and seeing all of the updated technology, for their 2017-18 school experience.

As the President of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to acknowledge the opening of our newest Palmdale school, SAGE Academy. This new middle school gives our students the opportunity to explore and learn about aeronautics and robotics.

Palmdale School District strives to give its students the best possible education so that all students are ready for the 21st Century. I am very proud to announce that all 900+ classrooms in our district have been equipped with a Promethean interactive board. As we all know, everyone learns differently. Therefore, our

Board made the decision to place an interactive board in every classroom. This advancement in technology, gives our teachers a wider range of teaching tools; with a swipe, a pinch and a zoom feature, teachers and students alike, now have the ability to interact with the board to share their ideas, work on class projects and develop new concepts.

I am confident that our community feels proud of the Palmdale School District, because Palmdale School District provides a quality education to all of its students. We wish everyone a great 17-18 school year.

Board of Trustees



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. This is an exciting time of year for students to meet old friends, make new ones and settle into a routine focused on academic goals.

This is our 5th year publishing the excellence from the Palmdale School District. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. All 36 of our *School News* publications are posted on our website www.schoolnewsrollcall.com in the event you want to read a past issue. Also, we now offer a podcast you may access on our web site, which includes an opportunity to enter a contest.

Early Childhood Education

975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4710 • www.palmdalesd.org

Welcome Back!



Donna Lebitsamer
Director

Our Early Head Start, Head Start, Home Base, and State Preschool programs are nearly fully enrolled and underway serving 1,859 students. The ECE bi-literacy program at TW is in its first year, and the teachers are enjoying this new challenge leading the way with our youngest students as we seek to fulfill and celebrate the Palmdale PROMISE value of multilingualism. Twenty of our teachers are also piloting the Learning Genie program, an ongoing observation tool that provides teachers opportunities to use their iPads to capture quality observations. It can simplify the process of documenting observations by incorporating pictures and videos, and taking assessment notes on the iPad. The program will improve data monitoring for better early learning. We look forward to expanding both of these new programs in the future.



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Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Be Attendance Heroes

Calling all Super Hero Bulldogs! This school year Barrel Springs School is challenging every student to not only be at school every day and on time, but also to exhibit "Best Bulldog Behavior" when they are present.

Barrel Springs School provides its students with great first-time teaching, and works hard to create and maintain a safe environment for students. But students must be present to receive a great education. The school reminds them that if they miss school, they miss out, and it is important for them to be in school every day and on time in order to receive our great first-time teaching.

Students are encouraged to set weekly goals in the area of attendance, academics, and behavior for continuous growth and improvement. As an incentive, they can also receive rewards and prizes for both attendance and good behavior. When all students are present in school each day, the class earns a letter. Once the class spells out the word "Heroes," they earn a prize, bragging rights, and become attendance heroes!

In addition, our students have many opportunities to earn Bulldog Bucks throughout the day by being safe, responsible, and respectful.

Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Flexible Learning Classroom

The concept of classroom design should facilitate modern learning methods that are aligned with preparing all of our students for college, careers and citizenship in the 21st century. We as educators expect students to show what they know through problem solving and an in-depth demonstration of subject matter. In adhering to the Palmdale Promise as we move toward modernization of our schools, it is a moral imperative to provide flexible learning environments that support diverse teaching and unique educational needs.



So when Mrs. Lake, a fifth-grade teacher, pitched the concept of flexible seating in her classroom this school year, I was elated and supported her vision. When I visited the classroom on opening day, I was impressed. Mrs. Lake's seating arrangement optimizes 21st century teaching methods such as project-based learning and personalized instructional space. Her classroom highlights a learner-centered environment that is primarily designed with the goal of accommodating different teaching and learning formats. Way to go!

Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

Where Everyone Belongs

Cactus kicked off the school year with over 200 sixth graders attending our WEB orientation on August 8th. WEB, which stands for "Where Everyone Belongs," is a middle school orientation program that welcomes 6th and 7th graders and helps them make a successful transition to middle school.

The program utilizes our 8th grade student leaders to help facilitate activities with small groups both at orientation and throughout the school year. These mentors received 10 hours of training to lead activities that promote inclusion, the building of relationships, and a positive school climate. The goal of the WEB program is to increase student safety, engagement, and achievement because of the individual connections that are made and fostered throughout the year.



Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Going Ducky!

It's Duck season, and Chaparral is definitely ready for this year's Kiwanis Duck Race! Chaparral School has started its Duck fundraiser with enthusiasm, which includes pictures of adoptees, a rubber ducky prize, and a school-wide student vote on the Chaparral school duck costume.

Last year, Chaparral won first place for the "Best Dressed Duck," and it is excited to win that title again! For the past several years the Munoz family have volunteered to decorate the Chaparral duck, and they have done a marvelous job with each one.



Last year Chaparral was also second place with the most ducks adopted, and this year we are looking forward to doing as great again. The school raised \$1,000 last year too, which went for field trips and assemblies for our students.

We are eager to celebrate this event with our Chaparral community at the big Duck Race at Dry Town. May the best duck win!

Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

A Special Star

Claudette Ward-Konovalov is the new assistant principal at Cimarron. Our "Old-Timers" are people who have lived in the Antelope Valley for more than 25 years; she has lived here for 43 years! Traveling is in her blood too, as she grew up a child of a military family who lived in Germany and Greece for 10 years during her youth. Her father's last duty station was at Edwards AFB, where she attended and graduated from Desert High School.

Mrs. Ward-Konovalov graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in French, which included a year abroad in southern France. She earned her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Pt. Loma, and then started working at the Palmdale School District in 1981, when there were only seven schools in the District!

She has been married since 1984, and completed her Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction. In 1997 she became a resource teacher at Manzanita, which required her to return to school for a credential in special education. She moved to the District office in 2009 to become one of their special education coaches.

Cactus Intermediate took her on as their instructional coach during the SIG grant, and she stayed there as their assistant principal. Last year she returned to the elementary school as the assistant principal at Buena Vista. This year, which is her 36th year with the Palmdale School District, she moved over to Cimarron Elementary.

Mrs. Ward-Konolov has been married for 33 years and has two grown children: Tatiana graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Zachary is attending Cal State University, Long Beach. She is excited to be joining the Cimarron community as their assistant principal, and is looking forward to a successful year. Go, Cimarron Stars!

Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



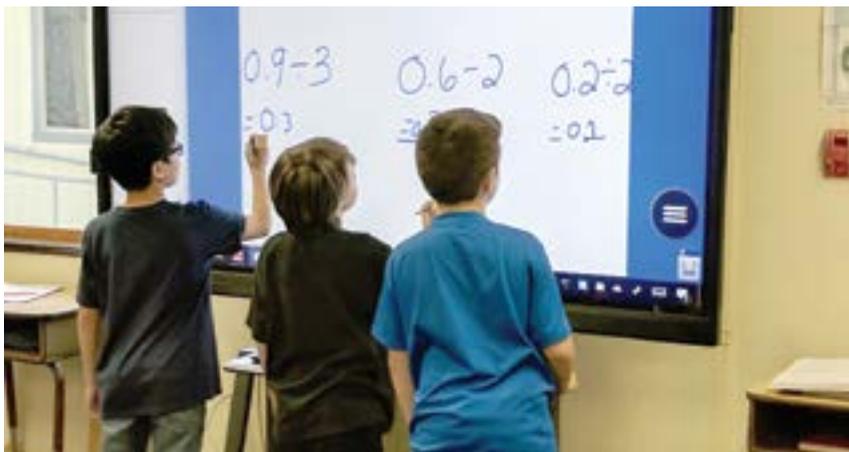
Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Wow—Big Tablet!

Desert Rose has started the new school year with the addition of some amazing technology! Each of our classrooms has been equipped with a 70-inch Promethean Board. “What’s that?” you ask. It is like a giant tablet!

This 21st century technology is able to integrate with student devices such as Chromebooks and laptops. Teachers can create and extend their teaching with digital images and media with just the touch of a button. In addition, multiple students can use it simultaneously, thus allowing more children to be an active part of the lesson.

Teachers have expressed how much they enjoy being able to access most everything for their instruction all in one place, thus allowing them to keep students engaged in the lesson. With the use of this new technology, Desert Rose students will be prepared for their futures in the 21st century.



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Welcome!

Dr. Sarah Zepeda is the new assistant principal at Dos Caminos. She grew up in Torrance, but has made Palmdale her home since 1990.

Dr. Zepeda earned a bachelor’s degree from Mount St. Mary’s University, and a master’s degree from CSU Bakersfield. She also recently earned her doctorate in education from USC. Dr. Zepeda started her career in education almost 15 years ago as a substitute teacher. She is thrilled to be at Dos Caminos!

Additionally, we are delighted to welcome 30 new sixth-grade SDC students. These children bring a positive energy to our campus, as we support all students to reach their full potential. Our fifth- and sixth-grade students and teachers were also ecstatic as they walked into new modernized classrooms!

Construction continues as we work to build our campus and our academic programs. Dos Caminos maintains a “students first” philosophy! We are Explorers all the way!



Dr. Sarah Zepeda

Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Big Things are Happening!

Desert Willow Middle School opened the 2017–18 school year with a new principal, Timothy Howell; a fresh and full class of sixth-graders; and a plethora of new classes, programs and after-school activities.

As a STEAM school, Desert Willow’s focus is on offering a variety of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics classes. Especially exciting this year is Mr. Wicks’s Film Literacy class. In this elective, students are taught all the aspects of film production and directing. After attending a special training with the esteemed actor/director Edward James Olmos, Mr. Wicks is preparing his students for career goals in arts and entertainment.

Also, Project Lead the Way has arrived at Desert Willow! PLTW empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges. In addition, there is the resurgence of Desert Willow’s esteemed AVID program. Under the leadership of the new coordinator Krishna Spates, the program has again been accredited and is off to an exhilarating start with four AVID classes. The program boasts close to 100 students who are determined and college bound! DW’s award-winning band led by Ms. Clayton and the mesmerizing musical theater taught by Mrs. Leveque are also back this year!

After-school programs abound, including the continuing color guard, tutoring and dance team. The newly added Hip Hop Step Team is headed up by none other than Desert Willow’s new principal, Mr. Howell. With all of the new and wonderful additions, Desert Willow is set to have a year like no other!

Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

Golden Poppy Attendance Heroes

Golden Poppy Elementary School is off to a great start! This year, we are focusing on improving student attendance school wide. Our front office staff has organized our “Attendance Hero” campaign to get students motivated and excited to be at school every day and on time. The last week of September, we held our first “Super Attendance Spirit Week”. As part of our program, classes with perfect attendance are acknowledged each morning during morning announcements and their class name is added to the “Attendance Super Heroes” wall in the hallway. PTA is also supporting our school efforts by providing Perfect Attendance certificates and color coded bracelets to our students each month. At the end of each quarter, we will reward students’ perfect attendance with fun activities to keep students motivated!



Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Wheel...of...Fortune!

I am excited to be the new principal at Joshua Hills and a part of the close-knit community of parents, students and teachers. Great things are happening at Joshua Hills!

Our students receive Jackrabbit Tickets when they are being safe, respectful or responsible. We save all the tickets for the month, and on the last Friday of each month, students come to the "Best Behaviors Assembly." At the assembly, Jackrabbit tickets are drawn from each grade level's box and the students come up to spin the wheel. The audience must shout the magic words: "Wheel...of...fortune!" Whatever color the wheel lands on is the colored table the student goes to for their prize.

We want to reward students that are making smart choices about their behavior, and the "Wheel of Fortune" does just that!



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

One Program, Multiple Sites

The Palmdale School District is committed to supporting every student's achievement by building upon their strengths, cultures, languages, and experiences.

This is in addition to opportunities for the development of high levels of multilingualism and multiculturalism, which is demonstrated through the addition of Dual Language programs at Manzanita and Tamarisk. This is incredibly exciting, as DL learning has been found to be the only method of second language acquisition to facilitate the full closure of the achievement gap.

At Los Amigos, Dos Caminos, Manzanita, and Tamarisk, administrators and staff members are committed to working collaboratively to ensure that we have one program at multiple sites. This is accomplished via the DL Oversight Committee. The DL Oversight Committee is comprised of district leaders, school administrators, and teacher representatives from all sites. We meet on a regular



basis to collaborate and address the unique needs of the PSD Dual Language program.

Additionally, LA, DC, MZ, and TA teachers collaborate regularly to plan instruction, engage in professional learning, and ensure that DL principles are implemented with fidelity.

Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Kaiser Thriving Schools Grant

Manzanita is happy to announce that we are recipients of the new Kaiser Thriving Schools Grant. We have been working side by side with Bobbie Bodie and we are ready to kick off our new active recess program. Through the grant, our staff was trained in how to properly create and supervise active play with students. Our students will be learning how to play together, the rules of different games, and how to compete in competitions during lunch recess. Students and staff are excited about the new program coming to Manzanita and look forward to educating our students about healthy eating and being actively involved.



Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

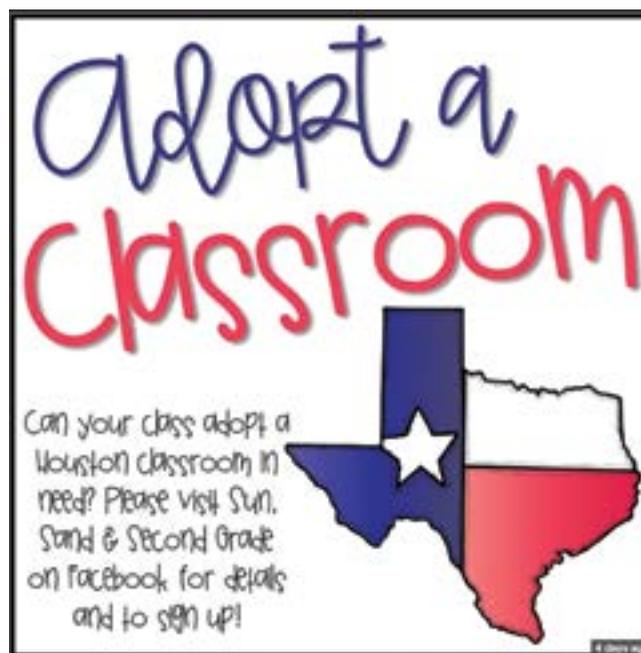
Adopt a Texas Classroom

As we work to keep our students aware of current events, there has been a lot of discussion of Hurricane Harvey and its effect on Texas. We have watched videos, seen photos, and read articles about what Harvey has done to the Houston area.

So in order to help our friends in Texas, and to build service learning in our own school, we have adopted a Texas classroom. The students in the classroom we have adopted were all placed under mandatory evacuation due to the effects of Hurricane

Harvey. They expect to go back to school in about a week, and so we are hoping to send a package of donated items, gift cards, and lots of encouraging letters to help get them excited for what is ahead!

Watching our own Mesquite Mountain Lions get so excited about reaching out and helping others has really built an even stronger school community!



David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Everybody Belongs!

The WEB “Where Everybody Belongs” Program at David G. Millen is making a big impact with our sixth-graders. Mrs. Borquez and Ms. Alamo worked with eighth-grade student WEB leaders for three days in the summer to get them ready to show incoming sixth-graders the expectations for a Millen student. Since then, they have been planning and recently conducted their first “check-in” with their sixth-graders.

When asked, sixth-grade student Morgan Mack said, “This is a great program for sixth-graders, and it is helping and making sure our school is great for the next generation of children.”

When asked about her WEB elective, student Aniya Johnson responded saying, “It’s really fun because I like planning stuff for the sixth-graders and getting to know them.”

The WEB program at DGM is benefitting all involved!



Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Gerilyn Cherland
Principal

21st-Century Learning

Our students are engaged in 21st-century learning here at Oak Tree Learning Center. Whether the students are in language arts or math class, Promethean Boards are the center of our learning and learning activities.

Students are enrolled in Google Classrooms, where their teachers are able to push out the lessons and work by utilizing Chromebooks. The days of paper and pencil assignments are becoming a thing of the past!



Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Strategies for Success!

Here at Ocotillo, we believe in Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID). Schoolwide, our students are introduced to the SLANT strategy beginning in transitional kindergarten. As early as third grade, our staff introduces 2 and 3-column note taking skills, AVID folders in science to enhance organization skills, planners, and AVID 1-pagers. Our 4th and 5th graders expand upon and further hone their organization and study skills by continuing to use the planners, answering higher-level thinking questions, and incorporating AVID Weekly, WICOR, and STAR strategies. Students who need additional guidance are invited to our Organization Nation, which is run by Mr. Lueck, Mrs. Aqenenni, and Dr. DuBoise. We, as a staff, believe AVID strategies enhance our students’ learning experiences and prepare them for their future educational demands.

For example, students in Mr. Whitney’s class are utilizing technology to practice close reading, as well as summarizing and finding textual evidence. Mr. Gonzales’ seventh- and eighth-grade classes are using their Chromebooks daily to access the district’s newly adopted language arts series called “StudySync.” Oak Tree is buzzing with student learning strategies in the areas of behavior and academics!

Our school has identified two goals for this semester: First Time Obedience, and THINK before you speak or act. Oak Tree scholars are identifying textual evidence to support overarching concepts and ideas. Meanwhile, Ms. Jacobson’s class practices collaboration and teamwork.



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

A Great Start!

I would like to welcome back all of our wonderful students, parents and staff members to school for the 2017–18 school year. We are off to a great start here at Palmdale Discovery Center. Right from the start, we are working on our Capturing Kids' Hearts campaigns as we set up our social contracts in our classrooms and make sure that all of our students, staff members and parents are feeling welcome!

We are very excited in the area of academics this year.

Students have been quickly adjusting to being back at school, working as a team with peers and members. Our classrooms received their Promethean Boards, and we are seeing them being used in various creative ways to present curriculum to our students. We have also received new curricular supports to assist us in assessing and developing curriculum based on the individual needs of our students. These include the SANDI (Student Annual Needs Determination Inventory) assessment and VBMAPPs (Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program). We are also excited to bring on a new social-skills program for our students, called "Teach Town."

I also want to thank all of our wonderful parents for their continued support and love for their children. We are so happy to have such a great partnership with our parents here at PDC. I also want to thank the fantastic staff we have here at PDC! Your compassion and commitment will ensure another successful school year!

Palm Tree Elementary K–6

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

Safety Comes First at Palm Tree

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a major launch initiative at Palm Tree. Under PBIS, we strive to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible. Over a two-year process, through our School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) we developed the focus that safety comes first for our students and community. Drop-off and dismissal were challenge areas and our community suggested traffic patterns that visibly direct our families how to proceed through our parking lot. This great effort made our drop-off

and dismissal safer for our students and larger community. Strategic signage improved our parking lot environment and our traffic patterns flow smoothly. A safe environment enhances student learning.



Palmdale Learning Plaza K–8

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



Michael McNelis
Principal

Off to a Great Year!

From the beginning bell on the first day of school, PLP has been abuzz with excitement for this 2017–2018 school year. Teachers and staff members have immersed themselves in teaching the curriculum and routines, and the students have come back rested and eager to learn.

We welcome our new kindergartners, new students in grades one to

eight, and new staff members Mr. Ramirez, Mrs. Imoisili, Ms. Maiocco, Dr. Soto, and Ms. Sandlin. The halls are already filled with student work, all related to the tenets of the International Baccalaureate program here at PLP. Our parent community is showing their support as well. The Pumas are ready to rock!

We dedicate this article to Jesus Lopez, who passed away in July. He was a long time custodian in the district and had been at PLP since 2008. He will be missed greatly. Rest in peace, Jesus!



Jesus Lopez

Quail Valley Elementary K–6

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Making Leaders

Quail Valley is kicking off the 2017–2018 school year in style!

Our slogan this year, "With great power comes great responsibility," supports our school-wide superhero theme. Every day our students are reminded that their "great power" is to do your best, and that this comes with great responsibilities both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs. Carol Black, Quail Valley's assistant principal, is working on making our Chameleons leaders while in the Chameleon Café. The students are taught the behavior that is expected of them, and then monitored by both our campus supervisors and Mrs. Black, who also has the grade levels competing against each other in the upper grades, and class-versus-class in TK-1st.

Each day the grade/class that best demonstrates our leadership qualities



earns a letter. When the word "Leaders" is spelled out, the winning grade level/class receives an extra five minutes of very valuable recess time at lunch!

Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

WEB Orientation Program

Shadow Hills's "Where Everyone Belongs" (WEB) program got off to a fantastic start! WEB leaders were eager and enthusiastic to begin the school year after taking an entire week out of their summer to learn strategies needed to bond with their sixth- and seventh-grade groups during their orientations.

Orientations focus on getting incoming students to achieve a variety of goals with one another as a large group and then in small groups. Some games that were played as a group at orientation included "That's Me!" to show students how they are alike, and "Balloon-Pop Relay" to work together as a team.

Students were then separated into their prearranged groups and played "teaching" games with their WEB leaders. Afterward, they had a tour of the campus and reconvened in the gym for a brief wrap-up that focused on choosing positive influences over negative ones.



Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Dr. Linda Brandts
Principal

Peer Mediators, Committed to Help

Summerwind students have a new resource to help with such issues as adjusting to a new school or dealing with interpersonal challenges. Fifteen students have been trained as peer mediators. A common answer to the application question "Why do you want to be a peer mediator?" was "To help others." Peer mediators are sincerely committed to helping students cope with challenges from completing homework to making friends.

In addition, the peer-mediation process creates an opportunity

for both mediators and participants to fulfill the Palmdale Promise. Goal 2 wants students to develop 21st century skills such as collaboration and negotiation. Goal 4 aims to create a safe school environment in which students participate in inclusive and restorative relationships.

Peer mediation allows students to problem-solve, collaborate, and build understanding among individuals and groups. Summerwind's peer mediators are on their way to becoming global citizens!



SAGE Academy *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration*

38060 20th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/537-6101 • www.palmdalesd.org



Dr. Susan McDougal
Principal

The Eagles are Soaring

SAGE Academy – Space and Aeronautics – Gateway to Exploration opened its doors on August 9, 2017! We are excited to have all of the 1,014 students who attend SAGE from several feeder schools. We now also have 45 teachers plus classified staff members.

One of the most exciting things to happen in middle school this year is that SAGE Academy is the first campus in the Palmdale School District to provide each student with their own Chromebook. Students check out their Chromebooks for the entire school year, and can take them home each day to complete homework, practice skills, and do research. The students will check out the same Chromebook each year, too. At the end of their eighth-grade year they will be given the opportunity to purchase their Chromebook.

SAGE is a STEAM Academy for sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students focusing on science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Our goal is to prepare students for success in high school and beyond by ensuring that they are taught by highly qualified teachers and have access to the latest technology and curriculum.

Teachers engage their students in research-based instruction, including hands-on activities, student collaboration, and project-based learning. To ensure that our students have a well-rounded middle school experience they also take courses in the arts, such as music and art classes, along with thematic units in their core subject areas. All SAGE students are enrolled in English, math, science, social science, and physical education courses, along with two elective courses of their choice.

Our students are engaged in learning in all of their classes, and are excited to be SAGE Eagles!

Tamarisk *Elementary K-6*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

A Great Start

The beginning of the school year has been a wonderful experience. Our teachers are doing amazingly well with modeling the routines and procedures for classroom management. Capturing Kids' Hearts and CHAMPS strategies are being used effectively to promote an environment that is conducive to learning.

Our campus supervisors are implementing the strategies they learned via the Active Recess training to help keep students safe. The physical education teacher and assistants are also establishing an environment where student safety is being promoted. Tamarisk teachers and instructional assistants are doing exceptionally well in welcoming the students with smiles and handshakes.

We have some new additions to the Tamarisk family: Mrs. Young, Mrs. Riley, Ms. Llamas, Ms. Ward, Mrs. Matheny, and Mrs. Monka. If the first few days of school are an indication of how the rest of the year will go, we are very optimistic that we are going to have an exceptional one!



Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Meeting Diverse Needs

The Tumbleweed family is so excited to begin the 2017–2018 school year. We are in our first full implementation year of our School Improvement Grant (SIG), and with that comes many wonderful opportunities each day for our staff to collaborate and focus on fulfilling “The Palmdale Promise.”

The SIG has allowed us to add vital support staff to help meet the diverse needs of our students. They are an extremely talented group of individuals, too. We have a new principal, Dr. Tillman; two assistant principals, Mrs. Diaz and Mrs. Larrick; a social emotional learning specialist, Mrs. Robinson-Woods; two behavior interventionists, Ms. Shreves and Ms. Heard; two learning support specialists, Ms. Kastel and Mrs. Mauk; an EL coach, Mrs. Lopez; a technology coach, Mr. Hauptman; and a CRT, Mrs. Pearce.

The SIG also provides us with access to consultants who are experts in a variety of instructional areas. Our math consultant, Michele Douglass, works closely with our teachers and students to increase our instructional strategies and student learning in the area of mathematics. The future is definitely bright at Tumbleweed!



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Linda Jaramillo
Principal

A Great Beginning

The Yellen Eagles are flying high and eager to learn! We started the year off with 78 Eaglets, and have had two of our Eagles transition back to their home district of Lancaster, currently enrolled in an SDC-ED class and an SDC class with mainstreaming into PE and lunch.

Our staff has already received extra training in ELA, and Illuminate, and Math with Mr. Douglass. We are also beginning to review the Boys Town material we received in June. Seven of our teachers are beginning to pilot Teach Town that will give students specific social skills lessons.

Our school resource officer, Deputy Martel, has visited the school several times to walk around the classrooms and visit with the students when they are at recess. She has come to our Level 4 parties and enjoyed watching the children have their social time. We appreciate her willingness to build a rapport with our students.

We had a record number of parents attend Back to School Night, and they all had praise for the work we do with their students here at Yellen. We are looking to increased parent involvement through more communication and activities.

Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

We're Wired to Go!

The 2017–18 school year is off to an awesome start! At our annual “Sneak a Peek,” parents and students met their teachers, parents had an opportunity to join PTA, and everyone could purchase juice and spirit wear. Parent liaison Kristin Haro invited parents to sign up for parent-engagement activities, and Children’s Bureau provided information.

Technology-support liaison Tommy Andersen went above and beyond during the summer preparing Promethean Boards for the teachers. He provided individual grade-leveled mini-lessons to prepare the teachers for the start of school. Mr. Anderson always has his radio ready to lend a hand and his expertise! He updated the computer lab and all the hardware and antivirus software for every computer.

At Yucca, we continue to grow and learn in all areas. Because of Mr. Anderson’s hard work and support, students and staff benefitted from the new technology introduced in the classrooms on the very first day of school!



Tommy Andersen



PIANO LESSONS

ALL LEVELS AND AGES

TATIANA PENNY
MEMBER OF THE MUSIC TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

(661) 533-9609

Victoria's Review

Amazing Adventures



The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer is a fantasy/fiction novel about twins named Alex and Conner who get trapped in the *Land of Stories*, a book that their grandmother gave to them. They go through many adventures all trying to get back to earth to their mom. In between these adventures, the twins go through different realms: The Elf



Empire, The Northern Kingdom, The Eastern Kingdom, The Dwarf Forests, The Red Riding Hood Kingdom, The Corner Kingdom and much more. They also meet Disney Princes and Princesses who become their best friends. In the end, Alex and Conner realize they are stronger than they once thought.

How did they get trapped? How do they escape? What do they experience in each realm? All of these questions will be answered once you read this amazing adventure! I give this book a "5 out of 5 Smiles."

Victoria Lowe is a 7th grade student. She loves school and enjoys spending time with her friends. Victoria's favorite kinds of books have mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them with "Smiles." Victoria has an affinity for singing, loves musical theatre and is a member of the South Bay Children's Choir.

Jenna's Review

Cry, Heart, But Never Break



Jenna C.

Author: Glenn Ringtved
Have you ever lost something or someone? Were you sad?

In a small house, four children lived with their beloved grandma. Every night, there was a visitor whose name is Death. The children knew Death had come for their grandma. Death's only friend is night, so the children made a plan quickly to keep Death away from



their grandma by giving him coffee all through the night. The youngest child asked why their grandma had to die. Death started telling a story about two brothers, named Sorrow and Grief and two sisters, named Joy and Delight. One day, the brothers and the sisters met together. They were in love with each other so much when the time came to die, Grief and Joy died on the same day and so did Sorrow and Delight. Death asked, "Who would enjoy the sun if it never rained? Who would yearn for day if there were no night?" At last, Death stood up. I chose this book because it is a sad story but also gives you comfort.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

Keira's Book Nook

A Page Turner



Keira

Joplin, Wishing by Diane Stanley is an extraordinary page turner! It really makes you feel like you are there with the characters. This fantasy novel is about a 12 year old girl named Joplin who finds an antique platter with a picture of a girl at a pond and wishes she could be her friend. The next day Joplin sees a girl in the garden. When she goes to say hello, she learns that the girl, Sofie, is new to the neighborhood. Curiously, when Joplin goes back to her room the girl in the platter is gone! When Joplin discovers everything Sofie has been through, she comes to the conclusion that she must help her. Later when Sofie meets Joplin's mom, they think they recognize each other which made me think, "Is there a story behind this?" You'll just have to read the book to find out! I give this book 5 out of 5 apples.



Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.

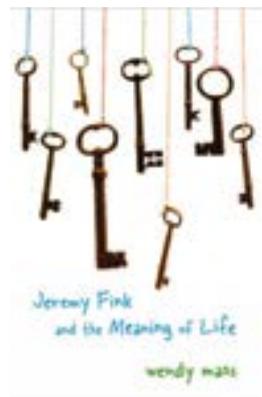
Isabella's Book Review

Adventure and Fun



Isabella A.

The book *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass is about a 13 year old living in Manhattan with his mom and his friend Lizzy. Together, they convinced the mailman to give them a package. Inside, they find a letter and a box. The letter indicated that the box once had keys that were now lost. They decide to set out to find the keys.



In the process, they sneak into a business and vandalize it. A policeman makes them do community service, as punishment they have to deliver packages. They ride around the city delivering antiques to the people who had once pawned those items. Almost all was planned by his dead dad

The friends must now do this the entire summer. Will they find the keys before Jeremy's birthday? Or ever?
I give this book 4 stars because it is full of fun and adventure.

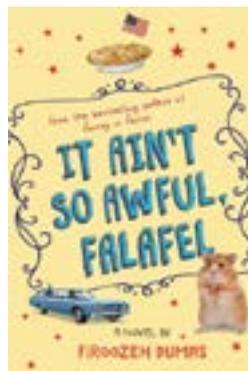
Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

A Heartwarming Story



Katie C.

Author: Firoozeh Dumas
It Ain't So Awful, Falafel is a book about an Iranian girl named Cindy (who lives in the U.S) who goes through a turmoil of thoughts, challenges, and problems--big ones. In Iran, there are political problems that the U.S is now involved with. The Iran government takes hostages from the U.S, making



Americans hostile to Iranians. As if things can't get any worse, Cindy's dad loses his job. Cindy's parents give Cindy heartbreaking news to her: they must move back to Iran. Cindy is torn. She does not want to leave the city where she has just started to find new friends. Just as the family is about to leave, good news comes. Her father is offered a job in the U.S! Cindy can stay! Cindy is overjoyed at the news. With humor and relatable scenarios, this heartwarming story is sure to win your heart. I give this book a five out of five stars.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

Sophie's Choice

Magic On Every Page



Sophie O.

Jeremy Thatcher Dragon Hatcher, by Bruce Coville is a book about a boy named Jeremy Thatcher, who one day while running away from a girl that was trying to kiss him, finds his way to a magic shop in his town that he had never seen before. When he goes inside the magic shop, a color changing ball grabs his attention and he decides to buy it.



However, when he gets home, he realizes that the ball was not a ball at all, but a dragon's egg! Jeremy finds the instructions on how to hatch the egg and with the help of the librarian; he is able to learn how to care for the dragon. After the dragon grows to almost the same size as he is, he realizes it's time to let the dragon go back to where he came from. He had to let her go because the dragon would not survive in his world.

Even though Jeremy's dad was a veterinarian, Jeremy knew nothing about taking care of a pet, especially a dragon! By taking care of the dragon, Jeremy learns that he can do things he never thought he could.

I give this book 4 out of 5 stars. It's really interesting and I loved reading about the magic on each page.

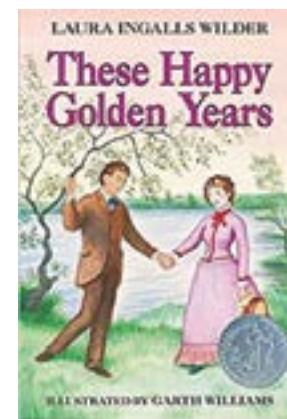
Sophie is a 4th grader who is a lover of all books, loves to bake, act, draw, sew and play soccer.

These Happy Golden Years



Christina J.

These Happy Golden Years is the 8th book of the series. The story is based on the diaries of Laura Ingalls Wilder. It tells the story of Laura transitioning from a teenager to a young bright lady and having the responsibility of being a teacher. However, the school she must teach at is very far from her house so she



has to stay with Mr. Brewster, a settler. When Laura arrives to the Brewster's house she feels unwelcomed because their family is so drastically different from her own. Mrs. Brewster is a very unhappy woman who deeply resents having to live in that area. Mrs. Brewster dislikes that Laura has to stay with them and is so unpleasant to her that Laura counts the days she has left until the school is over and she can leave. Laura is having a hard time adjusting at school too, feeling that her students don't respect her because they see her as too lenient. Laura feels very lonely and insecure. But little by little Laura starts making friends, feeling warm inside in the freezing cold. Eventually Laura begins having a courtship with a young man that she likes, having little pleasant daily routines like horse buggy riding and such to enjoy together. Things start to look better for Laura. If you want to know what happens next, you must read the book.

I liked this book, even though it was a little sad at the beginning, when Laura, despite being miserable and unhappy, continues doing what she is doing in order to earn enough money to allow her blind sister Mary to stay in college for the visually impaired. I was glad to read that Laura's persistence paid off in the end. I give this book 4 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. 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).

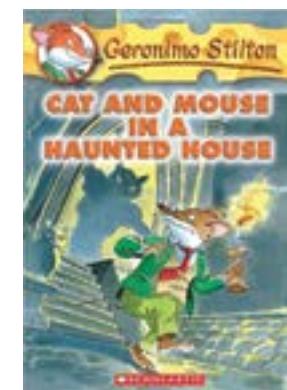
Richard's Book Review

A Fun, Scarey Book



Richard J.

Geronimo Stilton is famous mouse, publisher of a mouse newspaper. In this story he goes to visit his Aunt Sweetfur, who is vacationing in Pleasant Paw hills, but to get there he must pass the Dark Forest. On his way Geronimo got stuck in front of the terrible Cannycat Castle with its terrifying cat statues. Because of the lightning storm Geronimo decides



to go into the castle, even though he is scared of it. Once there, he sees a great deal of scary things. He comes across a closet with a skeleton of a mouse... Then he encounters a ghost of Duke Slicedpaw cannycat that comes running towards him! After many unexplainable scares, Geronimo got exhausted and fell asleep, only to wake up to see his sister Thea, his cousin Trap, and his nephew Benjamin there with him. Together they all see the terrifying ghosts until toward the end the mystery of the ghosts is revealed. The ending is what you would have never expected at all!

I liked the humor and the mounting suspense of this book, as well as the interesting and different color fonts for certain words and that all the pages have pictures. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



2017-2018

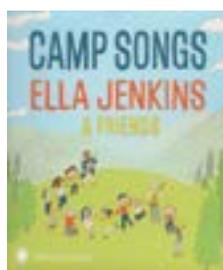


Camp Songs



Kate Karp

Camp songs are very dear to Ella Jenkins, the national children's-singalong treasure who at 93 is still performing. She cherished songs that her brother brought home from Boy Scouts and had always wanted to record a camp-song CD.



For this project, Jenkins assembled a literal band of brothers and sisters who have veritable campground DNA: Kate and Tony Seeger, nephew and niece of the legendary Pete Seeger, and Judy Seeger, the late folk singer's wife. A team of musicians, children, parents and teachers rounds out the rounds, spirituals, campfire singalongs, protest songs and just plain silliness.

Camp Songs opens with Jenkins's harmonica and the round of all rounds, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Following are 24 more familiar and yet-unheard numbers: "This Little Light of Mine," "Down in the Valley"; "Sipping Cider Through a Straw," and the hilarious but complicated round "One Bottle of Pop." On "The Hill Was Steep and Tall," Jenkins relates how she reluctantly signed up for a hike with some campers and then got hopelessly lost.

You may know that Woody Guthrie had written "This Land Is Your Land" as a protest song and might have wondered about it. One of the two sociopolitical verses not sung at school is included here—good fodder for a social studies lesson.

Our school districts provide numerous school-year camping opportunities and field trips, and there are scout gatherings and youth groups who are going to love these songs. Sing out!

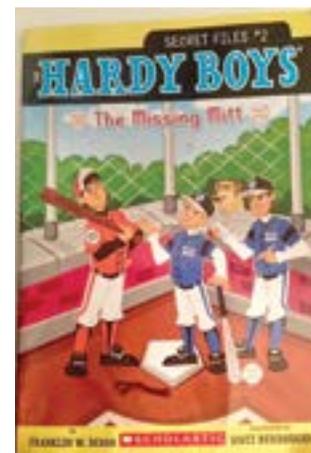
Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

The Missing Mitt



Michael H.

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.



Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

Novelist Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Palmdale in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | READERS | BING |
| EDITOR | PENCIL | ASPIRIN |
| IPAD | IDEAS | KEYBOARD |
| SPELLCHECK | PEN | TELEPHONE |
| PRINTER | BROWSER | WIFI |
| PUBLISHER | GOOGLE | IMAGINATION |
| NOTEPAD | INTERNET | TELEPHONE |

Congratulations to **Rosa Ramirez**
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!



Healthy Snacks in School

By Todd Cherland, Director

Everyone who plays a role in students' food and beverage choices at school should know about the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Smart Snacks in School standards. Smart Snacks have been in play since July, 2014, but it's never too late for a refresher about which foods and beverages are required to meet these national standards.

The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 directed the USDA to establish nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to students in school during the school day, including foods sold through school fund-raisers. The Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards help schools to make the healthy choice the easy choice by offering students more of the foods and beverages we should be encouraging—whole grains, fruits and vegetables, leaner protein, lower-fat dairy—while limiting foods with too much sugar, fat, and salt.

Take the guess work out of your day! Simply go to the Palmdale School District Web site, click on Departments, click on Child Nutrition, then click on HEALTHY SNACK CALCULATOR on the left side of the screen. This tool will walk you through how to check if the snack you want to serve is compliant with the USDA's Smart Snack in School standards.

For additional information, please contact my office at (661) 789-6565 or email us at childnutrition@palmdalesd.org.

'Where Everybody Belongs'



Dr. Stacy Bryant
Deputy
Superintendent

The transition from elementary to middle school can sometimes create nervousness and fear when anticipating the changes and challenges often associated with transitioning to middle school. In an effort to nurture a climate of connectedness and acceptance, our middle schools implemented a transition-and-orientation program to welcome sixth- and seventh-graders. We call this program "Where Everybody Belongs," or W.E.B.

Before the start of the school year, our W.E.B. leaders—eighth-grade students who applied for the leadership position—completed a two-day training that prepared them to lead the sixth- and seventh-grade summer orientation. Orientations were a success, and W.E.B. leaders continue to build relationships with their assigned students, support their academic success, and connect with them outside the classroom at social events to increase student engagement and promote positive school culture.

Special thanks to the W.E.B. Leaders, coordinators, volunteer teachers and our middle school principals.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Raul
Maldonado**

All students are enrolled in English, Math, Science, Social Science, and Physical Education courses along with two elective courses of their choice. Students may choose:

- ASB / Leadership
- Art
- AVID
- Band
- Journalism – Newspaper
- Journalism – Yearbook
- Civil Air Patrol
- Lego Robotics
- Project Lead the Way – Engineering and Design
- Paxton Patterson STEM Lab
- Aviation and Flight
- Speech and Communications

Teachers and students have opportunities to collaborate with our S.T.E.M. partners from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Hypersonic Combined Test Force Wing at Edwards Air Force Base. Students will have opportunities to visit industry work places and museums, such as California Science Center, NASA, Edwards Air Force Base, Lockheed Martin, and Boeing as well as the numerous Art museums in Los Angeles.

The Palmdale School District has recently implemented numerous construction and renovation projects to bring the infrastructure up to standards with the increasing demands for modern classrooms and labs. We already have several state-of-the-art facilities in our schools and we will continue to introduce several updates to the student learning environment.

This year, the Palmdale School District hosted its First Annual Backpack Giveaway event. We distributed more than 3,000 backpacks to Palmdale School District students. Students received backpacks according to their grades level, which were filled with essential school supplies. Students were thrilled to receive them and were ready to go back to school with a smile!

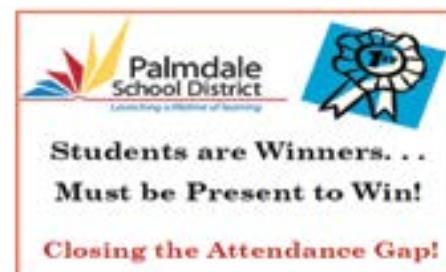
In the month of September, we will welcome students and teachers from Peru to visit Los Amigos School as part of the Multicultural Student Exchange Program. Student from Peru will attend classes at Los Amigos for about two weeks, learning about American culture and practicing their English. This is a unique opportunity for students from the United States and Peru to exchange their knowledge and culture with each other. We truly appreciate efforts of both the countries to come together for such a brilliant program.

I am committed to continuing implementing the strategic plan as described in the Palmdale PROMISE. It keeps us motivated in our efforts to build one of the best school districts in Los Angeles County. We truly appreciate the dedication, enthusiasm, and passion from of all the staff members, political leaders, law enforcement, teachers and parents to provide a great education and experience for all our student!

We will continue to strive to make all schools in the Palmdale School District the best and safest place for our students.

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



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