

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 19

SUPERINTENDENT



Greetings, Families!

The 2017-18 school year is going in full swing. So far, it has been a fantastic year. One of the most important accomplishments this school year is the approval of the

Facilities Master Plan. The Facilities Master Plan will focus equity across all the schools. During the Breakfast with the Superintendent meetings, we will continue getting parent input on the school pride projects to improve all schools.

Our highest priority under the Palmdale PROMISE is high intellectual achievement. Our main goal is for all students to be reading by the end of the 3rd grade. Each school has a well-developed plan to address students who are not meeting the main goal. Parents are also very important in achieving this goal. Celebrating students' success is equally important at home and at school. Please take the time to read with your children.

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Greetings, Families!

By Joyce Ricks, President

It has been an exciting year so far! It is indeed a great feeling to see our students exploring many options alongside their regular curriculum. The number of elective classes at our middle schools is fantastic. Our students get a 360-degree approach to learning, and our staff makes it happen with their tremendous hard work, dedication, and passion. I am sure that our students and teachers will not leave a stone unturned to achieve the best results for our school district.

I am passionate about children, and I try to put in all of my efforts to make every Palmdale School District student part of the Palmdale PROMISE. Our school district makes it a top priority under the Palmdale PROMISE to fulfill the technological, infrastructure, and academic requirements of all of our students.

On August 3, 2017, we opened the doors to Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration (SAGE) Academy, an academy that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). Among those in attendance were various dignitaries, Board members, school staff, students, and parents. This academy has opened new dimensions of learning.

DECEMBER 2017–FEBRUARY 2018

Tailgaters Take to AVC for Second Year

By Barbara Gaines

Palmdale School District, Antelope Valley College and the Marroquin Family collaborated together to hold our second annual tailgate party entitled "Chasing My Dreams, I'm Going To College." More than 400 students and their families joined the festivities on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Antelope Valley College.

The goal of the Palmdale School District Foundation and the Antelope Valley College Foundation was to bring college awareness to PSD students and to raise money for future student activities on both campuses. Dance teams and singers from various elementary and K-8 schools performed at the party which was emceed by Principal, Tim Howell and Asst. Principal Candace Craven. The college football team showed up to surprise the kids before kickoff of the game. The Palmdale Honors Band and Flag Team performed the National Anthem before the game and delighted the crowd with an amazing halftime show. 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 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 and welcome the families. The Palmdale School Board members not only served on the event committee, but were also present making sure that everything 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!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At Desert Rose School, we have collaborated with Special Team Of Role Models (STORM), which focuses on curating high-quality programs to inspire and motivate students at Desert Rose School. Students will build social skills, practice self-discipline, and gain confidence as leaders.

See BOARD OF TRUSTEES • Page 10

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Looking to the Future



Dr. Stacy Bryant
Deputy
Superintendent

The Palmdale School District's sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students have been busy setting up their own Digital Portfolios to become technological savvy and prepared individuals in high school and beyond.

The middle school counselors have conducted classroom lessons assisting their students with the creation of Digital Portfolios, which is a web-based tool used as a digital record and showcasing effort of their academic, personal, college plans, and career goals.

Each student is instructed on how to set up their eight-year plan using the Palmdale School District's student portfolio template. The portfolios are a great tool for each student to share their written work, presentations, photos, and videos.

As well as learning useful technology skills and sharing their progress and growth, the students are also thinking about their futures. Each student is instructed on how to complete an Interest Profiler on California Career Zone as they begin their journey of exploring careers, researching colleges, and creating future plans.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Neta Madison
Netragrednik



As we near the end of this year I'd like to thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* among your reading choices. I'd also like to thank you for your comments when you email your Word Search Contest entries. It is fun to know you enjoy the contests with your children (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is March 7. Have a wonderful holiday season. We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed services who are not home with their families. We are thankful for their service.

School News

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Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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562/493-3193

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Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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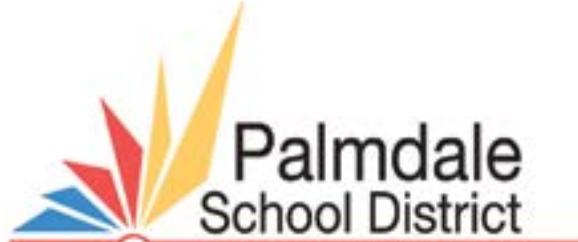
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Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Family Harvest Picnic: Building a Bridge

This month Barrel Springs held our very first Family Harvest Picnic! Families had a fun opportunity to eat lunch with their student after the Harvest Costume Parade. Proud parents and families watched their student show off their costumes and then eat lunch together on the lawn. It was an awesome sight to see everyone spend quality time with his or her student at school. We look forward to providing more opportunities for families to come together to build a bridge between the school and families!



Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Parents are Partners

A growing body of research shows that building effective partnerships between parents, families, and schools to support children's learning leads to improved outcomes. Our highest priority is creating a bridge between home and school—that's why Buena Vista Elementary School is committed to promoting a culture and climate predicated on the understanding that parents are the first and continuing educators of their children.

Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal



We firmly believe that "it takes a learning community to raise a child." Without cooperation and communication between school and parent community, we cannot fully support our children and their learning. Family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and restores parents' confidence in their children's education. Students with involved parents or other involved caregivers earn higher grades

and test scores, have better social skills, and show improved behavior.

The most significant type of involvement is what parents do at home. By monitoring, supporting, and advocating, parents can ensure that their children have every opportunity for success.

Cactus *Middle School 6-8*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

An Incredible Event

Back in September, Cactus Middle School was able to have 120 students participate in the Los Angeles Rams' "NFL Play 60 Camp" at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Our Cactus students, along with chaperons Mrs. Ingalsby, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Weber, and Ms. Radigan, all boarded their school buses at 6:15 a.m. to head to Los Angeles for an exciting day of meeting with Rams players, cheerleaders, and various support staff.

The students enjoyed listening to Hall of Fame offensive tackle Anthony Munoz speak to them about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, including the need for physical exercise. They also embraced positive character traits for both athletics and life. Each student participated in activities with the Rams staff, and many of them even had their T-shirts autographed by both players and cheerleaders.

During the closing of an incredible event, two Cactus students (Oscar Olivas-Ramirez and Alexis Ponce) were recognized for demonstrating outstanding character. All participants were treated to two tickets to the October 17th Rams v. Redskins game. We are looking forward to taking even more children next year.

Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Thank You, PTA!

Chaparral Elementary is excited for the school year with their amazing PTA! Chaparral's PTA has gone above and beyond with the students, parents and staff for many years at the school. Several of the wonderful PTA activities include Staff Appreciation Week, Silent Auction, Yard Sale, student book donations, a book fair sponsored by a major bookseller, Red Ribbon Week, March Madness Festivities, Character Counts Store, Student Winter Coat Drive, Student Grams, school-spirit wear, Bingo Nights, Read Across America, Art Gallery and Fall Festival.

The PTA's Fall Festival was beautiful this year, with so much décor, prizes and games. The Art Gallery was another successful event in which PTA volunteers worked with each class to complete an art project and students had the chance to appreciate one another's work with an Art Gallery Walk for the whole school.

Chaparral appreciates the PTA and the tremendous hard work of the volunteers to make Chaparral special!



Cimarron Elementary TK-5

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



Fall Festival

Cimarron School's Annual Fall Festival was a huge success! Our awesome PTA, staff, and students, spent a lot of time and effort into planning the festivities. From a bake sale hosted by First grade, nachos and tacos for the grownups, to cotton candy, to fishing for prizes hosted by second grade, to a very scary Haunted House, they thought of everything! Our fourth grade team helped guests to "Feel the Fear" by providing bowls of brains, livers, eyeballs and other gruesome items! At the Arts 'N' Crafts table, our third grade team helped kids make a spooky haunted house or a scary skeleton to take home. O'Connor Photography added to the fun by taking Fall Festival keepsake pictures of families. There was something for everyone and everyone had a great time.



Desert Willow Middle School 6-8

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



Having Fun with Filming!

Desert Willow Middle School continues to move towards the goal of creating creators. Desert Willow is a FAST academy where the focus is on the Fine Arts (visual and performance), Technology, and Environmental Science.

I am excited to promote our Film Literacy class, under the facilitation of Mr. Wicks. This class helps students become creators by learning about the aspects of film production and directing. Students will create and write their own stories and make a short film. This project is supported by the Latino Film Institute Youth Cinema Project written by the esteemed actor/director Edward James Olmos.

We are looking forward to showcase all of the Desert Willow pathways from the Band, Project Lead the Way, Choir, Step/dance team, Environmental Science, Art, Film, Music technology, and Fitness.

Desert Rose Elementary TK-5

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



Recess Has Never Been So Fun!

The Desert Rose Elementary School kindergarten playground has been completely remodeled, and the students are thrilled with the result!

Our new playground was rebuilt from the ground up with brand-new play equipment, rubber surfacing under the equipment, a new grass play area, oodles of seating, beautiful, drought-tolerant landscaping, and brightly colored games on the new cement. The area has almost doubled in size to help accommodate several physical education classes at one time and lots of room for the students to run and play! Very soon, panels will be added to the fencing, which will include adorable, student-drawn pictures.

In addition to our kindergarten playground, new landscaping was provided in front of our school, complete with plants that are conducive to our desert environment.

Thank you to the Palmdale School District for providing such a wonderful renovation to the Desert Rose campus—especially from our kindergarten students!



Dos Caminos Elementary K-6

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



Intramural Sports have arrived!

Sports and teamwork play an important role in the lives of our students. It teaches responsibility, fair play, and builds confidence. Dos Caminos is proud to have our first intramural sports teams join the middle schools. Here is what some of our students said they enjoyed most about playing volleyball and representing Dos Caminos Explorers, "I love playing sports with my friends because we have fun!" Another student shared, "The tournament was great and we represented our school." We also want to thank our teacher coaches, Ms. Banuelos, Ms. Hethcoat, Ms. Montoya-Green, and Mr. Pacheco for their hard work and commitment to our students. Dos Caminos maintains a "students first" philosophy! Explorers all the way!



Golden Poppy Elementary TK-5

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



Preparing Future Leaders

On September 22nd, Golden Poppy Elementary School hosted a visit from California State Senator Scott Wilk, who represents the 21st district (which includes the Antelope Valley, Victor Valley, and most of Santa Clarita). Senator Wilk participated in an assembly with our fourth graders on how state government works and what the government does for us as citizens. Our students had many questions for the Senator and he graciously answered each one of them. As a Principal, I hope this visit shows our students that they can take part in the political process and inspires them to go into public service. We are preparing our country's future leaders.



Melanie Culver
Principal

Joshua Hills Elementary TK-5

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



Welcome, Ms. Saenz!

I am excited to introduce Joshua Hills' new assistant principal, Carmen Saenz. She is coming from Los Angeles Unified School District.

Ms. Saenz began her role in education as a teacher assistant and eventually a classroom teacher. While teaching, she worked as a sixth-grade special education teacher for 10 years and as a program specialist for four years. Ms. Saenz has attended Cal-State University, Los Angeles, where she earned her bachelor's degree in child development.

She attended the University of La Verne, where she received a master's degree in school counseling. She then attended Cal-State Dominguez Hills, where she acquired her administrative credential. She is now beginning her role as an administrator at Joshua Hills and is very excited about this new opportunity.

To top it all off, she will be relocating to the Antelope Valley with her three children very soon. Welcome, Ms. Saenz!



Carmen Saenz

Los Amigos K-8

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



Hispanic Heritage Essay Contest

September is Hispanic Heritage Month. In celebration, the Palmdale Sheriff's Station held an essay contest at Los Amigos Dual Immersion School. Eighth grade students were instructed to write an essay on an influential Hispanic person who has positively impacted their life. The students worked diligently and did an awesome job. On October 12, 2017, they were recognized at a special award ceremony.



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

In attendance there were very important dignitaries, including Sheriff Jim McDonell, Captain Dennis Kneer, Superintendent Raúl Maldonado, Assemblyman Tom Lackey, and representatives from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The first place winner was Herman Loaisiga, second place was Xitlalli Alfaro and third place was Nerissa Rivera-Gonzalez. We are very proud of the seventy-eight students that participated and look forward to the possibility of doing it again!

Manzanita Elementary TK-5

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



Girls on the Run

Our Manzanita Elementary School third- through fifth-grade girls have the opportunity to participate in our amazing Girls on the Run positive youth development program. The mission of Girls on the Run is to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident through a fun, experience-based curriculum.

Volunteer-led practices creatively integrate running and encourage girls to develop key life skills that stay with them as they grow. The vision is to see a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. The girls take ownership in developing and implementing a community-impact project to help their community.

Our volunteer coaches are Maria Farias, Karla Solano, Cindy Carballo, and Cindy Kaplan Gray. Our amazing coaches guide the students through interactive lessons to teach life skills and prepare the girls for our celebratory 5K running event in December.

Manzanita Girls on the Run is so much fun!



David G. Millen Middle School 6-8

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



"Houston Strong!"

In a coordinated effort between the Millen Builder's Club, leadership classes, and the entire student body, Mrs.

Borquez and students from several leadership groups were able to successfully coordinate a supply drive for a 6th grade class at Stevenson Middle School in Houston, Texas. Stevenson is located in an area that was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey, and in an outreach project shared across several student groups, supplies ranging from classroom items to basic toiletries were collected and sent directly to those most in need. We are proud to have the students and staff of Millen leading by example in regards to their dedication to becoming Global Citizens!



Mesquite Elementary K-6

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



Extracurricular Classes

Our Mesquite students have been very busy enrolling and participating in the many and varied extracurricular classes that have come to our campus this school year!

We are very proud of our Mesquite parents, school staff, and community members, as they are the instructors who are giving our children the opportunities to participate in these new and exciting learning experiences. The Four "Cs" of 21st-century learning are Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity; in conjunction with music, science, movement, athletics and, especially, fun, these are integral parts of our extracurricular program.

Our folklorico dance program has expanded dramatically this year, as we now offer four separate folklorico classes. Our students are learning how to read music as they learn to play flutes, handbells, and ukuleles. Choir, one of our new programs, has grown rapidly, and now has nearly 50 members.

We are also looking forward to music concerts and dance performances. The Chess Club meets weekly, and we are planning to host district and interdistrict chess tournaments at Mesquite. Our Environmental Leadership Club plans service learning projects, maintains the Mesquite Learning Garden, and manages our campus recycling program.

In late October, our Environmental Leadership Club participated in the Youth Environmental Leadership Conference in Apple Valley (YELC). Basketball will start this month, and we hope to play other elementary school teams.

What's next? After Winter Break, we have plans to offer additional extracurricular classes, such as origami, crochet, visual arts, and technology. Mesquite students will continue to have opportunities to participate in extracurricular classes that are fun, challenging, and intrinsically motivating!

Oak Tree Community Day School K-8

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



New Routines and Procedures

During the first two months of school, Oak Tree Community Day School has been focused on reinforcing behaviors that promote student learning. Our staff members are working diligently to promote social development and responsibility.

The Oak Tree staff's focus on academics has also produced results. Several students passed the benchmark assessments in the sixth through eighth grades. Our school-wide goal of increasing appropriate use of language also resulted in several students receiving a "Free Dress Day." Thanks to a generous donation, students who focused on reading were awarded gift cards to a local bookstore.

Our Oak Tree staff and students benefit from an emotionally safe environment in which routines, procedures, norms, and supports for positive behavior have been established. Relationships are the bridge upon which we are making strong academic and behavioral strides. Staff is proud to report that we have also released six students back to their comprehensive sites.

We congratulate Mrs. Jacobson for recently winning a mini-grant! We have also submitted a grant application for our Ready to Learn classroom as well. Our staff is engaged in a cycle of continuous improvement, and have set goals to address the needs of our students.

Our work with InnovateEd has also given us the opportunity to establish a Site Leadership Team. We are fortunate to have Mr. Gabriel Gonzales and Mr. Tayari Ferrell as our representatives to the District Cohort 5. Our small but mighty team recently discussed our strategic focus for the cycle of inquiry to help support the Palmdale Promise.

The Oak Tree staff is committed to improving behavior and student engagement through the implementation of Project Based Learning activities, with the primary intent of providing our students with good opportunities to develop solid Depth of Knowledge strategies.

Ocotillo Elementary TK-5

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



After-School Opportunities

This year, Ocotillo is excited to offer our students two new after-school enrichment opportunities. Fourth and fifth grade students have already started learning coding using the website Code Combat. The weekly program is being taught by a high school student, Isabel Agbing, and facilitated by Mr. Smith. Students are learning how to code using keystrokes to make commands that move and develop their characters through the mock game. Our students in 4th and 5th grades are also invited to learn a new language using the DuoLingo website. Students can choose to focus on one of the five languages we are currently offering. The program is facilitated by Dr. DuBoise and Mrs. Aqenenni and meets every Monday and Wednesday. These programs are two new ways Ocotillo is developing students who are prepared for college, careers, and a globally competitive world.



Palmdale Learning Plaza K-8

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



PUMA Pride, PUMA Pride....We got all that deep inside!

To kick off each new month, PLP has incorporated first Friday of the Month spirit rallies. Since all students and all staff are rarely together, this provides an opportunity for the entire school to come together. After the first bell rings, the students gather at the staging area and Mr. McNelis and Ms. Streeter greet the students with a rousing good morning. Then, the Pledge of Allegiance is led by a student followed by a patriotic song by our chorus. ASB and IB Service Club announce any events that are happening along with introducing the new IB Attitude and IB Profile for the month. We then honor those students who have received A "Principal Compliment Celebration" (PCC) call home and a drawing is held for door prizes. Ms. Streeter leads the students in our PLP cheer and gets the students enthused to show their school spirit. PUMAS rock!



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Teen Town

There are many new things taking place at Palmdale Discovery Center. We are excited to be implementing something new in our program called Teach Town. This curriculum addresses academic, cognitive and social/emotional challenges. It is composed of computer-based lessons and assesses students in different areas of skill as they progress through the lessons.

We have also started community-based instruction for our older students to prepare them and teach them skills to live

in the world today. This is a research-based practice, which also increases awareness in our community. You may see our upper grade classes at local restaurants, delivering mail and packages at the post office, and running other various errands. They have already done several field trips around town. We are excited to continue this effort.



Community based instruction at PDC

Palm Tree Elementary TK-5

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



Enter Code Read!

Reading is so important at Palm Tree that we connected with Code Read, and *every* student received two new books! Mackenzie Krestul, a high school senior, created this wonderful program that gives away brand-new books to students. Because of her love of reading, she was inspired to share this passion with as many children as possible. Palm Tree felt fortunate to participate, and our students were excited to receive their books, bags and bookmarks.

Our focus on reading has gained momentum, and now we are conducting reading programs through a chain pizza restaurant and a theme park. Additionally, we track progress and provide interventions for our emerging readers throughout the school day. Through our leadership team, we are continuing to brainstorm ways we can enhance schoolwide reading so that our entire campus benefits.

At Palm Tree, we understand that you need to read to succeed!



Quail Valley *Elementary TK–5*

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



Student Leaders Making a Difference

Last year, Quail Valley empowered Chameleons in 4th-6th grade to run for a chance to be their classroom Class Representative. It was a great opportunity for students to campaign for themselves and have a voice in what is happening at their school.

Alejandra Garcia, Kaylie Pedroza, Reagan Robb, Aaliyah Edwards, Jordan Brown, Lilliana De La Cruz, Laila Gonzalez, Sophia Herrera, Nadine Pedroza, Anna Jimenez and Savanna Gutierrez make up this year's Council and have already hit the ground running by organizing events for our recent Red Ribbon Week.

Our Student Leaders meet monthly to plan fun school events, give input to how to increase attendance, and learn a little about what it takes to run a school.

They are... QV!!!



SAGE Academy *6–8*

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



SAGE Learners

It has been a busy four months since the grand opening of SAGE Academy. In October, five lucky eighth-graders were invited to attend Salute to Youth: The Career Connection at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds. Students had the opportunity to interact with 58 different presenters in 15 career pathways: aerospace; agriculture; arts and entertainment; construction; business and marketing; education; energy and environment; engineering; fashion; health care; hospitality; manufacturing; technology; public services; and transportation. Students

interviewed exhibitors from local post-secondary education institutions and local employers. This was a great experience for our SAGE Eagles, who will be heading off to high school in the near future.

SAGE Eagles are also learning in our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Lab and Project Lead The Way (PLTW) classes. Sixth-graders, taught by Ms. Warren, are doing two-week modules in our STEM LAB on topics such as: alternative energy; audio communications; computer-aided drafting; computer graphics and animation; design and marketing; digital manufacturing; digital electricity and electronics; energy and power; and environment and ecology. The STEM Lab is a highly engaging learning environment for our students.

The seventh- and eighth-graders in our PLTW classes are taught by Mr. Trent and Mrs. Smith. Courses include design and modeling, energy and the environment, and the science of technology. We look forward to adding more PLTW courses next year.

Shadow Hills *Middle School 6–8*

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



Building Blocks of Conservation

In keeping with the "Hydro Dynamics" theme for the First Lego League competition, our Falconbots team, Super Geeks, needed a project that involved water. Eighth-graders Ashley Gonzalez, Stephanie Suadi, Nasim Lyew, and Nathan Maldonado had to find a real-world problem, develop an innovative solution, and share their research with others.

Led by their Robotics teacher, Mr. Merrill, the students found a local company called HydroPoint Data Systems that sold internet-based smart water management systems, and they invited them to be a part of their presentation to district officials. They conducted their first presentation in front of Mr. Raul Maldonado, Mrs. Nancy Smith, Mr. Dennis Trujillo, Dr. Frances Ufondu, Mr. Al Tsai, and Dr. Campbell.

The students are very excited to be continuing their research to find effective ways in which the district can conserve and manage water, which will result in substantial savings.



Summerwind *Elementary TK–5*

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



ASB Election

In perfect timing with the English Language Arts unit, "Government", Summerwind participated in the ASB elections. The field of candidates was large as many 4th and 5th grade students wanted to be part of the Associated Student Body board. Candidates gave video speeches that were shown in kindergarten to fifth grade classrooms. Posters began popping up on campus as well as campaign buttons, and giveaways such as glue sticks and chapstick. Voting was electronic as all 4th and 5th grade students voted for the candidates of their choice. Due

to ties in three offices, a runoff election was necessary. Summerwind ASB officers are: Grade level representatives, Christiana Centeno, Mariah Glenn, Ava Vivar, Olivia Olmedo, Lilyana Arnold, and Jaylene Hernandez. Other officers include Historian Donovan Villalta, Secretary Brentley Scott, Treasurer Evan Salcido, Vice President Brijaney Jimenez, and President Kyra Addy.



Tumbleweed Elementary TK-5

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



Enrichment Activities

We are excited to be leading the way with new enrichment programs for our students at Tumbleweed.

We started the "Coast 2 Coast" Soccer Stem program for our second- to fifth-grade students during their lunch recess time. During this period the students learn new soccer skills and techniques. We also have our Tumbleweed RISE Soccer and Basketball teams for students in grades three to five after school. Here our students can learn the importance of teamwork, as well as the proper techniques and skills to play the game.

We also have our RISE Art program for our kindergarten to second-grade students after school. This provides them with an opportunity to use the arts as a form of expression and to think critically.



We will soon start our LAITY Hip Hop Dance and Art programs for our third- to fifth-grade students, and our Ballet Dance program for our kindergarten to second-grade students after school. Go, Titans!

Yellen Learning Center K-8

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



Fly like an eagle!

We are earning our wings by learning so many new things at Yellen Learning Center! Students are learning math concepts and applying what they learn in collaborative-group projects.

Writing is an everyday activity. We are practicing cursive writing that also helps with our fine-motor skills. All grade levels are composing great sentences, paragraphs and essays and learning how to edit their compositions.

Behavior skills are a fundamental part of Yellen Learning Center. We have many opportunities to implement our training in positive-behavior support and effective praise strategies daily.

The adults are involved in learning, too. We have many opportunities for personal and professional growth in professional development offered by our district leadership.

We are looking forward to many special activities in the near future, like the annual art show and talent show.

Tamarisk Elementary TK-5

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



After-School Extended Learning

Tamarisk Elementary School teachers are providing extended learning to our students who need extra support and intervention. For example, Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. Anick provide their services to 59 Imagine Learning students after school twice a week. Mrs. Riley is diligently working to prepare students for the Cyberquest competition, and other teachers are serving students with after-school intervention based on their academic needs, which are determined by analyzing assessment data.

Several grade levels have diligently planned educational field trips for many of our students. Fifth-grade teachers took 95 students to the California Science Center. Kindergarten teachers took most of their students to Hillcrest Farms, and third grade will be taking students to the Discovery Cube. Other field trips are scheduled for different grade levels to various locations, including: the Los Angeles Zoo; University of California, Los Angeles; Riley's Farm, the Marine Science Floating Laboratory, and Outdoor Science School in Wrightwood.



We applaud the commitment and "heart" work the Tamarisk teachers and support staff demonstrate in organizing the various extended educational activities. These activities keep our students enthusiastic about school attendance and promote active participation in their learning.

Yucca Elementary TK-5

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



An Honored Employee

At Yucca Elementary, we are more than fortunate to have an amazing school secretary like Mrs. Martha Coleman.

This month, our staff and students celebrated her first year as our school secretary. Mrs. Coleman has a caring heart that welcomes all who come into the office. She is always doing that "extra" for our students, staff, and parents.

Terrie Dowling
Principal

Mrs Coleman is also a team player, and is very organized. She is always looking ahead and finding new ways to make the office at Yucca continue to run smoothly. She also works with the office team to continue to improve attendance by calling home and scheduling not only Best Behavior, but also perfect attendance assemblies, and calendars to remind everyone of the events that are coming in each month.



Martha also helps with scheduling events such as homework club, AAPAC, and parent classes. She truly brings us all together with her morale and willingness to go that extra mile. She always has a smile and a positive attitude with staff, students, and parents.

It's great to have a staff that purposely make positive impacts in the lives of those around them.

Early Childhood Education

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

Welcome Back!



**Donna
Lebetsamer**
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.



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Raul
Maldonado**

In the New Year 2018, I am happy to share that we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of our Planetarium. In addition, we are so excited to announce the grand opening of our new Center for Parent Partnership located next to the Oak Tree campus. This will be a great center for parents. Many classes will be offered including computer, cooking, ESL and parenting, just to name a few. We will be sending flyers with dates and times. Please come to celebrate with us!

This year, we launched Promethean Panels in most of our classrooms. These are the new chalk boards. When I started teaching, the chalk board was black. Now, the chalk board is an electronic board. I enjoy seeing the students interact with the new boards. Preparing our students for the 21st Century is so important. I am very proud that we are staying true to the Palmdale PROMISE and students are being prepared for their future.

In October, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week with many students pledging to "Say No to Drugs." Manzanita hosted a great Red Ribbon event with local dignitaries, including Captain Kneer with the Palmdale Sheriff's Department, Assemblyman Tom Lackey and my Cabinet members. Students and staff participated in weeklong activities that taught them how to say no to drugs. We can all make a difference by teaching and saying, "No to Drugs."

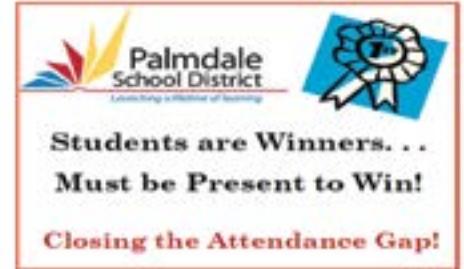
BOARD OF TRUSTEES • From Page 1

Finally, we have also joined hands with Edward James Olmos's Film Institute Youth Cinema Project. The project is a statewide project-based educational program to develop creativity. The project reinforces literacy through the art of filmmaking. Our students at Desert Willow Middle School are working with professional filmmakers to create films.

We hope you have a great Thanksgiving week. I would like to take the opportunity to thank each one of you for your immense contribution to building a better tomorrow for all of 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**



Have a Safe and Happy Holidays!

Richard's Book Review

Funny Book with a Message

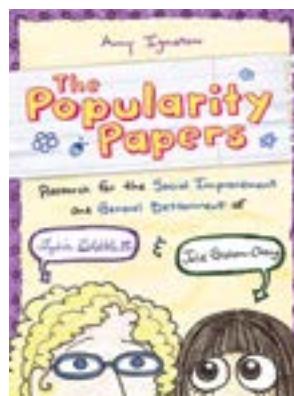


Richard J.

The Popularity Papers is a book by Amy Ignatow. It's written like a diary by two middle school girl authors Lydia and Julie writing about their "observations" and very funny results on their attempts to be popular. They go through many things to be popular, trying and failing in a funny way at hair bleaching, joining the popular sports

teams, and even pretending to like boys, which really backfires, and many other things, too. The results are funny, unpredictable, but don't make them popular. They learned in the end that it's important to be yourself and be liked by your friends, not the people who everyone says are cool and popular. This is a really funny book written and drawn in a way I would have done with markers, pens and pencils, and the story is relatable in the way that they work so hard to be liked and noticed. I give this book a 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.



Christina's Book Review

A Dangerous Secret



Christina J.

Belly Up is a book by Stuart Gibbs. It is the story of a boy named Theodore Fitzroy solving what happened to the popular zoo mascot Henry the hippopotamus. One sad day Henry died at the zoo. Everyone seems convinced that it was just a natural cause, but Theodore feels that something shady is going on.

While investigating, Theodore found out somehow the only person willing to help and interested to find out the truth is Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of the FunJungle zoo. Unfortunately, after the hippo there are a few other deaths of animals – the jaguar, panther and a python. What the teenagers end up discovering is a very dangerous secret, which you will need to read about to find out. I like that this book was a light hearted mystery with interesting writing and a unique plot. I give this book 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).

Road Trip 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 January 15, 2018
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

MAPS

BLANKET

GPS

PILLOW

MOTEL

HUMOR

HOTEL

CAMERA

CAR

GAMES

BOOTS

SNACKS

SUNGASSES

WATER

SUNSCREEN

CLOTHING

CELL PHONE

RADIO

MONEY

FLASHLIGHT

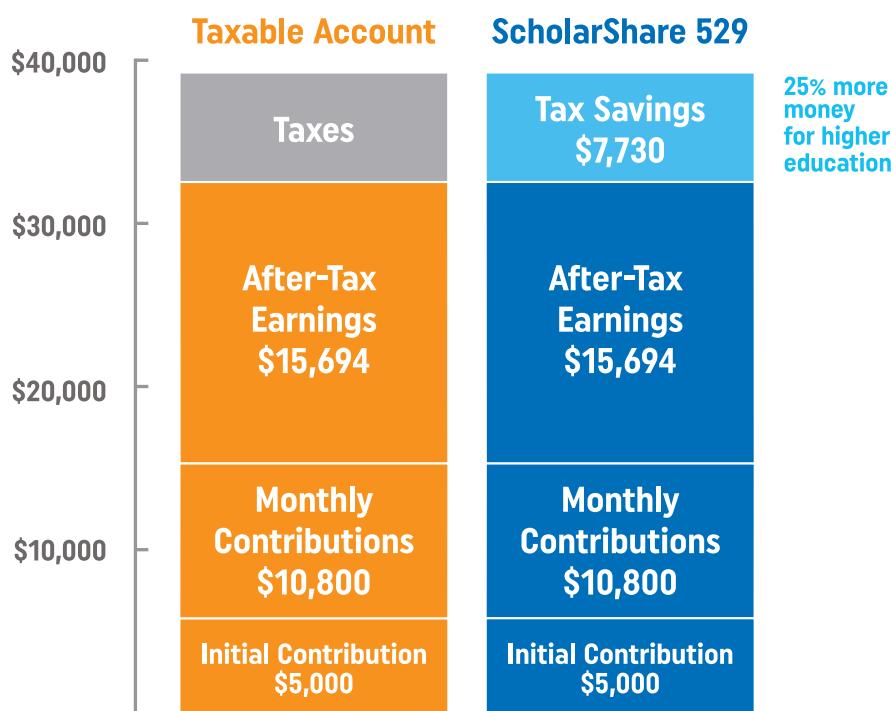
CREDIT CARD

SPARE TIRE



**Congratulations to Blanca Chavira
Winner of the September Word Search Contest!**

Sure,
piggy banks are nice.
But do they give you
**100% TAX-FREE
GROWTH?**



Have up to 25% more money for higher education.

Take it from your pint-sized financial guru, James, maximizing your college savings is elementary with a ScholarShare 529 Plan. Open your account at **ScholarShare529.com** and start saving today.

ScholarShare529SM
800.544.5248 | ScholarShare529.com

This hypothetical example assumes a \$5,000 initial deposit, \$50 per month subsequent deposit for 18 years and 7% annual ROI. Tax calculations assume the maximum federal tax capital gains tax rate of 20% and the maximum CA marginal tax rate of 13%. This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect past performance or guarantee future performance of the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan or investment portfolios offered through the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan. These illustrative results also do not reflect any reduction for expenses. At the end of the accumulation period, the taxable account would be worth \$31,494. The ScholarShare 529 account would be worth 25% more than that amount, or \$39,224.

TIAA To learn more about the California 529 College Savings Plan, its investment objectives, tax benefits, risks, and costs, please see the Disclosure Booklet at ScholarShare529.com. Read it carefully. Check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds or protection from creditors for investing in its own 529 plan. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. Non qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the California 529 College Savings Plan. 277543