



Raul Maldonado

A new school year is upon us and we have excellent news to report.

We have established the following five major goals for the 2018-2019 school year.

1. Improve our students' engagement and achievement.
2. Produce globally competitive students.
3. Help administrators, principals and teachers improve the overall quality of our instructional programs.
4. Ensure a safe environment for all of our students.
5. Ensure that all families inside our district feel involved.

As always, our focus is providing our students with all the advantages possible. The Facilities Master Plan (FMP) is a large part of this goal. The FMP involves fixing specific areas of schools throughout our school district.

These areas include:

- Technology
- Paving
- Windows
- Indoor air quality
- School fields
- Storage
- Outdoor seating
- Lighting
- Temperature control
- Electrical outlets
- Walkways
- Parking spaces
- Floors
- Doors
- Ceilings

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 2

The Palmdale PROMISE



Palmdale promises engaged students!

Students and community members participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for PSD's newly renovated planetarium.

By *Danny Kanga, Director Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)*

The Palmdale School District is relaunching the Palmdale PROMISE.

After 4 years of impressive work, the implementation team will highlight and celebrate the actions and services that have been completed, and will explore the other projects that remain. One of the guiding principles for the implementation team is "sustainability." The team understands that developing programs in order to merely check off a list is no way to build effective systems. A key component in all undertaken projects will be making sure that resources are available, now and in the future,

and that the allocation of resources does not detract from other established programs. Some of the needed programs that were on the original list included full-day kindergarten, expanding technology, and a 7-period day for middle school. These have been implemented and should be celebrated! From these three actions alone, our students have been experiencing more time learning and increased engagement. An example of an action that is still in the works is building our multilingual options: Though our dual immersion programs are robust and growing, the team is still exploring the best way to incorporate multi-lingualism at our schools.

See **PALMDALE PROMISE** • Page 10

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By *Nancy Smith, President Board of Trustees*

We have exciting news regarding our school district as summer comes to a close.

The Facilities Master Plan is in full swing, with the following examples representing only a small fraction of progress made so far:

Desert Rose Elementary School: An innovative time and cost saving option that serves as a wall play surface for students and meets storage needs for PE teachers was installed in the schoolyard. A new kindergarten playground and new turf area were also constructed to provide a safe, comfortable recreation space for students to enjoy.

Joshua Hills Elementary School: Metal ramps in existing modular classroom buildings were removed and replaced with concrete ramps. Additional new concrete flatwork and new AC pavement were completed.

See **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** • Page 11

Board of Trustees



Nancy Smith
President



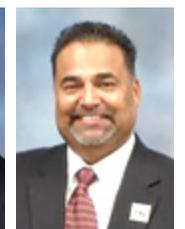
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Counselors Corner

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



Dr. Stacy Bryant
Deputy
Superintendent

Caught Up in WEB!

In an effort to nurture a climate of connectedness and acceptance in the middle schools, sixth-grade students were welcomed during summer orientation by a program called “Where Everybody Belongs,” or WEB. 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. The PSD School Counseling Team collaborated with stakeholders at each middle school to ensure

that incoming sixth-graders would begin their middle school experience on a positive note.

Before the start of the school year, our WEB Leaders—eighth-grade students who applied for the leadership position—completed a two-day training that prepared them to lead the sixth-grade summer orientation. Throughout the year, WEB Leaders will continue to mentor their assigned students by supporting their academic success and connecting with them outside the classroom during lunch and social events to increase student engagement and promote positive school culture.

Orientations were a success! We would like to give special thanks to the WEB coordinators, volunteer teachers and our middle school principals. To the WEB Leaders, we are so proud of you—and to our sixth-grade students, welcome to middle school!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year. By now students are settled into their routine and focused on academic goals.

This is our 6th year publishing the excellence from the Palmdale School District. Thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* school news among your reading choices.

Our next issue is December 5.



School News

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Donna Lebitsamer
Director

Early Childhood Education

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

Enrolling Now

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education is actively enrolling for the 2018/19 school year. We offer both half and full day programs for three and four year olds. We have thirteen different locations. Two of our locations are in Lancaster and eleven sites are located in Palmdale. (661) 273-4710

ECE is focused on enriching quality interactions to support classroom instruction and learning for all. Our Early Childhood Education Program promotes and creates an inclusive, competitive, safe, nurturing environment to support cultural awareness in which families, children and staff thrive. Furthermore, ECE strives to engage and empower diverse families and communities in authentic learning and collaboration through comprehensive services to support the wellbeing and education of each child.



Lancaster Locations

Tierra Bonita and Ave J (First Christian)

Palmdale Locations

Chaparral – Ocotillo – Palmtree – Tamarisk – Wilsona – Yucca
District Office - Highland-Mesquite –Manzanita - Site 18 and Tumbleweed

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Raul Maldonado

The following schools have already seen improvements completed.

Yucca Elementary School: Metal ramps in existing modular classroom buildings were removed and replaced with concrete ramps. Additional new concrete flatwork and minor new AC pavement connections were also completed.

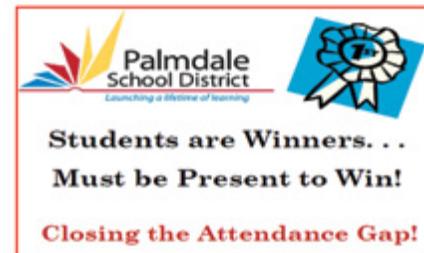
Tumbleweed Elementary School: Removal of four Ash trees for fall risk mitigation.

Summerwind Elementary School: Fence installation was completed with minor landscape adjustments and additional flatwork construction to provide a safe pathway for students and to mitigate ponding issues.

We're excited to move into the new year as we continue to provide our students, staff and administrators with everything they need to benefit from outstanding school environments, as well as globally competitive educational programs.

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



Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Ready to Learn!

The new school year has begun, and Barrel Springs' staff is excited to work with our students and families to provide a rewarding educational experience for our students. Our students' education is one of our number-one priorities, and it is important that they arrive to school every day, on time and ready to learn!

In order for us to do our very best for our students, they must be in school to learn! Nothing replaces great first-time teaching, and we know that if you miss school, you miss out.

We encourage our parents to continue to do whatever it takes to ensure that their students are present each day. Being in school every day and having parent support is key to ensuring student success, and providing opportunities at home for students to practice reading, math and behavior/social appropriateness makes all the difference in the world. Student success depends on everyone working together for the good of our students. We appreciate working as partners with our parents to ensure that our students continue to grow and achieve.

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

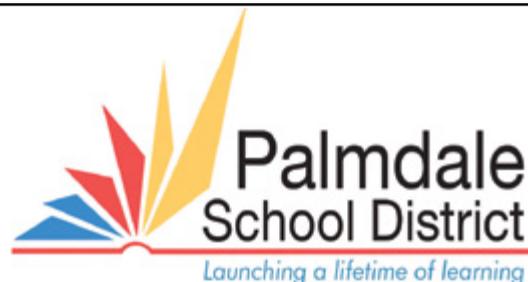
Making BV Safe

The safety of our students, staff, parents, and visitors is a huge priority for the Buena Vista Elementary School learning community. The concern that our school is not safe enough has been expressed by many, and everyone wanted something done to make our school safer and more secure.

I am pleased to officially announce that we started the 2018-2019 school year with a brand-new door that was constructed over the summer break in response to the safety concerns expressed by our parents, staff, and visitors. The construction of the secured entrance door was made possible by the diligence of our Board of Trustees and our superintendent's dedication to the Palmdale School District facilities project.



Our parents and staff are very appreciative of the school district's response to their concerns. When parents feel that their community school is safe, they can confidently bring their children to school.



Only online applications will be accepted at www.palmdalesd.org
To view all current job opportunities, click on
"Departments/Personnel Commission" then **"Employment"**

- ▶ Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant (Spanish)
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ Occupational Therapist
- ▶ Paraeducator-Certified Interpreter I/II (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ Substitute Health Assistant-LVN
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator-LVN
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator Moderate to Severe
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator Translator (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator-Certified Interpreter (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Special Education Instructional Assistant

Click on the link to **"Apply."**

To be notified of future job opportunities, submit a "Job Interest Card" located under the pull down menu

The Personnel Commission is located at
37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 **661-285-2902**



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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

Everybody Belongs!

Cactus Magnet School kicked off the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year with almost 200 sixth-graders attending our WEB orientation on August 8th. WEB, which stands for Where Everybody Belongs, is a middle school orientation program that welcomes our sixth- and seventh-graders and helps them to make a successful transition.

The program utilizes our eighth-grade student leaders who serve as peer mentors to our new students. These mentors help to facilitate activities with small groups both at the beginning of the year and throughout. Our 31 mentors received 10 hours of training to help lead activities that promote inclusion, the building of relationships, and maintaining a positive school climate.

The goal of the WEB program is to increase student safety, student engagement, and student achievement with individual connections that are fostered throughout the entire year. This school year our Cactus WEB Leaders will continue to support their students through classroom visits, social events, student mentoring, and welcoming new students. We are all working together to create a campus Where Everybody Belongs!

Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Welcome, Chaparral Bobcats!

Chaparral is excited to introduce three new teachers to our amazing staff!

Jeanette Delgado is a fifth-grade teacher. She has always had a passion to help, and what better way than to teach! Chaparral is particularly near and dear to her, as she too attended our school as a child. She is a true Bobcat!

Barry Givens is our physical education teacher for grades TK-5. Mr. Givens' passion for teaching PE is for his students to learn to grow and enjoy being physically active. He also wants to promote a healthy lifestyle for their futures, and hopes to get them excited about participating in various sports as well.

Rosalia Contreras is a third-grade teacher. She began working with children with developmental disabilities as a behavioral instructor. Afterwards, she was Chaparral's program community liaison.

Our new teachers have expressed that they truly enjoy working with our Chaparral community, and we have enjoyed having them on our team!



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Focused on Kindness

Cimarron School is focusing on kindness. You will see kindness posters all over school. Everyday our students are given a Kindness Challenge such as, "say hi to a new student," or "hold the door for someone." We will be taking part in the National Kindness Challenge again this year and we will join the California Department of Education for the fifth annual Character Day event on September 26.

This year Cimarron is really excited to be going through Capturing Kids' Hearts training. This goes right along with our focus on kindness. We hope that when you visit Cimarron you will be pleased to be treated with respect, kindness and friendliness.



Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

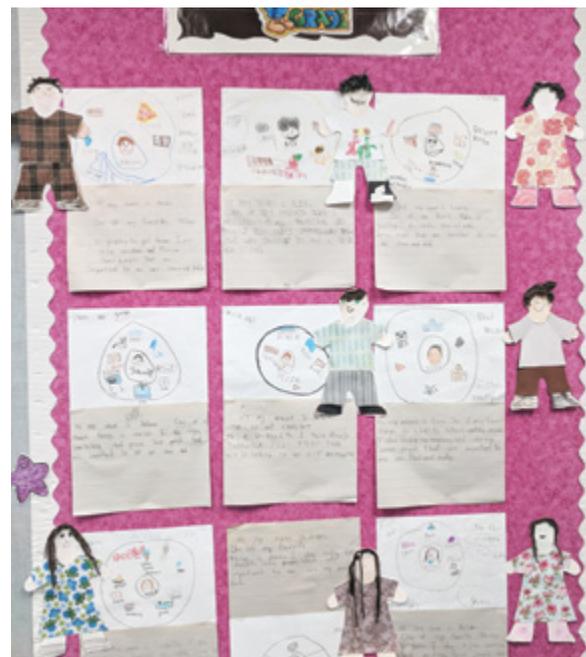
Getting a Head Start

Before the school year officially began, our Desert Rose teachers were already back in class! They were learning better ways to provide quality, challenging, and focused instruction for our English Learners. This training, called Path to Proficiency, provides adaptations and extensions in the use of Thinking Maps, a training that our teachers had in the past.

You may have seen your students bringing home different types of Thinking Maps. These are visual tools that they can

use to organize their thoughts when required to comprehend and respond to information. This is especially important for our English learners who are working on reaching their goal of becoming proficient in the English language.

Take a walk through our classrooms and you will see evidence of this training in action. Every grade from K-8 is implementing these strategies. Teachers and students alike are excited to be using them throughout the coming year!



Desert Willow *Middle School 6-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Cultivating Our Talents

Desert Willow Middle School is gearing up for an exciting year. We are fostering cognitive growth and cultivating the talents of our scholars!

Teachers are charged up and ready to challenge students and have created exciting lessons to keep them engaged in their core classes. Our dynamic science teachers are educating their students about global warming and other factors that lead to devastating wildfires that affect California every year. They will also be working outside of the classroom on projects to help restore the environment.



Last year, our film literacy class, taught by Mr. Wicks, produced three short films that were premiered at the SAGE Planetarium. This year he is raising the bar by participating in the Latino Film Festival.

Desert Willow has a program, class, or club for every interest. Our Associated Student Body is off to a great start by hosting fun lunchtime activities and games. Stay tuned for the launch of our YouTube channel and Diamondback Studios!

Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Flexible Learning Environments

Joshua Hills has the honor of being the first elementary school in the district to have flexible learning environments. We had four classrooms renovated this summer. Two Kindergarten teachers and one first grade teacher are enjoying their new digs. Initially, there was some trepidation about working and learning in such a space. However, three weeks into the year, the teachers and students are appreciating the vibrant colors, whiteboard walls, flexible seating options, and the tables on wheels that allow for multiple configurations for collaboration. We can't wait for the next round of improvements to our school!



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Keys to Exploration

On a recent cabinet visit, Superintendent Maldonado surprised Dos Caminos with the keys to a brand-new 15-passenger van! Our K-7 students now have access to a variety of experiences beyond the gates of Dos Caminos. Students will have the opportunity to travel to other schools and educational excursions to collaborate and explore the world that awaits them beyond the classroom.

These types of ventures prepare our students to increase knowledge, build relationships, and gain life skills that are necessary for 21st century learning. The Dos Caminos van represents the vision and mission of the school board and Superintendent Maldonado by preparing our students to be college and career ready. Dos Caminos Explorers are ready to hit the road!

“Oh the places you’ll go!” ~ Dr. Seuss



Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

Attendance Matters!

The Golden Poppy Grizzlies kicked off our attendance improvement campaign with “Super Attendance Spirit Week,” which was the week of August 27! This year, we are really focusing on improving attendance to ensure that our students will make great academic strides.

Our staff and students recently enjoyed five days of dressing like superheroes, having crazy hair, wearing their best disguises, sporting their superhero capes, and displaying their tacky socks with pride. This was a great opportunity to build our school culture and school spirit as we begin a new and exciting school year!

Research shows that positive engagement helps to create a culture of attendance. Our parents are on board, and they have been diligent about getting their children to school each day and on time. We want to thank all of them for partnering with us in their child's education! We ended the 2017-2018 school year at 94.93 percent, a .20 percent increase from 94.73 percent in the 2016-2017 school year! We aim to do even better this year.

Remember, if you miss school, you miss out!

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

Welcome! ¡Bienvenido!

Los Amigos Dual Immersion School is happy to welcome Mr. Dan King. His transition from night custodian to day custodian has been seamless. He is a hardworking, proactive, and dedicated employee that understands the important role he plays in our students and staffs' lives, every day. All stakeholders immediately noticed the difference he had made soon after he arrived on our campus. He has cleaned and organized every part of our site, communicates effectively with staff, and is vigilant about safety. We are thrilled to have him onboard. Welcome to the

Los Amigos family, where Dragons are #1!



Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

New and Beautiful Mesquite

Our students, parents, staff, and community members are very excited and thankful for our colorful exterior, new playground, renovated cafeteria, and outside water fountains. Mesquite looks amazing!

This school year, we plan on implementing a lot of new and engaging learning activities for our students. We are excited to have 1:1 Chromebooks for each student in grades two to five, expanded iPad banks in the kindergarten and first grade, our coding robots have arrived, and we've made new purchases to

jazz up our visual and performing arts program.

We are also thrilled to offer the children engaging learning opportunities both during the school day and after. We have committed to expanding our after-school intervention and enrichment programs to better support and engage our students. Math and language arts will be at the core of our intervention programs. For enrichment, we plan to offer song flutes, ukulele,

hand bells, choir, drums, folklorico dance, coding, robotics, chess, painting, and crochet.

With all of the fantastic upgrades to our facilities, and array of engaging learning opportunities, we are thrilled about the experiences that Mesquite will offer our students!



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Dual Immersion Plaza

At Manzanita Elementary, we have great things happening. We are very excited to open the new Dual Immersion Plaza, which we share with the Dual Immersion Early Childhood Education Program. All students in the Dual Immersion Program master academic subjects in both English and Spanish. The program is based on a 50-50 Language Immersion Model with both native English speakers and non-native speakers so that students can support one another in their development of both languages.

At Manzanita Elementary School, we now have second-grade students entering their third year with our Dual Immersion Program. Each year, the program will add a grade level with dual immersion.

One of our teachers, Maria Farias, is very excited to move into this new building to teach the Spanish curriculum to our kindergarten dual-immersion students. Mrs. Farias enjoys teaching her students in her safe learning environment with culturally relevant material that builds on students' background knowledge. Mrs. Farias is a dedicated teacher who not only teaches dual-immersion students but also actively participates in the District's Dual Language Oversight Committee to help unify all dual-immersion schools in the Palmdale School District. Mrs. Farias believes that it takes commitment, hard work and dedication to help each student reach their highest learning potential.

Mrs. Farias works with her team partner and collaborates with her colleagues, as it is important to have a positive collaboration with school staff to succeed in the Dual Immersion Program. She works with her aide, Mrs. Favela, and enjoys collaborating and planning instruction in English and Spanish.

Having the new Manzanita Dual Immersion Building will create a more positive community with staff, students and families.

David G. Millen *Middle School 6-8*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

2018 Kicks Off DGM Style!

Millen staff kicks off the year with an equity themed teambuilding activity prior to the first day of school. Beginning of the year activities at Millen have included a WEB orientation for over 300 incoming sixth grade students, Forensics week, Volleyball tryouts, Cheer team tryouts, and a Club Fair to highlight the 20 plus after school clubs and activities that take place throughout the school year. With all of this taking place before the month of September, the Trailblazers are headed into a busy, but amazing year!



Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Welcome, Mr. Turnquist!

I am Todd Turnquist, the new second/third-grade teacher at Oak Tree. I am looking forward to working with a very fine staff and wonderful students on this campus.

After earning my teaching degree from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, I started my teaching career in the fall of 1990 at Amargosa Creek Middle School. I taught there for a year and then joined the staff at Manzanita Elementary School, where I taught for nine years. From Manzanita, I joined the staff at Wildflower Elementary for an additional nine years. I came full circle and returned to Manzanita for an additional five years.

During the last two years, I had the opportunity to be a learning support teacher at Golden Poppy, helping staff and students with reading support. I am happy to be at Oak Tree, as this was former home to Wildflower Elementary and happy memories.

I am married to Adriana, who works at the district's Welcome Center. Together, we have three amazing children and three wonderful grandchildren. I enjoy traveling when I can and have been to 36 states and two countries. Among my favorites have been Alaska and Hawaii. I also enjoy trips back to Minnesota to visit family! Since my early teens, I have done carpentry work as a hobby, building five houses and numerous remodeling projects with my dad. I am a huge sports fan and enjoy following the Vikings and Twins!

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Three New Faces

The Ocotillo family is pleased to welcome three new members.

Our new assistant principal, Dr. Keith Oliver, has been with the Palmdale School District for six years. Dr. Oliver received his doctorate in 2016 while serving as an administrator at Shadow Hills. This year will mark his 18th year in education.

Our new resource teacher, Alia Latorre, has spent over three years helping students in special education, all with the Palmdale School District. At Ocotillo, she will focus on teaching math and language arts to students in TK through fourth grade.

Kim Willis has worked as a psychologist for 17 years. Prior to that, she spent over 13 years as a special-education teacher. Mrs. Willis has a master's in both psychology and special education. Currently, she is working on her doctorate.

These individuals and their dedication to putting students first make them positive additions to the Ocotillo family.



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

A Fabulous Year!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year from Palmdale Discovery Center! I want to welcome back our amazing students, our wonderful supportive parents, and our devoted staff members.

We are thrilled to be moving into our new campus. The students transitioned into the new school year and new school site with ease. We are also excited to be working closely with our new neighbors at Dos Caminos, and expect to build great relationships with them.

We are off to a strong start in implementing our Capturing Kids' Hearts program. Our teachers are working to get their social contracts developed in their classrooms. The staff has already created our social contract, and we have several CKH activities planned for this school year.

We continue to set high goals for our students. Our main focus this year is in the area of total communication across environments. We want our students to continue to progress in this area, and have several programs in place to help accomplish this goal. We are also excited to see good growth in the area of social skills!

We expect to see a lot of extra growth in this area with the use of our web-based social skills program. This is going to be a fabulous 2018-2019 school year at PDC!

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Michael McNelis
Principal

Our Growing Garden!

Tucked away on the PLP campus is a lush miniature garden which serves more than just salad! This interactive, International Baccalaureate garden allows students to experience and explore the natural world. Our first- and second-grade classrooms are the regular caretakers, but the other grades have also been involved.

Three years ago, a PLP student won a garden design competition resulting in a raised bed garden. Originally it was a flower garden, but it now produces fruits and vegetables. The garden also delivers a chance to observe insects, birds, and butterflies. A dragonfly sighting recently led to a discussion about where they come from, what they eat, and why were they there?

This garden is just one way in which our students are exposed to the IB philosophy of expanding student horizons, exploring the immediate world, and becoming good inquirers. The students grow seedlings, the teachers bring cuttings, and our other visitors donate plants. Everyone at PLP loves to watch the garden grow!



Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

PBIS in Our OASIS!

Our school vision is this: Palm Tree: An OASIS of Education! In our effort to become this educational oasis, we are implementing PBIS this year. We have updated our behavior expectations to match the OASIS acronym: Optimistic, Accountable, Safe, Inclusive and Self-Controlled. In all areas of our school, we know the expected behaviors because our behavior matrix posters remind us. Our students went through the first cycle in which they received instruction on the expected behaviors around the school. It was a great success!

In September, Palm Tree will have its PBIS Kickoff Day to let everyone know that we are a fully committed PBIS school. Coupled with Capturing Kids Hearts, PBIS is allowing us to create an environment that is safe and inviting for everyone. Because of this positive environment, learning at high levels becomes the norm.



Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

One Child at a Time

As Quail Valley enters its second year as a Capturing Kids Hearts school and kicks off its 21st year in the district, we have made a commitment to honor our schoolwide social contract.

The third week of school found students sharing words about how they want to be treated and how they will treat others in our Chameleon Café, in PE and out at recess. For two days, administration wrote down suggestions from all grade levels on the contract that is hung in the Café. Once that process was completed, we took another two days to collect signatures from all 592 students.

Every week, two words are highlighted on the contract in the morning announcements and on the contract itself so that students can be reminded of what expectations are.



SAGE Academy *6-8*

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



Dr. Helen Rodriguez
Interim Principal

A Successful Launch

Before soaring into the 2018-2019 school year, teachers attended conferences and administration prepared the Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration (SAGE) Academy teacher's handbook, completed the master schedule, and ensured that rooms were prepared for teachers and students.

As a result of the conferences, teachers were energized to add Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR) to the SAGE program by implementing these Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies school-wide and creating a plan that allowed our Eagles to build relationships with peers and adults.

In addition, our Associated Student Body (ASB) and Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) students were given opportunities to apply their leadership skills. The two-day teacher team-building event and student orientations

prepared a positive mind set for the school year and a purpose for staff/students to lead from the middle.

With assistance from the central office, SAGE was emotionally and structurally ready to launch the first day of school. This is the beginning of extraordinary things yet to come at SAGE!



Shadow Hills *Middle School 6-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Where Everyone Belongs

The sixth-grade orientation got off to a fantastic start! Our eighth-grade WEB leaders were eager and enthusiastic to begin the school year after taking two days from their summer vacation to learn strategies to help bond with our incoming sixth-grade groups.

This two-day orientation session focused on getting the students to achieve a variety of goals with each other, both as a large group and in small groups. Some group games played at orientation included “That’s Me!” to show the students how they are alike, and “Balloon Pop Relay” to help them work together as a team.

The students were then separated into their pre-arranged groups to play “teaching” games with their WEB leaders. They also received 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 TK-5*

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



Dr. Linda Brandts
Principal

Learning Spaces

The Palmdale School District’s Master Facilities Plan includes future learning spaces that will be constructed next summer 2019. This year

at Summerwind, our first grade team is preparing students for these future learning spaces with flexible seating. Flexible seating allows students options on where to sit such as standing, sitting on a yoga ball, bean bags, pillows, stools, in laundry baskets and tubs, and sitting in scoop chairs. With advocates saying flexible seating options can help boost academic achievement, promote good behavior, and improve health, Summerwind first grade teachers want to provide an optimal learning environment for their students. They want their students to feel relaxed and enjoy the act of learning.



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Tamarisk *Elementary TK-5*

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

Positive School Culture

The Tamarisk Tigers are starting off the year by building a positive school culture. This summer, the entire Tamarisk staff spent a day of team building and we had a great time getting to know each other and creating a strong foundation for us to continue to working capturing hearts of the staff and students. Our staff is dedicated to our students and we understand the

diverse needs of our school community. As we move forward this year, we will stay focused and provide students with the supports needed to be successful, long life learners! Keeping our students motivated to achieve beyond our expectations is part of our goal and we hope to inspire our students to persevere, never give up, and always rely on the “Eye of the Tiger.”



Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Meeting the Diverse Needs of Students

The Tumbleweed family is so excited to begin the 2018–2019 school year. We are in the second full implementation year of our School Improvement Grant (SIG), and with this comes wonderful opportunities each day for our staff to collaborate and focus on fulfilling “The Palmdale Promise.”

We have an extremely talented and skilled behavior support team to help us meet the diverse needs of all our students. We have a social emotional learning specialist, Mrs. Robinson-Woods; two behavior interventionists, Ms. Shreves and Ms. Jones; and a school psychologist, Ms. Willis. This team provides small-group sessions such as anger management, social skills, restorative justice circles, and coping strategies to any of our students that need support in those areas. They also provide one-on-one support or counseling to any students or staff members that might need it as well.

Team Tumbleweed rocks!



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Claudette Ward-Konovalov
Principal

Reinforcing Positive Behavior

The staff at Yellen Learning Center has received training and is implementing the Boys Town Specialized Classroom Management System. This positive approach teaches students to replace inappropriate behaviors with appropriate ones, stressing positive relationships and interactions. Students learn how to manage their own behaviors through recording positive behaviors as points earned. Students use points to purchase items and activities offered by the school community. They also use points to advance on the level system.

Social skills are taught and practiced at neutral times. When a student uses a skill appropriately, he receives praise and a reason to use the skill again. When a student does not use a specific skill, the inappropriate behavior is identified, negative points are earned, the appropriate behavior is re-taught, and the student is given an opportunity to earn half of their negative points back by practicing the skill appropriately. Points are awarded to show that the student learned and practiced the skill.

Boys Town addresses positive social skills in a supportive, step-by-step manner. Its focus is on the individual student and allows for self-pacing based on needs. We are excited about this research-based program and expect remarkable results as we fully implement this at Yellen.

Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

School-Supply Donations

As the school bell rings on the first day of school and students show up with new shoes, haircuts and clothes, it is important to consider our families that work hard to ensure that their students have all the necessary supplies to start a great school year. Through the generous donations of those within the community, Yucca has been able to provide free backpacks and school supplies to many of our students.

The staff at Yucca cannot put into words the smiles, excitement and gratitude our students expressed when receiving their backpacks and supplies. However small the gesture may seem, it reminds us all that one act of kindness and generosity goes a long way as we strive to capture the hearts of our young scholars. In truth, they capture our hearts, too!



THE PALMDALE PROMISE • From Page 1

The Palmdale PROMISE is guided by the vision that “Palmdale will become a district where...Every Student Leaves Ready for Success in High School and Beyond: College, Career, the Global World.”

To meet this vision, 5 goals were established with each goal containing a multitude of actionable programs and services. These 5 goals are:

1. Dramatically improve student engagement and achievement through access to powerful learning opportunities.
2. Create and sustain globally-competitive learning environments of high intellectual performance across the curriculum and in all areas needed for 21st century success for students, including the opportunity for development of high levels of multilingual and STEAM competencies.
3. Provide strategic direction and support to district administrators, principals, teachers, and sites focused on improving the quality of classroom instruction and interaction in every classroom in every school.
4. Create and support safe, affirming, equitable, and enriched globally-competitive school environments for participatory, restorative, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically responsive learning and interaction for students.
5. Engage diverse families and communities in powerful learning and collaboration.

These goals are driven by our values and beliefs: high intellectual performance, equity for all students, building upon the strengths of students, multilingualism and multiculturalism, integrity and community.

These values and beliefs play out in countless ways throughout our district and are evidenced by the great work done every day in our classrooms, schools, and community.

School Wellness

By Alecia Woods, Director
Child Nutrition, Health and Physical Well-Being

Healthier students tend to be stronger learners. Student health is related to grades, school attendance, and graduation rates. However, one in three children is overweight or obese (Alliance for Healthier Generation, n.d.). In addition to the connection to poorer education outcomes, childhood obesity is also linked to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other health issues in adulthood.

Given the long-term educational and health consequences of unhealthy behaviors, childhood is a critical time to intervene and establish healthy habits that will have lasting benefits. Schools are an important setting, and can partner in our efforts to promote health, well-being, and safety. The majority of our school-aged children in the U.S. attend school and spend a great deal of time in that setting.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a “Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child” (WSCC) model to depict how a collaborative and aligned approach between education and health can improve our students’ education and physical, social, and cognitive development (CDC, n.d.). The WSCC model emphasizes both the psycho-social and physical environment. Additionally, it promotes community, family, and student engagement.

Understanding the link between health and academics, and the important role that schools play in helping students not only learn but also stay healthy, our school districts across the country are adopting policies and regulations to improve health and wellness. One way to support district-wide wellness policies is through Local School Wellness Councils (LSWCs) that work at the school building/campus level.

LSWCs are small groups comprised of faculty, parents, students, and administrators focused on implementing programs, policies, and practices to improve physical activity, nutrition, and health of students. LSWCs are important vehicles to ensure that district-wide health and wellness efforts will address the identified needs and concerns of the school.

Each school setting serves different populations, has different needs and resources, and requires an individualized action plan to address its school’s health priorities. LSWCs can implement school district health and wellness policies to fit a school’s context and needs. Research also indicates that schools with LSWCs are more likely to implement wellness policies passed by school systems (Hager et al., 2016), and are thus an important link to putting policy into practice.

If you are interested in joining the Local School Wellness Council for the Palmdale School District, please contact Child Nutrition at 661-789-6565. Or, email us at childnutrition@palmdalesd.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES • From Page 1

Enhancements to the school’s playground, including the replacement of damaged equipment, were also completed.

Chaparral Elementary School: Improvements and enhancements to the elementary school’s playground were completed, including a ramp for ADA access to swings and repairs to the playground surface.

Mesquite Elementary School: Metal ramps were removed from existing modular classroom buildings and replaced with concrete ramps. In addition, improvements were made to the school’s playground, including the removal of rubberized surface cutouts to create footings for new equipment and the proper installation of a Burke Loop Climber.

Los Amigos Dual Immersion School: Improvements to the elementary school’s playground surface were completed, including the installation of a new slide deck and button caps.

In addition, we’re excited with the fact that the following eight schools are now freshly painted:

- Cimmaron
- Desert Rose
- Ocotillo
- Oak Tree
- Palm Tree
- Summerwind
- Joshua Hills
- Mesquite

The Facilities Master Plan isn’t only about improvements to our individual school properties. The high-level perspective involves providing our students with a range of important long-term advantages:

- High-level academic preparation
- College and career readiness
- Technological fluency
- Strength of body, mind and character
- Social, civic and environmental responsibility

As we move into an exciting new school year, we look forward to helping our students remain engaged in their studies so they can successfully compete globally. We’re also focused on ensuring that our teachers and administrators have the tools necessary to continually improve the overall effectiveness of our instructional programs.

Contest!

This cat is somewhere in this publication.
When you find it, email the **page number** to:

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



Your entry must be received by November 15, 2018.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages.

Non-Stop Action



Christina J.

Alex Rider: Skeleton Key

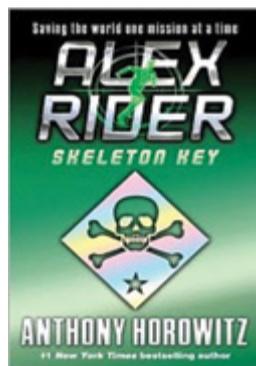
By Anthony Horowitz

The Alex Rider series is always jam-packed with extreme action and intense situations that make it hard to put the book away until the very end. Reading this book series is like watching an action movie, and Skeleton Key is no exception.

Alex Rider is a 14-year old orphan and a young spy for an organization known as M16, on a mission to save the world. There are many plots in this book, like Chinese gangs drugging athletes for their purposes. The ending is very dramatic and leaves you feeling sorry for the characters.

I liked this book because it has non-stop action and the hero is a young boy, who is an unwilling participant that did what he had to do to save the world. All the characters are interesting. I give this book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and 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).



Perservance



Richard J.

The Wednesday Wars

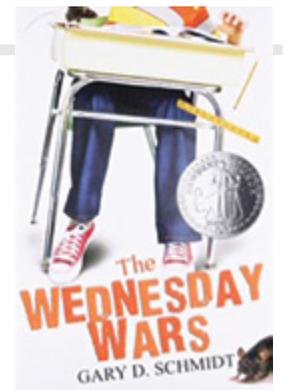
By Gary D. Schmidt

This book is about the boy named Holling Hoodhood in 1976. Throughout the year Holling deals with many difficult situations. He is the only kid in his middle school who isn't Jewish or Catholic, which means that during Religious Studies he has to stay in

English Class, do classroom chores and study Shakespeare. It is 1976 and everybody is struggling with the fear of the Vietnam War. Holling had a rough year, which happens to all of us, but in the end he got through and won the respect of his teacher, family, and classmates.

I like that the story is set in a different time period. It's interesting to read about how people lived back then. The story is about perseverance and growing up under difficult circumstances. It's funny, but serious. I give it 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.



Football 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, 2018

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Clipping | Kicker | Scrimmage |
| Coach | Linebacker | Special Teams |
| Conversion | Loss of Down | Super Bowl |
| Cornerback | Offsides | Tackle |
| Defense | Personal Foul | Tailback |
| Field Goal | Possession | Touchdown |
| Flanker | Quarterback | Yardage |
| Goal Post | Roughing | |
| Interference | Safety | |

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