

**INTERIM
SUPERINTENDENT**



**Pauline
Winbush**

Welcome back from the three week Winter Break. I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends as well as time for relaxation.

Now that we are back, we are ready to begin conversations

with all our stakeholders regarding the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The Local Control Funding Formula is a major change to how California will fund local school districts (also known as the local educational agencies). Through the LCFF the state is providing new decision making power to local educational agencies to act based upon the needs they identify for their students.

See **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 6

The "I'm Going to College" Program



Yucca Elementary students are motivated to go to college. Yes, you can! (please see page 11)

2014 An Excellent Year for Eclipses

*By Mr. Jeremy Amarant, Director
Palmdale School District's Sage Planetarium*

2014 will be an excellent year for eclipses in the Antelope Valley! There will be two total lunar eclipses and one partial solar eclipse.

The first is a total lunar eclipse on April 14-15, 2014. We will begin seeing the Earth's Shadow land on the Moon at about 11 p.m. and travel across the Moon until about 2:30 a.m. There will be telescopes at the SAGE Planetarium to view the eclipse, however, a telescope is not necessary. To view it from home, simply go outside between 11 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. and you will see the Moon with the Earth's Shadow on it. You should also see the color of the Moon changing from white to red as the Earth's Atmosphere refracts the longer wavelengths of red and orange light to still land on the Moon.

The other two eclipses happen in October and more information will come out closer to these two events.

There will be a special telescope class January 25 on how to safely set up and point a telescope. This is free and open to employees of the Palmdale School District and their families.

The Antelope Valley Astronomy Club hosts their monthly club meetings at the SAGE Planetarium on the second Friday of each month at 7:00p.m. They have guest speakers, it is free, open to the public and you do not need to be a member to attend.

For Sage Planetarium upcoming events visit the PSD website and Facebook!



Palmdale School District Pilots Recycling Program!

By Dr. Stacy Bryant, Chief Leadership Officer

Six PSD schools are participating in the Goat Ninja Project this year: Chaparral, Quail Valley, Buena Vista, Golden Poppy, Los Amigos, and Shadow Hills. This is a partnership program with Allen Company Recycling and DigiVUE Advertising.

The purpose of the program is to show students the importance of being a participating citizen in their community and to become involved in taking charge in the future of our planet.

The funds generated by the Goat Ninja Project will go directly to the school site. This is a great way to support your local school and provide an opportunity for our students to participate in a service learning project.

The program also consists of six E- Waste dates for the community to bring their electronic waste to the schools in order to safely dispose of old or non-working electronics.

E-Waste Recycling Dates
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
February 1 @ Chaparral
February 8 @ Quail Valley
March 1 @ Buena Vista
March 8 @ Golden Poppy
March 15 @ Los Amigos
March 22 @ Shadow Hills



For more information on the Goat Ninja Project:
<http://goatninja.weebly.com>

BIO'S OF NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Nancy Smith
Clerk

Trustee Nancy Smith was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to Palmdale in 1983 with her husband and 3 children. Mrs. Smith received her Bachelor of Arts in Education and teaching credential from Wayne State College, Wayne, NE in 1969. She taught in Nebraska, Kansas and California in junior high, high school, adult school, Antelope Valley College (adjunct) and California State University Bakersfield. Mrs. Smith then moved to the business side of the education community. She served as Director of Child Nutrition and Warehousing for Antelope Valley Union High School District, CFO and Interim CEO at Antelope Valley Schools Transportation Agency, Assistant Superintendent for Business (1990 - 1993) and Superintendent of the Palmdale School District (1994 - 2003).



Joyce Ricks
Member

Trustee Joyce Ricks is the first African American woman who will sit on the Palmdale School District Board of Trustees. Born in Chicago, Illinois, moved to the Los Angeles area in 1978. She is the mother of three children and has four grandchildren. She has been a resident of the Antelope Valley for the past 17 years. Worked as a Head Start Preschool teacher with the Palmdale School district from 2001 until 2009. It was during this period she returned to school to pursue a Bachelors Degree. She graduated from Pacific Oaks college with a Bachelors in Human Development and a Specialization in Early Childhood.

Ms. Ricks discovered her love for counseling and then went on to pursue her Master's degree at Pacific Oaks. She graduated with a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy and a Specialization in African American Studies. Currently she practices as a Registered Marriage and Family Intern # 60517, as she is working towards a full license with the Board of Behavioral Science.

Ms. Ricks has been an active resident within the Antelope Valley, she is a member of the Antelope Valley Democratic Club and elected to the Los Angeles County Central Committee in 2012.



Juan Carrillo
Member

Trustee Juan Carrillo was born and raised in Guadalajara Jalisco, Mexico. He migrated to the United States at the age of 15 years old. He lived in East Los Angeles and attended the ESL program at Garfield High School. He obtained his GED certificate and High School Diploma through adult school programs at Abraham Lincoln High School in Boyle Heights. Working full time and raising a family, he obtained his Associate in Science Degree in Architecture from College of the Desert in 2001. He attended California State Polytechnic University Pomona and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Urban and Regional Planning in 2007.

On December of 2012, he earned a Master Degree in Public Administration with an option in Urban Studies and Planning from California State University Northridge.

He has been employed by the City of Palmdale as an Assistant Planner I, since January 2005, and has been a resident of the City of Palmdale since 2006. He lives on the east side of Palmdale with his wife Vanessa, his daughter Nathalie, who is attending Pete Knight High School and his son Giovanni, a fourth grader at Golden Poppy.

Palmdale School District Board of Trustees



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Nancy Smith
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

The beginning of a year is always refreshing and full of hope. There are blank pages in new address books and calendars waiting to be filled; New Year's resolutions motivating us for healthier lifestyles; Promises to stay in touch with old friends; A new semester with renewed focus on being the best student you can be!...Here's to a great new year!

When you read about all of the classroom activities, it makes you realize just how much has changed in a short time. Technology is advancing rapidly and students are being prepared to compete in a world that was only imagined a few years ago. If you are old enough to remember the Dick Tracy comic strip and the idea of a radio bult into a wrist watch, you are as amazed as I am with the advances. We used to be in our pajamas when we answered our phone (attached to the wall) and be glad the caller couldn't see us. Of course, Skype and Facetime have

School News

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Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Meshel Negrete
COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia
CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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changed that! Even more surprising to me is that people wear pajamas outside of their house, but that is another subject for another time...

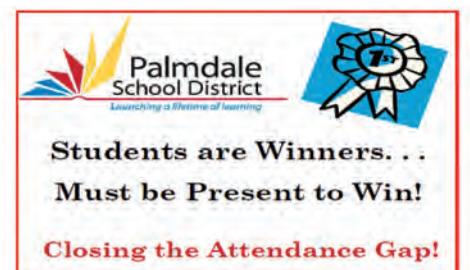
Congratulations to the new Board of Trustees.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is March 12.

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Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being



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

Through the Let's Move! initiative several steps can be taken to encourage more physical activity in schools including:

- Expanding and Modernizing the President's Physical Fitness Challenge and the Physical Fitness Test. President Obama broadened the scope of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition to include a focus on healthy eating and active lifestyles. The Council's mission is to engage, educate and empower all Americans to adopt a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and good nutrition. In 2012, the Council announced that the Physical Fitness Test was getting a makeover. It's now known as the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, and the focus has shifted to primarily assessing health versus athleticism for America's youth.
- The Council also promotes the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) programs which encourage all Americans to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives: - 30 minutes per day for adults, and 60 minutes per day for youth.
- Healthier US School Challenge. The Healthier US School Challenge (HUSSC) establishes rigorous standards for schools' food quality, participation in meal programs, physical activity opportunities, and nutrition education. This nationwide award program recognizes schools that create healthier school environments through their promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. Schools that are doing the very best work to keep kids healthy will be recognized, and high-achieving schools will even receive monetary incentives.
- Safe and Healthy Schools Fund. The U.S. Department of Education is working with Congress to create a Safe and Healthy Schools fund as part of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act. This fund will support schools with comprehensive strategies to improve their school environment, including efforts to get children physically active in and outside of school, and improve the quality and availability of physical education.

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Click on the "Employment" icon
of the Palmdale School District
website to view current opportunities such as:

- ▶ **Paraeducator - Certified Interpreter (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)**
- ▶ **Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant**
- ▶ **Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant**
- ▶ **Sub Paraeducator - Moderate to Severe**
- ▶ **Sub 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 Section Contents column.

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Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Building Success Team

Our motto this year is “Buena Vista is Building Successful Students!” To put this message into practice, we have a new peer-mediation team called the Building Success Team (BST), made up of about 20 fifth- and sixth-grade students. This team helps our campus supervisors patrol the playground and resolve peer conflicts before they become large enough to warrant an office referral.

The team has been trained in conflict-resolution strategies and has a special table set up in the cafeteria, with forms to help mediate conflict between students. The goal is to end the situation in a win-win for everyone. Of course, problems that cannot be resolved here are referred to administration for support.

Our BST is proud to wear their bright-green vests on the yard. We hope to build our team into an after-school club for successful students in the near future.



Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Thinking Maps

Barrel Springs Elementary School is a Thinking Map school. Thinking Maps are an organizational tool that can be utilized to obtain 21st-century skills. To help support a safe, supportive learning community and hold all students accountable and responsible in developing their arguments and responses, the teachers and students have a common language for meaningful learning. Thinking Maps help students become independent, reflective, lifelong problem-solvers. Thinking Maps integrate specific thinking skills to organize verbal and written responses promotes the four Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking skills, and creativity.

Teachers are integrating Thinking Maps with the Common Core State Standards in all disciplines. In our primary classes, teachers and students are creating Thinking Maps to build on their foundational skills, such as rhyming, sorting, and brainstorming. All grades are using Thinking Maps as an organizational tool to sequence a story, describe character traits, compare and contrast two characters or events, summarize, classify, show parts of something, show the relationship between cause and effect, and organize main ideas and details to enhance math, writing, science, and social studies concepts.

Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ruth James
Principal

Emergency Response Training

Teen Cert is a program where teenagers are trained in emergency response procedures. This program is coming to Cactus Intermediate School starting January, 2014. Classes will be held at Cactus two days a week for five weeks.



The basic idea is to use CERT to perform the large number of tasks needed in emergencies. This frees highly trained professional responders for more technical tasks. Much of CERT training concerns the Incident Command System and organization, so CERT members fit easily into larger command structures.

The Cactus Teen CERT will consist of 30 students who will be taking part in classes on disaster preparedness, fire safety, search and rescue operations, disaster psychology, terrorism, and a disaster simulation.





Tom Pitts
Principal

Staying Involved

Parent involvement is an important part of what we do at Chaparral Elementary. Bringing parents into the school and classrooms has been proven to be a very effective way to communicate the need for families to stay involved and supportive, especially as we transition into the newly adopted Common Core State Standards.

We had 29 parents graduate from our parent academy class last month. They were very excited to learn about how the district functions, and the different aspects of running an effective school, as well as how to provide a positive learning environment for our students. They especially liked the opportunity to ask questions.

We also have our Chaparral African-American Parent Advisory Council (CAAPAC) and English Learner Advisory Council which meets every month, and with a high turnout. Mrs. Robinson, our parent liaison, has been very instrumental in planning and conducting the meetings and parent training classes.



Contest!!

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

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
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Alternative Education Programs

Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Third Grade Turkey Trot

Cimarron's third grade team of Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Ramos, Mrs. Craig, and Mrs. Picone held the first annual Turkey Trot to support learning by promoting healthy habits that will last a life time. All students benefit from regular physical activity. The Turkey Trot was planned to promote healthy life style choices, and to have children participate in a fun and enjoyable activity. In the past month students have been walking and running laps to build endurance. The third grade students had a team goal of a total of 600 laps, but we reached 730 laps! The Turkey Trot had a special guest courtesy of Dr. Brandts, the real Tom Turkey.



Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

Current Happenings

Under the direction of Angela Clayton, our Desert Willow band students represent Palmdale in stellar fashion. The most recent performances that displayed their talents were held at a school board meeting and a SAVE Foundation dinner.

The group also represented our school district at the recent Holiday Palmdale City Parade. The band students and Ms. Clayton are constantly fund-raising to buy and repair the musical instruments they need to expand and improve our music program at Desert Willow.

Students from Desert Willow's social studies department inter-connected an "Evidence-Based Claim Reading" with their generosity when they participated in the third-annual Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive for children in need. The students collected brand-new pajamas for which the Scholastic Reading Club will match each pair to a brand-new book.

On November 21, Mrs. Fredette helped organize 70 seventh- and eighth-grade students to Skype with Space IL team member Noa Katanov from Israel. They discussed Space IL's mission to land an unmanned spacecraft on the moon by 2015 as part of the Google Lunar X competition. Space IL is a nonprofit organization committed to inspiring students; if they win the \$20 million prize they will donate it to STEM education in Israel.

In preparation for the Skype discussion, our students researched and submitted written justifications for further moon explorations and travel. Two of the founders popped into Skype as a surprise to the students, and encouraged them to find their own gifts to use for the world!

Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Tonsie Thomas
Principal

Parent Academy

Desert Rose Parent Academy is one of many Palmdale schools designated to serve parents and families. It is a community-driven initiative designed to provide educational and parenting resources to help parents and care providers become engaged with their child's education.

Studies have strongly indicated that consistent parental involvement is a major factor in determining a student's academic success. Desert Rose offers families free educational opportunities designed to help all students succeed.

While parents attend workshops, child care is provided for their children. During this time, students are offered homework support and enjoy reading or listening to stories.

The academy hosts workshops every Thursday from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. All workshops are facilitated by Ms. Updyke, a dedicated fourth-grade teacher, and Ms. Vasquez, our parent liaison. Workshops address topics such as understanding your child's school, curriculum and instruction, special education, Title I, English-learner program, job opportunities and parenting.

Parents who complete the 13 workshops of Academy receive a certificate of completion. Parents can make up a missed session by attending the same workshop at another school or making alternative arrangements with the facilitator.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Pauline Winbush

In a nutshell, the Local Control Funding Formula is the way by which the State allocates funds to local educational agencies to provide for the education of all students. In addition to funding for all students, LCFF provides additional funding for identified, higher need students in the following categories: Low Income Students, English Learners and Foster Youth. This transfer in how schools are funded creates more local control, flexibility and greater opportunities for stakeholder groups such as: parents, teachers, classified staff and administrators to provide input.

In addition to adopting a new funding formula, the state has determined 8 priorities and requires school districts to adopt a plan known as the Local Control Accountability Plan which will disclose how funds will be spent to provide high-quality educational programs.

To gather input from our stakeholders, the District will hold the following Town Hall Meetings:

- January 14, 2014 – 6:30p.m. at Juniper Intermediate School
- January 15, 2014 – 6:30p.m. at Cactus Intermediate School
- January 16, 2014 – 6:30p.m. at Shadow Hills Intermediate School

We look forward to engaging in these discussions and receiving input in order to best serve the students of the Palmdale School District.

Thank you

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



**Marlene
Batista Calcines**
Principal

Literacy Night

On November 21st Dos Caminos held their Family Literacy Night. Teachers prepared wonderful activities and games to teach parents how to work at home with their

children in reading. The evening was coordinated in conjunction with the Dos Caminos PTA who brought in a business sponsor to take family holiday pictures for any of our parents interested. Pictures were sold at a nominal fee and our PTA received a portion of their proceeds.



Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Proud of 2013 and Optimistic About 2014!

With a successful 2013 behind us, Golden Poppy Elementary School is jumping headfirst into 2014!

The Grizzlies are well into the implementation of their new Goat Ninja recycling program. Every Thursday, Golden Poppy families send in plastic bottles and aluminum cans to be sorted into bins. The teachers and staff members do their part by collecting all paper and cardboard. Keep an eye out for an upcoming date where the entire community can bring in e-waste for drop off and proper disposal. It is a win for our school, our community, and the environment.

The Grizzlies are also proud to announce that at the November reclassification ceremony, we were able to recognize 22 students for gaining proficiency in English. That was a record number for our school for one semester. We look forward to the challenge of topping that number this spring.



Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Students Fine Dining at Joshua Hills

In our class, every person gets to talk. We use “talking chips” so everyone has a chance. I think it’s a good idea because all of the kids in our class talk, even the ones who are either way too shy or they just don’t want to. —Riley Lind, 5th Grade

Socratic Seminars are my favorite. Usually, I do better in a group because there are many ideas. This helps me to listen to other people. It helps me when I get stuck or make a mistake. My fellow classmates can help, or it can be the other way around. If another classmate needed help, I could help.

—Myiaha Peterson, 5th Grade



Using the skill of collaboration, I hear lots of different points of view. When I’m working independently, it takes longer and I don’t have as many ideas, but in a group, I hear ideas that are different than mine, then I learn faster. When I write, I usually have a few flaws. We trade papers and evaluate each other. Collaboration helps me make my writing better.

—Karina Jones, 5th Grade

“Fine Dining” is when you read a book slowly and pay close attention to it, discuss it, and take notes. I read *Hatchet* before, but when I “fine dined” it with my peers I was able to take out a lot of “juice” from the story. *Hatchet* is a great book, but after we read in depth, I enjoyed it much more.

—Jesse Lopez Anuario, 6th Grade

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Maria Elena Esquer
Principal

Dual Language and the Common Core

As a dual-language school, Los Amigos Elementary School is committed to excellence in both English and Spanish. Both languages are valued equally and our curricular planning reflects this. Grade-level professional learning teams consist of four teachers, two English and two Spanish, except in eighth grade, where there are three of each. Students switch daily between the two languages in all grades. Teams meet weekly and also participate in lesson studies every other month to plan what is needed to align student needs and see what learning targets will be taught.

In order to maximize student success, vertical articulation occurs between teachers in language teams which represent all grade levels to discuss the mastery of necessary skills and standards from kindergarten through eighth grade. Our team of Spanish teachers has the added challenge of not only looking at the new English Common Core State Standards but also the additional Spanish ones, which are necessary for instruction in grammatical areas specific to the language. They infuse these standards in their instruction daily. Our English team has also been diligently reviewing the standards in all subject areas, implementing new strategies for students to attain mastery of the standards. Students are enjoying that we are learning too!

This is an exciting time for us, as students and teachers are both learners and beneficiaries of the detailed planning and dedicated efforts of implementing the new standards in both languages.

Juniper *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Juniper Celebrates Community Partners

Juniper Intermediate School wishes to thank our local community business partners for their generosity.

A local financial services office sponsored the Juniper entry in the Kiwanis Duck races. These races raise money that returns to the school in the form of mini grants. During the race, the Juniper “bling” duck sedately paddled down the water slide. The official Kiwanis Duck then paid a visit to the financial services office to thank them personally on behalf of Juniper.



The employees of a global security company collected school supplies ranging from pencils and notebooks to backpacks and donated them to the Juniper students. A truckload of boxes arrived at Juniper just before the first day of school, and Ms. Delia Rivas, a representative from the security company, enthusiastically showed us all the goodies that were donated.

Juniper is fortunate to have such wonderful community partners.

School News

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Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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Kelly Jensen
Principal

Out With the Old and In With the New

Students spent the beginning of the school year anticipating the construction of their new play equipment. Many of Manzanita Elementary School's students would spend their recess watching the construction workers work on the play area as they waited patiently for the grand opening.

With funds provided by Measure DD, the wait is finally over, and the students are enjoying more than 5,000 square feet of fun activities. The playground has new slides, swings, climbing walls, and a twister that provides the students with lots of exciting physical activity.

To continue with Manzanita's expectation of being safe, respectful, and responsible, Assistant Principal Sonia Salcedo provided assemblies to talk about the rules and procedures for new play area. Students modeled how to use the equipment safely and maximize its use. The new equipment is a great addition to our campus, and we are sure students will enjoy the play area for years to come.



David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Brian Williams
Principal

A New School!

We have exciting news for the new year. On October 31, David G. Millen broke ground at its new site on the western border of the Palmdale School District by Highland High School. The new school will be built to house 1,200 students. Construction is expected to begin in December, with a completion date in August of 2015.

We hope to embody the goals of the board of trustees with our school's motto, "Rigorous Content in a Technology-Rich Environment." We are excited to be building a school for the 21st century from the ground up. It will have 10 science and engineering labs, a performing arts complex, and a fitness center.

We look forward to the day when we can open our doors and join with the other intermediate schools in the district to help make all of our Palmdale students college and career ready!



Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

PTA Celebrations

Mesquite Elementary PTA is working hard to provide quality programs and activities for its students. They have held two fundraisers this year so far. Fundraisers supported a Holiday Laser Light show for all students and two field trips for a few grade levels. They plan to provide all grade levels with field trips during the 2013-14 school year. Some of the celebrations have included a Pizza Party and a DJ Party. We look forward to many more PTA celebrations this year.

Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Student Teamwork

Each week, positive interaction is taking place on the Palmdale Discovery Center campus. That's when a group of fifth-grade students from Ocotillo Elementary School travels next door to play and socialize with PDC students who have autism.

The group, known as The Social Butterflies, meets every Friday for 15 minutes. This get-together includes an introductory high-five, a play and social event, and a closing team huddle that allows the meeting to end on a positive note.



Ocotillo Elementary and Palmdale Discovery Center students complete the obstacle course.

Time-sampling data that reviews the social interaction which takes place among the students has been taken and evaluated by PDC staff. Informal observation shows that increased social interaction among the Palmdale Discovery Center population, along with the accompanying smiles, high-fives, obstacle course activities and social-skills development, has had a very positive and reinforcing impact on everyone.

The combination of PDC students and staff members, along with Ocotillo's own staff and fifth-graders, has created an amazing team. There is nothing they can't accomplish while working together.

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Danny Feroze Kanga
Principal

Builders Club

This year's holiday season was brightened for children around the world by the Builders Club along with the generous students, families, and staff of Palmdale

Learning Plaza. Students filled holiday boxes with gifts, school supplies, and clothing to send to underprivileged children in countries around the world. 620 boxes in total were collected, sorted, and sent to the Philippines, Madagascar, and various countries in Africa. Students and their families demonstrated their global-mindedness in their participation. They also demonstrated the true, real-life meaning of the International Baccalaureate attitudes by bringing joy during this holiday season to those less fortunate. Way to go Pumas!



Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke Jr.
Principal

Palm Tree Hallways are Alive With Artwork

The hallways of Palm Tree are really coming alive with the Common Core. As you walk in our halls you will see the aesthetically pleasing bulletin boards that highlight the curriculum of the CCSS units. Staff members such as Jacqueline Darbeau (teacher) and Jessica Nesor (Inst. Asst.), have shared their artistic talents and created an environment that shares insight to what is happening in the classrooms. They have made boards for each grade level and student work is displayed. In addition to our bulletin boards we are in the process of updating

our student picture borders along our hallways. This is a project being undertaken by staff and students. We anticipate this project to be complete by mid-February. We are loving the look of Palm Tree!



Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Donna Lebetsamer
Principal

A Special Harvest Evening

Quail Valley families enjoyed quality family time while attending our Fall Harvest Festival. In October, our school was full of parents, grandparents and students galore. Our students were treated to a variety of fall-themed games. Students participated in a costume parade and costume contest. Several students brought their pumpkins to enter them in our jack-o'-lantern contest.

Quail Valley teachers and staff donated prizes and their time to make this a fun-filled event held at no charge to our families.



Quail Valley staff invented and ran a variety of games for the students, including Mummy Bowling, Pin the Head on the Horseman, and an arts-and-crafts area. Our cafeteria was filled to capacity with the laughter of students and their families for this fun filled evening to support our community.

Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Barbara Gaines
Principal

Falcons Dedicate December to Their Community

The month of December was the culmination of a very busy semester for the Falcons at Shadow Hills. The entire student body under the leadership of the Builders Club raised \$600.00 to lay wreaths on December 14th at the old Palmdale Cemetery in honor of the Veterans buried there. They also spent two weeks bringing in food items to fill the baskets for 20 needy families in the Antelope Valley. As you can see in the picture, Mrs. Henderson and some of her students are busy arranging the 500 items donated by her class alone. All in all, Shadow Hills collected over

1500 canned and boxed food items generously donated by both students and staff. The Builders Club wrote 500 Holiday Cards and made over 300 Paracord bracelets which were all sent to our men and women in Afghanistan thanking them for serving our country and protecting the freedoms we enjoy every day. The Shadow Hills second year band members, under the direction of Mr. Marc Macisso, participated in the PSD Honor Band which performed in the "Miracle on 47th St" holiday parade. In addition, the second year Strings ensemble played for the Robertson Honda annual holiday celebration. These are a few examples of how Shadow Hills' students are actively engaged in leadership and serving the community.

Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Pamela Egbert
Principal

The 'I'm Going to College' Program

By Daniela Pardo, M. Ed.

We are so excited to share with you what our Raven family is doing here at Yucca to motivate our scholars to go to college! In November, seven Raven teachers and both of our administrators took 33 fourth-to-sixth-graders to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena to see the UCLA and Colorado football game and participate in UCLA's Going to College event.

All fourth-to-sixth-grade Yucca scholars had to participate in our AVID "I'm Going to College" contest. Students composed an opinion essay on the topic "Why I want to go to college/university." A committee consisting of teachers and administrators read the essays and invited 13 students from each grade level to participate in UCLA's "I'm Going to College" program. Student essays were chosen using the opinion-essay writing rubric, the same instrument used districtwide to grade fourth-to-sixth-grade Quarter 1 Common Core literacy summative assessments. The committee wanted to align our AVID field trip with our Common Core writing requirements.

Our Yucca family is so happy to have been able to provide the opportunity to expose our Raven scholars to university life as well as give a reminder that it is never too early to begin thinking about a higher education.

Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Got Conflict?

AMPs can help! Able-minded peer mediators, that is. This special group of 5th and 6th grade volunteers have been hand-picked and thoroughly trained in conflict resolution strategies to assist Summerwind students in need. The AMPs welcome walk-up requests at a referral station centrally located during recess and lunch times but they are also available by appointment

to provide flexible access for students. The AMPs work a rotating schedule to provide equal coverage and to ensure sufficient time for personal studies as maintaining good grades is a program requirement. The students and staff have welcomed the change and word of the AMPs has spread across campus with many wanting to join in order to help other students. In exchange for their service, the AMPs receive special spirit wear, recognitions, and the pride that comes from helping Summerwind scholars to be the best that they can be.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

A Tribute to Para-Educators

It is an honor to highlight the dedication and hard work of our para-educators at the Yellen Learning Center! Without their commitment, compassion and support, we would not be seeing the great amount of progress now coming from our students.

Working at Yellen Learning Center is not an easy job. We educate students who are considered to be some of the most challenging in the district. Bringing the Common Core Standards into our academic arena, and preparing students for the 21st century, has indeed been challenging.

In addition to raising our school's academic rigor, we must also continue to provide positive behavior support throughout the entire instructional day as we teach necessary social skills and self-management tools. This is not a task which can be done by teaching alone. It takes strong, effective teams within a professional learning community. It also takes staff members who have both conviction and a commitment to the success of their students.

The para-educators at Yellen embrace these qualities. They should be recognized and applauded for the fine job they do!



Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Huberth A. Morales
Principal

A Word from the Principal

As the holiday season approaches fast, I begin to reflect on what has been done; but more importantly I look forward to the greatness that we can achieve as a community when we are all working together towards a common goal. We have begun full implementation of Common Core Standards; we are ahead of many districts, and ahead of many schools. Our amazing teachers collaborate with each other to create impressive lessons that encourage and propel students to 21st century learning. Teachers are always looking at the assessments and improve their practice with each passing day. Students look forward and

are engaged to the day's lesson; they are no longer passively learning, they are actively learning and using their critical thinking skills to demonstrate their learning not only to the teacher but to their peers as well. Exciting changes are coming to education; and I am excited to know that we are at the forefront of those changes and we have embraced them fully to prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow.

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