

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



Pauline Winbush
Interim Superintendent

Palmdale School District Announces Candidate for Superintendent

Palmdale School District is pleased to announce that it has selected Raul Maldonado as candidate for Superintendent. With

the public announcement of their selection, the Palmdale School Board began contract negotiations during the closed session of their April 15th board meeting.



Raul Maldonado
Superintendent Candidate

“I am humbled and honored to have been selected as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Palmdale School District,” said Maldonado. “I look forward to working together with our teachers, staff, parents and community to advocate for our students.”

Maldonado previously worked at Palmdale School District from 2001 to 2013, where he held several positions, ultimately serving as Director of Student Assessment & Accountability. In July 2013 he left Palmdale to accept the position of Superintendent of the McFarland Unified School District in Kern County. Maldonado is known at both districts for his emphasis on student achievement.

“We’re pleased to offer the position to someone who already knows and loves Palmdale School District,” said Board President Maria Molina. “Having Mr. Maldonado return to our district as our new Superintendent will help carry forward the good momentum we have been working hard to build.”

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Better Opportunities Through Blended Education

From the District

Palmdale School District students have a new learning option, one that provides an academically rigorous education with the flexibility of a home school program. The Palmdale Independent Achievement Center or PIAC (pronounced peak) offers a blended learning experience that combines interactive online education modules with class time in front of a teacher.

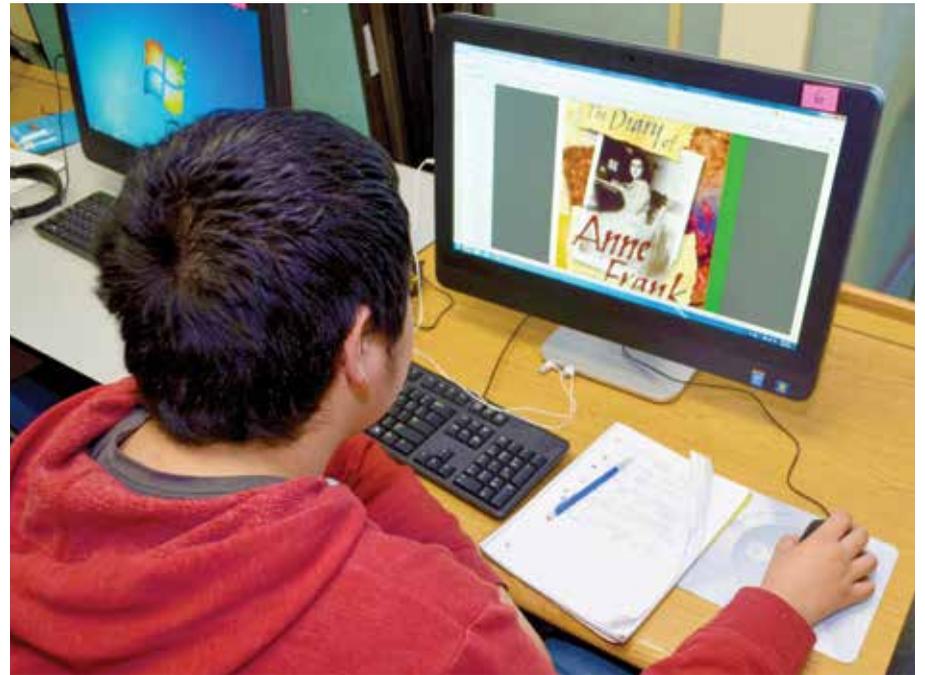
“This is the next generation of homeschooling,” explained Assistant Superintendent Dr. John Porter. “We’ve created a unique program that can fit the needs of almost any student by coupling a rigorous interactive online curriculum with live instruction from teachers that are passionate about embracing new technology.”

PIAC utilizes the Connections online learning platform. Owned by Pearson, a respected publisher of educational materials and textbooks, Connections empowers students to learn at their own pace. PIAC students complete a majority of their class work on Connections, meeting weekly with a credentialed teacher for three hours of small group instruction. These class sessions are clustered by grade and reinforce the concepts presented by Connections.

This blended model gives flexibility to the student while providing the quality of an education supervised by a credentialed teacher. Research by the US Department of Education even suggests that the blended model is more effective than traditional face-to-face learning alone.

Also, because of the nature of the curriculum, students can pursue an education in nearly any subject that interests them. “If a student wants to study Chinese, we can provide that for them,” said Porter.

One of the truly novel aspects of PIAC is their walk-in lab. “We



recognize the Internet goes out and computers go down,” said Porter. “There are also times when parents need to be able to leave their home-schooled student somewhere safe for a little while.” Students are able to come to the PIAC at any time between 8:30am and 2:00pm on weekdays to work on their online lessons, adding an extra level of accommodation and flexibility.

While it may sound like a dream come true for many students, PIAC requires a high level of parental involvement and a high degree of self-motivation on the part of the student. The education offered through PIAC is not easier than that of any other Palmdale School, it is only presented in a different way.

Thus far PIAC has been popular with families seeking a quality home based education for their students. The program is fully scalable and ready to accommodate as many students as sign up.

PIAC is open to Palmdale School District students as part of their free public education. Spaces are available for enrollment for next school year. Those interested in learning more about PIAC, including how to enroll, should call (661) 265-8908 or (661) 265-8909.

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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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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193
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This school year is coming to a close. It has been a productive year for the District and next year looks to be even more exciting. Congratulations to the Superintendent candidate, Raul Maldonado.

Our next issue is September 10. We hope you have a wonderful summer. Don't forget to include the library in your fun activities.

We know you are very busy and thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

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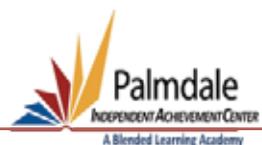
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Palmdale School District
Alternative Education Programs

Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Read Across America Celebration

“Sink Your Teeth Into Good Books All Year Long” was this year’s NEA’s theme for Read Across America (RAA). RAA is one way to involve the community to cultivate a love for reading. Thanks to the team effort of the Barrel Springs Elementary School staff and PTA, the Barrel Springs annual RAA celebration was a huge success!

This year one of Palmdale’s finest, DeShawn Shead, a professional football player from the 2014 Super Bowl championship team, the Seattle Seahawks, participated in our celebration. This was a “Seussical” opportunity for cornerback Shead to give back to his community. After being honored the day before at the Palmdale City Council meeting, he agreed to read and share his accomplishments from when he attended school in the Palmdale School District. In addition, he read and autographed his favorite Dr. Seuss book, *Oh, the Places You’ll Go*, for the students to enjoy.

Our Barrel Springs enjoyed being read to by community leaders, who also discussed their love of reading and how reading is important in their professions. Our visitors included: retired Los Angeles Rams player Wendell Tyler; former assistant superintendent Betty Stiers; Mayor Pro Tem Tom Lackey; Kiwanis Club members Tom and Deb McCoy; law enforcement officers; firefighters; and employees from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and international aeronautics companies. Thank you to all of our guest readers!

Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

What a Year

It has been a challenging and yet exciting year at Buena Vista. There have been many changes at our school and within the district, including the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, the implementation of the Common Core novel units, new math pacing, and a new state test. I am proud to say that our students and staff have stepped up and met these challenges successfully.

Some of the highlights of the year have been our BST Peer Mediation Team, the Goat Ninja recycling program, the new Footsteps 2 Brilliance iPad program in kindergarten and TK, and the Bully Free program. We also had a local hospital do a “Healthy Eating” assembly for our students, and a game show for our parents.

We had two character building assemblies, one of which was The NED Show. We had Environmental Defenders, Rockets and Robots, and local aerospace engineers visit us. During Red Ribbon Week our local firefighters and school deputies even put on a show! This gave our students an opportunity to see how the fire hoses work, and to sit inside a sheriff’s department car.

Besides these activities, we also have all new computers in our computer lab, and four new computer laptop carts. We also had 36 English learners reclassified as Fluent English Proficient.

What a great year!

Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Re-Enactment

The third grade language arts common core unit requires the students to understand why people immigrated to the United States and the subsequent journey that some immigrants had to endure while traveling through Ellis Island.

In an effort to help our students understand the struggles and hardships that immigrants went through, the third grade teachers (Marcey Chambers, Meghan Pirtle, Janet Retzer, Claudia Gonzales, Jere Christiansen and Leticia Baltazar) decided to stage an Ellis Island re-enactment. The students were able to sail on a ship, arrive and celebrate the journey by cheering when they saw the Statue of Liberty, and experience the long, exhausting lines of baggage check, medical and interview inspection points.

Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ruth James
Principal

4th Annual Cactus Spring Dash

Every year when the flowers begin to bloom and the sun shines bright, we motivate our students in their Physical Education

classes to run their best by hosting a Spring Dash.



This year’s Spring Dash was held the Friday before our Spring break and all students were able to participate in the run-offs throughout the week. There were photo finishes for many of the finalists with cheers, tears but most of all pride. It is always nice to see students gather together for an event and support one another. Congratulations to all participants!



Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Cimarron Stars - Square Dancing

In addition to our focus on academic achievement, 6th grade students at Cimarron Elementary School participated in square dancing as part of their Physical Education Program. Starting with simple square dance moves such as the promenade and do-see-do, students progressed to completing entire dances while following a caller's move selections. At first the students were hesitant to participate in dancing with partners, but they quickly learned to work as a group, communicate, and help each other learn the various calls, moves and routines. Students had a culminating dance competition where they had to complete five dances, with prizes going to the top groups. Students had a great time learning this traditional form of dance as well as getting a great workout. Fun was had by all participants!



Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Tonsie Thomas
Principal

English for Parents

For parents with limited or no English proficiency, supporting their children in public school can be challenging. Desert Rose Elementary School offers two unique opportunities to increase family literacy. Title III funds make it possible to provide English instruction classes, which enable parents to participate in their children's education.

The Parent English Class evolved from the English-Language Advisory Council (ELAC) parents' desire to increase their proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in English. Meeting twice each week, the students acquire basic, language-arts skills through and lots of conversation. Mr. Cull, a bilingual-credentialed teachers, instructs this class.

The Latino Family Literacy Project meets once a week with our parent liaison, Ms. Vasquez, to establish family reading routines for Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children. This age-specific program reflects the experiences of Latino families and focuses on universal themes. The program also includes at-home, skill-based activities for parents and children that support the state standards.

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Marlene Batista Calcines
Principal

Looking to the Future

This past month, our Dos Caminos kindergarten team represented the Palmdale School District at the CABE conference in Anaheim.

Mirna Panus, Maricela Sarmiento, Julie Montoya-Green and Robin Ponce presented a workshop on how to use Thinking Maps in transferring skills from English to Spanish. The room that was provided for our team only held 35 attendees, but over 75 educators from around California came to our presentation!

They were all very pleased with the ideas and information shared by our team. The response from these teachers gave us the confidence that we are well ahead of the Common Core curve here in Palmdale as compared to many other school districts.

As a dual-language school, we also know that we are providing our students with a stellar 21st-century education. Our students are getting the tools and rigor they need to become bilingual, bi-literate adults!

Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

Technology

Desert Willow School is utilizing mobile, computer-lab carts to prepare our students for 21st-century learning. Using the mobile computer lab has improved student engagement and has provided teachers with the opportunity for professional growth as they continue to expand their professional skills for the 21st-century classroom. In addition, the new, wireless computer lab adds to the opportunity for our students to learn and prepared them for our Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing that is being field tested this year.

Desert Willow students visited our feeder elementary schools in March. Our Associated Student Body (ASB), band, and leadership students took the message to our incoming sixth-graders that Desert Willow is the place to be for an awesome intermediate school experience. Ms. Clayton, our band teacher, Mrs. Davis, our ASB leadership teacher, and Mrs. Moshier, our assistant principal, work really hard to make these visits happen. Moreover, Desert Willow students welcomed Palmdale High School student representatives and enjoyed a presentation about high school.



Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

“Imagine” the Possibilities!

Great things are happening every day at Golden Poppy Elementary School! A recent highlight of our year is the reclassification of 15 students to English proficiency. This brings our number of reclassified students for the year to 37, more than doubling our total from last year.

To help facilitate this growth in English-language fluency, we have recently upgraded our computer lab with wireless technology and new computers to maximize the efficiency of our Imagine Learning program and online testing. We have activated 120 wireless laptops for student use in the classroom and implemented an electronic-tablet program called Footsteps 2 Brilliance in our kindergarten classrooms. In April, Golden Poppy sent a group of staff members to the annual California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) conference in Anaheim to hone their skills with English learners.

With all the outstanding things going on at Golden Poppy, we are excited to see what the next school year will bring.



Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Taekwondo

This year we have been fortunate enough to have Taekwondo classes for our students. Master Joshua, Instructor Stephanie and Instructor Eddie have been donating their time teaching these classes at our school.

These classes focus on self-defense, self-discipline, self esteem and becoming confident and intelligent leaders.

Students that have been attending these classes have been observed bowing to their teachers, greeting them with “Hello Sir” or “Hello Maam.” Daisy Rodriguez, a sixth grade student said “These classes were so much fun and they taught me things that I didn’t know and that I shared with my parents.” D’Asianae Harris, another sixth grade student stated “It was really nice of the instructors to volunteer their time and teach us things that we really enjoyed learning.” Both students are planning on continuing with Taekwondo this summer.



Juniper *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Conversation and Camaraderie

Coffee and cookies sparked conversation and camaraderie between local residents and Palmdale Sheriff's deputies. Coffee with a Cop debuted last month in Palmdale to a positive crowd of about three dozen residents, officials, and school district employees. The event was held at a local business and laughter and chatter could be heard as Captain Don Ford and about half a dozen Deputies and sheriff's Explorers socialized with the crowd. State Senator Steve Knight and Assemblyman Steve Fox were also on hand to meet the residents and answer questions.

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by The United States Department of Justice, and provides a unique opportunity for community members to join local law enforcement officers in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee.



Deputy Ray Wilson; Pam Egbert, Principal of Yucca Elementary; Dr. Donna Campbell, Principal of Juniper Intermediate; Captain Don Ford; Business Owner; Qiana O'Leary, Assistant Principal of Yucca Elementary; Deputy Greg Chatman.

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Maria Elena Esquer
Principal

Service Learning

Learning to be service oriented is an important part of being a 21st-century citizen. Helping others who need some extra care is beneficial for every community.

At Los Amigos, the students who participate monthly in JOOI Club (Junior Optimist Octagon International) have come to understand the concept of service. Fifth-through eighth-grade students meet once a month to organize food drives for needy families, collect new socks—549 pairs!—to warm the feet of the homeless, and fund-raising for students and their families who are battling cancer or other illnesses in our own Los Amigos community.

As service learners, these students are role models for our school and for students in Palmdale. We recognize them for their dedication and service. The Los Amigos JOOI Club also owes big thanks to Paula Beatrice, who leads us in all our efforts. Go JOOI Club, and remember to always be optimistic and serve others!



Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Kelly Jensen
Principal

Getting Students Excited About 21st-Century Skills

21st-century skills are an important part of learning for today's students and teachers. The 21st-century skills require that students learn to collaborate with others and connect through technology, as these are essential skills in the 21st century and part of the Common Core Standards.

Research indicates that technology has the potential to dramatically change the way in which schools are structured by doing away with the division of instructional time into separate subjects, motivating students, helping them access information efficiently and promoting critical-thinking skills. Manzanita students are thrilled about the new technology! Kindergarten students are using the

Footprints to Brilliance program on iPads, which, teachers state, has been a positive experience.

Students were elated when they returned from spring break and found all new computers in the computer lab! English Learners are using the computer lab for the Imagine Learning program. The lab is also used for project-based learning, Word documents and PPT presentations. Students in grades 3-6 have had an opportunity to use the laptop carts in their classrooms to practice the SBAC test, conduct research and prepare projects.

Technology is changing the way we do business at Manzanita! It is preparing students for their future.

David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Brian Williams
Principal

Bringing Home the Medals

David G. Millen Intermediate is a force to contend with!

We recently sent our Dance Force team to the regional competition, and we medaled in seven dances. Congratulations to the individual dancers who placed. Cristal Ayala took first in the cha-cha, Jonathon Morales took second in the cha-cha, Sofia Contreras took third in the cha-cha, and Jan Paul Rodriguez took sixth in the cha-cha.

Congratulations also go to our teams that placed. Jonathon Morales and Sofia Contreras took fourth in the salsa, Gionni Juarez and Lauren Marshall took fifth in the cha-cha, and Noah Chavez and Sofia Contreras took sixth place in the quick step.

So we think we can dance, but we can also do science, too! Congratulations go to all of the recent participants in the Science Olympiad, with extra-special congratulations to all of those students who brought home a medal.



Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Testing

Mesquite has had a successful testing month thus far. We have had two grade levels successfully complete the SBAC testing. Students report that there are fewer questions, however, they are more challenging and they are expected to write their answers out. All and all the new computers and lap tops have worked wonderfully. Mrs. Jaramillo our testing coordinator reports that scheduling was tricky and we were not sure how it would go. Surprisingly it has gone very smoothly! Mesquite will gear up for end of the year activities in the next month!

Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

On Our Best Behavior

Each day at Ocotillo Elementary School, you will see classified and certificated staff members passing out blue tickets to students "caught doing the right thing." Students are recognized for doing anything from picking up the trash to holding a door for another person.

When students receive tickets, they write their names on them and put them in the designated buckets in their classrooms. Every Friday, the principal and assistant principal visit the classrooms, draw a ticket from each bucket, and hand out prizes to the winning students. At the end of the month, one student from each classroom is selected to attend a breakfast with the principal and assistant principal.

Best Behavior tickets are also used to encourage perfect attendance during Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium testing. Each classroom will draw a ticket daily, and the winning student will receive a prize or a certificate from a restaurant.

The Best Behavior Program has dramatically improved the morale at Ocotillo.

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Danny Feroze Kanga
Principal

Our PTA is the Greatest

The Palmdale Learning Plaza has the best PTA in the entire Antelope Valley! If you don't believe me, listen to what people are saying.

Seventh-grade teacher Beverly Gonda boasted: "Whether it's setting up fabulous displays for the Book Fair, organizing memorable events like the Father and Daughter Dance, motivating students to participate in the Reflections art program, raising money to help fund field trips, serving up delicious food (and displaying the most amazing spread), or making our teachers feel extra-special, our PTA gives 110 percent. I thank

them for their hard work, creativity and commitment to our students and staff. They're awesome!"

Jayna Nastally, our Pre-K and 2 DHH teacher, remarked, "Our PTA always makes sure the deaf and hard of hearing students and teachers are always included in school activities. They always go the extra mile. Our PTA is the best!"

Library clerk Elise Hayden agreed. "To me, our PTA connects the school with the greater community, and provides opportunities for our students to enrich their educational experiences. From the Reflections program, to raising funds to help send students on field trips, to supporting Read Across America (and so much more), our PTA does an amazing job of bringing the school and community together. They sponsor great events and programs. We have a truly awesome PTA!"

Linda Henry, a sixth-grade teacher, put it simply. "Our PTA is the hardest-working group of people I've ever known."

We can't thank you enough for all that you do!

Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke Jr.
Principal

Excited and Preparing for the Future

Palm Tree teachers are working hard on the Common Core State Standard instructional units. During the month of March they took time to review Unit 1 and make revisions and review the standards to begin the preparation for next school year. This will be an on-going practice for the teaching staff at Palm Tree in an effort to continuously improve instructional practices. The teachers are also beginning to observe in classrooms identifying best practices so the entire staff can share instructional techniques that work with our students. We want all of our students to be high level thinkers and it is this work that ensures we continue to move in that direction. We are excited about the future for our students!



Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Barbara Gaines
Principal

The Spring Concert

Shadow Hills is once again proud to host the PSD Honors Concert on Thursday, May 22 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the gymnasium. The group, consisting of students from Shadow Hills, Desert Willow, Cactus and David G. Millen, have been preparing for this concert since January.

They have been meeting once a week, and on an occasional Saturday, to rehearse and prepare for both this concert and other performances such as the CAFE and Holiday Parade. The Honors Concert group is under the direction of Marc Macisso, Angela Clayton, Jim Rosenquist and Brian Hodge. They will also be recording a CD to be released on the night of the concert.

We want to thank Jeremy Amaran, our planetarium director, for recording and producing the CD. All proceeds for the concert will go to the South Antelope Valley Education Foundation (SAVE), which has been very supportive of the music programs here in the Palmdale School District.

A big thank-you also goes out to Interim Superintendent Pauline Winbush for her continued support of our PSD music programs. Tickets are on sale for \$5, \$10 and \$25 at the Superintendent's Office, the Shadow Hills campus, and from our music teachers. Please join us for a delightful evening!

Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Reading and Attendance Challenge

Summerwind is proud to participate in KaBoom's 2014 Reading and Attendance Challenge sponsored by Paraclete High School and the Lancaster JetHawks. Students are encouraged to reach their reading or attendance goals and, as an incentive, receive free tickets to a JetHawks game. The scholars at Summerwind are very excited to get rewarded for something that, in their opinion, they do so well already – attending school and reading.

As a school community, we are very proud of the extra attention being given to the importance that these factors have on the educational success of all Summerwind students. Be sure to catch a JetHawks game in early June and you just might see us out in force to cheer on the team and celebrate our accomplishments! Go Thunderbirds!

Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Huberth A. Morales
Principal

Celebrating Attendance

Attendance is very important, students can't learn if they are not in class. In an effort to increase our student attendance we have begun a new incentive for perfect attendance. We are now celebrating perfect attendance on a monthly basis. Each student that had

perfect attendance during the month will be recognized at the end of the month and will receive a special perfect attendance tag that can be displayed on their backpacks. The perfect attendance tags are earned when a student is in school on time (in their classroom seat by 8:28), is here all day, and in school every day during the month. Remember that to have perfect attendance students must be in school on time. We will be looking for the tags and those students that accumulate at least 4 tags will be recognized at the end of the school year during our school awards.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Thanks to Our Learning Center Teachers!

We are coming to the end of the 2013-14 school year. It is an honor to work with the staff of Yellen Learning Center.

I would like to highlight the efforts and hard work of our teachers. Yellen teachers have had to introduce several new things to their schedules this year. Their desire to have our students succeed has fueled their abilities to take on so many new tasks that are not only demanding but also require extra planning and preparation.

As we prepare for our state testing as well as SBAC testing, our teachers are working harder than ever to prepare their students for the challenge that lies ahead. It is easy to forget that teaching academics is not the only job our teachers have to do. Positive behavior support must be in alignment with every other task during the school day in order for Yellen to succeed. Mastery of balancing behavior management and teaching a specialized curriculum to students of varying ability levels is not easy, yet our teachers at Yellen have proven that it can be done. It is an honor to work with our Yellen Learning Center Education Specialists. Thank you for all you do!

Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Donna Lebetsamer
Principal

State Float Parade

Quail Valley 5th grade students recently participated in our annual 5th grade State Float Parade. Our fifth grade students have spent the year learning about American History. This culminating event involves each student selecting a state and conducting research to create a "float" to share the important aspects of their state. Students build their float on skate boards, wagons, scooters or anything with wheels. The parade involves students parading their State Float while our neighbors from Shadow Hills Intermediate School Band, under the direction of Mr. Macisso, serenades them playing patriotic music. Quail Valley students cheer them on as they learn a little something special about each of our 50 states. Thanks to the dedicated team of Mr. Akporji, Mr. Schmidig, Mrs. Schmidig, and Mrs. Spurgeon this annual event is enjoyed by all.



Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Pamela Egbert
Principal

Unity In the Community

In recognition of Black History Month, Yucca Elementary School enjoyed community activities and events throughout the month of February.

Each day during morning announcements, student classroom leaders recognized African-American inventors who contributed to communities throughout our nation. To celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., kindergarten through second-grade students created "I Have a Dream" posters, which have been beautifully displayed in our main office. In our efforts to embed Common Core State Standards strategies, third- and fourth-grade students were placed in small groups, where accountable talk activities were conducted after viewing African-American films such as: "Akeelah and the Bee" and "Remember the Titans." Fifth- and sixth-grade students attended the Black Heritage Assembly hosted by a local church. The assembly included story-telling, poetry, choral songs, and dance. Fifth- and sixth-grade students and staff appreciated learning about the legacy and successes of early African-American settlers of the Antelope Valley.

Our Black History Month Celebration ended with a splendid Southern meal of collard greens, macaroni and cheese, red beans and rice, and barbecue chicken and ribs served to all staff members at our school. This lovely soul food feast was catered by a local church. Their act of kindness was greatly appreciated!

One of the goals at Yucca is incorporate the traditions and cultural heritages of all student learners. In doing so, our aim is to unify members of the school community to continue developing hearts to serve life's most precious investment: the children of our future.

Gearing Up for Summer



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

For some parents, the arrival of summer means less stress because the school schedule is not a part of the daily routine. For other parents, having the children home all day every day is stressful. Whichever arena you are in, the reality of life is that summer vacation is almost here for the traditional schools.

Children may get more wound up, more disagreeable, more difficult to manage as the start of summer gets closer. Change is stressful, even if it is for the better. The break in routine is stressful for children and adults. It is advisable to keep your discipline strong so that you glide into summer with boundaries in place. Consistent boundaries will also help your child to contain his or her behavior and to feel safe.

My discipline system is mentioned on parentingsos.com and my book, *Don't Feed the Dragon*, is a discipline manual divided into three sections:

(1) what parents need to understand about children in order to successfully guide them; (2) my discipline system, and (3) answers to 130 of the top concerns of parents, listed in alphabetical order. The book is age-appropriate from tots through the teens and is available on parentingsos.com.

Having your discipline system in place, it is wise to sit down as a family and make a list of things that can be done during free time. The list may be posted in a place where children can use it as a reference. To quell the endless, "I'm bored" message that children who are not used to having non-structured time often begin chanting when school ends, offer two choices: "You may refer to the chart that we created or I will choose a chore off the chores chart that will help you dispel boredom." This plan might allow you to have your whole house cleaned in the first week of summer!

Summer is a wonderful time to train your darling children to do chores. Finally, they have time—the constant excuse during school months! Children will leave home some day—I promise!—and when they do, they need to know how to take care of a house and themselves. Chores teach a child that a house does not clean itself and how to do fundamental tasks, such as clean a toilet. If you have a housekeeper, create a space each week that the children are responsible for in terms of upkeep and give the tidiness angel one less area to clean.

It is important that children are not in so many activities that their lives become stressful. Children need time to be children! If you want your child to be successful in school, have at least a half hour a day that is devoted to school skills. If each child took a 30-minute "chill break" and read for that amount of time, their future teachers would be ecstatic! Every child needs quiet time each day that does not involve any media or mechanical gadgets, including during the summer.

Most important of all, enjoy your children! There will never be another summer like the one ahead of you. Your children will not be this age ever again. Create some sort of structure and have some time that is not structured. Don't send your children to other people to play all the time—what each child wants more than anything else is time with you. It is easy to forget that when you are trying to keep the energy-packed chicks busy.

Thanks to all the teachers who gave so much of themselves this school year to help our children be all that they can be!

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

Summer Fun 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 subject line)

Entries must be received by June 15, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome | Lessons | Sunscreen |
| Barbeque | Lifeguard | Surfing |
| Beach | Picnics | Swimming |
| Fireworks | Pool | Vacation |
| Fun | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot | Sand | Water |
| Ice Cream | Summer | Wave |
| Lemonade | Sunny | |



**Congratulations to Jesse Lopez Anuario
Winner of the March Contest!**



Pauline Winbush

Maldonado was selected from among the 16 administrators who applied for the Superintendent position before it closed on March 19th. Many factors were considered in the selection process, with special emphasis placed on attributes identified as important in the recent community survey hosted by the School District.

Maldonado will begin his duties as Superintendent upon the completion of his contract negotiation. Pauline Winbush, who has been serving as Palmdale School District's Interim Superintendent, will then return to her position as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

"It has been an honor to serve as Interim Superintendent," said Winbush. "I look forward to great things happening at Palmdale School District under Mr. Maldonado's leadership."

Palmdale Board President Resigns May 7th

Palmdale School District Board President Maria Molina retired from the board on May 7th. The change comes from the desire to avoid any conflict of interest.

"The board will soon be making important decisions about funding and the hiring of new teachers," explained Molina. "It would be a conflict of interest for me to help decide how many new teachers the district hires when I myself am trying to get hired as a new teacher, and that's not how we operate."

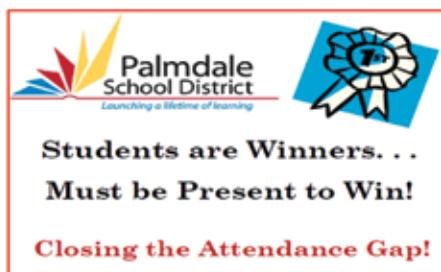
"The Los Angeles County Office of Education has recommended we fill the vacancy by appointment since Mrs. Molina has less than two years left in her term," explained Interim Superintendent Pauline Winbush. "Their reasoning is that anything less than two years does not justify the immense cost that a special election would impose on our district."

A new board member will be selected at a special board meeting on May 30th where the board will interview and discuss the applicants, then accept a motion and vote to appoint one of them to the board. The public still has the ultimate decision in matter, as the appointment can be contested and a special election ordered if more than 1.5% of Palmdale School District voters sign a petition requesting a special election.

Molina has served on the Palmdale School District Board of Trustees since November 2011. She worked as an instructional aide and teacher at Palmdale School District for 11 years before joining Keppel School District as an instructional coach in 2006. She will also be resigning her position at Keppel to pursue her desire to return to the Palmdale School District as a teacher.

District Office (661) 947-7191 • Emergency (888) 474-8107
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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



PSD Honors Band Plays at CABE Conference!

*By Bev Martin, Assistant Principal
 Barrel Springs Elementary / Quail Valley Elementary*

This year our district was privileged to attend and perform at the Creating Multilingual Magic Conference held in April. One of our very own, Luz Alvarez, a first grade teacher from Los Amigos, was named CABE Teacher of the Year!



CABE is the acronym use for The California Association for Bilingual Education. It is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1976 to promote bilingual and quality educational experiences for all students in California whose native language is not English. CABE has a membership of over 5,000 with 60 plus chapters/affiliates, all working to promote equity and student achievement

for students with diverse cultural, racial, and linguistic backgrounds. CABE recognizes and honors that we live in a rich multicultural, global society and that respect for diversity makes us a stronger state and nation.

CABE's vision and mission is to support and promote biliteracy, educational equity, and 21st century success for all English Language Learners. Each year the organization hosts many conferences and we are fortunate in the Los Angeles Area to host the annual conference in Long Beach. The CABE conferences are designed to meet the needs of teachers, administrators, para-educators and parents working with English Learners. With many options, attendees can take advantage of many professional development opportunities. If you are interested in attending next year's conference, please contact your student's school.



Only online applications will be accepted at www.palmdalesd.org

To view all current job opportunities, click on the "Employment" icon.

- ⚡ Chief Business Officer
- ⚡ Paraeducator -
- ⚡ Certified Interpreter (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
- ⚡ Sub 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.

The Personnel Commission has relocated to 37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 661-285-2902

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