

Welcome Back!

By Raul Maldonado, Superintendent

This new school year is already off to a great start. Some exciting things have been going on around our district leading up to this year's first day of school.

This summer was the renovation of Tamarisk Elementary School, the introduction of our teacher iPad program, the implementation of the new Student Data Information Software Program, teacher trainings, and continued construction on our David G. Millen School. As you may have seen on Facebook or read in the *Antelope Valley Press*, Tamarisk is back and better than ever. After being closed for four years because of the economic crisis, we were able to reopen it this year to a crowd of smiling students and happy parents. It is wonderful to have Tamarisk's red brick walls filled with learning and fun, once again.

Despite being one of our oldest schools, Tamarisk is ready to serve our modern students with SMART Boards in classrooms, a new computer lab, and other



Superintendent Raul Maldonado addressing a class.

technological additions. Also, we made this grand old school look new again with new paint, black top, playground equipment, and more.

Our teacher iPad program is sure to bring exciting new benefits to our classrooms, as our teachers use this new technology to teach our students. The tablets should also help our teachers keep online records, such as grades and attendance, more up to date, making it even easier for our parents to stay on top of their children's education.

These are just two of the great things that happened this summer, thanks to

our hardworking, year-round staff at the district office.

This year, I had the opportunity to visit a number of our schools on the first day school. Among those I visited was our district's oldest campus, Yucca Elementary School. I am always impressed at the quality of our Palmdale students. So many of them were dressed nicely, sitting quietly with their hands folded, ready to learn on that day. I know I am joined by all of our Palmdale staff and faculty when I say thank you, parents, for teaching the value and importance of education to our children in your homes.

With the first days of the new school year over, it's time to get to work. A good education is earned through effort. Thank you so much for supporting your students as they work hard, study, and apply the new things they are learning.

I look forward to seeing you on our campuses and in our community. It's already a great school year. Let's keep working together to make it even better.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Heart of the Community

By Nancy Smith, President

It is my pleasure as the president of the Palmdale School District Board of Trustees to welcome all of our students back for a new school year. The Board and the staff hope that you will see many exciting, new, learning opportunities at the school sites.

We want to make sure that you know that we would like parents to become very involved in their child's education. Parent involvement has proven to be one of the best indicators for a child's success in school and in life.

The Palmdale School District's goal is to make the Palmdale

schools the hubs of our community. We want our schools to be places where parents and students feel welcome, so we provide excellent educational opportunities for our students and events and programs for the entire community family.

Again, we welcome you all back to school. We have tried to provide answers to many questions on our Web site, <http://palmdale.org>. If you have suggestions or need additional information, please contact your child's school or the Palmdale School District offices at (661) 947-7191.

I really hope that you and your child have a very pleasant educational experience at our Palmdale schools this year.

Board of Trustees



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President



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- ▶ 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**



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year!

We all remember the mixed feelings of summer coming to an end and the anticipation of going back to school. For some students it is seeing old friends, for others it may be beginning again in a new school with unfamiliar faces and for others it is starting school and leaving familiar faces at home — It is a new school year for everyone including the teachers. If there is a new student in your classroom, remember to say hello and make them feel welcome.

We are looking forward to publishing the excellence from the Palmdale School District under the leadership of Superintendent Raul Maldonado.

Thank you for your entries in our June Word Search contest. The winner is announced on page 10 where you will find our Leadership Word Search. There is not an age limit so parents enjoy with your children and everyone may enter.

We hope you had fun with your families this summer. As always we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. We are continuing to improve our web site and our social media efforts to communicate with you. Each issue is always available digitally for you to email to friends and loved ones. Email me if you would like a copy emailed to you.

Our next issue is December. Until then have a Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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**Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Recruiting eligible children birth to four years of age, including services for pregnant women and their families. Our programs provide support in the areas of: Health, nutrition, social services and academic readiness. Parents who have children with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Placement Pending Least Restrictive Environment as specified by their child's IEP. Early Childhood Education promotes school readiness for children 0-4 years old.

Programs offered:
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Early Head Start
State Preschool
Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)



For more information call

Palmdale area:
975 East Ave. P-8,
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 273-4710

or

Lancaster Area:
540 E. Lancaster Blvd. #101
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 942-2450

www.Palmdalesd.org

Select: Early Childhood Education

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**Palmdale School District
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Welcome and Enrollment Center

39139 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/537-6100 • www.palmdalesd.org

Student Enrollment Information

The Welcome and Enrollment Center is happy to enroll your new or transfer K-8th grade students. Our courteous staff will be able to assist you with all your enrollment needs.

Enrollment packets are available for pick-up at any school site or at the Welcome & Enrollment Center. To make enrollment go as smoothly and quickly as possible, please have your packet completely filled out prior to coming to the Welcome and Enrollment Center.

Find what school to attend

www.palmdalesd.org

- Quick Links – Welcome and Enrollment Center
- Quick Links – School Site Locator
- Section Contents – Enrollment
- Grades K-8 – New and Transfer Students
- Enrollment Hours: 8:00 am. to 3:00 pm
Monday – Friday (Except Holidays)
- School Site Locator



What Do I Need to Enroll My Child?

(All documents must be original.)

1. Completed enrollment packet
2. Parent/Guardian/Foster Parent: valid picture identification
3. Student's verification of age: original certified birth certificate, (baptismal certificate, visa or passport might be accepted if birth certificate is not possible.) Hospital documents are NOT a valid proof of age.
4. Proof of Residence: A current (within one month) utility bill (gas, electric or water) showing the parent's or guardian's name and home address or final escrow papers or property tax payment receipt or voter registration or current pay stub with Employer's name and address and parent/guardian name and address.
5. Living with Others: If you and your child are living in someone else's home, please bring a letter signed by that person or a Residency Verification Form, their current proof of residence (as described above), and their picture ID (or bring the person with you.)
6. Immunization Records (see below for requirements)
7. IEP or Special Education Reports (if applicable)
8. Legal Custody or Court Orders (if applicable)
9. Foster Placement papers (if applicable)

2014-15 IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

	AGE 4-6 4 doses	AGE 7-17 4 doses
POLIO	3 doses if one after 4 th birthday	3 doses if one after 2 nd birthday
	AGE 6 & Under 5 doses	AGE 7 & Over 5 doses
DTP	4 doses if one after 4 th birthday	3 doses if one after 2 nd birthday
	AGE 4-6 and 7th Grade Students	AGE 7-17
MMR	2 doses both after 1 st birthday	7th grade - 2 doses otherwise 1 dose if one after 1 st birthday
	AGE 4-6	Kdg and Above
HEP B	3 doses	3 doses
	ALL AGES	AGE 13-17
VARICELLA	1 dose or physician documented disease history.	2 doses if not admitted to CA school by 7/1/2001.
	7th GRADE	OUT OF STATE
TDAP BOOSTER	7 th grade – 1 dose after 7 th birthday	1 dose after 7 th birthday if 8 th -12 th grade transferring from out of CA

Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

The Best Anywhere

Creating and maintaining a safe environment for our students is one of Barrel Springs' main priorities.

During the first week of school our students attended the annual Best Behavior Assembly. This activity focused on procedures, routines and expectations like staying safe and being responsible and respectful. In addition, our fabulous PTA sponsored the "Go the Distance" assembly. This event not only focused on good behavior traits, it also stressed the importance of making good choices and setting goals for a successful school year.

Our bus riders attended the annual Bus Rider Assembly, where they were reminded to be safe not only on the bus but also to and from school. We want our students to understand that their school is a "safe zone," and so they need to follow the directions of those who are supervising.

In addition, our school has a strong focus on academics through the Common Core State Standards, and is also concerned about the well-being of each student. We know that in order to capture their minds we must first capture their hearts. So every day our teachers greet their students with a handshake and a smile!

We also begin the day with "Words of Wisdom" during the morning announcement. These focus on social and emotional well-being, character education, and how to be happy individuals.

Our dedicated staff is excited about continuing its educational partnership with our parents and community. Everyone is very proud of Barrel Springs School because we know that our children are the best students anywhere!

Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ruth James
Principal

Gear-Up and AVID

Cactus is again benefiting this year from having received the Gear-Up grant and having been selected as one of the Gear-Up schools to watch. We were privileged to present at the Gear-Up conference this fall and have had other middle schools requesting to visit our school to look at our programs and to discuss WASC accreditation process at the middle school level. With the support of Gear-Up, we will be conducting our Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) workshops again in the spring.



Our AVID program has been expanding as a method of intervention and reaching students who are achieving a GPA of 2.0 or above, and are self-motivated. This year, we have four sections of AVID, and our teachers are reporting success for a growing number of students. We are able to use the resources from Gear-Up to continue to foster the college-bound culture for both AVID students and non-Avid students. We have invited guest speakers from a variety of career fields to speak to our students on Career Day and are continuing our college tours to several colleges and universities in the Southern California area.

Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

A New Tradition

Buena Vista is off and running with some big changes! We've added seven new teachers, and about 150 new students are being rezoned from Cimarron.

In order to welcome our newcomers and make their transition as smooth as possible, the school had an ice cream social on Thursday, August 7. We offered free ice cream with all the toppings!

The teachers came, and after socializing, they opened their classroom doors to give our new friends a chance to visit their new classes. Parents also had a chance to join the PTA, buy a BV Panda T-shirt for their students to wear on Fridays, adopt a Kiwanis Duck, or get any needed school information.



The event was a smashing success, with over 300 people in attendance. We even had some special guests. Raul Maldonado, our new superintendent, also joined the celebration. Chief Leadership Officer Stacy Bryant attended, and Board Member Dennis Trujillo also came and helped scoop the ice cream. This will definitely be an annual event!

Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Calling All Parents

Chaparral Elementary School has one of the most robust parent involvement programs in the Palmdale School District. We have a diverse collection of activities that parents can choose from. Our traditional parent organizations, such as School Site Council, English Language Advisory Council, parent volunteers and PTA, are engaging and well attended. In addition to these opportunities, we invite parents to be part of our Parent Academy (PA), Chaparral's African America Parent Advisory Council (CAAPAC), and our Family Literacy Program.

PA has been around for two years, and it is our most attended parent group. This group meets on the stage of the cafeteria at 8:15 after students are in class. Parents like this meeting time, because they are already at school and don't have to make a special trip back. The individual sessions are designed to inform parents and help them effectively navigate public education by deepening their understanding of how the school operates. This year's presenters will be Mrs. Streeter and Mr. Pitts.

Our CAAPAC is beginning its second year. This parent group meets just after dismissal one day per month. Parents attending this group talk about relevant educational issues, solve problems and provide advice to the School Site Council. In addition, this organization works to empower parents to empower their students. We work on issues of ownership related to career awareness and self-esteem. This year, parents can look forward to another exciting year under the leadership of Mrs. Rena Thorogood.

Our Family Literacy Program was introduced late last year under the direction of our community liaison, Ms. Ana Robinson. This group meets in the library to explore different strategies that are used at school and ones that can be used at home to assist students' reading development. The ability to read and comprehend has a strong connection to all subject areas. Our parents were grateful to have this program at Chaparral and look forward to attending again.

At Chaparral, parent participation in our programs is our biggest asset. We have a large number of parents who want to contribute. Building relationships with our parents is a top priority. A big thank you to our parents for all that you do.

Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Olympics

Greek togas, Jamaican tie-dyed shirts, Japanese headbands, torch runners and about 500 medal winners were featured in Cimarron's 2014 Olympics, held the last week of May.

Although it doesn't date back as far as the Greeks, it's Cimarron's oldest tradition, starting when we opened in 1997. The tradition continues under teachers Mike Butler and Brad Smith.

After a music-filled opening ceremony, mini-reports on the represented nations and a call by Principal Wehunt to "let the games begin," each "team" and torch bearer marched to the cafeteria in creative dress of the various nations they represented. Our cafeteria was transformed into a League of Nations, bedecked with over 30 flags and national anthems.

"The opening ceremony really gets them excited for the events to follow," Butler said. "It's a great way to end the school year!"

Two grades participate each day. Kindergarten even has an event, led by sixth-graders. While one grade performs outdoor events, the other is racking their brains indoors competing in the Spelling Bee, Math Bee, Social Studies Trivia, and Chess and Checkers tournaments. After lunch, the two grades swap venues. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded after the event.

The Olympics end with a spirited closing ceremony. "Don't Stop Believing" blares as the children enter the cafeteria to sing, view inspirational and funny videos, and show off those medals. Finally, all the "nations" come together and sing "Timber."

The torch is passed on, the Olympics are pronounced over, and the memories are engraved to last a lifetime. In 2016, this spirited competition will return!

Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

A New Journey

Desert Rose is starting a new journey. This new chapter begins with improving the grounds and facilities. We have been working with District personnel to have boards removed from windows, improved lighting around Desert Rose campus, and continue to work on the grounds. Desert Rose is also working to bring more awareness to bullying and positive interventions for students.

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Marlene Batista
Principal

Making a Difference

Dos Caminos is revved up and ready to start the new school year!

Our staff and parents are excited about the new changes to the site. The multipurpose room has now been turned into our third-grade wing, and we are welcoming four new teachers: Maestra Adams, Mrs. Stevens, Maestra Cervantes and Mrs. Wygant.

Each teacher brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with their students. Two other new faces are Assistant Principal Ms. Roxanne Dashti and LST Ms. Candace Craven. They will be strong assets to our already wonderful team.

The staff prepped for the start of the year at an inspirational meeting where positive thoughts and words were the theme. Everyone participated in a "pat on the back" activity by writing positive things about each other on a paper that was then taped to our backs!

This year our school motto is, "We are educators, we were born to make a difference!" Bring on the 2014-2015 school year!

Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

Pathways to Success

This year we will celebrate Desert Willow Intermediate School's tenth anniversary! We are so excited to have reached this milestone, and are happy about the great things happening at our school.

We take pride in ensuring that each student receives the best education possible, one where they will learn 21st-century skills for high school, college and the work place. We strive to foster a positive learning environment where students can actively engage in learning, collaborate with each other, and think critically in all subject areas. We know that a good education is the key to success.

In an effort to enhance our educational program, we are happy to announce that Desert Willow Intermediate School has increased its elective offerings for the 2014-2015 school year! In addition to beginning art, advanced art, band I and II, strings I and II, and AVID, we are once again able to offer the introductory Spanish elective. This will allow students an opportunity to take a foreign language before entering high school.

We have also added the STEM elective (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) which supports our desire to have students gain the 21st-century skills necessary to compete in a global society. These newly added courses are available to both seventh- and eighth-grade students, and will provide more opportunities for those with diverse interests.

Our staff is excited to be providing diverse opportunities for our students, and we will strive to continue adding more electives in the future. Desert Willow Intermediate School is creating pathways to success!

School News



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Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Community Involvement is Key!

Golden Poppy continues to make 2014 a year of renewed commitment to parent and community involvement. Through a staff wide effort, the Grizzlies have seen a swell in the number of parents attending events such as our Parent Academies, ELAC meetings, daily volunteer opportunities at the school site, and a fantastic PTA with a fully staffed executive board. A highlight of the 13/14 school year was the beginning of an adult English class for our parents taught by our Parent Community Liaison, Mrs. Albornoz. We look forward to continued growth and involvement as we begin what promises to be a fantastic year!



Juniper *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Celebrating 55 Years of Success

Juniper Intermediate School kicked off its final year with a barbecue the week before school began. Students, staff and families enjoyed a wonderful day under the upper quad trees. We wish to extend a hearty thank you to Bishop Henry Hearn, Gwen Cole, and Scherea Culver from our Pen or Pencil after-school tutoring and mentoring program for organizing and executing an exceptional day to start off a special year.

At the end of this school year Juniper will host a program that celebrates its 55 years of educating the youth of Palmdale. We are in the process of compiling photos and other artifacts that will help to celebrate Juniper's history and traditions. More information will be provided as we draw closer to the celebration.

Juniper shares in the mutual effort, working with parents, teachers, and the community, to prepare all students for their future as lifelong learners and contributing members of society.



Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Soccer Club

This year, we have been fortunate enough to have a soccer club for our students. Master Joshua, Instructor Stephanie and Instructor Eddie from a tae kwon do center here in Palmdale did a fund-raiser for our school, raising \$620. They then used that money to buy soccer goals.

Esther Montiel, a sixth-grader, said, "Soccer inspires me to learn because learning is part of soccer." Damairri Noel, another sixth-grader, said, "I love playing soccer at Joshua Hills. It makes me act smarter in class and out of class because it's all about respect. You have to earn it to play." Sixth-grader Alyssa Maldonado said, "I like having soccer at our school. You get to learn and play hard." And finally, Kris Zepeda said, "When you play soccer, you think more and you participate in something that is fun, which makes kids want to come to school."



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Maria Elena Esquer
Principal

Ready for a New Year!

Los Amigos welcomes all of its families back for the 2014-15 school year! This is a unique time for all of us as we continue on our Common Core journey.

As a dual-language school, Los Amigos is committed to excellence in both English and Spanish each day, and both languages are valued equally. This is an exciting time for us all, as students and teachers are both learners and beneficiaries of the detailed planning and dedicated efforts of implementing the Common Core State Standards in both languages.

Recently, we reflected upon our beliefs and why we do what we do as a school site each day in addition to the successes students accomplished last year. We were so proud to have been a part of their growth and pride. As a staff, we worked with all students to ensure that they became better problem solvers, readers, writers and learners of all subjects in both languages. Additionally, we will overcome the challenges we face and continue to grow in order to serve our students in every possible way.

As this new year begins, our commitment to student learning stays strong. We will continue to be the best practitioners in the classroom, work with our families and community, and remain strong in our belief that all students can be successful, accomplished 21st-century citizens.

Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Kelly Jensen
Principal

Manzanita Staff Spreads Happiness

According to Shawn Achor, a bestselling author and happiness advocate, “If you can raise somebody’s level of positivity in the present, then their brain experiences what we now call a happiness advantage, which is your brain at positive performs significantly better than it does at negative, neutral, or stressed.” Principal Kelly Jensen presented a 21 Day Happiness Challenge to her staff on August 8th. The staff was asked to spend two minutes a day engaging in activities such as journaling, exercising, meditating, and performing random acts of kindness.

The staff began the 21 Challenge on Friday, August 8th, with random acts of kindness by opening their classrooms to their new students and parents. The students that attended “Sneak a Peek” were given free backpacks donated by Costco. Students and parents were happy and smiling as they left with backpacks and a lower stress level after meeting their new teachers.

Manzanita is following Shawn’s formula for happiness and success and hoping in doing so, “will not only create ripples of positivity, but also create a real revolution!”



Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

Science Fair

As the year came to a close, our fifth-grade students prepared for the highly anticipated Science Fair. Their teachers worked with them throughout the year on the scientific method so they could apply what they learned.

Students came in each day to share their findings and new discoveries every step of the way. As the big day approached, excitement filled the air. The thought of presenting their hard work gave students a sense of pride and self-assurance. The cafeteria was filled with happy parents, siblings and classmates in May, and the event was a hit!

Students were awarded first-, second- and third-place medals by class as well as an overall Teacher’s Choice Award. They gained a lot of growth through this experience and found that learning is truly a blast when you really get your hands on it! We cannot wait for the 2014–15 Science Fair!



David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Brian Williams
Principal

Exciting News

David G. Millen Intermediate is bursting at the seams, as we wait until our new campus is finished. In addition to all of our new students, we also got a new addition to our administration team.

Ms. Chris Burton is new to Millen Intermediate, but she is not new as an Assistant Principal.

Before coming to us, Ms. Burton worked at Desert Rose, Golden Poppy, and Desert Willow.

Millen Intermediate has other exciting news. We were selected to participate in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). This test is taken worldwide. Millen Intermediate is excited to help contribute to the success of the United States, and to see how its students measure up against other countries.



Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Launch Pad

The staff at Oak Tree Learning Center is dedicated to providing an educational environment that supports students emotionally and academically. We continue to refine our approaches based on the specific needs of each student. At Oak Tree, leadership is a characteristic that will be cultivated within each student. Students assigned to Oak Tree have not had many quality opportunities to participate in school as positive leaders. But our students are expected to show their leadership capabilities the first day, as they learn from each other.

In order to prepare each student for leadership, the staff models the look and characteristics of leadership, especially compliant, consistent, and calculated behaviors. Once students have a firm grasp on what is expected, they are then challenged to the next step: leader of the class; leader of the school; and ultimately the mentor level, where they are assisting new student leaders. We take pride in our student leaders, lunch responsibilities, walking in hallways, and physical-education monitors.

Oak Tree focuses on replacement behaviors—respect, discipline, leadership, and structure—so that we can implement our No. 1 goal, which is academic achievement. As we continue to change the culture here at Oak Tree, we will help close the achievement gap. Oak Tree implements the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on accountable student talk, text-dependent questions, and standards for mathematical practice sentence stems. Our goal is to help students make a smooth, academic transition back to their home schools.

Students like the program at Oak Tree because they feel safe, the expectations are clear, and they know we care.

Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

On Our BEST Behavior

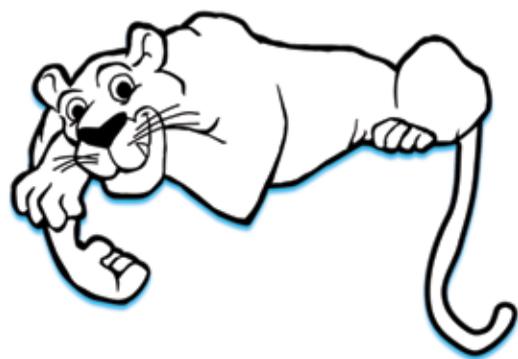
At Ocotillo Elementary School, we want to ensure that our students thrive academically and behaviorally! Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an important component to help achieve this goal.

The BEST Behavior Fair and Expectations Assemblies were held the first week of school. At the BEST Behavior Fair, teachers rotate students through different playground stations and review proper play, expectations, game rules, and safety. The fair helps to ensure that students exhibit appropriate playground behaviors and that they know how to play games correctly during their recess periods.

At the BEST Expectations Assemblies, each grade level meets in the cafeteria with Mr. Young, the principal, and Mr. Lueck, the assistant principal.

They review behavioral expectations for all campus areas in an engaging format. Our campus student behavior incentive programs are discussed, which includes the following: BEST Breakfast, BEST Behavior Assemblies, Friday ticket drawings, and earned extra recess.

The fair and assemblies will be conducted again when school resumes after winter break.



Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

Off to A Great Start!

At our beginning of the year meeting we were visited by our superintendent, Raul Maldonado, and PETA president, Hugo Estrada.

Their message and our teachers' new energy and commitment have set Palm Tree on the road to our goal to make this school year "The Best Year Ever!" We are excited to have The Boys and Girls Club as our after school provider, a new and improved clinic program, and every Friday as Spirit Day.



We completed our PBIS assemblies so our students know, at Palm Tree, we are Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. We have wonderful students who come to school to learn each and every day. We are Palm Tree Parrots!!

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Danny Kanga
Principal

Welcome, Miss O'Leary!

The Palmdale Learning Plaza (PLP) is very excited to welcome Qiana O'Leary as our new assistant principal. Miss O'Leary formerly served at Yucca Elementary School as an assistant principal, and she brings a special passion and positive energy to PLP.

Miss O'Leary is a visionary leader and a licensed educator with a master's degree in leadership education from the University of California, Los Angeles, coupled with 10 years of experience instructing secondary education students, collaborating with stakeholder groups, and implementing effective programs. She believes in the value of providing a high-quality education to all students, and she is committed to exposing all students to a rigorous curriculum that will challenge and stimulate their desire to learn. Miss O'Leary has a passion to meet the needs of all students by establishing trusting and supportive relationships with the students and their parents.

Welcome, Miss O'Leary! We are pleased to have you as part of our wonderful Puma community.



Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Donna Lebetsamer
Principal

Behind The Scenes

Preparation for back to school is in full swing at Quail Valley! Teachers are preparing lesson plans and fixing classrooms, students are shopping for school supplies, and parents are rejoicing – everyone is going back to school! The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time, but also an important transition period for everyone returning from summer vacation. Here at Quail Valley all hands are on deck as we learn to navigate the new Infinite Campus Reporting system. Principal Donna Lebetsamer and Secretary Sharon Shultz are tireless at work as they input students in classes and get attendance records ready for the new school year. Organizing the first day of school from start to finish is key to starting out the school year on a successful note. Having lists of things to do before school is extremely important, but having lists prepared for Day One is essential!



Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Barbara Gaines
Principal

Shadow Hills Prepares For WASC Visit

The staff at Shadow Hills has been busy preparing for their first WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation visit. The team of six will arrive in Palmdale on Sunday, November 16th and will spend the afternoon in a meet and greet with District officials, staff and parents. For the next three days, the WASC team will be visiting classrooms, interviewing teachers, students, and parents confirming the information provided to them in the Shadow Hills WASC self-study report. Currently, all Shadow Hills students are going to have the opportunity to offer feedback on our student learner outcomes in their Language Arts classes. Students will work in small groups to understand the relationship between student learner outcomes and their daily learning.

Tamarisk *Elementary K-6*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

A Renaissance in Its True Sense!

There is a palpable excitement in the Tamarisk school community. The school was closed in 2010 because of the decrease of student population as a consequence of the housing market and fiscal crisis in California. However, Tamarisk had its grand reopening and ribbon-cutting ceremony that was attended by many Antelope Valley and Palmdale School District dignitaries. Families enjoyed a community barbecue after the ribbon-cutting ceremony thanks to the support in donations by two local supermarkets and the Victory Outreach Church.

Tamarisk has been remodeled and modernized, and it looks great, thanks to the hard work of the maintenance facilities and technology departments. Every classroom has a Smart Board and brand-new student furniture. Students are excitedly enjoying their new playground equipment.



The certificated and classified staffs of Tamarisk are laboring in a stellar manner to promote and maintain a safe learning environment; build positive relationships with one another, students and families; and promote high academic expectations for all our students.

Our first Behavioral Assembly validated that Tamarisk Elementary has returned to this community to meet the learning needs of our children. During the assembly, children were well behaved, and the excitement was incredible in the multipurpose room.

Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Terrie Dowling, Summerwind Assistant Principal

We are pleased to have Terrie Dowling as our new assistant principal of Summerwind Elementary School. Terrie has been with the Palmdale School District for 15 years. She began her career as a classroom teacher in grades 4, 5, 6, and 5/6 GATE. In addition, she worked as a SPT/CRT for four years before becoming an assistant principal.

Terrie has worked as an assistant principal at both the elementary and junior high levels. She is excited and eager to work with and get to know the students, staff, and parents of Summerwind Elementary.

Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



H. Alex Morales
Principal

A Positive Start

Welcome to Tumbleweed Elementary School. We are honored to have the opportunity to be involved in your child's education. Our focus continues to be student achievement.

We are proud to offer quality educational experiences for all students. This year, in addition to our core programs in language arts and mathematics, we have extensive intervention and enrichment opportunities.

Tumbleweed encourages all parents to be partners in their children's education, and there are many opportunities for parents to get involved. We strongly encourage you to volunteer in your child's classroom and to join the PTA. There are various committees to become a part of as well, such as School Site Council or English Learner Advisory Committee. Please contact your child's classroom teacher or call the school office for more information on ways to participate.

School hours are 8:28 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. It is very important for students to be in school on time every day and ready to learn.

I am proud to be the principal of Tumbleweed School and look forward to a very positive and productive year!

Go, Titans!

Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Pamela Egbert
Principal

Looking for Yucca Graduates!

Yucca Elementary is turning 60 in 2015! We are looking for former students that attended Yucca over the last six decades! If you or someone you know was a student at Yucca, we would like to hear from you. I'm sure past teachers and administrators have memories of many experiences at Yucca they would love to share with our current students and staff! We know that many of our students have made important contributions and have had an impact in our community and in communities around the state, country and maybe even the world! Yucca staff have always had a deep commitment to the lives of our students as well as to the community. Please contact Pamela Egbert, Principal at the number above.

We make a difference! Share your memories! Help us build our legacy!



Establishing a Routine



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

One of several issues child advocates are concerned about these days is that children are not getting enough sleep at night. A regular bedtime is essential to the health and growth of your child.

If eight o'clock is the child's bedtime, it is made clear that there is no room service or further negotiating after eight. "I am done with my mothering/fathering for today. Your job is to get some sleep. Once I leave the room, any requests, complaints or fooling around noise will cost you fifteen minutes off of when you go to bed tomorrow night. Two complaints means you go to bed tomorrow night at seven thirty. It is time to sleep. I will be glad to see you tomorrow." Hugs and kisses are given and the line drawn in the sand—no more communication.

Children need a regular study time each day. This is sometimes difficult with the multiple interruptions provided by the after school extra curricular schedule. To the extent the time is regular will the child be able to adapt to doing the work at hand.

With a child who has trouble focusing, it is best to have the child show you what the homework is and then show you what he/she has accomplished at the end of the homework period. Tell the child up-front that work must be legible (Your teacher will love you for this one!) and the work must be done. Work that is not legible will be copied over.

Keep an eye on your child's progress. Too many children flounder in school and then don't have the initiative or skills to catch up again. Ask the

teachers for a grade report long before the school schedule provides one. Let the teachers know you will support them and that you want to know if your child slips behind. A letter to the teacher might say, "Thank you for choosing to teach school. We want our son/daughter to be successful this semester and request that you let us know if he/she begins to fall behind, not do homework or otherwise fail to do his/her job in school. Thank you for your time and caring."

Inspire your child, help your child and do not do for your child what he/she needs to learn to do for self. As a former classroom teacher, I can tell you that it is easy to spot work that is done by a parent, not the child. This is especially true with projects. When one California mission is crudely glued together with popsicle sticks and another one has architectural design involved, a teacher knows that the parent probably took over the project.

Working together on a project is great fun, and it is important not to take the "child" out of the project. A good grade is not as important as a sense of doing something yourself. And, if the child puts off a project let him/her fail. Failing is an important lesson that inspires a child to make better choices. Rescuing a child does not teach responsibility.

Most important, make it clear that your child has two jobs in your home: (1) to be a good human being and (2) to do his/her best in school.

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

Leadership 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 October 30, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished | Organized |
| Caring | Powerful |
| Confident | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model |
| Drive | Strong Willed |
| Enthusiastic | Suitable |
| Focused | Teamwork |
| Independent | Trustworthy |
| Initiative | Understanding |
| Intelligent | |

**Congratulations to Mariela Perez
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!**

Word Search by Gunnar Coop

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

Palmdale School District's Sage Planetarium

Located at the corner of 20th Street East and Avenue R



An October for Eclipses

By *Jeremy Amarant, Director*

There will be a total Lunar Eclipse Wednesday, October 8, 2014 starting at 2:15 AM, ending at 5:34 AM. There will also be a Partial Solar Eclipse on October 23 from 12:40 PM until 4:50 PM.

The total Lunar Eclipse of Wednesday, October 8, 2014



This is the second of four Total Lunar Eclipses, which is being referred to in the news as the Blood Moon. The SAGE Planetarium will have telescopes for viewing in the parking lot from 2 AM to 5:30 AM, open to anyone who is willing to come out that late/early. We will have a place to get warm, perhaps something to snack on and a bunch of enthusiastic people.

You can easily view it from anywhere in California and you do not need a telescope. Just go outside during the eclipse time and look at the Moon. It will be out all night and almost straight up during the actual eclipse. You will see the shadow of the Earth land on the Moon around 2:30, but the Moon may get a reddish color earlier than that during the penumbral phase and will certainly be reddish-orange during totality. What is happening is that all of the sunlight is blocked and refracted by our atmosphere except the colors with the longest wavelengths (red, orange, yellow), and this will turn the Moon a red-orange color. For more information about Lunar Eclipses, please follow the links below.

<http://shadowandsubstance.com>

<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OHfigures/OH2014-Fig03.pdf>

Info for us in Palmdale:

2:15 AM PDT Umbral (Partial) Eclipse begins 9:15 UT

3:25 AM PDT Total Eclipse begins 10:25 UT

3:55 AM PDT Greatest Eclipse 10:55 UT

4:24 AM PDT Total Eclipse ends 11:24 UT

5:34 AM PDT Umbral (Partial) Eclipse ends 12:34 UT

*UT is Universal Time, PDT is Pacific Daylight Time

The Partial Solar Eclipse of Thursday, October 23, 2014



There will also be a Partial Solar Eclipse visible on Thursday, October 23, 2014. There will be telescopes with solar filters set up to view the eclipse safely.

The partial solar eclipse is visible in Palmdale beginning at 12:40 pm and ending at 4:50 pm. The time when the Sun will be blocked most is 2:45 pm.

You should not look at the Sun without safety equipment. A welder's glass #14, which is the

strongest type, is the only one that will fully protect your eyes. Things like sunglasses, or exposed film, where you can see normal lights through them, will not offer much, if any, protection. If you do not have a safe way to view the eclipse, you can use a file folder, or some other object that will block sunlight completely and punch a hole in it. This will actually project an image of the Sun onto the ground and you will be able to see the shape of the Sun change as the Moon blocks the Sun.

Due to the time of the Eclipse, many students will be outside at the beginning. It is important that safety is followed to prevent sunburned retinas. It is also a prime time for teachers to take advantage of teachable moment. Resources will be made available to the entire Palmdale School District from the SAGE Planetarium.

12:40 The Eclipse begins. The Moon begins blocking light from the Sun.

2:45 Maximum Eclipse. The Moon blocks the maximum amount of the Sun

4:50 The Eclipse ends. The Moon is no longer blocking light from the Sun

Palmdale Independent Achievement Center (PIAC)

39139 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/947-7191 • www.palmdalesd.org

Frequently Asked Questions

We offer an alternative education program that serves Palmdale School District Students. We continue to partner with Connections Learning, the provider of our online curriculum. We are a blended program, where students study online and come to school for face to face lessons.

How do I find out more about the blended program?

Call us and/or make an appointment.

What materials do you provide?

We provide all curriculum, either online, or as books and workbooks, and science experiment equipment.

Do I need a computer?

Yes, you will need a computer and internet access.

How much time will my child need to complete lessons?

Generally, the curriculum takes 4-6 hours a day. Access to the online program is available 24/7.

How much does it cost?

There is no charge to participate in our program.

What parent support do you provide?

Parents have their own log-in with online resources for instructing their child at home. We are available by phone, email, and in person to assist parents in teaching their child at home.

What are your hours?

Classes are scheduled Monday through Thursday from 8:30-11:30.

Students attend one day per week with their grade level.

Drop-in help is available for students and parents:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday -12:30-2:00 p.m. and

Friday By Appointment

Contact: Ms. Mitobe, 661-265-8908 or Mrs. Heins, 661-265-8909 or email

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.....

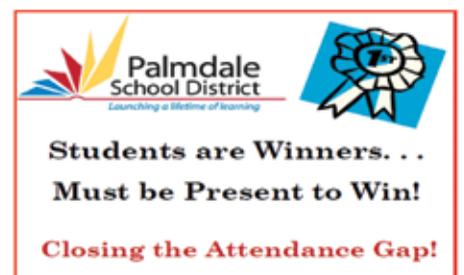
456-1452

Student Services.....

456-1457

Superintendent's Office.....

266-7222 & 266-7220



Please Drive Safely

Students are Back in School



JULY						
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31						

SEPTEMBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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JUNE						
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Special Ed. Extended School Year (ESY) June 16 – July 11, 2014		
First Day of School	August 11, 2014	Monday
HOLIDAYS	OBSERVED	DAYS
Independence Day	July 4	Friday
Labor Day	Sept. 1	Monday
Veterans Day	Nov. 11	Tuesday
Thanksgiving Week	Nov. 24 – Nov. 28	M/T/W/Th/F
Winter Break	Dec. 22 – Jan. 9	M/T/W/Th/F
Martin L. King Jr. Day	Jan. 19	Monday
Lincoln Day	Feb. 16	Monday
Washington Day	Feb. 23	Monday
Spring Break	March 23 – March 27	M/T/W/Th/F
Memorial Day	May 25	Monday

**TESTING WINDOW April 13 – May 8, 2015	
**(Testing Dates Subject to Change Based on State Mandates)	
Great California ShakeOut	Oct. 16, 2014 at 10:16 a.m.
District Office	661-947-7191
Superintendent's Office	ext. 7220 or ext. 7222
Educational Services	661-266-7233
Health Services	661-537-6143
Student Services	661-456-1457

MINIMUM DAYS	DATE	DAY
Back to School Elementary	Aug. 20	Wednesday
Back to School Intermediate	Aug. 21	Thursday
Professional Development Day	Feb. 11	Wednesday
Professional Development Day	May 6	Wednesday
Last Day of School	June 4	Thursday

SEMESTER DAYS	DATE	DAY
End 1st Grading Period	Dec. 19	Friday
* End 2nd Grading Period	June 4	Thursday

NON STUDENT DAY	DATE	DAY
Parent Conference	Sept. 24	Wednesday
Non-Student Day	Nov. 10	Monday
Parent Conference	March 4	Wednesday

After Hours Emergency #	888-474-8107
Special Education	661-456-1452
Student Transportation	661-266-7298
Welcome & Enrollment	661-537-6100
Child Nutrition	661-266-7280