

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Raul Maldonado**

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon to change the World." It is indeed true for me. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to help so many students in the Palmdale School District by providing them with a great education. At our middle school magnets, our students can select from up to 30 different electives. We can make a difference in the lives of our students by helping them acquire the necessary skills to be successful in the 21st Century.

I am very pleased to announce the launching of the new Palmdale School District Foundation. The theme for our 1st Annual dinner was "Launching the Next Generation – Inspiring Students To Reach for the Stars." We have an outstanding group of foundation directors who are doing a fantastic job raising money for schools grants.

We have managed to create a sense of community, pride and great partnerships. Together, the foundation raised approximately \$50,000 dollars!

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*By Danny Kanga, Director of LCAP*

Two new student board members were sworn in at the December 12th board meeting. Daniel Linares and Kyla Turner were both elected by their middle school peers, and they look forward to serving in this capacity. Daniel started at the January 16th board meeting, and Kyla started at the February 6th meeting. This is the second year that PSD has been electing student board members, as we fulfill the Palmdale PROMISE goal of "student voice." Our two student board members will be reporting out on issues and concerns from a student perspective, as well as giving a report from the Interschool Communication Council (ICC). The ICC is an elected body of representatives from the district's middle school ASBs. The ICC meets once per month to discuss student issues, and the members learn to advocate on behalf of all students.

This year Daniel and Kyla, as well as our ICC students and our PROMISE Ambassadors, have been advocating for students around the topic of "Food, Health, and Wellness." Students have met with district officials, presented concerns to the school board, and a few visited the PINCO Food Show to understand the food procurement process.

## Student Voice



**Raul Maldonado - Superintendent, Juan Carillo - Palmdale City Council Member, Daniel Linares and Kyla Turner - Student Board Members, and Joyce Ricks - Board Member**

PSD has had two experience-packed PROMISE Ambassador meetings this year. Students sampled and ranked 10 entrees provided by our Child Nutrition Department and also participated in a "celebrity" food challenge. Several community members also gave presentations on making good choices with regard to food, sugary drinks, exercise, and health, and students created an action plan on how they could encourage their peers and families to do the same.

Daniel and Kyla also attended a California Association of Student Councils (CASC) workshop in San Marino where they learned about student advocacy, leadership skills, as well as how to conduct meetings and handle conflict. We are proud of our student school board members as they advocate on behalf of all our students as well as pave the way for student leadership in our district.

## An Open Invitation to Our Palmdale School District Parents

*By Nancy Smith, President Board of Trustees*

We would love to have our PSD parents visit our NEW Palmdale School District's Center for Parent Partnership. This facility is designed to help our parents with access to a computer lab, meeting spaces, child care facility, classes in English and classes to learn many techniques to help their students be successful in their educational experience.

The PSD Parent Center is located at 38136 35th Street East, Palmdale, CA and is open during the day and for some classes offered in the evening. There is staff on site to help with questions and to take your recommendations on additional programs or classes that parents feel would help them become an integral part of our education community.

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## Board of Trustees



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Not having a paycheck during the summer had been cataclysmic. Having a Summer Saver helps me save throughout the year so I don't have to borrow for the summer."

**ARRONDA H.**

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



The new year is well underway and students are focused on their academic goals. Superintendent Maldonado's message on the front page was very informative. The middle school magnet school offers 30 electives! There has never been a more exciting time to be a student. Technology is changing and bringing with it challenges as well as benefits.

Our contest winner was Tori Burries. We did not have space in this issue for a contest but we have a contest on our web site under the podcast heading.

Our next issue is May 2.

## Early Childhood Education

975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4710 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)

## Technological Fluency



**Donna Lebitsamer**  
Director

Our youngest students are participating in 21st century learning in accordance with the Palmdale PROMISE to incorporate opportunities for innovation and imagination through state-of-the-art technology in every ECE classroom. A delivery of five iPads with a docking charging station arrived in each classroom at each of our 13 sites. ABC Mouse, an educational and literacy app and GoNoodle, a movement and mindfulness app were installed and the teachers were trained to use them with the students. The students are enjoying exploring this technology in the classroom (photo). They are already on the path to "technological fluency," a core component of student success.



## Counselors Corner

39139 North 10th St., Palmdale, CA 93550 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Stacy Bryant**  
Deputy  
Superintendent

### Moving Up to High School

Transitioning into high school is a rite of passage for every teenager. It is an exciting and somewhat scary time, met with many mixed feelings by our young students. The Palmdale School District (PSD) counselors have been working hard to make this transition a smooth one for our promoting eighth-graders. The district counseling team has attended meetings with counselors from the high school district, collaborating to arrange several events.

Using the school vans, counselors have been able to take smaller groups of students to see, first-hand, some of the special programs the high schools have to offer, including Advancement Via Individual Determination, the Health Careers Academy at Palmdale High School, and Students on the Academic Rise (SOAR) at Antelope Valley College.

Highland High School and Knight High School will be hosting our eighth-graders for campus tours and rally assemblies, where they will highlight all of the awesome programs their schools have to offer. Palmdale High School will be bringing their roadshow to the middle schools, along with hosting a parent information night on the campus.

PSD students must attend the high schools they are zoned to attend based upon their residential addresses. The high school district does offer a lottery-style, open-enrollment opportunity for students who wish to attend a school other than the one they are zoned to attend. Parents and students can go to [avdistrict.org](http://avdistrict.org) for more information. The open-enrollment application process closes on March 16, 2018. This information will be mailed to all students.

In May, the counselors will be visiting all eighth-grade classes with a transitioning-to-high-school presentation, which covers information the students will need, including high school credit requirements, A-G requirements, transcripts, self-advocacy, getting involved in clubs and other activities, and planning for college.



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# Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Kimberly Wright**  
*Principal*

## Student Ambassador Scholars and Innovators

Barrel Springs is proud to announce our Student Ambassador Scholars and Innovators! A total of 57 students were selected from 2nd to 5th grade to be a Student Ambassador for the 2017-18 school year. Student Ambassadors assist in promoting and monitoring positive behavior, provide student positive behavior incentives, participate in community service projects, and establish and cultivate positive school pride. Students were selected based on their willingness to help others, their desire to develop leadership skills, and by demonstrating positive and appropriate behavior at all times. These amazing students are true leaders of today and tomorrow!

# Cactus *Middle School 6-8*

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



**Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.**  
*Principal*

## Choice by Lottery

Next year, all PSD 5th grade students will be able to choose the Middle School they would like to attend via a lottery. With this new choice option, all Middle Schools have the opportunity to showcase their offered programs not only to their feeder schools but any elementary 5th grade classes interested in coming to Cactus.

Just before winter break, Cactus hosted numerous groups of 5th graders from various elementary schools coming to our campus to experience life as a "Cactus Coyote." Students had a fun filled day as they toured our campus giving us the opportunity to showcase our academy and our electives. Students who attended enjoyed a dance party, raffle prizes, and Manzanita students had an additional opportunity to eat lunch with our students. We all had a blast and look forward to the various students next year that will choose Cactus!



# Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Alusine Conteh**  
*Principal*

## Be an Ally, Not a Bully

Children bully for many reasons. Some bully because they feel insecure. Picking on someone who seems emotionally or physically weak can provide feelings of importance, popularity, or control. In some cases bullying is part of an ongoing pattern of defiant or aggressive behavior.

We take bullying very seriously at Buena Vista. Our learning community is committed to making sure that students understand that bullying will not be tolerated at school or anywhere else. We have established school-wide rules about bullying, and we stick to them.

Buena Vista teaches its students how to treat others with respect and kindness. This begins with a school-wide Anti-Bullying Pledge recited by the students every morning. We also have daily lessons focusing on being an ally instead of a bully.

We encourage our parents to teach their young learners a sense of empathy for those who are different, and that it is wrong to ridicule the differences in others.



# Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Tom Pitts**  
*Principal*

## 'Capturing Kids' Hearts'

Chaparral's Bobcat staff is dedicated to "Capturing Kids' Hearts" this school year. We are excited to use the skills and strategies of this powerful program to build and establish positive relationships with students.

Chaparral also established their Process Champions Team, which consists of CKH teacher leaders that encourage support and ideas for implementing the program. Chaparral's focus includes the meet and greet, social contract and time-out. The meet and greet has shown to be important to staff and students to gauge how students feel as they walk into the classroom. The social contract is an excellent tool to have students monitor their personal behavior, and the time-out strategy has students self-regulate others' behavior.



By using these strategies, the staff has seen a tremendous change of positivity throughout the school. Chaparral is committed to using the techniques of Capturing Kid's Hearts to help bridge those connections with students for years to come.

## Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

36940 45th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9780 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Chris O'Neill**  
Principal

### Tech Club

This year our Cimarron 4th and 5th grade students have had the opportunity to join our Tech Club, facilitated by our awesome Technology Support Liaison, Tashia Finley. These students meet once a week after school to learn all about computers and how they work. During school hours, they sometimes assist our Tech with computer issues around campus. Some of the things they've had the opportunity to do are: learning basic use of Promethian Boards and diagnosing panel issues, learning the internal components of computers, removing and/or installing software, updating iPads, using online programs to support academics and creativity, and code development. These students will have great futures ahead of them in our technology centered world!



## Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

37730 27th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/272-0584 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Melanie Pagliaro**  
Principal

### Attendance Pays Off!

Recently, Desert Rose First Semester Perfect Attendance students were rewarded with a field trip to the S.A.G.E. Planetarium. This field trip included 37 students who were here at school every minute of every day during the first semester.

Of course, not everyone can achieve that lofty accomplishment, so we also reward their short-term successes. At the end of each month, students who aren't absent and have no tardies or early releases are rewarded with treats! We also honor with a trophy the class in each grade level that has had the best attendance! Students are now striving for the opportunity to go on a bowling field trip for Second Semester Perfect Attendance.

In addition, any students who have perfect attendance for the entire school year will attend a pancake breakfast personally prepared by the Desert Rose administrators. Coming to school just got delicious!



## Desert Willow *Middle School 6-8*

36555 Sunny Lane, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-5866 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Timothy Howell**  
Principal

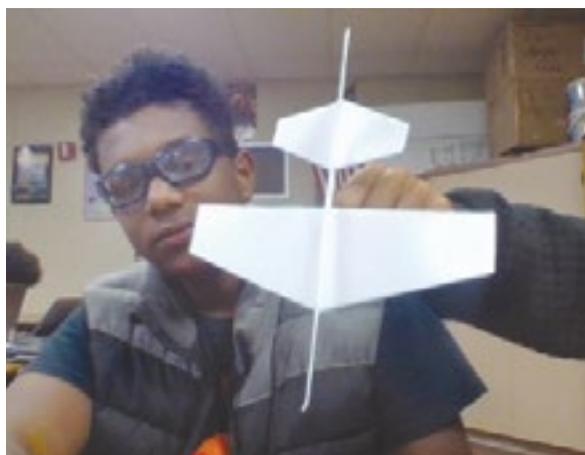
### Enhancing Learning

Project Lead the Way has "led the way" to interactive, hands-on learning!

Have you noticed the wind turbines and the solar panels in your community, and then wondered how energy is sustained or reused? In our energy and environment elective, Mrs. Farmer's students are challenged to think big towards the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs.

In Mr. Lotzges's automation and robotics class, students learn how to build and program robots, which allows them to connect and realize skills that can be utilized in everyday life. In the app creator class, Mr. Gar's students learn basic computer programming while using coding blocks. This is followed by designing simple, user-interactive Android apps. The students realize that they have the opportunity to become computer and electrical engineers.

In addition, in the flight and space class, students learn the history of manned flight as well as the basics of aeronautics. Through building and testing their own model flying machines, they discover the math and science behind airfoils, propulsion, and energy. Project Lead the Way has truly enhanced learning on a whole new level at Desert Willow!



## Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

39175 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-1849 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Laura Cervantes**  
Principal

### Leading the Way

Dos Caminos Elementary School is proud to introduce our inaugural year of Associated Student Body (ASB). The role of ASB is to build school spirit, promote citizenship, and raise student involvement in our community. Nearly 50 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders answered the call to serve.

ASB supports students through a variety of activities that make school enjoyable for all! ASB served at the annual grandparents' breakfast, and they were the driving force behind the Fall Festival. In addition, they raised funds by holding a shoe-recycling drive and selling Friendship Grams. ASB also collaborated with PTA to support the flapjack breakfast. All monies raised will help to fund school field trips and student activities.

ASB members learn leadership skills, which will benefit them throughout life. We want to thank Mrs. Grussing, our ASB coordinator, for her dedication and commitment to our students!

Explorers all the way!



# Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Melanie Culver**  
Principal

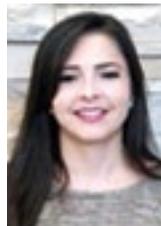
## First Coding Classes

Last year, we started our first coding classes at Golden Poppy Elementary. Our classes continue this year as students in grades 3 through 5 learn to write code to create fun games and activities. We are happy to see an increase in the number of girls participating in the program this year! Girls make up 35% of our coding class! In our efforts to expand STEM education for our students, we have added the Robotics component for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester to enrich students who have a solid grasp of coding and an interest in programming robots. Students and parents are excited about both programs! We aim to expand to include our lower grades in the next school year as we prepare students to be innovators, critical thinkers and problem solvers for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and careers!



# Los Amigos *K-8*

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



**Sonia Salcedo**  
Principal

## Community Partnerships

At Los Amigos, we strive to reach out and enlist community partners to connect with our students and share their expertise and knowledge in a variety of fields. The goal is to engage students and develop a career- and college-going culture.

In sharing their information and experiences, these professionals encourage our students to envision their own futures and set strong educational goals.

One local STEAM-focused program is called “Engineers in the Classroom.” This is an industry “initiative that is designed to identify, develop, inspire and channel students into careers that draw their foundation from science, technology, engineering, and math courses.”



Three Lockheed engineers recently came to visit Los Amigos! Their first visit had the eighth-graders split into three rotating groups. They landed a plane using a flight simulator, launched “Angry Birds” by adjusting the trajectory and pressure, and raced two small vehicles made of soda bottles by using air pressure. The sixth- and seventh-grade visits are also coming soon.

# Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Michelle White**  
Principal

## Ramping Up Attendance

Research indicates that regular school attendance helps prepare children for success in school and in life. Students that come to school regularly feel more connected, avoid dangerous behavior, get better grades, develop social skills, and are more likely to graduate from high school.

At Joshua Hills, we use a four-pronged approach to increase attendance. First, we inform parents about the importance of their children coming to school every day and on time. School messages have been sent, announcements are made each morning, and attendance is discussed at parent meetings.

Secondly, we have our support staff handing out Jackrabbit Tickets every morning when students enter campus on time. The students put those tickets in a weekly drawing where, if selected, they can go to the treasure chest or spin the prize wheel at our monthly assembly.

Next, the teachers display a poster in the classrooms with the word *ATTENDANCE* on it. When the entire class is present, they color in a letter and put the date above the letter. Once all of the letters in *ATTENDANCE* are filled in, the entire class gets a reward delivered personally by administration. The poster is proudly displayed in the front office for the rest of the year.

Lastly, at the end of each quarter, we run a report to see who has perfect attendance: no absences, no tardies, no early releases. Those students get to go to an ice cream social to celebrate their achievement and receive awards certificates honoring their perfect attendance.

At Joshua Hills, we will do whatever it takes to get our students to school. We know how important it is. Our mantra is “If they’re not here, then they’re not learning.”

# Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Roberto Lopez**  
Principal

## Caught Being Good

Manzanita students have been “caught being good”! We are excited about the positive behaviors we have had here at Manzanita. In celebration of all of our great behavior, we had a schoolwide behavior assembly where teachers came up and picked tickets from the grade-level buckets and the winning students came up and spun the wheel. After they spun the wheel, they earned a prize.

At Manzanita, the students focus on a monthly character trait. They have focused on honesty, cooperation, responsibility and



many more. Here at Manzanita, we expect students to behave appropriately and practice the character traits. On a schoolwide basis, we keep track of the students that demonstrate those character traits and reward them at our behavior assemblies where they can win a prize by spinning the color wheel. The children and staff are so excited about the positive impact this has had on our students!

# Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

37622 43rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-8376 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Ken Young**  
*Principal*

## Our Own Techie!

We're pleased to acknowledge our wonderful technology support liaison (TSL), Kelli Michalski! Ms. Michalski grew up and went to school in Chino Hills. She continued to Texas Tech University, where she starred at volleyball and graduated with a degree in electronic media and communication and two minors in business and architecture.

Ms. Michalski has been a TSL for three years. She troubleshoots teachers' technology concerns and is skilled at computer and technology repair. Some of us have experienced

this firsthand! She's saved us thousands of dollars by refurbishing and repairing technological equipment.

Ms. Michalski's expertise ensures Mesquite's position at the forefront of 21st century learning. Her creativity and research skills provide new and innovative technology and software that enhance learning. She provides technology training to teachers and other staff members to better implement and fully utilize district-provided technology like iPads, Chromebooks and Promethean boards.

Mesquite is fortunate to have a TSL of Ms. Michalski's caliber!



# Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

38136 35th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-1548 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Gerilyn Cherland**  
*Principal*

## Refocused on Working Together

To start the new year well, Oak Tree Learning Center refocused the Ready to Learn students with a new and improved program. Students in second and third grades were reintroduced to teamwork and class work with the efforts of the entire team. We are starting to see improvements in behavior, and students are able to attend to academic demands for longer periods of time.

Mindfulness training is a daily occurrence for students at Oak Tree. Each morning during morning talk, we spend a few minutes focusing on breathing, redirecting thoughts, and thinking about how our thoughts impact our actions. At that time, staff members also review character traits and teach social-emotional strategies and skills, as well as providing affirmations conducting celebrations with our Oak Tree family.

Oak Tree's Site Implementation Plan is a process in action. Staff members have identified the critical-thinking skills of analyzing, processing, and problem solving in both behavioral issues and academic situations. Students are guided through a processing tool, which enables them to create a plan for next steps. Adding student voice to our discussion has provided us with even more insight. An exit interview opportunity is provided for students who are under readmission review.

# Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

38737 Ocotillo School Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-9987 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Larry Lueck**  
*Principal*

## Ocotillo's Fab 5

In keeping with our commitment to the Palmdale Promise of every student reading by the third grade, we have assembled an amazing team. Our reading intervention team, commonly referred to as "The Fab 5", consists of Susy King, Missy Bowden, Erica Quijas, and Rachel Vega; the team is led by our LST, Barbara Houston. The Fab 5 works with every grade level, TK-5, to improve our students' reading abilities. Each member has several small groups that focus on skills ranging from basic letter recognition to reading comprehension. The groups are fluid and

change throughout the year as the students master specific skills. Our Fab 5 works closely with teachers and administration to ensure every student's needs are met. This dedicated team is constantly and consistently making a difference in our students' lives.

# David G. Millen *Middle School 6-8*

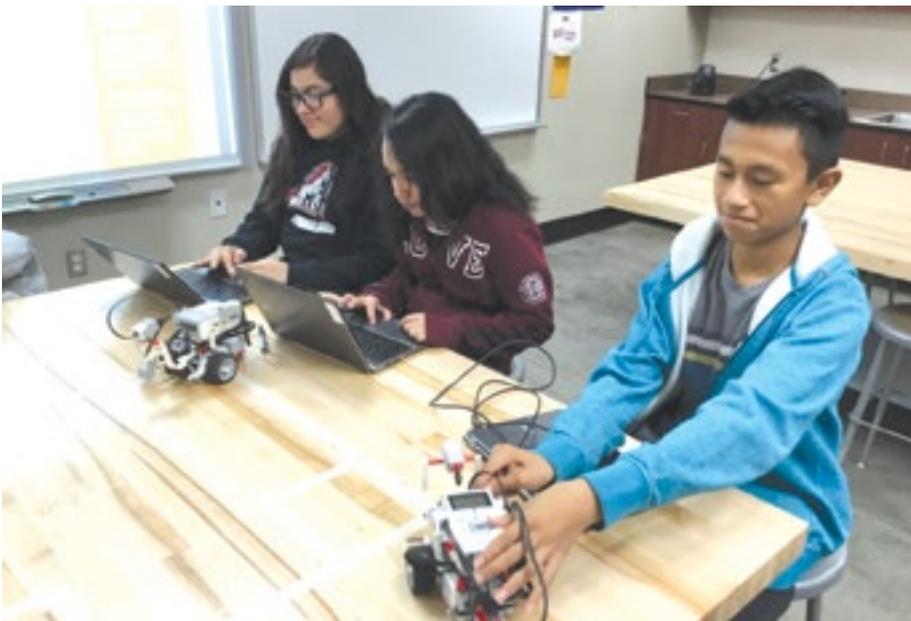
39221 22nd Street West, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3075 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Ryan Beardsley**  
*Principal*

## Dedicated Students, Global Citizens, Modern Learners

The Student Learning Outcomes for Millen Middle School are centered on creating dedicated students, global citizens, and modern learners. Students have many ways to become involved in school with over 25 after-school programs offered every week covering everything from academics to athletics. With our emphasis on STEAM and the Law & Government pathways, students are offered a wide variety of electives to transform them into the modern learners of today and ultimately the global citizens of tomorrow.



# Palmdale Discovery Center

1330 W. Elizabeth Lake Rd., Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/274-0849 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## Capturing Hearts

This year we have implemented many new instructional tools at Palmdale Discovery Center (PDC). We are excited to have a new program called Teach Town, an evidence-based curriculum that addresses our student needs. We have also added new assessment tools, which have allowed us to assess each child's ability in key areas of communication and pre-academic skills.

**Colleen Sawyer**  
Principal

We are excited to be nominated as a Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) Showcase School. We look forward to welcoming the representatives of CKH to our campus and letting them

witness how we have implemented the Capturing Kids' Hearts model into our specialized program.



**Capturing Kids' Hearts at Palmdale Discovery Center**

We have wonderful staff members here at PDC, who are so effective in the delivery of our specialized curriculum. I would like to thank our staff members for their hard work and dedication. They are the driving force responsible for the positive learning environment we have at PDC.

# Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

38043 Division Street, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/538-9034 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## Collaboration, Constructivism, Conceptual!

Collaboration, constructivism through inquiry-based teaching and learning, and conceptual understanding, are the heart of Palmdale Learning Plaza's internationally-focused pedagogical practices. Through our professional development IB Academies, which are facilitated by our IB Coordinator, Bev Gonda, teachers have opportunities to reflect on, engage in, and share best practices that support collaborative work and strengthen conceptual understanding. Here are just a few examples of our Pumas making real world connections, collaborating with others, and inquiring for the purpose of solving problems:

**Michael McNelis**  
Principal

- Our 1st graders explore the role of an engineer, design a robot, explain the design process and reflect on their contribution in their groups.
- Our 3rd graders had an amazing time at Basketball Camp planned and organized by 7th and 8th grade student coaches who taught them about skills and the importance of staying active and having healthy eating habits.
- Some of our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students along with our school's Girls Build LA team attended the Girls Build LA Summit at the LA Convention Center where they personally met former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Girls Build, an initiative run by the LA Promise Fund, encourages young women to apply STEM and 21st Century learning skills to effect social change. In addition, our team was featured for their 30-foot planetarium they built last year out of cardboard; more than 1,000 people visited their planetarium.
- Our 8th grade students from the Design class used IB's Design Cycle as their process for designing an ankle-foot orthosis brace for people with cerebral palsy. Not only did they conduct research, and document their design process, they also had to model walking with their orthosis brace.

We are proud of our Pumas and our teachers who challenge them to collaborate, construct knowledge, and understand concepts while connecting to real world applications.

# Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

326 East Avenue R, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9357 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## Thanks, Dad!

For the second year in a row, Palm Tree participated in the National Fathers Take Your Children to School Day. This program is part of

what is called the Million Father March.

On September 2017, we had over 50 fathers participate. On this morning, fathers descended on the campus in blue shirts—blue is one of our school colors—and thanked and welcomed students as they came to school. We know that many of our fathers work long hours and may leave the area for work, so we have this one-day set where they can come and show their support for their children's education. Once again, it was a great success.

After this day, we have had fathers committed to supporting our school with volunteerism, as their schedules permit. It was exciting to see so many fathers on campus being so positive. We provided coffee and met for a few minutes



after the school day began. Our fathers are determined to allow our school to be true to our vision: Palm Tree, an oasis of education!

## Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

37236 58th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7100 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Kathleen Moshier**  
Principal

### Literacy Project!

Our parent community liaison, Anain Panduro Robles, has been working on bringing a literacy program to our school to support our parents who do not speak English.

Originally referred to as Latino Literacy Project, with an emphasis on reaching our Hispanic population, it has been renamed simply QV Literacy Project, as we have been able to reach out to parents who come from all over: Jordan, El Salvador, Columbia and Mexico. The program gives parents a reader with a story in Spanish on one page and English on the other. It also has a vocabulary homework component that allows parents to work with their children and build both relationships and communication skills with them.

The class meets weekly, and the parents are excited to be involved. You are never too old to learn!



## SAGE Academy *6-8*

38060 20th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/537-6101 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Susan McDougal**  
Principal

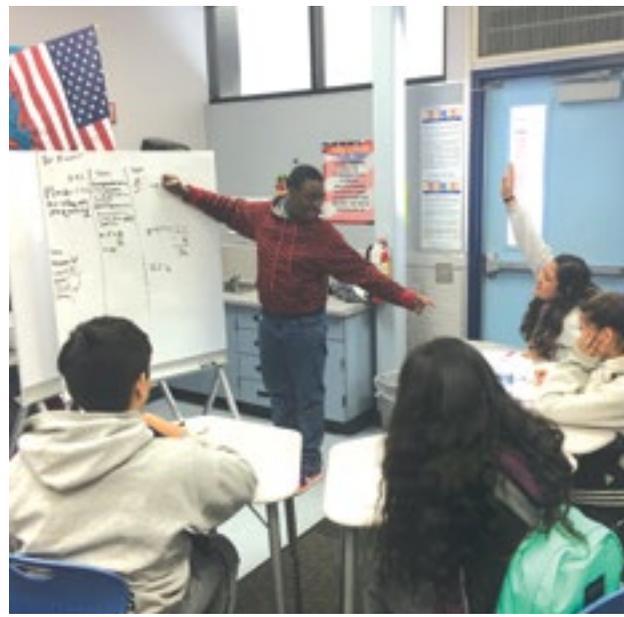
### AVID Going Strong

AVID is a class for students who are individually determined to be successful and college bound. SAGE has six classes taught by three teachers: Ms. Denice Bosch, Mrs. Cheryl Nieman, and Ms. Colleen Maestas. Our students work with college tutors who utilize critical thinking strategies in small tutorial groups to help solve homework or classwork questions.

SAGE created a partnership with Palmdale High School called "Bridges to PHS." Our students have gone to AVID classrooms at PHS to observe Tutorials. They have also attended the College

Career Fair sponsored by the PHS Associated Student Body. The PHS AVID counselors also work one-on-one with our eighth-graders to schedule them for their ninth-grade classes.

For field trips, we have gone to UCLA and the "I'm Going to College Fair" at the Rose Bowl. Our eighth-graders also went to CSU Channel Islands in February for a college tour and interactive STEM event.



## Shadow Hills *Middle School 6-8*

37315 60th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7400 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



### Promoting Literacy

READ180 started off with great enthusiasm at Shadow Hills Middle School this semester. Two classes were created to accommodate students who need more support in reading.

READ180 Universal is a blended program that balances the role of the teacher with technology. The lessons begin with direct instruction from the teacher and move into a three-center student rotation of independent reading, small-group instruction, and student application, where students work independently with technology. The digital support helps students to work through challenges while providing immediate feedback specific to students' errors, fostering comprehension and building success. The lesson wraps up with whole-group learning, where students can reflect on the day's learning, mindset, successes, and challenges.

Additionally, Shadow Hills' Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Club is in full swing! The DEAR Club meets every Thursday after school with club advisor Ms. Mayoral. Students in this club read silently for the first 30 minutes, after which they discuss what they have read with other club members. This encourages students not only to read, but also to engage in literary conversations.



## Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

39360 Summerwind Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3863 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Linda Brandts**  
Principal

### In the Know

Summerwind Elementary School parents were fortunate to have two special events in a row. The turnout to listen to Dr. Samarah Blackmon, the associate director of the Black Male Institute at University of California, Los Angeles, was exciting. Parents from many schools attended and learned ways to encourage their student to choose college. Dr. Blackmon suggested parents take students on visits to career schools, community colleges, and four-year universities to ensure that students know they need more than just a high school diploma to succeed.

Breakfast with the Superintendent was full of information regarding district and site specific programs. Parents were able to ask questions involving the upgrades to Summerwind, which include moving old portable classrooms off the site, installing flexible classrooms, and improving the existing facilities. Superintendent Maldonado answered questions on topics ranging from safety on the buses, to parking and traffic. Summerwind parents are in the know.



# Tamarisk *Elementary TK-5*

1843 E. Ave. Q-5, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/225-9647 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Martin Herrera**  
Principal

## Take Part in School Activities

As we begin the second semester of the school year, we continue to encourage our community to take part in school activities happening here at Tamarisk. We began the year with our Movie Night, which was a huge success. Our Tamarisk Family continues to grow and become more involved with activities centered around our community families. We hope to continue this wonderful relationship with our Tamarisk Families.

Go Tigers!



# Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

1100 East Avenue R-4, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4166 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Regina Tillman**  
Principal

## Enrichment continues to thrive at Tumbleweed

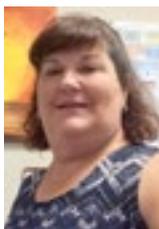
We are excited to share that we have begun our LAITY dance and art programs for our Tumbleweed students. We want to highlight our afterschool Ballet dance program for our Kinder to 2nd grade students. During this time, students are learning new ballet skills, techniques, and dance routines. This dance program is led by ballet instructor, Miss Brittany from LAITY. The students in the ballet program are excited to attend each week.

We are excited to have these ballet students be able to perform at the upcoming Palmdale Playhouse Multicultural Celebration. They will also be performing for their peers and family members at upcoming assemblies that will be held at Tumbleweed. GO, Titans!



# Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

37015 Goldenview Way, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/456-1600 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Linda Jaramillo**  
Principal

## What's New?

Students have been involved in a social-skills interactive computer program called TeachTown. We started with a pilot program and are now integrating it into all the classrooms. All lessons are grade-level and age appropriate, and the students are practicing what they are learning with all students and staff. We practice social skills in all settings, even at our level parties.

Most of our teachers have attended Capturing Kids Hearts professional development training. This training complements what Yellen practices daily: loving and accepting children for who they are and giving them what they need to build their self-esteem and confidence to be successful at school and at home.

We are looking forward to future activities that will keep us busy the next few months. Keep in mind that our annual art festival and talent show will be coming up in the spring. Mark your calendars!



# Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

38440 2nd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-5052 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Terrie Dowling**  
Principal

## Our Love for Reading

Yucca has gained an amazing library aide this school year!

Joanna Bucholz does amazing things for the students here at Yucca. She has designed many fun activities for them to showcase their creativity and interest in reading. This includes a Summer Reading Challenge, a "Poem in Your Pocket Week," and a Book Cover Design Contest. She has also organized a six-dollar and under book fair, which has been a great success. She raised over \$500 for new library books!



Last spring she created a "Pay-it-Forward" donation system that can be used to cover lost library book fees. She has also conducted an e-Book training session for teachers, and our school now has the highest e-book usage in the district!

Joanna is a hard worker. She has made a difference in our students' love of reading. Ms. Bucholz is also offering an after-school theater club, which will be performing *Peter Pan*. Thank you, Joanna, and happy reading!

**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page**



**Raul Maldonado**

The contributions and support will directly impact the lives of more than 20,000 students. The generous sponsorships will directly fund student success initiatives that align with the district's strategic plan called the Palmdale Promise:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)
- VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts)
- Technology Fluency
- Athletics

It is imperative that we focus on each child's development, hence we are moving steadily in introducing new programs and also relying on successful old teaching methodologies. 'Learning Dynamics Reading System,' is one such program that has helped many students progress in their reading capabilities in our lower grades.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES • From Page**

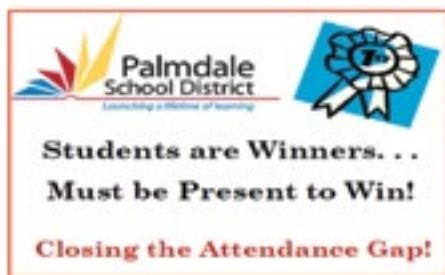
There are computers available in the center for parent and family use. The computers are available for classes to train parents and families on how to use computers and specific software programs. Parents can also explore programs, both computer and other classes that their children are using during the school day.

Our goal is to provide a facility where our parents can learn new skills, form relationships with other parents and with our PSD family and feel comfortable and valued by our school community. Please visit and discover your new facility that can open many doors for you and for your children.

**THE CENTER for PARENT PARTNERSHIP IS MEANT TO BE A FULL SERVICE PARENT RESOURCE CENTER FOR OUR PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTS AND FAMILIES.**

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www.palmdalesd.org**

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<b>Educational Services</b> .....	<b>266-7233</b>
<b>Health Clinic</b> .....	<b>537-6137 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)</b>
<b>Special Education</b> .....	<b>456-1452</b>
<b>Student Services</b> .....	<b>456-1457</b>
<b>Superintendent's Office</b> .....	<b>266-7222 &amp; 266-7220</b>



## Richard's Book Review

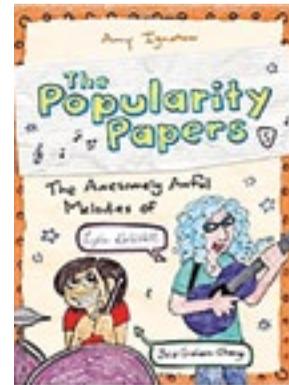
### Fun Story



**Richard J.**

*The Popularity Papers The Awesomely Awful Melodies of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Gram-Chang* written by Amy Ignatow

After the break the BFFs Julie and Lydia get inspired to start a band along with their friend Roland and an uninvited drama queen Jane. However, none of the friends can play well (or even anything at all, to be perfectly honest), so it is a rough journey until they are finally somewhat good to play for a birthday party. They realize too late that the birthday party they are booked for is princess-themed for a 7 year-old girl. However, "the show must go on" and the friends perform the best way they know how. But the party turns into a mad riot (guess why?) This piece of disaster news travels back to school with completely unexpected results. The rumor had it that they were so good they caused a riot! Of course, only the "riot" part was true. Interestingly, it boosts the friends' popularity at school, which they were trying to achieve for a long time.



It is a fun story with unexpected ending and I liked reading it. I give it 5 out of 5 stars.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

## Christina's Book Review

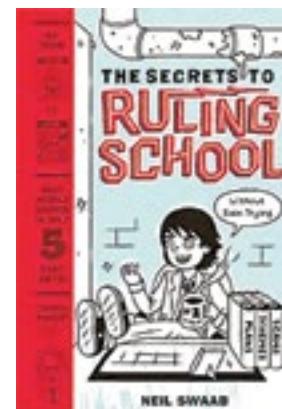
### Interesting Problematic Cycle



**Christina J.**

*The Secrets to Ruling School (Without Even Trying)* by Neil Swaab

The story is written in third person, and plays out as smoothly as a movie. You are a new student at William H. Taft Middle School and are approached by Max Corrigan, your life coach, who will help you to become popular among the cliques at school, so you start by trying to join into the Class Clown table that won't let you in, unless you can get them a good artists for their comics, so you go to a good artist who agrees to help you, only if you get the Band geeks away from their table at the cafeteria, so she can display her graffiti on that wall, they agree to leave, but only if you help them raise money to save their Music program, so you ask a rich girl for money, she agrees to help, but only if you rig the football team to lose, so she could win a bet... and this interestingly problematic cycle continues on and on, until you reach your goal. I really liked reading this book, so I will give it 5 out of 5 stars.



Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

**Our next issue is May 2. To advertise please contact  
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