



Relationships are the Glue

The first day of school was an emotional one for all of us in the field of education. The joy of seeing students on campus made us realize how much we have looked forward to this day.

Masks of all designs and materials were the common dress code across all schools. Walking the school sites and seeing both new and familiar faces was a pleasure. Students returned in person, which tells me that our efforts to maintain strong relationships with our families were successful.

I'd like to thank our parents for trusting the Palmdale School District to work every day to keep students, families and staff safe. Our safety policies and procedures are in line with current state and county guidelines, and we update them as needed. We will keep you informed of any changes in those policies and procedures. Communication between home and school is always important, but today, it is essential. If you have questions about the policies, please call your school site. We need to work together as a community to continue to support our students' success.

I often say that we are the Palmdale School District *familia*, and in these times, that statement is demonstrated over and over. I watched as students reconnected with peers, teachers with students, and families with school staff. I admit that it gave me a feeling of pride. Schools hold the future of our community. Relationships are the glue that keep a community unified. I thank you for your continued relationship with the Palmdale School District.

Settling-In for Learning

The PSD counselors are excited to be back at school and spending time interacting with students, staff members, and parents. Most are expressing how wonderful it is to be back in person!

The district's counselors are continuously offering support to all stakeholders. This includes coping skills and stress-reduction lessons. Student groups are also being held relating to grief and anger issues. Individual meetings are also being offered to deal with friendship problems, conflict resolution, and academic support.

The last several months have been stressful for everyone. The counseling staff has helped students (and staff members) become emotionally ready for learning and the new challenges ahead. Class visits have also commenced at selected sites to offer various mindfulness activities. These mindfulness and breathing exercises teach students how to refocus. They are a great tool to learn how to stay calm during stressful situations.

Many of our students have been anxious of the unknown but have since settled in. Counselors continue to remind our students, staff, and parents that we are available to help support them wherever they are.



In July, the W.E.B. adviser and a counselor trained student leaders on how to create a sense of belonging among our incoming sixth-graders, and helped lead the orientation. A large group of sixth-graders attended this orientation event, which included an assembly, small-group activities, and guided tours led by the W.E.B. leaders.

The counselors look forward to a challenging and exciting year!

Stronger Than Ever

By *Ralph Velador, Board President*

The new school year started strong. Some staff and students returned to discover freshly painted school sites; some found colorful playgrounds and new cafeteria tables, and others found new grass areas. Touchless water fountains replaced old drinking fountains. Students can easily refill their water bottles using touchless water fountains. Makerspaces have arrived, and flexible seating and upgraded technology also greeted students.

All members of the board have been involved in the facilities plan that is ongoing throughout the district. Every improvement is made with the safety and education of students in mind. One example is the Learning Gardens. The gardens have been carefully planned out as to the essential elements. Learning Gardens will contain a mini-orchard, planter boxes, a tool shed, drip irrigation and covered seating, but each garden will be unique to the school site. The satisfaction of planting a seed that grows into a flower, an edible vegetable, or fruit is immeasurable. Studies indicate that students learn more by doing than watching.

Hands-on learning teaches students how to collaborate. This skill is critical in the workplace as more and more jobs require employees to work well with others.

Our duties as board members are to set the direction for our schools, establish an effective and efficient structure, provide support, ensure accountability, and provide leadership. As the board president, I am proud of our school district because we offer the best instructional program for our students to succeed. The pandemic has been a difficult challenge, but we have a great staff that has striven to provide a safe learning environment for our students. I am always happy to visit schools to see our students learning and enjoying being back in schools. Finally, I want to thank all of our employees for their hard work and willingness to teach our students.

Board of Trustees



Ralph Velador
President



Simone Zulu-Diol
Clerk



Nancy Smith
Member



Sharon Vega
Member



Anthony Hunt
Member



For all the 67 Yrs old to 78 Years Young or More!

NEW REVERSE MORTGAGE

Now Known as the **Retirement Mortgage** or **Lifestyle Mortgage**

Work with someone who will personally meet with you, who has been a mortgage banker for 43 years, who will give you a one-on-one reverse mortgage seminar, and who is not sitting in a cubicle with a headset on, reading from a script

- NEW** The easiest mortgage that you can qualify for — the easiest!
- NEW** Your home, your trust, you control who inherits your home
- NEW** Tax free cash! Tax free!
- NEW** Payment option mortgage - you pick payment, or make no payment!

Need More Reasons for your Lifestyle Mortgage?

- Start a dream business or passion project
- Purchase a vacation home
- Enjoy a living inheritance by paying for grandkids' college or by helping children purchase a new home

CALL NOW!

949-632-4347

www.MortgageLeagueofAmerica.com

"In God we (I) Trust!"

Mortgage Banker for 42 YEARS

Many, Many More Mortgage Programs for CASH OUT



James W. Gordon Jr.
Mortgage Expert since 1979
NMLS329512 • DRE00517589



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 9th year publishing *The Launch Pad*. Communication is always important and we thank you for including *The Launch Pad* among your reading choices.

This year the excitement of a new school year is unlike any other. As you read the articles in this issue starting with Superintendent Maldonado's message on the front page, you can feel the joy of being back in the classrooms.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 11 (open to all ages).

Our next issue is December 8.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:
Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



@SchoolNewsRC



SchoolNewsRollCall



SchoolNewsRollCall



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated.
Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call, LLC*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content.
The Palmdale School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



Give Your Children a QUALITY EDUCATION

CREDENTIALLED TEACHERS - CARING STAFF - EXCELLENT CURRICULUM

An online/hybrid educational independent study program
serving students in Kindergarten - 8th grade



INNOVATIONS ACADEMY

Online - Personalized - Academic

37230 37th St. East
Palmdale, CA 93550



Enroll Today!
(661) 236-0162

www.palmdalesd.org

Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being

Best Meals Possible

By Alecia Woods, Director of Child Nutrition, PDF Wellness Committee

With the students back in the classrooms and cafeterias, the focus for the year remains serving the best meals possible. Child Nutrition plays a key role in whole child wellness and the Wellness Committee is a wonderful resource to ensure we are doing so. In fulfilling the requirements of Board Policy 3050, the Wellness Committee meets three times per year with the intent of helping our schools create an action plan for student wellness. The meetings are informative and insightful so we hope you will join us virtually on October 14, January 27, and April 14 at 3:30 p.m. We will have guests speaking about a variety of topics related to whole child wellness. Those unable to attend the meeting can email comments and suggestions regarding the wellness policy to childnutrition@palmdalesd.org.

District Office (661) 947-7191 • Emergency (888) 474-8107
39139 North 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550
www.palmdalesd.org

Welcome and Enrollment Center

789-6707 (8am-3pm)

Child Nutrition

789-6565

Educational Services

789-6755

Health Clinic.....

789-6766 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)

Special Education

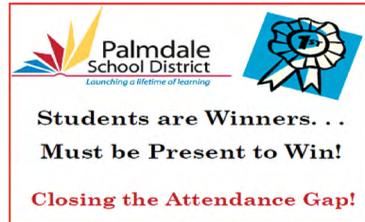
789-6746

Student Services.....

789-6744

Superintendent's Office

789-6502 & 789-6503



SELebrations! Social Emotional Connections

Maintaining a Balance

By the Social Emotional Learning Specialist Group

From the start of the school year, a close eye has been kept on students who need additional support services and resources. Groups have commenced at selected sites to address behavioral and social issues linked to anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. One-to-one conferences continue to take place, and restorative practices allow for students to keep a balance. Several sites are using incentive activities during lunch to provide the much-needed mindfulness practices.

Social/emotional learning specialists (SELS) will soon provide support to the elementary school sites in order to provide early intervention to all Palmdale School District students. This approach will help reduce absenteeism, decrease incidences of behavior, and provide families greater support during the students' younger years.

Elementary site SELS will continue to provide instruction, case management, therapy and educationally required counseling services to students to promote mental health, positive social skills and personal growth. SELs will continue to highlight the importance of mental health and emotional well-being by working collaboratively with students, staff, parents and community members. The goal is to help students develop healthy coping skills by addressing their social and emotional needs and difficulties early on. Providing these services at an earlier time can help students build a strong foundation and grow into well-rounded students.

Palmdale School District sites has a local mental-health agency located at every site in an effort to eliminate all barriers and help students access mental-health services. The approach will be to promote a culture that connects and safeguards all students. SELs look forward to providing the services, practices and approaches that are designed for children and youth to implement the Palmdale Promise.



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

To view all current job opportunities, click on
"Departments/Personnel Commission"
 then **"Employment"**

- ▶ Substitute Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ Substitute Health Assistant-LVN
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator-LVN
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator Moderate to Severe
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator-Certified Interpreter (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Special Education Instructional Assistant

Click on the link to "Apply!"

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



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



MORTGAGE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

GORDON
42 Years EXPERIENCE

MORTGAGE RATES

Get cash out if you Wish!

CONVENTIONAL

30 Yr. FIXED - **As Low as 2.68%**

20 Yr. FIXED - **As Low as 2.56%**

JUMBO CONVENTIONAL

30 Yr. FIXED - **As Low as 2.84%**

20 Yr. FIXED - **As Low as 2.72%**

SUPER JUMBO

30 Yr. FIXED - **As Low as 3.17%**

OTHER LOAN PROGRAMS

- Reverse Mortgages**
- Bank Statement Loans
- Asset Depletion Loans
- Cash Flow Rental Loans
- Apartment Loans
- Commercial Loans
- HARD MONEY LOANS**

For a Simple Quote, I will NOT Ask for your Social Security Number, or Demand we Run your Credit

Rates as of September 25, No ARP's calculated, 750 minimum FICO, terms and conditions apply, rates subject to change without notice. If these conditions are not met, you may not qualify for the above rates, but other rates.

CALL NOW!

949-632-4347

www.MortgageLeagueofAmerica.com



"In God we (I) Trust!"
 Mortgage Banker for 42 YEARS
 Many, Many More Mortgage Programs for CASH OUT

James W. Gordon Jr.
 Mortgage Expert since 1979
 NMLS329512 • DRE00517589

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

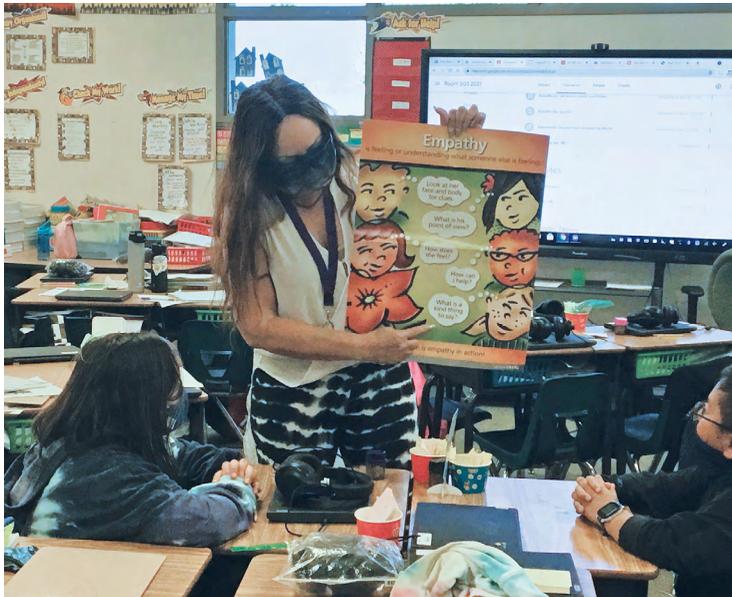
3636 Ponderosa Way, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-9270 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4452



Rena Thorogood
Principal

Barrel Springs Interventionist Empowering Student

Barrel Springs Interventionist Veronique “Ms. Jones” Sobowale takes pleasure in providing support to students to ensure school success. She teaches students social skills that will enable them to foster healthy relationships, solid decision making, and regulation skills. Ms. Jones instructs students using Second Step curriculum lessons. These essential lessons promote empathy, respect, emotional and anxiety management, and other skills for Social and Academic success. Ms. Jones lessons motivate students to engage, participate, think and respond while exhibiting manners and respect for their classmates.



Ms. Jones next step is the creation of a club tentatively named “The Cool Kids Club” that will focus on peer conflict resolution, meditation, alleviating stress and the promotion of overall mental health and growth.

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

37005 Hillcrest Drive, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-4158 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4453



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

We Appreciate our Front Office Staff

In my imaginary world, if school were a body, teachers will for sure be the hands, the administrators would be the feet moving the body forward, and the school front office staff would be without a doubt – the head of the body making it all work efficiently.

The front office staff at BV have systems and structures in place to make the school run smoothly. They have processes that work for them and has tremendous impact on the daily operation of the school.

The front office staff at BV are very professional and connect with our students and parents in a unique way. Culturally, the magnanimous BV front office staff is the glue that binds the rest of the staff. They handle the details while as the leader of the school I can focus on the big picture. Way to go – Elida, Karina, Elizabeth, Claudia, and Rosa. Buena Vista learning community appreciates all your hard work.



Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy 6-8*

3243 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-0847 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4454



Michelle White
Principal

Back to School Night

Returning to in-person instruction provides Cactus Coyotes a dedicated place to develop students’ full potential.

We hosted two vaccination clinics for students, faculty, and Palmdale community and had a former student return as a medic to apply her learning. All students received back-to-school swag, school spirit shirts, backpacks, and starter school supplies. Back to School Night welcomed parents, providing opportunities to see LACDPH safety protocols in action, high intellectual performance, equity, and building upon students’ strengths.

Parents and students could also take home as many free books as they wished. From incentivizing good behavior to old-school board game days to music-filled Fridays with spontaneous dancing, the Cactus community recognizes we need to connect with the whole child.



To address students’ social/emotional learning needs, the treatments have been capturing kids’ hearts, recognizing F.I.E.R.C.E. behavior, and engaging students in rigorous academics.

Chaparral *Prep Academy TK-5*

37500 50th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9777 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4455

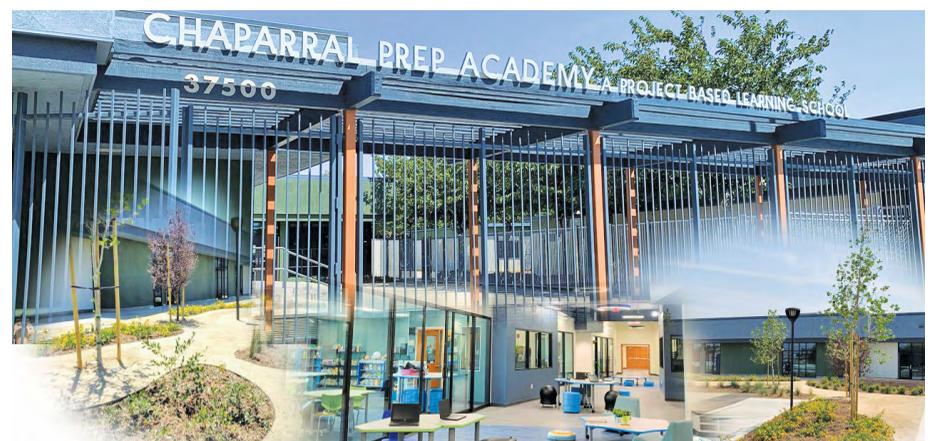


Roxanne Dashi
Principal

Open-Concept Renovation

It has been so great having students back at school full-time. They are really enjoying the renovations that we had on our campus. The open concept is motivating the students to be more collaborative. The Maker Space is fostering more critical thinking, while the Project Room is inspiring them to be more creative. The Project-Based learning atmosphere that teachers are creating is encouraging all of these things, including more communication among our students.

Our students are doing amazing things and we are excited to share those things with the world. One way in which we are doing that is by making a podcast. The first couple of episodes are interviews from our Assistant Principal. However, we are in the process of turning it over to students so, in time, the whole podcast is student run. Meanwhile, please look us up on any podcast platform by searching for Chaparral Prep Academy Podcast.



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

36940 45th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9780 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4456



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Welcome Dr. George Uduigwome

Cimarron is so excited to welcome our newest Staff member, Assistant Principal, Dr. George Uduigwome. Dr. Uduigwome loves to inspire and encourage students to be the very best they can be in and out of the classroom. He has been in the field of education for over two decades (tertiary, secondary & elementary levels) and is a published author. He worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District (SDC, RSP, Program Specialist) before taking up employment with the Palmdale School District as an administrator. George holds clear credentials in teaching as well as in administrative services. His bachelor's degree is in industrial design, master's degrees in industrial design, special education, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. He was awarded the Outstanding Student Award for two consecutive years during his doctoral studies at the University of Southern California (USC). George's hobbies include reading, mountain biking, working out, hiking, listening to music, drawing, and painting.



Assistant Principal, Dr. George Uduigwome

Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

37730 27th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/272-0584 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4458



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

New Maker Space

We are so excited to have our students back in person here at Desert Rose! With the new maker space, we have begun integrating steam activities with our new Lego kits, Spiros and microscopes. In addition to our new maker space, we are thrilled to have Ms. Lomeli, our full-time music teacher integrating music theory to our students. Desert Rose has also been a capturing kids hearts showcase school for the last 2 years and now have two teachers who will be Coaching leaders for our teachers. We are integrating STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and Arts in mathematics into our maker space and empowering our students to be creative 21 century thinkers. Through collaboration, students will design various Legos and Spiros integrating the standards within their grade levels. Communication amongst all students and staff is our goal. Desert Rose Leads!



Desert Willow *Fine Arts, Science, Technology Magnet Academy 6-8*

36555 Sunny Lane, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-5866 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4459



Timothy Howell
Principal

DW Beats

We've got the beat, we've got the beat! Desert Willow has launched another great program for our students. DW Beats is the latest addition to our after-school program and clubs. Created and lead by Mr. Rosenau, the club offers students the opportunity to actually engineer music on synthesizers. These musical creations can be used to create songs or even background music for games. The initial stage in the beat-making process is to select the sound of the instrument. From there, the students create



beat patterns that are recorded and repeated. These beats can stand alone or be combined with another student's beat to add an even more unique sound. Fostering community and inclusion, DW Beats is also being used in mod/severe classrooms, as well. This is a creative way to engage all of our students using different modalities and technology.

Dos Caminos *Dual Immersion Elementary K-8*

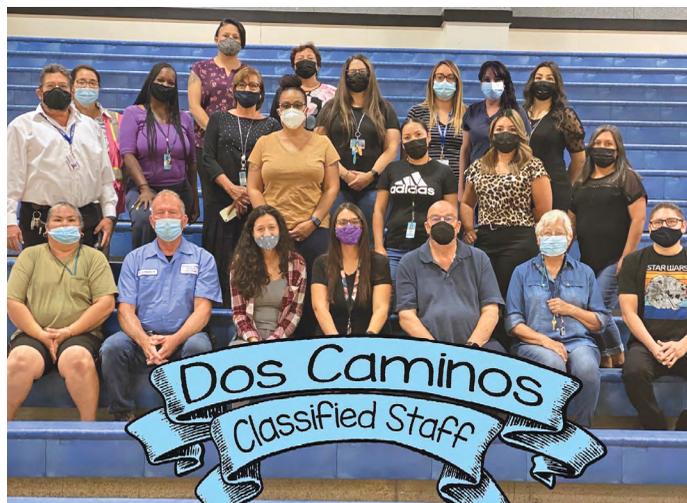
39066 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-1849 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4459



Dr. Sarah Zepeda
Principal

Classified as Simply the Best

As we began this uniquely exciting 2021-2022 school year at Dos Caminos, the valuable role played by our wonderful Classified Staff was undeniable. They ensure that the campus is ready for our students and teachers before the morning arrivals each day, they facilitate the complex functioning of the instructional day, and they work diligently after dismissal to wrap up the day and prepare the next day. From greeting guests and answering phone calls at the front office, to providing health monitoring for injuries and/or illness in the health office; from providing and serving meals to students at the cafeteria, to providing instructional assistance and materials to teachers in the classrooms; from supervising and monitoring students around the campus, to fostering relationships between families and their school district; from supplying technical support to the



entire campus, to maintaining a clean and safe environment where students can learn.

These are some of our most essential staff, making it possible for us to serve our community and keep our Palmdale Promise to them.

Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

37802 Rockie Lane, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-3683 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4459



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

Reconnecting to Family

Team Grizzly has gotten off to a great start! We started our year with a wonderful meeting where all our certificated and classified were able to get together and just spend some time reconnecting. For many, this would be the first time that they would set foot on campus and for others it would be the first time that they actually got to meet new members of the Golden Poppy Family. Our family had a chance to reconnect, re-energize and refresh. We know that there are many challenges ahead but as a family we continue to show our Grizzly pride by being here to support all our students and their families!



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

3030 Fairfield, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9992 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4463



Alicia Garcia
Principal

Off to a Great Start!

The start of our school year has been just as we expected. It has been absolutely wonderful to have our students, teachers, and families back on campus! Mr. DeVita and I are extremely honored to be part of such an outstanding school community.

We have a few staff members that are also new to Joshua Hills. New to our team is Mr. Carroll in 5th grade, Ms. Pentecostes in 4th grade, Ms. Liotine in 1st grade, and Ms. Cordero who is part of our Special Education Team.



Our Back to School Night was a huge success! Thank you to all of our Joshua Hills families for coming out and supporting our students and teachers. Our first Coffee with the Principal was also well attended, with a surprise visit from our Superintendent, Mr. Maldonado. It was nice talking with our families. It is going to be an exceptional school year!

Innovations Academy

37230 37th St. E., Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-8909 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/5403

Melissa Garcia, Principal Learning Coach University

Innovations Academy has exploded in terms of enrollment! We now have over 1,000 students enrolled in our Online Independent Study Program. In the first month, we moved offices to be in the bigger office across the way and we now have officially taken just about every classroom on our campus. The team has grown from 7 teachers to 27. All the teachers have embraced the online program and have done amazing things to support their students. Truly IA has some of the best teachers! We are working on making connections with the students and their families and building a solid foundation. We have handed out hundreds of books, Chromebooks and hotspots. It truly has taken a village to support our growth! As we move ahead in the upcoming month we are implementing our Learning Coach University to support our families to understand how to navigate and support their student at home. We look forward to our journey this school year!

Los Amigos *Dual Immersion K-8*

6640 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-1546 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4464



Dr. Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Welcome!

The Los Amigos family is so excited to begin the 2021-22 school year! We want to welcome our new staff members to the Los Amigos family.

New to our staff are first-grade teachers Cynthia Ramirez and Yesenia Llamas Sanchez, third-grade teacher Debby Ortega, sixth-grade teachers Erendia Sam and Tanya Torres, seventh-grade teacher Jacqueline Torres and eighth-grade teacher Claudia Gonzalez. We also welcome Estrellita Neumann as our mariachi teacher, Mrs. Dorn as our new assistant principal and Yesenia Diaz as the new principal.



We are excited and honored to be a part of the Los Amigos Professional Learning Community. As a staff, we are committed to continuing our work to create a professional community that is supportive, caring and committed to building a school where everyone feels valued and connected. We are a staff that is fulfilling the Palmdale Promise.

Our schoolwide theme this year is "Bridge to Excellence! Creating opportunities for our students!" This year more than any other year, we know the importance of collaborating and helping our students thrive both academically and socially. Together, our students will succeed!

Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

38620 33rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/947-3128 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4465



Susan Summers
Principal

Putting the Positive Back In School

It is very exciting for us to have Manzanita become a “National Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase School.” We are also a Silver PBIS Implementation School! Manzanita’s start of the school year has been fantastic, and it is so great to have our students back on campus.

At Manzanita, we are also looking forward to seeing positive behaviors all year long. During August, our Manzanita Elementary PBIS team received recognition for their hard work and dedication in positively impacting student behaviors. All of our teachers dedicated many hours to help create behavior expectations for indoor and outdoor school routines, transitions, and a consistent system of rewards for school-wide positive behavior.

If you walk around the campus, all of our students will be talking about being respectful, responsible, trustworthy, and fair. Along with focusing on positive behaviors, our students will continue to learn about the character traits that can help them become successful citizens in our community. To support our continued success in implementing these PBIS strategies, Manzanita will continue to implement these Capturing Kids Hearts lessons.



David G. Millen *Law and Government Magnet Academy 6-8*

39221 22nd Street West, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3075 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4457



Jason Deaville
Principal

Restorative Justice at DGM is Win-Win

Come to David G. Millen on any given day and you will see the shining expertise of Nicole Setzler hard at work. Nicole is the Restorative Justice Teacher at David G. Millen. Among her many talents, she specializes in helping students make safe choices at school, in the community, and at home. Nicole focuses her lessons to impart important social emotional competencies needed for success in middle school. At the heart of her approach is building trust and strong relationships with students and staff. Due to her

undying work ethic, students at DGM are more focused in class and less stressed. Teachers are freed to focus on curriculum and creating engaging classroom activities. She always makes it her goal to find pathways for students to restore themselves back to right standing in the school community. Restorative practices at DGM are ‘Win-Win’ for everyone!



Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

37622 43rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-8376 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4466



Ken Young
Principal

Welcoming Our New Assistant Principal

A big Mesquite family welcome goes out to Joshua Konrad, Mesquite’s new assistant principal! Being an educator runs in Mr. Konrad’s family, as he is a third-generation educator. His grandmother taught high school chemistry for the Cook County public schools, while his mother was a teacher and special education administrator for 35 years in the LAUSD. His father was also an English professor at Fisk University in Tennessee.

This is Mr. Konrad’s fourth year of working in the Palmdale School District (PSD), but he comes to us with over 20 years of experience in K-12 education. Prior to his arrival at PSD, Mr. Konrad worked for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and was an administrator for Para Los Ninos, a network of charter schools in Los Angeles that was founded in 1980 to serve children living in the Skid Row area of Downtown L.A.

Additionally, Mr. Konrad also brings international educational experience to Mesquite. He worked as an educational consultant for the Abu Dhabi Educational Council, the Malaysian Ministry of Education, the Office of the President to Kazakhstan, and finally, the British Council of Malaysia. Welcome to the Mesquite family, Mr. Konrad!



Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

38136 35th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-1548 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4467



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Delta Force

“Old school” stopped in March 2020. The pandemic thrust the entire Palmdale school family into uncharted waters, but the front office staff at Oak Tree managed to rally and rise to the challenges to maintain continued support of our Oak Tree families.

Kim Bowen, the school secretary, kept up with essential and time sensitive matters concerning student IEPs and home hospital students.

Susy Martel, parent community liaison, navigated families with technology, coordinated materials sent home, communicated food programs and mental health support services.

Sandra Ybarra, health assistant, diligently worked to oversee that COVID protocols were in place and created an online COVID check-in form that would serve as a template for other sites opening after March 8th.



Susy Martel and Sandra Ybarra

Despite their own personal challenges at home, this remarkable team frequently acted as tech support, but most importantly continued to provide compassionate professionalism during a very difficult time for our families.

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

38737 Ocotillo School Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-9987 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4468



New Beginnings

This year, Ocotillo welcomes Mrs. Avila, Mrs. Delgado, Mrs. Trembla, Miss Farmer and Mrs. Pomerleau to the Panther Family.

“Hi! I’m Mrs. Pomerleau, the new assistant principal. I am an AV native and a product of the PSD. It is very exciting to be here to serve students like I was, once. I can’t wait to see what Ocotillo teaches me and what I can bring to the table for this community. Thank you all for the warm welcome!”

“My name is Aileen Delgado, and I am happy to be the new second-grade teacher at Ocotillo. I grew up in the AV, and I have 15 years of experience with PSD. I am excited to bring my passion for teaching to the students at Ocotillo.”

“My name is Johanna Farmer. I teach fifth grade. This is my 21st year teaching in PSD. I have taught second through sixth grades, but my passion is teaching fifth grade! My favorite subject to teach is social studies. I love bringing in my personal experiences and those of my students into my lessons.”

“My name is Monica Tremba, and I am the new RSP teacher for grades kindergarten through third at Ocotillo. I bring with me almost 19 years of experience teaching in both general-education and special-education classrooms. I love to travel. I am the proud mama of a fur baby, aka my dog. I am passionate about being a champion for all children. I’m so happy to be a part of the team here at Ocotillo!”

“Hello, I’m Bridget Avila! I’m married and the mother of two children, Payton, age 12, and Matthew, age 9. I have worked for PSD since 2003 and have worked in all grade levels, kindergarten through eighth grade. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve any and all students that walk through my classroom door.”

Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

38043 Division Street, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/538-9034 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4471



We’re ‘Quackers’ for Quackers!

It was Duck Race season in Palmdale this past month, and Palmdale Learning Plaza’s Duck Race Team was headed by our resident rubber duck, Quackers. While Quackers spent the last month culling a team by training with penguins, flying in V formation, and bulking up with spaghetti, his most transformative race prep came from his teammate, PLP sixth-grader Logan Mosley.

Palmdale Learning Plaza held a schoolwide contest to help Quackers find just the right race attire. It needed to be sleek, stylish and student made. Logan Mosley’s design was chosen the

winner, and as the winning artist, he transformed Quackers out of his drab yellow. Soon, they were starring in their very own Duck Race Hype video together to show off the new duck duds to the students of PLP.

Is Quacker’s sleek paint job enough to propel him to victory? Will Logan ever hear what Quackers is saying? We’ll never know. But thanks to Quackers and Logan Mosley, Palmdale Learning Plaza has a new duck friend to root for. Go PLP PUMAs and Quackers!



Dr. Kimberly Wright
Principal

Palmdale Academy Charter School

3838 East Avenue R, Palmdale, CA 92550 • 661/234-4800 • <https://www.palmdalesd.org/pachs>



PACS Back to School Night

Palmdale Academy Charter School had its first Back to School Night on Aug 26, 2021. The evening started with having a Title I meeting with all the parents, led by the Principal, Dr. Buono. The parents and families were able to take advantage of the booths that were manned by our very own students. The ASB booth had school spirit shirts, and ducks for sale and even sold a duck to our very own superintendent, Mr. Raul Maldonado. The Yearbook and ASB students created a wonderful photo booth and throughout the evening families took pictures in memory of our founding class, Class of 2025. Last, but not least we had our pre-medical club, Black Student Union and cheerleading table as well. There was a strong showing with over 150 families in attendance, all in all the evening was a complete success.



Palmdale Discovery Center *Pre-8*

39175 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-0181 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4470



Aiming for Success

This has been a very busy year at Palmdale Discovery Center!

This year, Palmdale Discovery Center was honored to enter its fourth year as a Capturing Kids’ Hearts Showcase School. We plan on continuing this journey with Capturing Kids’ Hearts. This year our students have also been very successful in their acclimation to full participation in onsite learning. We are also excited to be continuing to use our great web-based tools for communicating with parents and other stakeholders.

We continue to see positive growth from all of our students. We are very excited about the area of academics this year as well. Every year we continue to add new curricular tools to our program so that each student will have a better opportunity to access the curriculum and meet their goals.

Data shows that the majority of our students have made progress towards their goals during the past school year. We have also started a new attendance program, and are grateful to our parents for making sure that their children are at school every day.

I would like to thank all of our staff members and parents for being very valuable team members who contribute to the success of Palmdale Discovery Center!

Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

326 East Avenue R, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9357 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4469



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Every Student, Every Day... Engaging Students by Empowering them with Choice...whatever it takes!

Palm Tree Elementary, a proud 2021 Silver Medal Recognized PBIS and Capturing Kids Heart National Showcase School, welcomes former 4th grade Palm Tree teacher, Jeff Westreicher, who has returned as our Assistant Principal. After learning the wonderful news that construction on our new playground was about to begin, taking away our grass area temporarily, Mr. Westreicher created an alternative recess area in our newly constructed Makerspace. It has been greatly appreciated during this heat wave. During lunchtime, Palm Tree scholars, have had an opportunity to pursue fine art projects, complete research projects and play games in our Makerspace and it has been a big hit among our scholars! Giving students choice impacts the entire school experience and more importantly how students interact with others, empowering our Palm Tree Parrots to be the best learning selves they can be!



Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

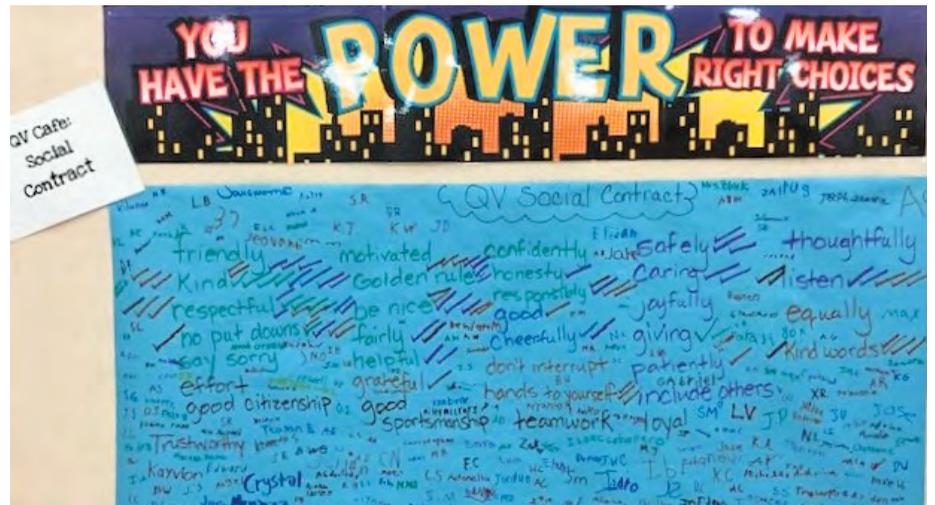
37236 58th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7100 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4472



Carol Black
Principal

Capturing Kids Hearts at QV

With students back on campus, now more than ever, our students and staff need Capturing Kids Hearts. Our staff is working together to build strong positive relationships with our students, families, and each other. This year to help identify students in need we have a Circle of Support Team or COST. In addition, we are taking advantage of the CKH Premium SEL support available to teachers and administrators. We build rapport with our students through daily greeting and launching of students at arrival and dismissal. Every classroom has created a social contract, and we have one in the cafeteria that ALL of our students had an opportunity to help create and sign. Good things, affirmations, and SEL lessons, and intentionally checking in with students and each other is making a positive difference. At QV CKH is a way of life!



SAGE *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration Magnet Academy 6-8*

38060 20th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/537-6101 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4473



Larry Lueck
Principal

Civil Air Patrol (Air Force Auxiliary Cadet)

Leadership, Aerospace, Fitness and Character are the four elements of our Cadet program. Cadets learn to lead and conquer challenges as a team. At S.A.G.E., they have the opportunity to log in flight time in our simulation lab and take Aviation courses (Air Traffic Control/Flight, Space & Rockets and Planes & Drones). Cadets earn rank, ribbons and awards by completing physical fitness challenges, demonstrating their knowledge of Aerospace, developing leadership and living up to our Core Values (Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Respect).

Meet some of our Cadets and hear from them:



Kalisha, Ahtziri and Elissa in our library, S.A.G.E. Magnet Academy

"Civil Air Patrol helps students become a better person in school and at home." Elissa Medrano, 8th grade.

"Sergeant Adams teaches us physical training, all the drills we do here are amazing!" Ahtziri Hernandez, 7th grade.

"He teaches us step by step and gives us a little push to do better." Kalisha Striving, 6th grade.

Shadow Hills *Engineering & Design Magnet Academy 6-8*

37315 60th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7400 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4474



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Paxton/Patterson STEM Lab is Up and Running!

Shadow Hills is an Engineering and Design Magnet Academy and this year we have the perfect class to support this! Mr. Adrian Zayas is the lead engineer/designer for this program and is very excited about the potential this class has. He teaches this class all day and his students have access to 18 different modules throughout the school year. We feature the following 'classes' within a class—Audio Communications, Digital Music, Video Production, Blueprint Reading, Personal Finance, Alternative Energy, Energy and Power, Computer Aided Drafting, Design and Marketing, Virtual Architecture, Electricity and Electronics, Robotics, Forensic Science, and Computer Graphics and Animations.



The students spend six weeks in each module allowing them to access up to six different 'classes' in a single school year. We are excited to support a Career Technical Education program allowing students to explore possible career interests!

Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

39360 Summerwind Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3863 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4475



Marginese Streeter
Principal

Summerwind Duck Adoptions soared for the 21-22 school year!

Our dedicated Summer the Duck has made rounds around campus in 100 degree weather every Friday giving out prizes and putting smiles on the faces of Summerwind's students and staff. Summerwind's parents, staff, and students have been a huge support in raising funds by feverishly selling or buying Kiwanis ducks. This year our record breaking goal was to sell 2,000 ducks!!! Thanks to everyone's efforts we sold a grand total of 1,457 ducks!!! This is the most sales in Summerwind's history.

Our Thunderbird students and staff will soon gain benefits from all the purchases this year. We took 3rd place last year, we took 2nd place this year... watch out Chaparral, we are coming for 1st place next school year!



Summer the Duck, Students & Ms. Streeter in the Duck Hat

Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

1100 East Avenue R-4, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4166 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4477



Misti Larrick
Principal

Together We Will Make a Difference at Tumbleweed!

The Tumbleweed Team was so excited to begin the 2021-2022 school year. We rolled out the red carpet, literally, to welcome back our superstars on the first day of school. We hosted a "Sneak-a-Peek" allowing families an opportunity to come visit their classroom and meet their teacher. We had photo backdrops set up around campus for our families to capture their special "first day" memories. Our staff worked together prior to the start of the school year and came up with our school-wide theme for this year. It is, Together We Will Make a Difference. You can feel

the excitement in the air here at Tumbleweed, and we are looking forward to an amazing year full of powerful learning opportunities, continuing to fulfill the Palmdale Promise, and having lots of fun with our staff, families, and community along the way.



Tamarisk *Renaissance School TK-5*

1843 East Avenue Q-5, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/225-9647 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4476



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Kicks for Kids

Tamarisk Elementary started the school year on a fresh note. Our welcome back, "Kicks for Kids" event hosted by The Well Church was a much needed surprise for our students. On the Saturday prior to the first day of school, each Tamarisk Student received a free pair of tennis shoes, as well as, a beautiful backpack from our Palmdale SD Foundation. The smiles on our student's face abounded. We are indebted to our friends at The Well Church and Pastor Palomino for their hard work in making sure they raised the funds necessary to purchase each student a pair of shoes. The Well Church showed attention to detail, by taking the time to write and include an uplifting message for each student and including it in each shoe box.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

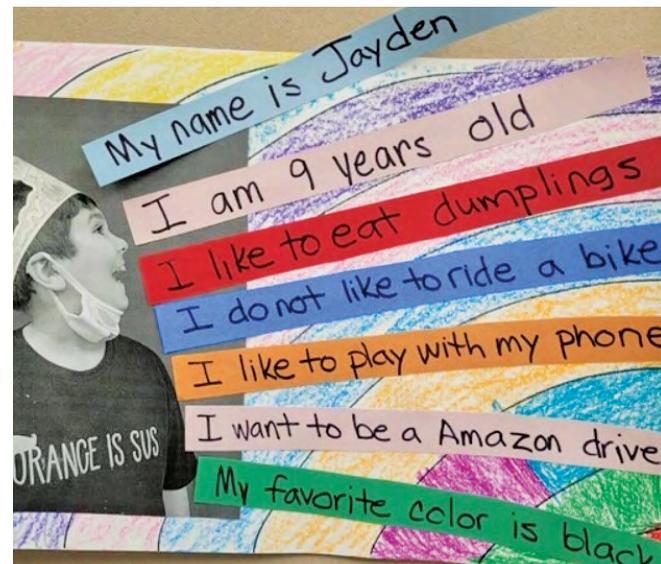
37015 Goldenview Way, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/456-1600 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4478



Gia Greaux
Principal

National Arts in Education Week

National Arts in Education Week was celebrated this year at Yellen Learning Center from September 13th to the 19th. Ms. Sargent's class of 3rd graders crafted colorful characters to a story read aloud by the librarian. Mr. McPherson's class created projects with oil and soft pastels to accompany their lesson on the planet of Mars. Mrs. Milillo's students created poster displays illustrating self-ascribed affirmations of themselves and Mr. Arnold's class constructed kites from start to finish and flew those kites successfully high above our campus. Art activities and programs are a critical part of Yellen's educational and social emotional learning program. These programs have the potential to help our



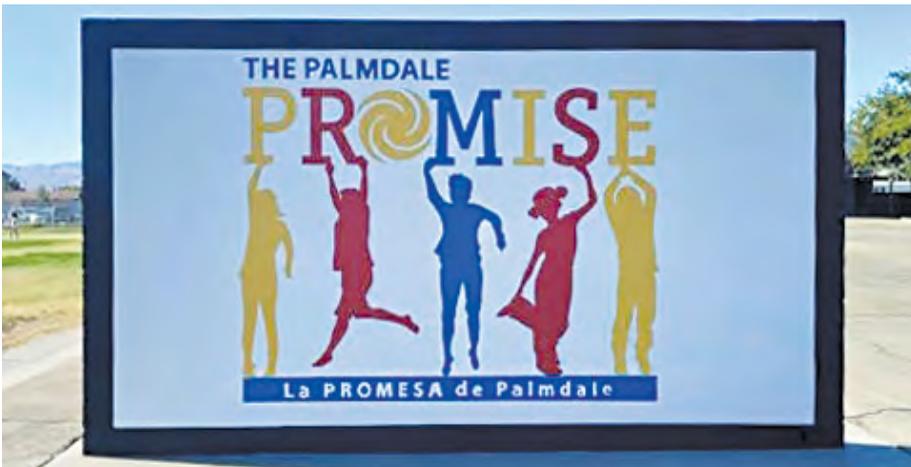
students improve their memory and concentration skills, to enhance their communication and listening skills and encourages greater focus and discipline. Celebrating National Arts in Education Week is Yellen's way of recognizing the impact of art on improving our students' success and overall socio-emotional well-being.



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Renovations Abound!

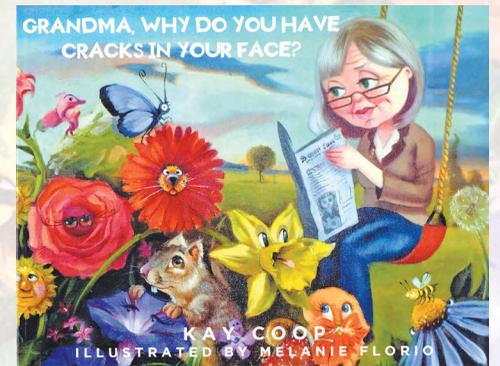
Welcome to another school year! The teachers and staff at Yucca School are happy to welcome our students and families back for another fantastic year. As we begin, Yucca School is continuing to receive upgrades and improvements. In addition to a new Makerspace and Parent Center we received last year, Yucca's cafeteria, the Raven's Café, has received a new look! The Raven's Café has been upgraded with new flooring, stage curtains, paint and sound system. We are also getting two new playgrounds- one for our TK students and another for students in Kindergarten to 5th grade. We have also gotten new backstops featuring the Palmdale Promise Logo. They look amazing! Yucca is also receiving upgrades to our data networking system. Yucca already has the most phenomenal teachers in the district and now we are receiving much needed improvements. Thank you to all involved in making Yucca look great!



Now Available on
AMAZON & BARNES AND NOBLE

Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.



By Kay Coop
Illustrated by Melanie Florio

Halloween Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Palmdale in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2021
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT | GHOST | SPIDER |
| CANDY | GHOUL | SWAMP CREATURE |
| CARVE | GRAVE | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CEMETERY | HAUNTED HOUSE | VAMPIRE |
| COSTUME | HALLOWEEN | WEB |
| DECORATIONS | JACK O LANTERN | WEREWOLF |
| FRANKENSTEIN | MUMMY | WITCH |
| FRIGHTFUL | SKELETON | ZOMBIE |

Congratulations to **Logan Gomez**
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!





CalPERS members, there's an easier way to get the care you want

With the UnitedHealthcare SignatureValue® Alliance or Harmony HMO plans, you'll have a helping hand in health care. These plans provide broader provider networks with access to many medical groups, plus personalized digital tools designed to help make managing your health—and health plan—easier. It's all here to help you get the care you want, the way you want it.

Visit uhc.com/calpers or
call 1-877-359-3714 to learn more

United
Healthcare