

Measure DD at Work for Our Schools!



Roger D. Gallizzi

Welcome to the new school year and our first edition of newly launched *Launch Pad*.

We have a new publisher and a new look. We're so very happy to have *School News* be our new publisher; and we're

offering more features, including updates for each of our schools, each edition. It's also important to note that this publication saves taxpayer dollars; advertising is what drives this publication and so we need your support. If you know of a business or an organization that wants to reach 25,000 readers with school-aged children, then this is the publication to advertise in. Call my office at 266-7220 for more information.

In this edition, we have extensive coverage of Measure DD construction projects, and an introduction to our school leaders.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 9



New play equipment and resilient "rubber" surfacing was installed at Summerwind and Joshua Hills Elementary Schools.

By Al Tsai, Maintenance and Operations Administrator

If you drove by many of our school sites this summer you have seen the changes occurring on our campuses. Here is an update on what opportunities the passing of Measure DD has made possible.

For the 2013 Summer Break, the Maintenance and Operations Department planned and implemented a very aggressive list of projects. Within 7 weeks, over \$445,000 worth of projects were completed at seventeen school sites.

The main site improvement contract was with Lundgren Buildings for \$3.6 million at seven school sites (Summerwind, Manzanita, Cactus, Joshua Hills, Quail Valley, Shadow Hills, and Los Amigos). The work consisted of four separate trades which included: asphalt, concrete, fencing, masonry, and landscaping.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sandy Corrales-Eneix, President

A hearty welcome back to all!

Your Board of Trustees was hard at work this summer, working with our incredible staff to successfully open the doors for the new school year. Many parents have expressed much appreciation for the new playgrounds, fields and landscaping that have taken place through Measure DD funding. I have even heard from neighbors who live near schools that are so happy with the new spruced up school facilities that can make a difference in home values.

And much of the feedback this month has been the relief and satisfaction that proposed furlough days have been restored as well as any salary cuts. The Board of Trustees supports its employees and wants the very best for them. I enjoy hearing from our employees and their positive ideas about working together during these difficult financial times that Sacramento has sadly produced.

My first day of school was spent visiting three sites. I enjoyed delivering the Breakfast in the Classroom wagons to our Manzanita students with our incredible Principal Kelly Jensen who exhibited "Jackie of all trades" talents. And our David G. Millen Intermediate students were clearly excited to return to school. I must say there is nothing like listening to a 21st century teacher deliver an address on that first day of school about the high level of expectations for the year. Special kudos go to 7th grade DGM history teacher Billie Martin who did a great job of relating with his students by making a very personal connection that first day and setting the tone for what is expected at a PSD middle school. And finally, I must thank Summerwind Elementary Principal Roberto Lopez who is monitoring (along with Maintenance and Operations Administrator Al Tsai) all the construction projects that have transformed the campus, and there is more to come!



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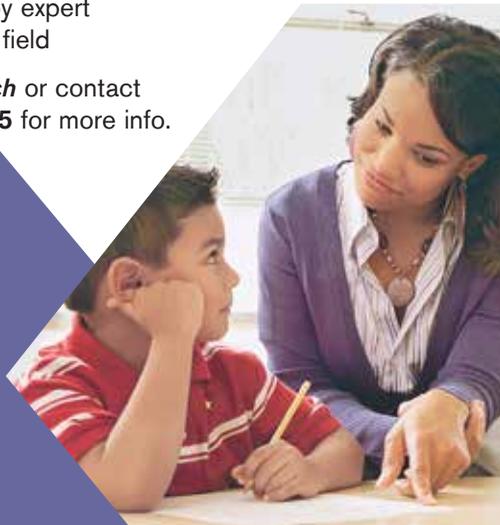
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



We are pleased to begin publishing the excellence from the Palmdale School District. We publish 5x's per year: January, March, May, September and November.

This is a special issue when the principals share with you their bio's. It is interesting to read about where they graduated, their families, pets, hobbies and years in education. They all share the same focus and dedication to educating our youth.

Chalk boards have faded into our memories soon to be joined by smart boards and iPads as technology continues to evolve. Until then... Common Core is here!

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Welcome and Enrollment Center

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

Enrollment Information

The Welcome and Enrollment Center is located at the District Office at 39139 10th Street East, in Palmdale. It serves as the Palmdale School District's central site for registration of all students in grades TK-8. Whether you are new to Palmdale or have moved within the District your registration

will be processed by our friendly and courteous staff. The Welcome and Enrollment Center is open throughout the year from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. TK or transitional kindergarten for the 2013-14 school year serves students born between October 2, 2008 and December 2, 2008. Students born on or before October 1, 2008 are eligible to attend kindergarten.

Enrollment packets are available at all school sites or may be downloaded from our website: www.palmdalesd.org. Choose the Welcome and Enrollment Center from our Headlines page. Each packet must have a completed enrollment form, verification of residence form, home language survey form and health appraisal form. The student's birth certificate, immunization record and the parent's proof of address must also accompany the packet. Once the packet is returned to the Welcome Center, it will be checked for completion of all required information (listed below.)



Requirements for Enrollment

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



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

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

- ▶ **Paraeducator - Certified Interpreter**
 - ▶ **Sub Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant**
 - ▶ **Sub Early Childhood Teacher Assistant**
 - ▶ **Sub Paraeducator - Moderate to Severe**
 - ▶ **Sub Special Education Instructional Assistant**
- Click on the link to "Apply"

To be notified of future job opportunities, submit a "Job Interest Card" located under the Section Contents column.

For assistance, contact the Personnel Commission office at 661-456-3009



Jeff C.
Elementary School Teacher
MEMBER SINCE 1994

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Common Core State Standards are Here!

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a practical way to prepare children for the challenges of a constantly changing world – by learning step-by-step the real-world skills they need for college and career. The goal is that all students graduating from our public school system as life-long learners will have the skills and knowledge necessary to assume their positions in the 21st century global economy.

Standards have been adopted in the content areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics and will involve a new assessment. Parents can find specific information in the grade level links on the Palmdale School District website.

<http://www.palmdalesd.org/Page/3186>



Transitioning to the CCSS: What Parents and Guardians Can Do Now

Parents and guardians are crucial partners in laying the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards. Parents and guardians can:

- Learn about the CCSS and the district's transition plan.
- Talk to the principal about the school's plans for the transition to learn what will be different about these new standards and what will remain the same for children.
- Meet with your child's teacher to discuss what your child will be learning over the coming year and how classroom instruction will shift to align to the CCSS.
- Play an active role in your child's education at home. If you notice your child is struggling in a certain area, consult with his or her teacher to identify strategies and resources that might be helpful.
- Educate other parents about the transition to the CCSS.
- Explore opportunities to become actively involved in the Common Core transition through your state and local Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Information on the Smarter Balanced Test

California is a governing member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The consortium is developing new tests that will measure student progress toward career and college readiness. This test will replace the current CST test that your child takes in May each year. The first time the test will be given for all California students is in the Spring of 2015. However, four district schools, Ocotillo, Los Amigos, Barrel Springs and Cimarron were chosen as part of a pilot testing of the assessment. You may learn more about the new tests and see sample test items at the Smarter Balance website. www.smarterbalanced.org

Resources for Parents and Guardians

The following Web resources provide the most current information from the California Department of Education (CDE) Web Site and are continuously updated. The first reference is the main CDE CCSS Web Page which includes the Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California, the Significant Milestones Timeline, and a "Learn More" section that provides additional links to audience specific information.

California Department of Education CCSS Web Page:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

(select "Students/Parents" tab)

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Information:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>

K-8 California's Common Core Standards Parent Handbook:

http://www.ccsesa.org/sysadmin/documents/CCSParentHandbook_020411.doc

This handbook, created by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) in consultation with the California State PTA, gives parents an introduction to California's CCSS and a summary of what students are expected to learn as they advance from kindergarten through grade eight.

Palmdale School District's Sage Planetarium

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

Astronomy Events for The Public

By *Jeremy Amarant, Director*



September:

- 6th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
Public Star Party (Free):
8:00 Telescopes in front of the SAGE Planetarium
Antelope Valley Youth Astronomy Club Meeting
(Free to students 5th - 12th grades)
4:00-6:00 Centered on Activities
Antelope Valley Astronomy Club Meeting
(Free, open to the public):
7:00-9:00 Guest Speaker
- 20th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts

October:

- 4th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
Public Star Party (Free):
7:30 Telescopes in front of the SAGE Planetarium
Antelope Valley Youth Astronomy Club Meeting
(Free to students 5th - 12th grades)
4:00-6:00 Centered on Activities
Antelope Valley Astronomy Club Meeting (Free, open to the public):
7:00-9:00 Business Meeting and Special Presentation
- 11th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts
- 18th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts

November:

- 1st—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
Public Star Party (Free):
7:30 Telescopes in front of the SAGE Planetarium
Antelope Valley Youth Astronomy Club Meeting
(Free to students 5th - 12th grades)
4:00-6:00 Centered on Activities
Antelope Valley Astronomy Club Meeting (Free, open to the public):
7:00-9:00 Guest Speaker
- 8th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts
- 15th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts

December:

- 6th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
Public Star Party (Free):
7:30 Telescopes in front of the SAGE Planetarium
Antelope Valley Youth Astronomy Club Meeting
(Free to students 5th - 12th grades)
4:00-6:00 Centered on Activities
Antelope Valley Astronomy Club Meeting (Free, open to the public):
7:00-9:00 Guest Speaker
- 20th—** Public Night (\$5 per person)
5:00 Pre-K & Kinder Planetarium Show
6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages
7:00 Astronomy and Space for Scouts

Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

I am currently the principal scholar of Barrel Springs Elementary School for the Palmdale School District. I am honored to work in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) where meeting the needs of all students and preparing students for the 21st century is our goal. My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from California State University, Northridge and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National University. I am currently earning my doctorate in school administration and supervision from the University of Southern California.

I have worked for the Palmdale School District since 1997, when I began teaching at Chaparral Elementary School. In 2000, I became an administrative intern, until I was appointed the assistant principal of Tumbleweed Elementary School in September of 2002. The following school year, I was assigned to both Tumbleweed and Mesquite Elementary Schools as the assistant principal. During the summer of 2004, I was assigned to Mesa Intermediate School. In September of 2004, I was assigned to Buena Vista School as the assistant principal until October of 2004, when I was appointed the principal of Tamarisk Elementary School, a high poverty school where the main focus was to raise student achievement and create a PLC and a culturally responsive staff. In May of 2009, I was appointed principal of Barrel Springs Elementary School, where there is a focus on learning, maintaining a PLC, and preparing students to compete globally in the 21st century.

Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ruth James
Principal

My career in education started 29 years ago in the city of Peoria, Arizona. I was hired as a resource teacher by the special education department of the Dysart School District. I worked for that school district for seven years until my family relocated to California in 1991.

I was hired by the Palmdale School District in July of 1991 as an SDC teacher, and was assigned to the Sumac sixth-grade center. Sumac closed in 1992, and I was sent to Tumbleweed for one year. In 1993, I was sent to Juniper as a resource teacher, and remained in that position for eight years.

During my years at Juniper, I served as mentor teacher and support provider for the other special education teachers. I was also the administrative intern for two years. I became the assistant principal there in 2001, and remained in that position until 2004. My next assignment was to Cimarron as assistant principal for six months.

I was promoted to principal at Mesa Intermediate School in February of 2005, and remained in that position for six years. Mesa closed its doors in 2011, and Cactus Intermediate moved into the Mesa site. I was assigned the principalship at Cactus, and have been here for two years.

Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Tonsie Thomas
Principal

Last year was Tonsie Thomas' first year as principal at Desert Rose School in Palmdale. Her years in administration have included four as assistant principal at various school sites, including Ocotillo, Cactus Intermediate and Desert Rose. Prior to becoming an administrator, Ms. Thomas served as an educator at Palmdale Learning Plaza, where she taught seventh- and eighth-students for eight years.

Before arriving in Palmdale, Ms. Thomas worked as a teacher consultant with Fresno Unified. Her tenure also included working as a literacy coach at Fresno and also Merced City School

District. During her 20 years in the classroom, Ms. Thomas has taught in all grade levels K-8.

Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

When the last of her five kids was in school for a full day in 1993, Chris O'Neill went back to school to get a teaching credential. She attended Moorpark College for the first two years and then transferred to California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where she earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a multiple-subject teaching credential.

Chris O'Neill began her teaching career in Los Angeles Unified School District in 1996. She then went on to earn a master's degree in educational administration and an administrative services credential from CSUN. In 2006, she was hired as an assistant principal for the Palmdale School District at Desert Rose School. She then moved to Mesa Intermediate School and Wildflower School as the principal. Currently she is the principal at Buena Vista School and hopes to remain there indefinitely!

Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

My career in education officially started when I graduated from the University of Michigan in 1982 with a teaching degree. Before getting serious with education and actually teaching, I spent a few years in a variety of occupations that included law enforcement, trainee as a software engineer, substitute teaching and coaching.

My first teaching job was in Littlerock, California, where I worked at Almondale Middle School. There, I taught sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students math and science and completed a master's degree at CSUN in educational supervision and administration. I then left Keppel School District and took a job at Challenger Middle

School in the Wilsona District. Again, I was teaching math and science. After six years at Challenger, I felt it was time to go into administration.

It was in the fall of 1996 that Palmdale School District gave me my first administrative assignment as an assistant principal at Juniper Intermediate School. My administrative experience as assistant principal also included schools such as Summerwind, Chaparral, Oak Tree and Mesa Intermediate. At these schools, I was able to work with people like Pauline Winbush, Mike Ohren, Linda Wagner, Esmeralda Mondragon and Mary Oleson.

My first assignment as principal was at Desert Willow Intermediate. Opening the newest intermediate school for the district was quite a challenge. Over the eight-year period at Desert Willow, I worked with many remarkable staff members and assistant principals. But after eight years, it was time again for a change.

My current assignment is principal of Chaparral Elementary School. The last two years have zipped by. Chaparral has a great staff, great students and great parents. I look forward to coming to work every day.

Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Cimarron Elementary, Home of the STARS, is one of the best schools in the Palmdale School District! I feel very fortunate to have been the principal for three years at this amazing school!

This is my 32nd year in education. I have taught all grades, K-6, for 16 years before becoming an administrator. I taught at Yucca and Summerwind. I was promoted to assistant principal at Summerwind and then Quail Valley. I was promoted to principal at Ocotillo and now at Cimarron. I earned a bachelor's degree from University of Hawaii and a master's in educational management from University of La Verne.

Cimarron is a wonderful school made up of great students, parents and teachers. Our experienced staff is highly qualified and caring and strives to help students reach their maximum potential. We believe children can achieve academic success. Through teamwork, open communication and dedication to continuous improvement, we will continue to make Cimarron School a place where all children learn 21st-century skills, complete their educational journey, and become productive members of society.

Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

My name is Martin Herrera. I began my career as an educator 22 years ago and I was a paraprofessional with the Jaime Escalante Math and Science Foundation in East Los Angeles City College, I then taught 7th/8th Math with the Los Angeles Unified School District for about ten years; I have been with the Palmdale School District going on seven years. During my stay at PSD I have served as a math teacher and assistant principal at Tamarisk Elementary and Shadow Hills Intermediate School, and currently serve the community of Desert Willow as Principal.

I attended the University of California at Santa Cruz and I received my Administrative Credential from Cal State, Los Angeles. I attended the University of San Diego Extended Learning.

I am a member of the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) and the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA).

Juniper *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Dr. Donna Campbell has been a member of the Antelope Valley community since 1990. She was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, and graduated from St. Andrew High School for Girls. After migrating to the United States, she earned an associate of arts degree from Santa Monica College and her bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees from California State University, Bakersfield. Dr. Campbell earned a doctorate in educational leadership from California State University, Northridge, where her research focused on African-American parent involvement, exploring cultural relationships, and issues of trust in education.

Dr. Campbell currently works as a principal in the Palmdale School District, having previously served as an assistant principal, an eighth-grade teacher, and a substitute teacher. She is the chairperson of the Palmdale School District's African-American Advisory Committee and a collaborating member of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) California Reading and Literature Project, and she also holds membership in the High Desert Alliance of Black School Educators, the Association of California School Administrators, and the California Association for Bilingual Education. Dr. Campbell is also affiliated with the Antelope Valley Cares Mentoring Movement and the Antelope Valley Partners for Health-United We Mentor Program.

Dr. Campbell stays active in the community and was recently honored with the Community Leadership Award from the High Desert Alliance of Black School Educators for her involvement in mentoring youth. In 2011, Dr. Campbell was nominated as Co-Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 15. She also stays actively involved in her high school's "old girls association."

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Marlene Batista Calcines
Principal

Marlene Batista Calcines graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 1993 with a B.A. in liberal studies and a minor in Chicano studies. As one of the only native Spanish-speaking students in her graduating class, she began as a bilingual classroom teacher in grades one through five in districts like Baldwin Park Unified, Burbank Unified and Glendale Unified.

In 1999, she received her M.A. in education with an emphasis on multilingual/multicultural studies from Cal State Northridge, and took a position as an ESL teacher specialist at Edison Elementary in Glendale. Here she helped start the school district's first Spanish dual-immersion program.

In 2005, after receiving her M.A. in administration and leadership policy studies, she was hired as an assistant principal in the Beverly Hills Unified School District. She remained there until 2009, when she was offered a position as coordinator for special education and educational services in the Newhall School District.

Wanting to return to her roots and true passion in bilingual education, Ms. Batista Calcines later accepted the position of principal at Dos Caminos in the Palmdale School District in 2011, and soon opened the second dual-language program in the district.

Ms. Batista Calcines is currently working on her doctorate in education at Cal State Northridge. She looks forward to completing her program in 2015, while also continuing to expand Dos Caminos each year until it is a K-8 dual-immersion school.

Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Ryan Beardsley proudly serves as the principal scholar of Golden Poppy Elementary. He took the position of principal at Golden Poppy in 2012. Prior to his assignment at Golden Poppy, he served in the role of assistant principal at several sites, including Desert Willow Intermediate, Golden Poppy and Los Amigos.

Prior to his administrative career, Mr. Beardsley served as administrative intern, special-projects teacher and curriculum resource teacher, and taught fourth grade at Cimarron Elementary. He also taught grades two and three at Summerwind Elementary following his move to PSD from the Sulphur Springs District, where he taught third grade at Pinetree Elementary.

Mr. Beardsley currently holds a Master of Arts degree in educational administration and a Master of Arts degree in curriculum and instruction from California State University, Bakersfield. He completed his undergraduate studies at San Diego State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal studies-education. He is the proud father of three children, and his wife Christina currently teaches at Summerwind Elementary.

Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

I am currently the principal at Joshua Hills Elementary school. I have been at JH for the past three years. Prior to my current assignment, I was assistant principal at the following schools: Cimarron, Wildflower, Los Amigos and Palmdale Learning Plaza. I am currently in the doctoral program at Brandman University and hope to be done by January 2015.

I have over 12 years teaching experience and have worked as a teacher in Compton, California; Dallas, Texas; and Palmdale, California. I was born in Monrovia and have lived in various places in California, Texas and Georgia. I have three beautiful children: Thema, I'frica and Raashid. I enjoy spending time at the beach with family and friends and traveling back to the South. Once my children are all gone from the bird's nest, my plans are to move back to the South and work in the college system as an administrator.

Please Drive Safely

Students are
Back in School



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Maria Elena Esquer
Principal

I have been a part of the Palmdale School District since 1997, and have served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. I hold a bachelor's degree from CSUN in both sociology and psychology. In addition, I also earned a master's degree in educational administration from CSULB.

During my nine years as a teacher, I served students in the second and fifth grades at Tumbleweed Elementary. It was my passion to work with colleagues to meet the challenges that our English language learners and struggling students had to face in class each day.

It was a privilege to work primarily with these students, and I can honestly say that I learned as much from them as they did from me. Having been an English learner as a child, I could always relate to their struggles with a new culture and language. I decided that to be able to serve more students, and work effectively with teachers, I would go into administration.

I then became an assistant principal in 2006. During my time at Tamarisk and Yucca Elementary, I learned much more than I ever thought possible from my students, parents, teachers and colleagues. Our English language learners made up over half the population at each school. My work included not only assisting teachers with better lesson design and positive student discipline, but also with providing them effective professional development in the acquisition of language and best practices for our language learners.

Again, wanting to meet new challenges, and further serve our community of students, in 2009 I became the principal of Los Amigos Dual-Immersion School. This gives me a unique opportunity every day to work with dedicated teachers and staff members in providing a rigorous bilingual education for our English-only and English language learners.

Collectively, we work together to insure that our students leave eighth-grade as bilingual and biliterate citizens, ready to compete not just in secondary education but also in future university and global experiences. While the program has been recognized by exemplary leadership from previous administration and current staff, it is my hope to build upon this legacy of commitment, professionalism and collaboration in bilingual education.

Each day it is my challenge to lead with integrity, humility and encouragement. Together we can build a greater future for the students we serve.

David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Brian Williams
Principal

Brian Williams took a nontraditional route into elementary education. He served in the Marine Corps as surface-to-air missile technician for four years before attending and graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles with a degree in American literature and culture. Brian started working for the Palmdale School District as a substitute teacher in 2004, spending his first year at Manzanita Elementary School as a long-term substitute in a sixth-grade classroom. Brian was hired by Palmdale in 2005, and he spent two more years teaching upper grades at Manzanita. Brian then transferred to Desert Willow Intermediate School, where he taught English language arts and social studies to seventh- and eighth-graders. During this time, Brian received his master's in education leadership and administrative services credential from Chapman University.

In 2010, Brian was promoted to the position of assistant principal, where he was split between Manzanita and the Palmdale Learning Plaza. A year later, he was transferred to Summerwind Elementary School and the Summerwind Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Academy, which later became David G. Millen Intermediate School. In 2013 Brian was named the principal of Millen.

Brian is married to Jamie Williams, a loving and supporting wife who works as a physical education teacher for the Palmdale School District. He has two young daughters, Emily and Bryn.

Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

My educational background includes an A.A. degree from Chabot Junior College in Livermore, California; a bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Northridge; and a master's degree in administration from the University of LaVerne. I have worked for the Palmdale School District since 1988, and am currently completing my 25th year.

I began teaching at Cactus Elementary School in 1988, and then transferred to Chaparral Elementary School in 1991. After 11 years of teaching, I became a curriculum resource teacher, and worked on a variety of programs supporting teachers and students. I then became a facilitator for the "Success for All" reading program.

From 2001 to 2006, I began my administrative career as assistant principal at Chaparral Elementary School, Tamarisk Elementary School, Shadow Hills Junior High, and a split between Barrel Springs and Manzanita Elementary Schools. From 2006 to 2010, I was appointed the principal of Golden Poppy Elementary School. I am currently serving my third year as principal of Mesquite Elementary School.

On a personal note, I am a native of California, and have lived in the Antelope Valley since 1974. I enjoy dance, scrapbooking, cooking, and spending time with my husband Chris and daughters Laura (age 12) and Sara (age 10), as well as our two rescue dogs, Snowball and Sprinklez. Over the past nine years I have also been active in my daughters' dance studio, where all of us enjoy taking classes.

Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Kelly Jensen
Principal

Kelly Jensen was born and raised in Southern California. She graduated from Verdugo Hills High School in Tujunga. Mrs. Jensen attended Antelope Valley College and received her bachelor's degree from California State University, Bakersfield, and her master's in educational leadership and administration from Chapman University.

Mrs. Jensen began her career in education as a preschool teacher. In 1994, she joined the Palmdale School District as a sixth-grade teacher. She has also had the opportunity to serve as a special projects teacher, a BTSA support provider, a learning support teacher and an assistant principal, both elementary and intermediate. She is now beginning a new challenge as a principal/instructional leader at Manzanita Elementary.

She has been married to her junior high school sweetheart for almost 30 years. In her spare time, Mrs. Jensen and her husband travel to Utah to visit their children and grandchildren. She also enjoys entertaining, spending time with her friends, and crafting. She recently began learning the game of golf!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Mike Perkins
Principal

I am currently serving as the Director of Student Services and the principal of Oak Tree Community Day School. I have a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, with a minor in psychology from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. My master's degree is in educational administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

I started teaching in 1983 and taught three years in Tuttle, Oklahoma and currently I am completing my 30th year in education. In 1987, I began teaching physical education at Sage Intermediate School, where I taught for four years. I was promoted to assistant principal at Yucca Elementary School in 1991. I also worked as an assistant principal at Tamarisk Elementary School, Ocotillo Elementary School, Juniper Intermediate School, and Buena Vista Elementary School. In 1996, I was named principal at Cactus Elementary School. I later served as principal at Shadow Hills Intermediate School and Buena Vista Elementary School before accepting the principal position at Daisy Gibson Elementary School in the Keppel Union School District in 2006. In 2010 I was fortunate to return to the Palmdale School District as principal of Oak Tree Community Day School.

My wife Diana has taught second and third grade in Palmdale since 1987. Our daughter, Megan, is studying culinary arts and our son, Dillon, just graduated from high school and will training to be a commercial pilot.

Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Texas-Permian Basin. I have been an employee of the Palmdale School District (PSD) for five years, where I have been the principal at Palmdale Learning Plaza. For the upcoming 2013-2014 school year, I will assume the principal position at Ocotillo Elementary School.

Prior to coming to PSD, I was an assistant principal and principal with the Hawthorne School District in California and a teacher and administrator for the Midland Independent School District in Texas.

Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke Jr.
Principal

Gerald was born and raised in South Los Angeles, and lived in Washington, D.C. for 14 years. Thirteen years ago he and his family moved to Palmdale.

Gerald is a proud alumnus of Loyola High School in Los Angeles, an all-boys Jesuit school. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree in education and administration from McDaniel College in Westminster, M.D.

Gerald began teaching in Prince George's County, M.D., where he taught in the fifth and sixth grades. He also taught fourth grade at Quail Valley for six years. Gerald is currently the principal at Palm Tree Elementary School. He has served as assistant principal at Mesa, Cactus, Oak Tree, Yellen, and Yucca, and also spent one year as co-principal at Yucca.

He has been an educator for 15 years. Before going into education, Gerald worked in the human service field, where he was a counselor, therapist and interventionist. He was certified in a Bantu psychotherapy model, called NTU psychotherapy, while working in Maryland and Washington, D.C. He uses his psychology background on a daily basis, working with students, parents and staff members to promote harmony in the education of our children.

Gerald has received "Teacher of the Year" accolades, as well as a designation in *Who's Who Among Educators in America*. He is a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, which was founded in 1906 and is the first African-American Greek letter organization. Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were men of Alpha, to name a few prominent figures.

Gerald loves to play golf. However, he does not get to play often due to his family, career, church and school obligations. He is also beginning a doctoral program this summer in organizational leadership, to further his depth of knowledge in education and Christian ministry.

Gerald is a devoted family man, married to his beautiful wife of 15 years, Nadine. She is a second-grade teacher in the PSD. Together they have three wonderful children: Tiara (13), Jelani (12), and Adia (10). Gerald works hard to keep his focus on God, family and business; in that order.



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Danny Feroze Kanga
Principal

I have had a great career in education spanning just about two decades, and 15 of those years I spent as a classroom teacher. I have also been an assistant principal at Tumbleweed, Palm Tree, Wildflower, and Juniper Intermediate. I did my undergraduate work at Cal State University, Northridge, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. I received a Master of Arts degree in education and an administrative credential from Chapman University.

Education is an exciting field, but in my spare time, I like to go for long walks, read good books, go fishing, skiing, and listen to music. My wife and I also enjoy spending time with our four children and watching their various sports activities. I love to learn new things, and I think one of the best ways to educate students is to instill in them a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them.

Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Donna Lebetsamer
Principal

My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from California State University, Northridge; a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Chapman University; and a doctorate in school administration and supervision from Berne University. I have worked for the Palmdale School District since 1992.

I began teaching at Joshua Hills Elementary School. After many years of teaching, I became a curriculum resource teacher where I was involved in a variety of special programs to enable all students to be successful in school. In February 2006, I was appointed assistant principal of Ocotillo Elementary School, and in August of 2008, I became assistant principal of Cactus Middle School. In May 2009, I was appointed principal of Quail Valley. I am currently serving my fourth year as principal at Quail Valley Elementary School.

Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Barbara Gaines
Principal

I grew up in Parkersburg, West Virginia, and attended West Virginia University. I also attended Manila Central University where I majored in pharmacy. I completed my bachelor's degree in social sciences with an emphasis in history and sociology. I also received a Multiple Subject Credential and a supplemental credential in social science.

I earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Chapman University in 1999, later returning to Chapman to get a second master's in administration, which was completed in 2003. I have been employed by the Palmdale School District for 16 years, and am currently in my 10th year as an administrator.

On a personal note, I enjoy being an active member of Palmdale Kiwanis West and serving my community. I am active in ACSA (the Association of California School Administrators), and serve as the director of charters for Region XV. Last year I was named "Middle School Administrator of the Year" by ACSA, Region XV, an honor that I will cherish always. I also teach in the master's program for Concordia University.

Being a middle school principal at Shadow Hills is one of the joys of my life. I am continually amazed by our students' eagerness to learn, and their excitement for raising community awareness on topics like illegal dumping, helping needy families, raising money for leukemia, and honoring our veterans.

Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Mr. Roberto Lopez is currently serving as the principal scholar of Summerwind Elementary and David G. Millen Intermediate Schools. He served as co-principal at Yucca Elementary School during the 2011-2012 school year. Prior to his assignments as a principal, he was an assistant principal at Mesquite Elementary and Cactus Intermediate.

Roberto began his career in education back in 1993, as a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He also served as a bilingual coordinator and BTSA support provider before he arrived at the Palmdale School District.

Roberto holds a Master of the Arts in educational administration from California State University, Northridge. He completed his undergraduate studies at UCLA. He is also the proud father of a daughter, Mia Lopez, who attends Los Amigos Elementary. He is proud and honored to serve the students and families of the Palmdale School District.

Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Pamela Egbert
Principal

Mrs. Pamela Egbert is the principal of Yucca Elementary School. She is a long time resident of Antelope Valley and attended public schools in Lancaster. After graduation from Antelope Valley High School, Mrs. Egbert attended Antelope Valley Community College. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Azusa Pacific University and her teaching credential from California State University, Northridge. Mrs. Egbert returned to Antelope Valley in 1980 as a kindergarten teacher and taught in the Lancaster School District until 2005. In 2004 she graduated from California State

University, Bakersfield with her administrative services credential and was hired as an assistant principal with the Palmdale School District in May of 2005. During the last eight years, she has been assigned to Mesquite and Joshua Hills Elementary Schools and Cactus Middle School as an assistant principal and Palm Tree and Yucca Elementary Schools as principal.

As a small child, Mrs. Egbert knew that she wanted to be a teacher. Over the last 33 years in education, she has been rewarded time and again when she has been able to reach out and make even the smallest difference in the life of a child. Mrs. Egbert firmly believes that building relationships with staff, students, and families is the key to a successful school. She believes in advocating for the whole child and that the school should be an oasis from the often harsh realities of life.

Mrs. Egbert is an adjunct professor for Concordia University, where she continues to affect the lives of many more children by preparing future administrators. In 2010 she was awarded California Association for Bilingual Education Chapter 58 Principal of the Year recognition, and in 2013 she was honored as Elementary Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators, Chapter XV.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Roger D. Gallizzi

On another note, we are pleased to announce that all furlough days have been restored; there are no pay cuts; we have back-to-school nights, and parent conferences. Although we had to go through painful negotiations to satisfy the Los Angeles County Office of Education, (who has financial oversight of all school districts), I have always been confident, and have communicated this consistently, that financial issues would be resolved. Your Board of Trustees has always exercised sound, prudent, fiscal stewardship. I am sorry that certain groups may have misled you, and caused you anxiety about the education of your children.

Enjoy the new school year and keep looking for lots of great improvements in our schools.

Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Huberth A. Morales
Principal

I was born in Guatemala and immigrated to the U.S. in 1987 at the age of 12. I graduated from Pomona College in 1997 with a B.A. double major in Economics and Latin American Studies. I entered the teaching profession in July of 1997, teaching 3rd grade at Sylvan Park Elementary in Van Nuys. During my early teaching years I taught every grade level from K - 5th grades, each time guiding the grade level into analyzing data to improve our practice. In 2003, I had the opportunity to become the Categorical Programs Advisor for El Dorado Elementary in Sylmar; there I learned more about school budgets, and the need for compliance with state and federal laws that govern school sites. During my time at El Dorado I became a lead teacher, and trainer for various programs for the district dealing with English Language Learner's where my passion lies because I am an English Language Learner. During this time I also went back to school to earn my Masters degree from CSUN along with my administrative credential.

I transferred to Palmdale School District on September 2010, and began my administrative career at Tumbleweed as the Assistant Principal. After three years I was placed at Yucca for a short stay. Currently I am the Principal at Tumbleweed Elementary.

Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

My name is Colleen Sawyer. I graduated with my bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Northridge. I received my master's degree in special education from Chapman University. I have an Education Specialist Credential and a credential in administrative services.

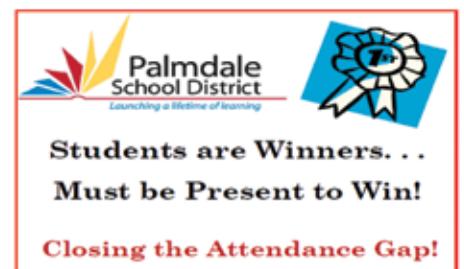
I started working for the Palmdale School District in 2002, where I taught special education in grades four to eight. In 2006, I became a program specialist working with the special education programs located within all the schools in the District, servicing students with mild to moderate disabilities.

In 2008, I began working as a program specialist II, supervising the preschool special education program and the autism program for the District. I have just been appointed to the principal position at Yellen Learning Center.

Working for the Palmdale School District has been rewarding and educational. I look forward to many more years of serving the wonderful students in our community.

District Office (661) 947-7191 • Emergency (888) 474-8107
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www.palmdalesd.org

Welcome and Enrollment Center537-6100 (8am-3pm)
Child Nutrition.....266-7280
Educational Services.....266-7233
Health Clinic.....537-6137 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)
Special Education.....456-1452
Student Services.....456-1457
Superintendent's Office.....266-7222 & 266-7220



Landscaping

Many sections of ornamental landscaping and trees within parking lots, against and in-between the buildings were removed. In many instances, these areas became paths of travel or areas of congregation which prevented grass from growing or became areas where trash and debris accumulated. The roots of many trees had created uplift in the sidewalks or presented a trip hazard. These areas were replaced with textured concrete. The sod fields at Los Amigos, Joshua Hills Kindergarten, and Summerwind Kindergarten were replaced. The field at Los Amigos was ridden with rocks. The Joshua Hills and Summerwind Kindergarten field were removed and replaced due to the re-alignment of the perimeter of new play equipment.

The District's annual water consumption is over 155 millions gallons with over 33 million gallons of usage the month preceding the new school year. Water is a limited natural resource. A continual water conservation effort by the District will reduce costs for all stakeholders.



Concrete and Asphalt Paving

Parking lots, sidewalks, interior paths of travel, and play areas were either repaired or replaced with concrete or asphalt. Many of the play areas, such as Cactus Intermediate were unusable due to large and lengthy cracks in the asphalt. At Cactus Intermediate, the entire area behind the main building and the field was paved in concrete. For other schools sites such as Quail Valley, Shadow Hills, Joshua Hills, and Los Amigos a lighter seal coat (tan or grey) was applied over asphalt. The lighter color reduces the radiant heat and allows for a cooler play area. Some sections of grass that were located between classrooms were also removed. These areas became natural paths of travel and were also difficult to maintain.



Fencing and Masonry

Chain link fencing was replaced at Manzanita and Joshua Hills. At Manzanita, the entire length of fencing along 35th East Street was replaced. At Joshua Hills, the fencing around the perimeter of the Kindergarten play area was replaced. A masonry retaining wall at Los Amigos, which will run the width of the southern boundary, will be installed. The retaining wall is necessary to prevent run-off from the Pete Knight High School campus which is at a higher elevation.



In addition to the Lundgren Builders contract other small scopes were completed:

New play equipment and resilient “rubber” surfacing was installed at Summerwind Elementary and Joshua Hills Elementary. The total cost which includes grading, installation of the equipment, purchase of the equipment, purchase and installation of the rubber surfacing was \$450,000.00.

A dozen Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) units were replaced at seven sites (Chaparral, Cactus, Desert Rose, Tumbleweed, Yucca, DG Millen, and Site 12). Many of these units were over 20 years old and were at the end of their service life.



A new public address/paging system was installed at Desert Willow Intermediate and Juniper Intermediate School for \$35,758.80.

Lighting modification was made to the Quail Valley Elementary School Multipurpose Room for a total of \$27,164.00.

Additional fencing at Palm Tree Elementary, Tumbleweed Elementary School, and Juniper Intermediate School was \$24,888.00.

Site work at Desert Willow Intermediate School was completed in order to remove original primary grade play equipment that had been used by Barrel Springs Elementary School and area was repaved at a cost of \$25,000.00.

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