



**Raul
Maldonado**

Renovations and Improvements

What an exciting start of a new year! As the superintendent of the district, I am proud of our schools, students, teachers, and classified staff for working together and ensuring students are successful.

The Palmdale School District completed many new projects during the summer of 2018. Renovating our schools is the main focus of the Facilities Master Plan. The School Board members were very clear in standardizing the painting of schools and water hydration systems. With that in mind, we painted and installed hydration systems at eight schools. As a result, we have had some amazing ribbon cuttings to showcase our schools. These projects build a sense of pride within our schools, our neighborhoods and our greater Palmdale community. I am very excited to see our schools looking fantastic.

These renovations are only one of many steps we are taking to keep our sites in top condition. It is part of the Palmdale PROMISE to keep our schools looking great and the families we serve happy. We are constantly looking into new ways to make our facilities safe and enjoyable places to learn.

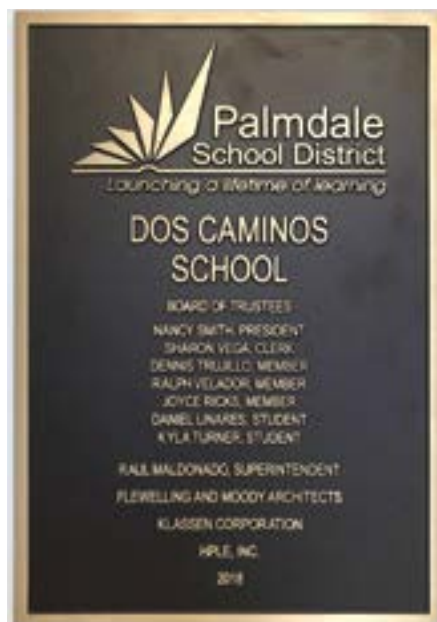
Of course, these changes wouldn't be as effective if we did not have the hardworking people that we have. I want to thank our teachers and classified staff for helping us implement and maintain these changes, in addition to all of their other accomplishments. I also want to thank our students and parents for continuing to help us reach our common vision.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

Congratulations Daniel Linares and Kyla Turner

By Danny Kanga, Director of LCAP

The middle school students of Palmdale School District will soon be electing our next two Student Board Members. Our present Board Members, Daniel Linares and Kyla Turner, have been serving faithfully this past year and have brought their student experiences to the School Board and Cabinet. They have had the opportunity to learn valuable leadership skills and have also developed an awareness and passion for student advocacy. In addition to their function as student advocates, they also attend community events such as dedication ceremonies.



Inscribed on the plaque for the dedication of the new site at Dos Caminos, are the names of Kyla and Daniel. I am sure that in future years they will show this to their children and grandchildren and tell the story about how Palmdale School District chose to value student voice.

Parent Community Liaisons



Palm Tree PCL Veronica Moreno – Moya and parents at a Parenting Partners training.

*By Janet Simons, Coordinator
State and Federal Accountability/ Parent Community Outreach*

On any given day you can walk into any campus within the Palmdale School District and see front office staff hard at work answering phones, helping parents and students, and taking attendance. Our Parent Community Liaisons are just one part of the office staff but a vital part of the school site and district organization. They are instrumental in recruiting parents for participation in Advisory Councils and School Site Council. Parent Community Liaisons facilitate meetings, workshops and trainings for parents including such programs as Parenting Partners, PIQUE, Parent Academy classes, craft shows, Family Math and Literacy Nights. They also teach our parents facilitation techniques so they are able to lead meetings. All of the work that they do has one purpose — to assist our families so our students achieve more.

Pride in Our Improvements

By Nancy Smith, President Board of Trustees

Recently, the Palmdale School District has been working hard on a plan to improve the school facilities for our students and staff. As your Board President, I am proud to say that the facilities plan adopted by the Board provides significant upgrades to every school in the district.

Each school will be upgraded to provide our staff and students with an environment conducive to helping our students prepare for success in school and careers for the 21st century. As you watch the schools in our community receive fresh, new facelifts, new play grounds, and infrastructure to allow for advanced technology, we hope that each of our school neighborhoods will take pride in their schools and help protect and care for our schools.

Our goal is make the schools a source of pride and a central part of each neighborhood community. Each school is developing a parent room, where parents should feel comfortable to come in to help the school help our children and to work with school staff to make it a community center.

Thank you in advance for working with the Board, staff, and students to make everyone proud of the education Palmdale School District can offer to our children.

Counselors Corner

39139 North 10th St., Palmdale, CA 93550 • www.palmdalesd.org



Extending Counseling Skills

As part of their ongoing professional development, the PSD school counselors stay current with the latest in their field by attending conferences and workshops put on by both national and state counseling organizations.

In July, the district counselors attended four days of training in Los Angeles, offered by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). The counselors attended sessions that covered everything from Solution Focused Brief Therapy to using data to build a better comprehensive counseling program. Additionally, many of the workshops they attended focused on RAMP, wherein the counselors will apply next October to have their school's counseling program become nationally accredited as a Recognized ASCA Model Program.

In October, the counselors met again for the California Association of School Counselors conference in Riverside. They were inspired by the keynote speakers, which included Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade and his presentation "Growing Roses in Concrete." Through the workshops, they came away with a better understanding of how to use data to support their work, effective interventions for the most at-risk students, supporting foster youth, teaching college and

career readiness, and much more.

The conferences inspired the school counselors with reminders of the positive roles they play in students' academic and social/emotional development.

Dr. Stacy Bryant
Deputy
Superintendent



Julie Howard, Desert Willow & Carol Radigan, Cactus;
(back) Christina Loukatos, SAGE; Karen Alamo, David G. Millen;
Diana Marlatt, Los Amigos & PLP; Dr. Keisha Burns, Shadow Hills



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As we go to print with this issue, our thoughts and prayers are with the many families who have lost their homes in the fires throughout the state from Southern to Northern CA. Our communities are always generous helping those less fortunate and during the holidays giving is always greater. Please remember there will be more people in need this year far beyond the holiday season.

Our next issue is March 6, 2019. Until then Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

School News

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37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550

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Early Childhood Education

975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4710 • www.palmdalesd.org



Expanding—Literally!

Tumbleweed Early Childhood Education Campus has received six new Gen 7 state-of-the-art learning environments. These buildings are well known for being healthy, high quality and energy efficient. These classrooms will be used to expand our half-day preschool program to full day.

These 3- and 4-year-old children are the district's youngest children to be enrolled in a dual-immersion program. We are teaching preschool children to read, write and speak both English and Spanish. Our program aligns perfectly with the district's primary-school dual-immersion program, which is from kindergarten through eighth grade.

For more information about enrolling your children into any one of our 13 locations, please call our district office.



Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

The AAPAC Cookout

Recognizing that parent and family involvement plays a vital role in fostering student success, African-American Parent Advisory Councils (AAPACs) have been established at various schools in the Palmdale School District. AAPAC is open to all parents.

In an effort to reach all of Palmdale's African American/Black families at the beginning of this school year, AAPAC hosted a grand cookout on Saturday, October 6 at Buena Vista Elementary School. The attendees shared some wonderful experiences.

Cheryl Gooden, a speech pathologist, said, "This is my first year being a part of AAPAC. I attended the AAPAC cookout held at our great Buena Vista campus, and I was impressed as soon as I arrived. People were reuniting with old friends, meeting new people, smiling and enjoying being together for a common cause."

Buena Vista's parent community liaison shared, "I love being a part of the Buena Vista community. It brings me so much pride when we get to host events like the AAPAC cookout and to see parents, community members, and staff members celebrating accomplishments and exchanging ideas."

Another attendee, Tori Ward, a Buena Vista parent, noted, "My family and I had a great time at the AAPAC cookout. It felt like a family picnic. The positive energy from everyone was awesome, and my son enjoyed getting his face painted."

A parent from Manzanita Elementary School shared, "I enjoyed the entertainment from other schools, and the emcee, Mr. Luke, the principal of Palm Tree Elementary School, shared a lot of historical information relating to African American history."

Mrs. Taylor, a parent from Tamarisk Elementary School, summed up the cookout: "This is an awesome event for all parents and students. It is really good for the community and building relationships."

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Leading by Example

Every school year, Barrel Springs School looks for ways to build student leaders at our school. We do just that by meeting students where they are to take them where they need to go: leaders today and in the future.

This year, we started the school year off strong with a S.T.O.R.M. (Special Team of Role Models) assembly. Coach Ron from S.T.O.R.M. talked to all of our students about being leaders. The students were captivated by his message and are ready to become leaders at in our school's leadership club, called Student Ambassadors, Scholars and Innovators. Students look forward to leading by example, being positive role models, and completing monthly challenges that will build their leadership skills.

We are so proud of our student leaders!



Cactus *Middle School 6-8*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

WASC Self-Study

Cactus Medical, Health and Technology Magnet Academy recently completed its self-study report, which was created following the process outlined in the Focus on Learning 2017 Accrediting Commission for Schools-Western Association of Schools and Colleges Process Guide. This is the second full self-study for the school site, which has allowed the school to reflect on the teaching practices and student successes of the school.

The entire Cactus teaching staff along with the classified staff participated in the focus groups and home groups to provide input with the self-study report. We are so thankful for our assistant principal, Mrs. Palomo, who has been working diligently over the last year in the accreditation process and has successfully compiled all the information within the self-study document.

We want to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire Cactus staff for a job well done in preparing the report for WASC accreditation. Cactus is very proud to continue being a WASC accredited school!

Desert Willow *Middle School 6-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Innovation Is Key to Student Success

Desert Willow Middle School hosts a 4.0 Pizza Lunch with the principal. Students receive the prestigious "A+" pin and the Principal's Award as recognition for their phenomenal academic achievement. Already this school year, the number of students who earned a 4.0 has more than doubled! We expect that number to continue to rise.

Recently, Michael Richardson launched our African American Male Initiative. The program's goals are to focus on African American young men who are doing well in school but lack some of the skills necessary to become well-rounded individuals and to inspire them to achieve and exceed what they believe to be their academic potential. When examining student achievement and suspension data, it is clear there are achievement gaps and equity issues connected to African American young men. Mr. Richardson is passionate about changing students' lives. When asked what inspired him to launch this program, he indicated, "Failure is not an option with these young men."

The Desert Willow community sets high expectations for all students. We believe all students are "college material." To that end, college field trips are incredible experiences with life-changing power. Recently 125 students from a cross-section of our student population participated in a field trip to University of California, Los Angeles. Our foster youth, sixth-grade Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students, seventh-grade film students who are in their second year in the program, and 28 eighth-grade students identified as needing additional support attended the field trip. Of the 125 students, fewer than five had previously visited a college or university. At the end of the trip, Blair, one of the attendees, said, "It's probably not going to be as hard as I thought." It is critical for students to have experiences that encourage them to head down right path toward a successful future. Innovation, creativity, and collaboration are our keys to student success.



Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

PTA Literacy Night

This year our Chaparral PTA held their first Family Literacy Night. This was a creative and educational event where Chaparral students could visit with their parents and read a story of their choice.

Afterwards they created a character from the story they had just read. To get more into the spirit of the fall season, the Chaparral families created a character of their choice with a pumpkin. Families were given one pumpkin, paint, and other décor to create and decorate a project based upon a character they'd just read in their story. Once the families were done, these character pumpkins were all entered into a contest at the Chaparral Fall Festival.



The Chaparral families then got a chance to vote on their favorite character pumpkin. This was a wonderful event where our families not only got to spend some time together, they were also able to encourage their students to read and enjoy a creative art project.

Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Welcome, Mrs. Greaux!

Cimarron School welcomes Gia Greaux to our staff as our new assistant principal! Mrs. Greaux comes to us from Lancaster School District, where she was the assistant principal at Monte Vista Elementary School.

Mrs. Greaux has 21 years of experience in the educational field. She has been a general-education teacher, a special-education teacher and a special-education instructional coach.

As an educational leader, Mrs. Greaux is passionate about ensuring that all students are provided a quality education that prepares them for success in college, in their careers and beyond. She works hard every day to build positive relationships with students and staff, and exemplifies the true meaning of what it means to be a leader and a positive role model for our school community. She loves working with children and is very excited to be a Cimarron Star!



Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Back to School

This school year our parents are going back to school! During the fall semester we offered parents many different learning opportunities: ESL classes, nutrition workshops, Foot Steps 2 Brilliance Workshops, and a long-term EL student workshop.

But wait! Our parent workshops are not over just yet. For our spring semester we will be offering CAASPP and ELPAC testing workshops, computer classes, and math workshops. All of the workshops are made possible with the help of our teachers, the Parent Community Liaison, and our ELL instructional coach.

I can truly say that it is an honor to see how our staff members are able to come together and provide strong educational support to our parents and students. With staff members working together with parents, this year will be better than ever for our Desert Rose students!



Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

Grizzlies Honor Veterans

Each year, Golden Poppy's 1st and 2nd grade students hold an assembly in honor of Veteran's Day.

While preparing for the assembly, students learn about the various branches of the military and ways military service members work hard to keep us safe. We invite veterans, as well as active duty service members, from our school community and the community at large to attend the assembly along with our parents. This experience teaches our students that Veteran's Day is not simply another day off from school. It is a day to honor the tremendous service, patriotism, and sacrifice many service members have made for our country!

To all Veterans and active duty troops...THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

A World of Reading

It's 7:30 a.m., and the Dos Caminos Elementary School Explorers are ready to read! A morning Reading Club was formed by our amazing library aide, Melina Ghapryelian-McConnell.

Students have the opportunity to select their favorite books and read with their friends. There are guided reading groups and themed reading circles. Ms. Ghapryelian-McConnell also reads aloud fiction, nonfiction, and biographies, stopping often to discuss vocabulary and predictions.

Reading stimulates a child's imagination and expands his or her understanding of the world. It also helps students to develop language and listening skills, which prepare them to understand and comprehend text. Our library also has a large selection of titles in both English and Spanish to enhance the acquisition of a second language.

The Reading Club provides our students with the opportunity to open their minds and discover a world filled with endless possibilities. The Reading Club is just one more way Dos Caminos maintains its "students first" philosophy! Explorers all the way!



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Attendance Matters

At Joshua Hills, attendance is promoted and celebrated. Each day begins with students being greeted at the front gates and given a Jackrabbit ticket for coming to school. This ticket is then put in a drawing in which students can earn prizes.

In the classroom, students look forward to filling out their attendance poster, which has the word *ATTENDANCE* written on it. When all students are present in the classroom, they color in one of the letters. The principal then acknowledges the classrooms that have filled in the poster during morning announcements and delivers a special treat to them.

These efforts have helped Joshua Hills gradually improve attendance rates. So far this year, Joshua Hills is at 96 percent attendance when compared to last year at 95 percent. Also, truancy rates decreased by 12 percent when compared to last year.

At Joshua Hills, growth is what matters, and it shows.



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

Spanish Literacy Workshop

Spanish teachers from Los Amigos, Dos Caminos, Manzanita and Tamarisk participated in an interactive two-day workshop presented by the Center for Applied Linguistics.

This workshop is designed to provide an awareness of Spanish linguistic features to effectively teach academic language and literacy in Spanish to students at all levels of proficiency. Teachers spent time digging into Spanish language arts standards and collaborating across sites.

As a dual language program, it is critical that teachers receive ongoing professional learning opportunities in both languages. Teachers were very excited about this unique opportunity as Spanish workshops are very limited and even more rarely presented in Spanish.



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Mighty Manzanita Teachers

Four Mighty Manzanita teachers have won grants from the Palmdale Education Foundation this year!

Mrs. Carter, a fifth-grade teacher, plans to purchase Ozobots for her class. Her students will be learning OzoBlockly coding. Mr. Maldonado, a third-grade teacher, has decided to enhance the atmosphere in his classroom by making it more supportive for student learning. He bought cubbies, markers, crayons, name plates for each student, behavior charts, job posters, books, dividers, and other different poster materials to track their multiplication tables and behavior.

Ms. Bautista, a third-grade Dual Immersion teacher, will be using the grant money that she received to buy books for her classroom library. Being a new teacher, she started the year off with a very small classroom library.

Mrs. Ogas, a kindergarten/first-grade teacher, will create educational workstations for both ELA and math so that her students will be able to go to their workstations independently. She will also be buying some kinetic and other fine-motor activities so that they can build strength and stamina for writing.



Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Educational Partners

Mesquite Elementary School is proud to announce its partnership with the California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) teacher education program!



This partnership pairs CSUB teacher education program students with the master teachers at Mesquite. This is a fantastic win for our students, teachers, the Palmdale School District (PSD), and the CSUB! Mesquite students receive additional learning support, our teachers get additional instructional support, the PSD is able to hire new teachers from this program, and the CSUB is able to give their teacher education students a solid teaching foundation.

In this program, the CSUB students are either completing their student fieldwork requirements or co-teaching with their master teacher. For those CSUB students who are in the midst of their fieldwork, they get to assist in the classroom with various education-related tasks that support student learning and teacher instruction.

Future teachers no longer do the traditional student teaching work experience. Instead, they participate in a much more rigorous and authentic co-teaching program with a master teacher. In the co-teaching model, CSUB students are actual teachers who parallel teach with their master teachers. This gives the CSUB co-teacher a real-life, hands-on classroom experience that better prepares them to become a teacher in their own classroom.

Our Mesquite students and staff members would like to thank Mary Rees, PSD coordinator of teacher support, for partnering our school with the CSUB. Our students are truly enjoying their increased learning support

David G. Millen *Middle School 6-8*

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

Fredrick Gatlin, *Principal*

Playing like Champions!

At Millen, we understand the importance of providing different opportunities for student involvement. Our students have a plethora of choices to be involved in such as sports, social clubs, academic clubs and leadership clubs. As the school year continues to unfold, several returning students continue to choose sports as their preferred activity for student involvement.

This year, with hard work and dedication, Trailblazers have continued the championship legacy. Not only do these students bring forth effort but also commitment for all the after school practices, the traveling and the battle that comes with being part of a team. The dedication doesn't only come from our students but also from our teachers, who take their time to create this positive rapport by being there to support them and coach them along the way.



Participating in sports has such a positive influence in the areas of mental health, social skills and physical health. By offering Volleyball, Cross-Country, Soccer, Dance and Basketball, team members are encouraged to maintain positive academic achievement which also plays an important role in their overall success. Congratulations our 8th grade boys and girls who won the 2018 Volleyball championships and to our 6th and 7th grade boys who came in 2nd place!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Book Giveaway

Oak Tree Learning Center students welcomed Code Read Inc. with excitement as they presented every student with books and a backpack. Founded in May 2016 by student Mackenzie Krestul, Code Read advocates for literacy and encourages a lifelong love of reading. By distributing free books to children in low-income communities, Code Read hopes to provide every child with an equal opportunity to increase his or her academic growth through reading.

Reading is magical, incredible, and essential, and Code Read continues to promote founder Mackenzie Krestul's belief that we can change the world one book at a time. With donations and book grants from other organizations, Code Read has accumulated over 10,000 new books for students in need.



Additionally, each Oak Tree teacher received 10 books for his or her classroom library. These books ranged in diversity and Lexile Reading Levels to reach every learner in our school.

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Science Olympiad is Back in Business

After a one year absence from the Los Angeles County Science Olympiad, Ocotillo is once again competing this year.

Students from 4th and 5th grade have been practicing since the first week in October, they will continue to practice two days a week until the event takes place on January 26th at Antelope Valley College.

The energetic students are researching and building in many events. Some of those events are: egg drop, pasta mobile, barge building, and many others. The volunteer students are exhibiting tremendous desire and a willingness to excel in Science.

The Ocotillo Science Olympiad team, under the direction of Mr. Alan Johns, is shooting for the gold medal in this year's event.



Palmdale Discovery Center

1330 W. Elizabeth Lake Rd., Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/274-0849 • www.palmdalesd.org



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Our New Campus

This past month the Palmdale Discovery Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate our moving into a beautiful campus. We were so excited to have so many students, parents, and staff members join us.

We were also honored to have the following guests of honor join us for the ceremony as well: Superintendent Mr. Maldonado;

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Porter; Director of Special Education Julie Elliott Braswell; a representative of the offices of Assemblyman Tom Lackey and Senator Scott Wilks; and a representative of Steve Knight's office.

We feel like we are finally at home in a school that was built in a special design for our students and their specific needs. We are happy to call it home, and plan to continue to make great progress and provide a wonderful program for our students.



Palmdale Learning Plaza K-8

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



Michael McNelis
Principal

And the Winner Is...

Palmdale Learning Plaza Pumas won the first-place trophy at the first Latino Knowledge Bowl Competition! The *Jeopardy*-style competition, created and hosted by Jamaal Brown, featured two rounds with eight categories. Topics included Latin American Flags, Outstanding Women, Latin

American Geography, Latinos in Politics, Who Am I?, Conscious Quotations, and Music. In the final Knowledge Bowl question, the team used their math skills to determine their bet. When all was said and done, they came out victorious!

The team consisted of Derek Murcia, Alvaro Pineda, Jacob Munoz, Abigail Portillo Cerritos, Ellie Sabado, Leilani Vega and Jordan Wheeler. Mrs. Vega, one of our second-grade teachers, worked diligently as their coach.

"These students worked hard to study the topics to display Palmdale Learning Plaza's International Baccalaureate learner profile of being knowledgeable," Mrs. Vega said. "The students enjoyed learning about Latino history and being part of the friendly competition."

We are proud of our champions!



Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

ASB Officers

Palm Tree now has its ASB officers and they are energized for a great school year! We run an unorganized ASB because our PTO raises funds to handle field trips and other Associated Student Body needs.

In the month of October, we had our campaigns and voting for our ASB officers. We have officers in every third through fifth grade class. After the elections the ASB began working right

way and kicked-off our food drive to help needy families for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The association has other plans for the year that include character and peer intervention concerns. They also want to plan the 5th grade end of the year party.

It is exciting watching young people become enthusiastic about serving. We learn a lot at Palm Tree. That's why we are Palm Tree: An OASIS of Education!



Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat has become an annual tradition here at Quail Valley. It started with just ten "trunks" that belonged to five teachers and five parents. On October 26th we had over 20 parents decorate their trunks for our Chameleon treaters!

These are not just your average open-your-trunk-and-pass-out-candy trunks, either. We saw a pirate ship complete with sharks in the water and a plank to walk to get your treat. There was also a Dia De Los Muertos displaying actual family members who had passed, and families who were just having a good time dressing up in their Halloween costumes and getting involved with their children at Quail Valley.

This year we also had neighbor schools get involved, along with local Firehouse 93. It was fun to see not only the children dress up but also the adults! Building relationships with our families and the community, that's what we are all about here at QV.



Don't forget to include the library in your activities during the Winter Break!



SAGE Academy 6-8

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



Dr. Helen Rodriguez
Interim Principal

Fall Highlights

In September, more than 100 Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration (SAGE) Academy Eagles attended Saturday Promise Academy. They soared into the evening to entertain during half-time at the Antelope Valley College football game and tailgate fund-raiser event. Four dedicated teachers prepared the Eagles. The band, the Civil Air Patrol, and SAGE's very first cheerleading squad joined forces to give an outstanding performance!

On October 1, four Edwards Air Force Base representatives visited our Aviation and

Civil Air Patrol classes. All shared information about their careers and their passion for the aviation field with our students. Sargent Alexis, a female soldier, shared her military experience. All shared that it takes a crew to fly a plane.

Other activities that the Eagles participated in were California Association of Student

Leaders and Salute to Youth. And let's not forget interscholastic sports! The sixth- and seventh-grade girls' volleyball won their first game on in October.

Once again, the Eagles flight has been a successful one this month.



Shadow Hills Middle School 6-8

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

When Drones Fly!

The Aviation class at Shadow Hills took to the Multi-Purpose Room, for their first drone obstacle course practice.

Students have been honing their flying skills for several weeks, using the flight simulators to perfect their liftoff, control, and landing. Students were eager to try this new course which included several gates, hoops, circles, and landing pads.

Two teams of accomplished pilots raced against each other to complete the course and effectively land their drones. Students cheered their teams on, celebrating at each completed obstacle. Definitely drone pilots in the making!



Summerwind Elementary TK-5

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



Dr. Linda Brandts
Principal

Our New ASB Officers

Summerwind is pleased to highlight this year's ASB officers and fourth- and fifth-grade class representatives. All of the students are new to student government, with the exception of the president.

This year, each fourth- and fifth-grade class will have a representative at the ASB meetings in order to better inform their classmates about school activities.

The group's first meeting was held in October. Decisions to participate in the Palmdale Holiday Parade, attend the Student Leadership Conference in December, and join in holiday caroling at a local senior center were made at this first meeting. The students were also provided with an introduction to the proper procedures for running an ASB meeting. We are anticipating a busy year!

Our new officers are President Brijaney Jimenez; Vice President Evan Salicedo; Treasurer Christian Centeno; Secretary Joseph Brown; and Historian Ruby Gonzalez. The fourth-grade representatives are Shilo Dinh, Tyliyah Khyllie Patton, Matthew Park, and Syedia Aminah Tirmzi. The fifth-grade representatives are Amber Alvarado, Jacob Aragon, and Jesus Portillo.



Tamarisk Elementary TK-5

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Excited about Many Opportunities!

Tamarisk Elementary school is committed to teaching students how to communicate their needs using precise academic language across curriculum and in social settings.

We are excited about all of the opportunities that our students are being given in order to support the whole child. We have school based counseling, art groups, positive behavior support incentives, and a hard working staff that is continuously working on building positive relationships with our students.

We are proud Tamarisk Tigers.



Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Flexible-Seating Classrooms

We are in our second year of implementation of our School Improvement Grant (SIG), which allows our students and teachers to have new flexible classroom furniture.

We currently have 18 classrooms who have flexible-seating classrooms. The classrooms with flexible-seating empowers students to choose their own seats while building a positive community in the classroom. It also allows students the flexibility to wobble, bounce, lean, stand or move as the teacher is teaching and they are learning.

Last, flexible seating allows students to pair up and work in small groups, which helps them collaborate, use their critical thinking skills and be engaged in the lesson.

Teachers and students are excited to be part of the changes that are happening at Tumbleweed.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Claudette Ward-Konovalov
Principal

Red Ribbon Week

In October, Yellen participated in Red Ribbon week, the National Family Partnership anti-drug campaign. We created theme days, and we had a door-decoration contest and a poster contest. Students signed a drug-free pledge, decorated our fence with red ribbons, and participated in curriculum about remaining drug free. We thank Angelique Milillo and the room 203 team for organizing the week of events.

Red Ribbon week is designed to be an awareness campaign to get information to our students and parents about the dangers of drug abuse. Around 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon week each year.



Did you know that children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42 percent less likely to use drugs than those who don't, yet only a quarter of teens report having these conversations? Yellen pledges to make a difference. Each one of us has the power to help children grow up safe, healthy and drug free.

Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Leaders Abound!

In support of creating a positive student-learning environment, Yucca is excited to implement a new student leadership program this year. Selected third, fourth and fifth graders attend bi-weekly leadership classes that cover various topics including leadership strategies, anger management, situation appropriateness and responsibility. Students journal their reflections after each session. All student leaders also wear a badge acknowledging their role as a site leader. Yucca is excited to support our leaders of today and tomorrow!



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Joyce Ricks
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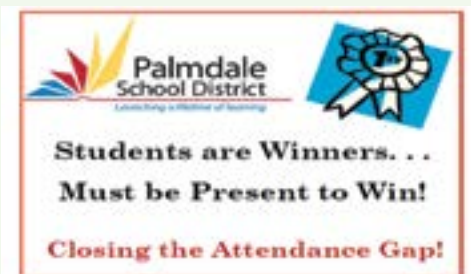
Raul Maldonado

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

I want to wish everyone good luck for the rest of this school year. The fall has been an outstanding season with all of these improvements, and we are looking forward to future projects in our schools. I am proud of the activities and renovations we have completed. I look to the many ribbon-cutting celebrations in the future.

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

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



Christina's Book Review

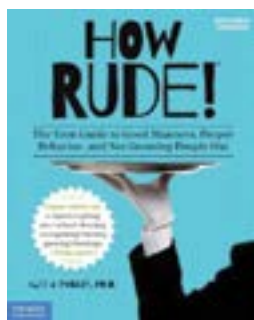
Politely Funny



Christina J.

How Rude!: The Teen Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior, and Not Grossing People Out By Alex J. Packer, Ph.D

The book title is self-explanatory. Hands down, this was one of the most enjoyable, fun, informational, entertaining, captivating book I have ever read. "Good manners don't cost anything. You can have the BEST for free." You can look up a specific topic or read the whole thing for all-around understanding of manners. So, why choose good manners? I will answer with one quote from the book: "We used to spend every Christmas with my aunt. I was always nasty, bored and annoying brat. When she died, I lost out on her \$1,000,000 will." There are manners for behaving with friends, parents, teachers, employers and much more. The best part is that the book demonstrates how good manners bring you many benefits (for instance, get you a job or get help from teaches) versus how bad manners are detrimental to your life. I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars. 465 pages, but what a worthy reading!



Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Richard's Book Review

Daring Escapes



Richard J.

I Survived: True Stories: Extreme Weather! By Lauren Tarshis

This book is about real people experiencing weather disasters like the Joplin tornado, hurricane Sandy and avalanches while skiing. It's exciting to read about people's daring escapes. I liked how after each of the 3 stories there is a fact sheet about the weather type and a list of rules to help you be safe in each situation. My favorite survival story is about Ariel, who escaped with her family from their house in Rockaway, New York before hurricane Sandy hit. Afterwards Ariel started a Facebook page to help people get connected to places were they could receive help or get donations to replace the things they lost.

I give this book a 4 out 5 stars, because I think more details could have been given about each story for more information, but it's definitely a great real-life book that describes helpful skills and provides some good advice.



Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

Toy Store Items 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 January 15, 2019
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|
| BIKE | BUBBLES | COMPUTER |
| DOLL | CROQUET | DOLLHOUSE |
| TRIKE | BLOCKS | BUGGY |
| BOOK | KITES | KITCHEN |
| LEGOS | MARBLES | TEA SET |
| SOLDIERS | CRAYONS | BAT |
| BALLS | PENS | BALL GLOVE |



**Congratulations to Oscar Zen and The King Family
Winners of the October Contests!**