



Capturing Kids' Hearts

We have had a great fall in the Palmdale School District. It is hard to imagine that we are now in December. I have been visiting our beautiful schools and supervising our campuses, and it is very clear that we have the best instructional programs in our school district. Our principals are some of the most amazing leaders in our community. Our leaders take their jobs very seriously, welcoming our students at the gates every morning. It's really a great feeling to see our principals shaking our students' hands as the students arrive at school. That's what I call the Palmdale PROMISE in action.

For the past year, the Palmdale School District has been implementing Capturing Kids'

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 10

Jumping on the Bandwagon



Ms. Gilreath teaches the 1st-5th grade DHH students the 4-count beats in the "Mummy Walk."

By Matt Gilpin, Assistant Principal at Palmdale Learning Plaza

Throughout the school's history, the room behind the stage at Palmdale Learning Plaza (PLP) has been called "the green room," the Performing Arts (PA) room, and the band room. Thanks to new opportunities in music education for all students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, this year it is simply called the music room.

Jennifer Gilreath, PLP's music teacher, who also teaches music at Yucca Elementary School, has designed a music program that reaches all learners. She starts her



day with a kindergarten music lesson and then grabs her baton for her beginning and symphonic middle school band rehearsals before switching back into general world music lessons for the first- through fifth-grade students.

In keeping with the goal of providing music lessons for all PLP students, Ms. Gilreath also delivers weekly music instruction to our 23 pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students.

See **JUMPING ON THE BAND WAGON** • Page 10

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Students achieve more, regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background or the parents' education level.
- Students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and complete homework more consistently.
- Students have higher graduation rates and greater enrollment rates in post-secondary education.
- Educators hold higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with the teacher.
- Student achievement for disadvantaged children improves.
- Children from diverse cultural backgrounds perform better when parents and professionals collaborate to bridge the gap.
- Students whose parents are not involved are more likely to drop out of school.

A new wave of evidence: The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement.

<http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>

Board of Trustees



Sharon Vega
President

It has been a pleasure to attend the Breakfast with the Superintendent parent meetings at each school site this year 2019-20. I have been able to speak with many of our parents about our wonderful instructional programs at each school site. I believe we provide the BEST programs in the Antelope Valley. Come and join us at the

Breakfast with the Superintendent. Call your school to find out the date of the next breakfast. Mr. Maldonado is very friendly. He is interested in our community and truly cares to speak with our parents. I have seen the interactions between our staff member and our community. It makes me very happy to know that our staff is very willing to help our parents. The breakfast serves as a reminder that our parents are very important when it comes to their child's education. In the Palmdale School District, we believe in parental involvement. Here are some reasons why I believe all parents should be involved in their child's education:



Sharon Vega
President



Ralph Velador
Clerk



Nancy Smith
Member



Dennis Trujillo
Member



Simone Zulu-Diol
Member

Counselors Corner

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

Ensuring Access and Equity

By Amanda Davis, Carol Radigan, Christina Loukatos, Diana Marlatt, Karen Alamo, Dr. Keisha Burns, and Paul Stephenson-Vela

Our counselors design and deliver a school counseling program based on the school's data to improve a range of student learning and behavioral outcomes. The American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) National Model is a framework that our PSD school counselors use to create and maintain the comprehensive counseling programs at each middle school.

These comprehensive counseling programs are provided by a state-credentialed school counselor and delivered to all students on campus. This includes delivering developmentally appropriate curriculum focused on the mindsets and behaviors students need for post-secondary readiness and success; closing the opportunity and achievement gaps; and then seeing the results in improved student achievement, attendance, and behavior.

Following the ASCA National Model, and to ensure access and equity for all PSD middle school students, the seven PSD school counselors continuously monitor their programs' alignment with the national framework. The counselors are striving for their sites to earn national acclaim and be designated as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP).

Applying for RAMP helps schools evaluate their comprehensive school counseling program, disaggregate data, discover areas for improvement, and enhance their program's effort to contribute to student success. The RAMP application process is a culmination of the implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program.

Early Childhood Education

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



Melanie Culver
Director

Setting the Stage for Lifelong Learning

We provide the following for income eligible families:

- Center-based programs for Ages 3-5
- Home-based programs for Ages 0-3 and 3-5
- Programs for Pregnant Moms

Documents Required:

- Proof of Age: State/County Birth Certificate, Passport, or Foster Agreement
- Proof of Income: CalWorks, Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Current Tax Returns (2018); W 2's or 12 consecutive months of income.
- Utility Bill: Gas, Water, Electric, or current signed Rental/Lease Agreement.

Additional Documents:

- Current Immunization Record and Medical Insurance Card
- Physical & Dental Exams
- IFSP/IEP/IPP (if applicable)
- Verification of pregnancy (if applicable)

Applications are accepted year-round!

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education Office,
975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550, 661-273-4710.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As this year comes to a close and we would like to thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* among your reading choices.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the *School News* staff. We are always mindful and thankful for our men and women in the armed service.

Our next issue is March 4, 2020.



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Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being

Science of School Food

By Alecia Woods, Director

Did you know that our school menus are both science and data driven? The Child Nutrition Department serves millions of meals each year, but before any item is prepared, it has already been months in the making.

The primary focus for each menu item is student preference. Every member of the Child Nutrition team ensures that the meals we serve are those we would eat ourselves and be proud to feed to our families. Student preference is determined through face-to-face interactions as well as data. Everything we prepare is recorded, and once the data is compiled, we determine whether a menu item can stay or be archived to try again in the future.

Beyond student preference, USDA and California state guidelines must be followed to ensure funding. These guidelines regulate calories, saturated fat, trans fat, sodium, type of grain and even the nutrient composition of vegetables! Once items have been chosen and the guidelines have been considered, the menu must be put together like a puzzle. There are countless logistical considerations to take into account as well as intentional aesthetic choices.

Next time you bite into a fresh Gala apple from one of our cafeterias, remember the science!

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



**Palmdale
School District**
Launching a lifetime of learning

**Students are Winners. . .
Must be Present to Win!**

Closing the Attendance Gap!

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Building Positive Relationships

Our Barrel Springs staff members firmly believe that when we capture our students' hearts we also capture their minds. Research shows that when students feel connected with their school and staff they can achieve strong academic success and are less likely to have attendance or behavioral issues.

This school year we have initiated a variety of affirmations to connect and build positive relationships with our students and school community. We have started morning affirmation announcements where staff and teachers can write positive words to any student or fellow staff member. We have also launched positive office referrals for those students who go above and beyond in our classroom and school expectations.



When students receive a positive office referral they are celebrated by the front office and administration. Administrators talk to the students, call home for a job well done, and then place their name on our "Building Positive Behaviors" bulletin board. Lastly, our students and teachers always take the time to celebrate and share good things during their breakfast period!

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Presenting—Dance Team!

When Ms. Gooden was first approached by Dr. Conteh about getting something together for the board performance, she was very excited. She had four weeks to do it. She enlisted the help of her daughter, a former cheerleader and coach. The dance was choreographed, and they were ready!

Ms. Gooden chose students to participate. They began with once-a-week practices and quickly knew they needed to add an additional practice. With just three more weeks before the board presentation, they added another practice. They practiced twice a week for three more weeks on the cheer and the dance. The students learned quickly, got along, followed instructions well, and, most importantly, had fun.



Ms. Gooden and her daughter, Lyndsie, enjoyed getting to know the students involved. They worked very hard and never complained. The result of their hard work was amazing, and their smiles made it all worth it!

Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

Anti-Hate

On September 19th and 20th, the LASD SHARE Program hosted their anti-hate presentations for two days at Cactus. During 5th, 6th, and 7th periods, Deputy Raymondo Wilson led the assemblies attended by all of our students and staff. The students were truly moved by the stories shared in the presentation and the powerful messages of respect and compassion which were delivered.

As part of our commitment to creating a safe and nurturing school environment for all learners and our commitment to growing excellent global citizens, we were excited to bring a program to our campus that focused on ending hate crimes and violence. Our Cactus students were attentive, open and engaged.



Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

Let's Explore!

At Chaparral Elementary School our Makerspace Lab is up and running and our students and staff members are taking full enthusiastic advantage!

From programming robots to mapping the four hemispheres of Earth--to building their very own Rube Goldberg Machines, creating building structures out of food items, enacting a living environment where animals camouflage, experimenting with aerodynamics, painting pumpkins into story characters, and printing 3-D model objects--our Bobcats are working

collaboratively in a project-based learning, hands-on environment to explore their world.

Science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) all come together in the Makerspace Lab as our students inquire, explore, research, build, and discover. In working together, our Chaparral students are developing the skills they need to succeed in our 21st-century world, while also having fun at the same time.



What would you do if you had the lab space? Here at Chaparral we can say, "Just about anything!"

Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Join Our AAPAC!

Our AAPAC group is off and running at Cimarron! Last year, they ended the year with a Black and Gold Gala affair that was well attended and very glamorous.

This year, we've already started talking about African American inventors in our daily announcements. In November, we'll be focusing on African Americans in science. Information will be sent home to in order to spur discussions at home, and each classroom will be asked to have circle discussions on this subject.



The AAPAC group also has a successful mentoring program going on to help students get into a ready-to-learn frame of mind. There are even more great activities planned for the rest of the school year.

Our small but mighty group is always looking for new people to be a part of this growing community.

Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

A Place for Fun

For many students the school day doesn't end at 2:54 p.m. In fact, at Desert Rose, that's when the fun begins! This school year our students have a choice of many special after-school programs which offer something for everyone!

Our P.E. coach has after school sports twice a week that prepare upper-grade students for the Palmdale Olympiad. Our teachers are also getting students ready to compete in CyberQuest, the Latino Knowledge Bowl, and robotics competitions.



We are also currently offering four different art classes for students from kindergarten to the fifth grade. Our gardening class even has the children preparing for a vegetable garden. Two of our most popular after-school classes are Folklorico Dance and Dance Force Ballroom Dancing. Another class that is always full is the Fun Math Club.

Our staff members and teachers are having a great time showing students that school is not just a place for learning, it is also a place for fun!

Desert Willow *Fine Arts, Science, Technology Magnet Academy*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Leadership, Creativity, Innovation, and Technology

Students, parents, and teachers are excited about Desert Willow's new format for sharing our morning announcements. Mrs. Garcia, Mr. Wicks, and rotating student-hosts lead our daily podcast. Here students can practice their public speaking while also learning how to use podcasting technology in our new state-of-the-art, industry standard music studio.

The Desert Willow morning podcast keeps all of our stakeholders informed. Teachers can elect to listen to the live morning podcast on the Palmdale School District's radio station, or watch on Desert Willow TV hosted on YouTube. Teachers can either elect to hear the announcements live, or play them recorded for another time when it is convenient during their class period. We continue to think out-of-the-box to help enrich our students' school learning and experiences.



Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Powerful Learning Opportunities

Part of the Palmdale PROMISE is to dramatically improve student engagement and achievement through

access to powerful learning opportunities. Here at Golden Poppy we take pride in the activities that we provide to student's afterschool. We currently have: Grizzly Academies for grades 3-5, Cheer squad, chess club, afterschool music program, Science Olympiad, PROMISE Academy on Saturdays, and Hands on Science for 5th graders. In addition, we are so excited that we will be participating in the district African American History and Latino Bowl competition this year!



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Sarah Zepeda
Principal

The Explorers Explore College Campuses

It has been an exciting semester for our students at Dos Caminos DI. Our Explorers are engaged in rigorous academic work and extracurricular activities. We understand that students who have been exposed to different educational experiences do better in school and are motivated to continue being lifelong learners.

To expand on our vision that a multicultural and multilingual education prepares every student for lifelong success, our comprehensive counseling program at Dos Caminos DI has aligned its vision with our school to ensure that all students have access to positive educational experiences.

This year the school counseling program, in addition to providing services aligned with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) in the

domains of academic achievement, social/emotional wellness, and college/career exploration, has also been able to prepare and advocate for one college experience per grade level (sixth and seventh).

With the support of the administration, staff members, and upper-grade teachers, our school counselor was able to take all of the eighth-grade students to their first college experience at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The eighth-grade students were able to walk on campus, visit the library, and enjoy the beautiful scenery that Santa Barbara has to offer.

Ms. Alamo recently applied for and received a PSD Foundation 2019-2020 grant that afforded all eighth-grade students a UCSB folder. Our school counseling program is also scheduled to take the sixth- and seventh-grade students to UCLA this upcoming semester. We couldn't be more excited for our students to continue exploring the domain of college and career.



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Getting Involved!

At Joshua Hills, we are excited to offer a variety of extended learning and enrichment opportunities at Joshua Hills. Students can attend before and

after school tutoring in math and reading to help improve their academic achievement. They can join our morning Book Club in the library and when they are finished reading the book, they get to keep it!

We offer Art Club by grade level for our budding artists and Folklorico dancing for boys and girls. Students can also participate in after school sports as well as ASB activities. There are many ways to get involved and students are taking advantage of all of the opportunities available to them.



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Susan Summers
Principal

Code Read

Manzanita had the opportunity to have Code Read visit their campus this school year. Code Read is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2016. Their goal is to bring books to children while helping them gain the opportunity to expand their minds and imagination.

Code Read visited Manzanita on two occasions. First, an assembly regarding Code Read was presented to all students. Students were given Star Wars reward charts that they needed to complete to receive two book bucks. Students completed their

charts by completing missions such as coming to school on time, completing work or being respectful. Teachers selected the missions students needed to complete in their classrooms.



On the second visit, Code Read gave each student at Manzanita two brand-new books, a bookbag and a bookmark. Students were delighted to get their new books and enjoyed Code Read's visits!

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

A Fine Recognition

Our Student of the Month Award is one of many approaches adopted by Mesquite staff members that recognize our students' positive work in the classroom and school community. Each school month at Mesquite is also themed to promote a specific character trait, such as responsibility, initiative, perseverance, flexibility, organization, friendship, cooperation, and integrity.

According to a body of research, enhancing the relationship between teachers and students can promote better educational outcomes and success in life. Here at Mesquite Elementary, as promise keepers, we believe in strengthening a connection to school by recognizing our students for their variety of accomplishments. We truly believe in "Capturing Kids Hearts" through the forging of strong bonds between students and adults.

The students who are selected for our Student of the Month Award can not only have their pictures placed on a central bulletin board, they also receive a certificate and restaurant voucher. The Student of the Month program is a fantastic component of our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support plan.

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

We are the Best!

Hello from Los Amigos! This month has been filled with many activities for our students and parents.

The ASB started their first WE campaign to wipe out hunger, with hundreds of canned foods donated for needy families in the community. We also held Red Ribbon Week, and are now currently in the middle of Spirit Week, another awesome activity sponsored by our ASB. Los Amigos also just finished their first fundraiser, which raised money to sponsor exciting field trips for our amazing students.



Last but not least, we also had our superintendent breakfast, where our amazing Los Amigos Mariachi performed. Our PTA put together a very well-decorated area for the parents, superintendent, board president, Mrs. Vega, and invited guests. Thank you to our PTA, staff members, and families for making Los Amigos the best school in the district.

David G. Millen *Law and Government Magnet Academy*

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



Jennifer Blake
Principal

STEAM Queens

The David G. Millen Middle School Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Queens started the year off with Back-to-Science Family Night on Back-to-School Night. The girls gathered and prepared the materials to lead the Rainbow Lab.

As part of this activity, the STEAM Queens shared with families what safety in the lab looks like through a fun and hands-on experiment. The team was able to accommodate three packed classrooms of families who came to enjoy a night of science. Families that were successful in the lab activity had a chance to be a part of a raffle.

In September, the STEAM Queens hosted their annual Shark Week, a week of fun, shark-related after-school activities, with a very stinky shark dissection finale on Friday. In October, students enjoyed our second annual Freaky Friday Family Science Night, an evening filled with gooey, fun science labs for the whole family. Upon entering the multipurpose room, families were given raffle tickets and received additional raffle tickets for completing all of the available labs, including the worm-eating station.

To close out October, the STEAM Queens hosted a Halloween dance with a "CarniEvil," glow-in-the-dark theme. The event featured a disc jockey and personalized photo booth strips for each student who attended, which included the option to upload the photos to their social media. Students also received glow-in-the-dark bracelets, necklaces, or hats upon entry.

STEAM Queens encourages young girls to not only be leaders but also to have interest in STEAM-related activities. This year we were fortunate to welcome several new sixth- and seventh-grade girls as well as the first boys to join the group. As a result, we have added STEAM Muscle to our science club.

We hope to continue to increase interest in STEAM while also providing a safe place for families to spend quality time together.



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Twelve Wolf Principles

One of Oak Tree’s goals to help students change their mindset, so they can make better decisions in and outside of the classroom. We use a variety of different interventions to help us with our mission. From October 15 until November 19th, we have been sharing a partnership with the Wolf Connection. The Wolf Connection is an education and empowerment program with wolfdogs, Youth Ambassadors, as the centerpiece. The program is based in Acton Ca. mountains. Our students learn about nature, the wolf pack, caring for others, and how to work through challenges in their lives.

Our students are learning through life lessons and character-building activities. The Wolf Connection is an emotionally, psychologically, and physically safe environment for our students. They get a chance to experience the Wolf Connection once a week throughout a six-week period.

They also get a chance to meet rescued wolves, hike up and down mountains, and share life experiences with team leaders and other Wolf Connection youth, while learning the “**Twelve Wolf Principles.**”

- 1. Wolves are okay with who they are.
- 2. In order to be okay with who they are, wolves first know who they are.
- 3. Wolves let go of the past and make room for new things in their lives
- 4. Wolves are open to learning new things.
- 5. Wolves give 150 percent to everything they do, so they choose carefully what they agree to do.
- 6. Wolves live by the power of their bond, they care deeply for each other without giving into drama pity.
- 7. Wolves use their individual gifts and talents for the benefit of all.
- 8. Wolves communicate effectively. They keep it honest and real.
- 9. Wolves know how to lead and how to follow. You can’t lead if you don’t know how to follow.
- 10. Wolves collaborate and work together. They know that together they will succeed.
- 11. Wolves understand they are part of everything around them.
- 12. Wolves are into being, not into doing.



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

New Language Arts Support Program System 44

Ocotillo is excited to be a part of Palmdale School District’s new Language Arts support program for third graders called System 44. The purpose of System 44 is to help students improve their skills in phonics, grammar, academic vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. Mrs. Houston and Mrs. Vega welcome 24 third grade students every day for one hour of instruction during the third grade intervention period. Students work together in whole and small groups to grow academically. While half the students work with the System 44 phonics software program, the other half are provided small group

lessons with Mrs. Houston and Mrs. Vega. In this way, students achieve greater academic success with their Language Arts skills as they work to move from learning to read to reading to learn.



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Positive Growth

This has been a very busy year at Palmdale Discovery Center! We are excited to be a second-year showcase school for Capturing Kids’ Hearts. We were fortunate to provide our classified staff members with training in the Capturing Kids’ Hearts Flippen strategies for both our preschool and autism programs. This additional training is apparent as one walks through our campus.

We continue to see positive growth from all of our students. We are very excited in the area of academics this year. Every year we continue to add new curricular tools to our program so that each student has better opportunities to access the curriculum and meet his or her goals. Data shows that the majority of our students progressed in the areas of communication and social skills over the past school year.

I would like to thank all our staff members for being valuable team members who contribute to the success of Palmdale Discovery Center! We look forward to an amazing school year!



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Exploration of Multicultural Dance

Our Palm Tree Elementary Parrots participated at the Poncitlan Square Multicultural event on September 14, 2019.

After only three weeks with only three practices, learning their dance routines, the differences between rhythms, instruments and origins, students performed two dances: the first called, “el Cerro de la Silla”, a dance from Nuevo Leon, a state in Mexico and the other a Samba dance from Brazil.

Staff and students of Palm Tree Elementary School would like to express their gratitude to our amazing Secretary, Ms. Eva Garcia for providing our students with a wonderful educational and cultural experience where students learn about cooperation, teamwork and self-confidence through our after-school Multicultural Dance class.

We Parrots are amazing!



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Service as Action Events

Over the past nine years, Palmdale Learning Plaza has supported the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) orphans in the Dominican Republic. Hundreds of children's lives have been enriched as a direct result of our efforts.

We have an amazing school, and we have had three wildly successful Color Runs. This school year was no different! In September, our students had the opportunity to participate in a PLPs Annual Color Run, which is a Service as Action event, coordinated by some of our own eighth-grade students as a part of their IB eighth-grade community project. Service as Action is a tenet of our International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which helps students make real-world connections.



Service has always been a shared value of the IB community. The funds we raised will further benefit the education program for the children at the NPH orphanage. We feel that our connection to NPH goes a long way toward helping us to become an even more empathetic and globally-minded IB community.

Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carol Black
Principal

Celebrating Success One Student at a Time

This year Quail Valley has positive office referrals! Teachers can write a positive referral for any student that demonstrates excellent behavior, or is making progress toward a behavioral goal.

When students come to the Principal's office we celebrate by having the student sign the "Wall of Success" posted in the office. Next, the student and Principal call home to tell the parent about the positive referral and why it was given, so parents can join in the celebration. Students also receive an "I am... QV!" bracelet only students with a Positive Office Referral are given. Everybody wins! The students, parents, teachers, and Principal. Here at Quail Valley we celebrate success one student at a time!



SAGE *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Eagles Soar with AVID!

The AVID team at SAGE Academy is off to a flying start! In the spirit of leading from the middle, the AVID team is delivering monthly PDs to the staff.

September's PD revolved around schoolwide use of "focused notes." Teachers implemented the focused-note-taking strategy and collaborated with their peers in a follow-up PD session. They reported much greater student organization and comprehension of material after using this strategy. In October, teachers boosted student engagement with Philosophical Chairs. This strategy excited discussion among our students while raising DOK levels.

While not working with students, you can find the AVID team at SAGE Academy supporting teachers to "WICOR-ize" their lessons and classrooms. They won't stop until SAGE is an AVID Demonstration School!



AVID Teachers Cheryl Nieman, Kristen Givens, and Denice Bosch.

Shadow Hills *Engineering & Design Magnet Academy*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Students RISE!

At Shadow Hills Engineering and Design Magnet Academy, there is a new design focus this year! Yearbook advisor Mary Brown has challenged her

students with finding a way to use technology in a fresh and interesting fashion to get fellow Falcons plugged in. Introducing—"RISE Magazine"—an exclusively online magazine created, edited, and published only by students!

There are seven sections that are written by students for students. These sections were thoughtfully incorporated with their peers in mind to get information to them on topics like why you should care about your grades and how to get help in your classes to self-care. It also has standard magazine essentials such as pop culture, sports and comics.



Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



Marginese Streeter
Principal

Readers Are Achievers!

Last spring, a few teachers decided to motivate students to meet their semester goals with the inaugural Accelerated Reader parade in June. We had approximately 90 students in grades two through five participate.

This school year is the first time we are using quarterly incentives to encourage reading for the entire school. We have adopted a sports theme. For the first quarter, students who met 50% of their semester A.R. goal were on our baseball All Stars board and enjoyed a pizza party in October. We had 101 students in grades one through five qualify.

To motivate students, a Dodgers shirt was purchased and raffled off to one All Star Reader student. In the first quarter, our school read 12,253,918 words cumulative in their A.R. books. The students are very motivated to read and are off to a good start.

At the end of the first semester, students who meet their entire A.R. goal will be recognized on our football Super Bowl board. For the third quarter, we will post Basketball Championship Readers, and at the end of the year, we will have an Olympic theme along with the A.R. parade.

Go Summerwind Thunderbirds! Read on!

Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Misti Larrick
Principal

Extracurricular Options

Tumbleweed Elementary School is excited to provide our students with a variety of equitable and enriching experiences. We have several before- and after-school programs for our students to choose from.

Students participating in our robotics program learn to build, code, and operate their robots. In aviation, students are learning to be pilots and engineers with knowledge of a variety of aircraft. We just started a folkloric dance group and are excited for students to begin performing at school and other local events. We also just started after-school soccer.



Students have also been practicing weekly and will soon be competing in Science Olympiad, Cyberquest, and the Latino Knowledge Bowl. We even have a Future Leaders Club that works on Rube Goldberg machines, coding projects, and other globally competitive activities.

Tumbleweed leads!

Tamarisk *Renaissance School*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Experiencing Peru

Learning about a country is one thing, but to experience the country's culture is a life-changing event. Tamarisk recently was treated to the experience of a lifetime, as we hosted 12 students from the Colegio Maria Alvarado and Innova Schools for a special assembly for our 2nd and 3rd grade students. We enjoyed learning about the riches Peru has to offer, as well as being treated to a rendition of Peru's favorite dance, "La Marinera". Our students were ecstatic to see the beautiful and confident movements of Peru's finest students as they carried themselves in a flurry of elegance. A special thanks to our Superintendent and all those who gave us this beautiful opportunity to experience El Peru.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Claudette Ward-Konovalov
Principal

Math 180

Yellen Teachers are happy to have a Math intervention that meets the needs of their students.

MATH 180 is designed to address the needs of struggling students in Grades 5-8th grade. MATH 180 picks up the progression to algebra at whole number multiplication and builds a coherent narrative of understanding through fractions and decimals, proportional reasoning, and functional thinking. MATH 180 uses a blended learning model in which students rotate between teacher-facilitated instruction and personalized software that adapts to their needs. This program builds

students' confidence and competence in mathematics, while providing teachers with comprehensive support to ensure success. We will have fifteen coaching days with the Math 180 coach to ensure fidelity to the program.

We expect great student success from this program!





Terrie Dowling
Principal

Education Grant

In September, Yucca Elementary School was the recipient of an educational grant from a Native American educational foundation. Senator Scott Wilk presented a check for \$5,000 to Principal Terrie Dowling. School Board members Nancy Smith and Dennis Trujillo, and Superintendent Maldonado with Yucca parents in attendance for the event.

Yucca will use the grant money to supplement the school's makerspace. We will purchase three modular robotics kits, which will be used by students in kindergarten through fifth grade. These robots will help students with basic computational thinking skills, engineering processes, design thinking, higher-level thinking skills, and more.

Yucca teachers are excited to support their students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math, and the robots will provide hands-on learning experiences that will support our students for many years to come.



SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page 1*



Raul Maldonado

Hearts! This training has been very important for all of us who work with your children. Through this program, we have been able to transform our school culture by emphasizing the importance of answering the "why." It's important to be reminded why we teach children and why we work to inspire our students. At the end of this school year, we will complete the training for all school sites. Again, it's about the heart, the dedication, and the commitment that we make to our students.

I encourage parents to observe our wonderful teachers, classified staff, and administrators as they welcome our students to school every day by smiling and shaking their hands. As your superintendent, it gives me great joy to observe the training in action. In fact, we have Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase schools, including: Ocotillo Elementary School, Palmdale Discovery Center, Tumbleweed Elementary School, and Yucca Elementary School. Our schools won the national award because they have been able to show the qualities of Capturing Kids' Hearts at a much higher level. I am sure that we will have other schools competing for the very prestigious award at the end of this school year.

I would encourage all of us to practice the qualities of Capturing Kids' Hearts. It will make our students' experience at school much better.

JUMPING ON THE BAND WAGON • *From Page 1*

These students visit the music room in two smaller groups once per week to experience rhythms, beats, and more. "With Ms. Gilreath's innovative approach, our students can feel and connect with music down to each beat," explained Alisha Fathy, teacher of the first- through third-grade DHH classroom.

Ms. Gilreath's goal is to create a "physical music experience" for the students, during which they can feel the beat with their bodies. During one exciting lesson, the DHH students were mimicking animal gaits to the beat of Ms. Gilreath's drumming.

As a support to the growing Palmdale School District middle school band programs, a plan was made to start a fifth-grade band at both PLP and Yucca. According to Yucca's principal, Terrie Dowling, the goal is to give students "such a love for music that they continue on in middle school." So, Ms. Gilreath invited the fifth-grade students and parents into her music room to introduce the instruments, talk about the band experience, and gauge interest. After all the meetings, Ms. Gilreath began the program with a fifth-grade band of over 65 students and a fifth-grade band experience for Yucca that includes all fifth-graders.

However, two separate fifth-grade bands means two separate sets of instruments. Thanks to the generous support of the Palmdale School District and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) funding, both schools were able to order brand-new student instruments. But the excitement and high level of student commitment were even a surprise to the instrument manufacturer, as the ever-increasing instrument orders caused a backorder situation. This presented Ms. Gilreath with a new challenge—starting two separate fifth-grade bands without any instruments! But, as expected, she rose to the challenge by borrowing instruments for Yucca and starting PLP's students with recorders so they could begin learning notation.

Ms. Gilreath has hit the right note for the students at PLP and Yucca. Just listen closely next time you visit the PLP campus and you might hear a few notes of "Hot Cross Buns" from a fifth-grader with a recorder at recess.



Research: Kids, Media, and Body Image



How kids think, feel, and act about their bodies is a critical piece of their self-esteem and overall healthy development. Common Sense Media's new research report, *Children, Teens, Media, and Body Image*, examines the role of traditional and digital media in the development of children's and teens' body image. This review of existing research reveals some surprising trends -- such as that half of 6- to 8-year-old girls feel their ideal body size is thinner than their current one -- but it also shows evidence that parents play a huge part in shaping how kids relate to their bodies. Some key findings:

- Many kids are dissatisfied with their bodies, and society's body appearance ideals are highly unrealistic.
- Body-image concerns start early; even preschoolers learn that society judges people by how they look.
- Parents' attitudes toward their own bodies are a big influence on how kids feel about their bodies.
- Unrealistic, sexualized, and stereotypical images and messages about bodies and gender are rampant in the media kids consume.
- Teens feel pressure to look good and cool online but also feel that social media helps their friendships and connections with like-minded peers.
- Although young girls are most susceptible, boys have issues with body image too.

Our report uncovers large gaps in research on body image and media. Several groups -- young children, boys, kids of color, LGBTQ youth -- are not well-studied, and research on online, digital media has yet to keep pace with the explosion in their use by kids and teens

Texting and Driving: A Killing Combination

Teens love to text. They'll send messages any time and anywhere. But if they text from behind the wheel of a car, the results could be deadly.

Studies show that texting and driving is as dangerous as drinking and driving. If you text while behind the wheel, you're 23 times more likely to crash. Although many states have laws making it illegal to text while driving, teens (and many parents) still do it, even though they know it's dangerous. When teens are driving, any activity besides keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel -- like emailing, downloading music, taking pictures -- is a huge no no.

So how can you make sure your teen is phone-free while behind the wheel?

- **Make it non-negotiable.** Teens need to understand that keys and phones simply do not mix. Let them know that distracted driving is just as dangerous as drunk driving.
- **Set clear rules.** Tell your teens to turn off their phones and put them in the glove box before they start the car. If you're not sure your teen has the will power to do this consistently, consider using apps that specifically restrict texting while driving.
- **Download an app that disables the phone when you're driving.** If you don't trust yourself, get an app that will keep you honest.
- **Set an example.** Resist the impulse to check your own phone while in traffic. Your kids are watching what you do. And chances are, they'll copy your behavior.

There's no denying that texting is here to stay. So managing when and where your kids do use their phones is critical -- not just for their development, but for their safety as well.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIn: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

School News

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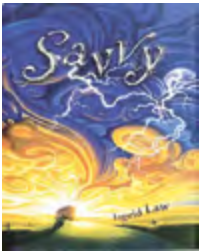
Richard’s Book Review

A Journey To Healing



Richard J.

Savvy by Ingrid Law
This is an award-winning book. Mibs Beaumont, who is about to turn 13, is the main character of the story. In the Beaumonts family each person gets a Savvy on their 13th birthday. A Savvy is a special magical talent. Her brother Rocket can create hurricanes, her grandpa can move mountains, and Mibs is excited to get her Savvy. But as Mibs is looking forward to her birthday her father gets into a car accident and ends up in a coma. Mibs is heartbroken, as her Mom and brother Rocket leave to take care of him in the hospital 90 miles away, leaving Mibs and her siblings in the care of their neighbor, the pastor. Mibs sneaks into a leaving bible van to hitch a ride to the hospital to see if her savvy is the ability to wake people up. She doesn’t know that 2 of pastor’s kids and her two siblings follow her onboard. After many events, big and small, they all reach their destination. Mibs finds out what her Savvy is, and all the people in the van help one another and heal each other’s problems. They eventually go their separate ways, all changed for the better. I liked the genuine relationship they develop and the kindness they show to each other. I enjoyed this book and it’s satisfying ending and I rate the book 5 stars out of 5!



Richard is a curious 5th grader. His favorite subjects are math and P.E. He likes to play sports with his friends, read funny books and watch nature documentaries. He likes writing book reviews because he hopes they will interest other kids to read these books.

Christina’s Book Review

Scary Read (16+)



Christina J.

Quarantine the Loners by Lex Thomas
This is a super cinematic book, which is book 1 of 5 of the Quarantine series. The whole time I was reading it I could see the story as a movie in my mind. The flow of the story doesn’t ever slow down. The main character is David, who is almost 18, a former football player. David’s brother is just starting his freshman year at the same high school. Everything is normal until an explosion rocks the school and all adults die, while all the kids lose their hair and become pale. A kid who escaped a chemical weapons facility spread a terribly contagious, fast acting virus that causes lungs of everybody who is over eighteen years of age to deteriorate. Because of how deadly the virus was the whole school was enclosed under a sturdy metal bubble to prevent the kids from escaping into society and spreading the virus. The kids are put though a great distress and forced to adjust and fight for day-to-day survival. They create gangs while living under the bubble. It’s crazy how normal people can become so dangerous during an epidemic. The story is somewhat scary but realistic. I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars.



Christina is in 10th grade. She is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book on adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student, her favorite subjects are Spanish and AFJROTC. She likes to help animals and take care of them. Christina is a young author. In 5th grade she wrote a book Melody’s Stories: I Am a Spy Now (Studenttreasures Publishing, PIN #3582798).

At Grandma’s - 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, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- COOKIES
- PORCH
- GAMES
- ROCKER
- PUZZLES
- CAT
- DOG
- CROQUET
- BASKETBALL
- BASEBALL
- COMPUTER
- DVD
- CDS
- BOOKS
- SMILES
- CANDY
- TV
- GARDEN
- CAKE
- FLOWERS
- FOOTBALL

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