

SUPERINTENDENT



Raul Maldonado

Family-Centered Events

This year, we have seen the return of some outdoor community events and the parent volunteers who help run them. I was happy to see familiar faces and

new faces at the Backpack Event this year. I was also able to see district families at the Plaza de Poncitlan on 9th Street East during both the Trunk or Treat event held on Oct. 31, with candies, a costume contest and a car show; and the Día de los Muertos festival celebrated with piñatas, face painting and costumes.

Our Breakfasts with the Superintendent have been well attended at each school site we visited. I am happy to see and speak to parents in person. These events allow people to hear new information, ask questions, express ideas, and give input on district matters. We will make our way to all the school sites in the district by the end of the school year to talk with all our district families. Seeing the support families give their children is inspiring. I hope to see you at your school's Breakfast with the Superintendent soon.

I would like to let you know that the Palmdale School District has joined with the Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and is sponsoring a parade in Palmdale on Dec. 11. Our schools and community members will be participating, and I'd like to invite you all to come out and enjoy a winter parade.

Family-centered events that feature students give us all an opportunity to reconnect. Events bring our community together as we celebrate our children and one another. See you at the parade!

Honoring Two Leaders

*By Janet Simons,
Director of LCAP & Charter Oversight*

Congratulations to Mr. Maldonado, who was recognized as the Marcus Foster Memorial Award winner by the Association of California School Administrators! The Marcus Foster Award recognizes outstanding leadership and significant contributions to education by a school administrator. Recipients of the Marcus Foster Award are recognized as skilled managers of change, ones who encourage involvement of a variety of community sectors in decision making, having a willingness to speak out in the community on issues that impact children, and are respectful of all people. Congratulations, Mr. Maldonado!

In addition to recognizing Mr. Maldonado, the Association of California School Administrators also recognized Dr. Frances Ufodu with the Business Administrator



Anthony Hunt - Board Member, Sharon Vega - Board Member, Dr. Frances Ufodu - CBO, Raul Maldonado - Superintendent of Schools, Simone Zulu Diol - Board Clerk, Nancy Smith - Board Member

of the Year Award. Dr. Ufodu is recognized for exceptional leadership in managing school programs, commitment to educational quality and student achievement, and use of creativity and innovation in dealing with issues and problems facing public education.

We talk often about how Palmdale leads—having these amazing administrators leading the district ensures that we will continue to lead. Thank you both for your work for the students, families, staff and educational partners of the Palmdale School District!

Proud of Our Impact

By Ralph Velador, Board President

School is back in session; the end of the first semester is near. Depending on any student's grade level, this could mean reports, assessments, essays and projects that are due before the winter break.

All these items are part of the normal flow of the school year. All of them show a student's strengths and challenges. Every student is unique in both their challenges and in their strengths. For some, a Google Slides presentation is easy, but a three-minute speech is daunting. As a parent, you know your child's comfort level with the variety of assignments and subjects they face each day. Students face new information and new challenges every day. They learn to be flexible, to expect and manage change.

Schools sites have also undergone changes. Some changes are dramatic, and others are less obvious. Makerspaces, landscaping, and new paint are exciting. New air filters,

handwashing stations and touchless water-bottle fountains are not as dramatic but are just as important. Rewiring and upgrading the Wi-Fi systems in many of the older school sites is an invisible but necessary change. Being part of the board that has approved the expenditures to upgrade our school sites is exciting.

Each motion before the board is examined to be sure it has student welfare at the core of the motion. I am proud to be part of a board that believes in students first. Our purpose is to educate students. Our decisions impact student achievement. That fact is in the forefront of our minds when we make decisions. The Palmdale School District is committed to every student, every day.

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Counselors Corner

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California Association of School Counselor’s Virtual Conference

By Carol Radigan Burkes,
M.S., P.P.S. School Counselor

Palmdale School District
Counselors recently attended the California Association of School Counselors’ virtual conference October 28 and 29. The conference had incredible keynote speakers as well as presenters. The two-day conference workshops offered the opportunity for professional development to help all of the counselors stay informed of the current standards, practices, and focus as we have started and continue with an unprecedented year. The counselors would like to thank the district for providing this opportunity and supporting the work of the counselors.
The student need on our campuses is more in demand than ever before. As we offer core curriculum, small groups, 1:1 counseling, and community resources and referrals, the chance to collaborate through this conference was very valuable in continuing to implement the American School Counselor’s National Model as well as the Palmdale Promise for all of our PSD students.



Social Emotional Connections

Forming Positive Connections

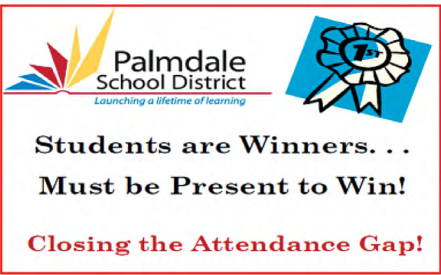
From the Special Education Department

The Social Emotional Learning Specialists (SELS) of Palmdale School District are excited to be back in-person at their new elementary sites forming positive connections. During the month of October and ongoing efforts, SELS provide education and awareness on Suicide Prevention utilizing a multi-tiered system. At the tier 1 universal level, SELS display in their classrooms the suicide prevention lifeline number which is available to struggling individuals 24/7. On a tier 2 level, SELS conduct classroom instructions using an adopted social emotional learning curriculum to teach social-emotional services such as (i.e. anxiety reduction, social peer groups, and coping skill interventions etc.) in an effort to move towards a positive school climate and to decrease suicide ideology. On a more intensive level, tier 3, SELS conduct suicidal risk assessments to high risk students and link students to school based mental health and other community resources, in order to keep our students, families, and staff supported and safe.



District Office (661) 947-7191 • Emergency (888) 474-8107
39139 North 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550
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Child Nutrition	789-6565
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Special Education	789-6746
Student Services	789-6744
Superintendent’s Office	789-6502 & 789-6503



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Superintendent Maldonado begins this issue on the front page with his message about family center events. It is wonderful to see normalcy return in our lives and especially for students.
In this issue you will read about robotics and coding, a food drive, students helping others in need, celebrating grandparents, field trips and so much more... enjoy!
Our next issue is March 9, 2022
Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Early Childhood Education

975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4710 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4461



Melanie Culver
Director

Health and Wellness

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education (PSD-ECE) has teamed up to work with Wellness Together, an organization that specializes in helping teachers and parents support the mental health needs of children. The organization will provide 10 to 13 sessions of parent and child interactive therapy to address the mental health of our students and families using a collaborative model.
Our teachers attended workshops in August and October on positive reinforcement for children, and consulted with a Wellness Together licensed therapist for well-being support. PSD-ECE has also partnered with Hear You.Org to provide mental health services for our staff. The pandemic and the many changes it brought to the educational environment have impacted the staff members in many ways. We want to ensure that resources are available to support PSD-ECE staff members during these challenging times.
In addition to these partnerships, the PSD-ECE Health Advisory Committee, composed of staff, parents, and community members, met recently to discuss the various health issues that currently affect our children and families. This Advisory Committee meets monthly with our health service area to address topics such as COVID guidelines, health concerns, and obtaining physical exams. It is our goal as a community to make a difference in the health of our children!
Most recently, we held a virtual Community Health Advisory Meeting that focused on the topic, “Overcoming COVID: A Path to A Healthier Community.” All PSD-ECE families were invited to attend. Each service area spoke about COVID and how we as a program are overcoming health concerns during the pandemic.

School News

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Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being

A Blank Slate

By Alecia Woods, Director of Child Nutrition

The first time the Child Nutrition team visited the kitchen at Palmdale Academy Charter School, the room was mostly empty except for a few non-kitchen items that had been put there for storage. Even the most basic equipment, such as hoods and ovens, was missing. Despite the vast emptiness, we were determined to ensure the students at this school had access to the delicious meals they had grown accustomed to during their time at PSD. To accomplish this, we had to think outside of the box to put together a service line that could accommodate all of the students at once while maintaining optimal food quality. We also installed alternate equipment to provide variety including a salad bar and four vending machines. Two of the vending machines sell snacks and the other two dispense complete meal options. Every Friday, Domino's delivers pizza that despite being whole grain and low fat, is a great way to end each week. It is a pleasure to serve our first ninth grade class.



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

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

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

Click on the link to "Apply"

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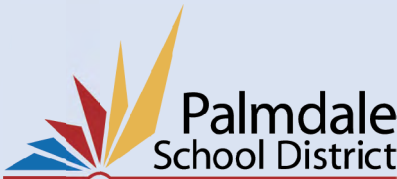
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Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Rena Thorogood
Principal

Robotics and Coding

Barrel Springs students are excited to start coding and robotics for the 2021 school year. Students will solve scenarios using coding, computing and critical thinking. This program teaches students to use technology to solve real world problems.

Through exploration, students will work together to program Lego Education Mindstorm robots. In the past, we have been amazed at how quickly students learn to code, communicate mathematical language, and use error analysis. It's great seeing their excitement when they run the programs and their robots follow commands. Robotics is geared to encourage collaboration, communication and a sense of community. They work together for the good of the team.



Over several weeks students will be learning how to build robots, use sensors, and command robots to travel different distances and directions. Robotics will help our students learn 21st century skills. We can't wait to see what they're going to accomplish!

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Our Star APE Teacher

Mr. Craig Nystrom started working for PSD right out of college in 1989. He worked as General Education PE teacher at Juniper (9 years), Shadow Hills (13 years), and David G Millen (1 year). In 2013 Craig transitioned from General Ed PE to Adapted PE. In Adapted PE, Craig has many students with orthopedic impairments and those students need a great deal of supporting equipment-such as standers, gait trainers, and adapted tricycles. Craig oversees inventory tracking, assists with ordering the equipment, and supports classroom staff. In addition, Craig uses Nintendo Wii exergames in the APE classroom. In his words...



"The switch from General Education PE to Adapted PE has been great. I really enjoy working in the Special Ed arena." "I love the teamwork at every level that goes into supporting and helping each student."

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

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



Michelle White
Principal

We Scare Hunger

Cactus ASB held a "We Scare Hunger" food drive during the week of October 18-22. We are not the only school to participate. This is part of the PSD ASB all-school project to gather as much food as possible for needy families in the community. One in six American children may not know where their next meal is coming from, so we got to work to promote the food drive here at Cactus. The generous response from our Cactus community was overwhelming. We now have a bountiful harvest to pass on to those in need this holiday season. The food goes to Grace Resource Center. "The We Scare Hunger" is an annual PSD event that we participate in each year.



We are deeply grateful for everyone's contribution. Ms. Fellers' fourth period class won the competition for bringing in the largest stock of groceries. They are being rewarded with a pizza party!

Chaparral *Prep Academy TK-5*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

Makerspace and Project Room

As a Project Based Learning Academy at Chaparral Prep, we are focused on empowering our students to be creative problem solvers inside and outside of the classroom. When students are able to be critical thinkers, it opens up to a whole new world of possibility, creativity, and wonder. Our teachers are committed to this process and have utilized the various tools to reach these PBL goals.

One of the ways we have progressed towards PBL goals is using our Makerspace and Project Room on our modernized campus. The Makerspace has equipment such as Legos, 3D printers, Maple blocks, Squishy Circuits, a media green screen, RobotiKits, Solar Racers, Coding Robots, and Spheros just to name a few. Our Project Room is filled with numerous arts and crafts supplies to help students demonstrate their creativity. To see more of our Makerspace and Project Room in action follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Welcome Tracy!

Cimarron welcomes Tracy Kane, our new Assistant Principal. Tracy comes to us from the William S. Hart School District where she spent over twenty years teaching high school English and Chemistry. She also spent five years as a Consulting Teacher and a lead Induction Mentor. Tracy is passionate about connecting with students in order to build solid relationships. She is thrilled to bring her passion and dedication to education as part of the Palmdale School District. Tracy graduated from UCLA and later

earned her Masters in Educational Technology from California State Fullerton. Her hobbies include hiking the John Muir Trail and working on DIY projects around her house.

Tracy is passionate about connecting with students in order to build solid relationships and believes that her relationships with students and staff are essential to her work.



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

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



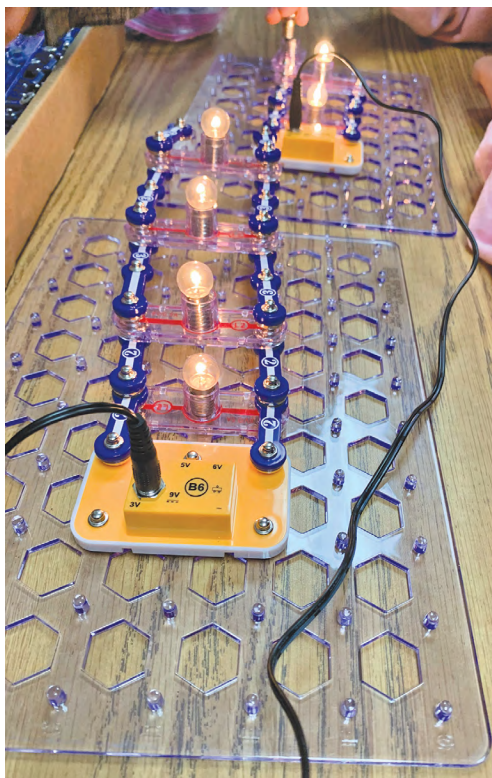
Timothy Howell
Principal

On the Lighter Side of Things

You can't see it...it's electric! Actually, in this case, you can. Our Project Lead the Way students are lighting things up on our campus. Ms. Nafeh is sparking the interests of her students by teaching them how to conduct electricity and Ohm's Law. These young engineers were taken through the process of how to properly connect wires to a circuit

board to make it illuminate. Diodes, capacitors, transistors, oh my!

It is also 'lit' in Mr. Wicks' class. In order to understand different cultural perspectives, the importance of education and the constant threat of women's rights globally, his 8th grade ELA students were charged to make real life connections to literature after reading, "I am Malala." If you're wondering 'watt' all of the buzz was in their classroom discussions after reading the book, it was about courage, fighting against inequality, and not taking education for granted. Desert Willow is all about the positive vibes!



Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Capturing Kids Hearts

Desert Rose is leading full steam ahead. Here at Desert Rose we have been reaping the benefits of strategically implementing Capturing Kids Hearts into all of our classrooms. We are on pace to be a showcase for the 3rd year in a row! This wouldn't be possible without our amazing staff who have worked nonstop in reaching these goals. Our disciplinary issues have drastically declined, due to our intervention strategies and Roadrunner Rockstar tickets. Here at Desert Rose, every voice matters, and the social contracts holds all students accountable to their actions. This strategy has helped our students realize when they made a mistake and ultimately learn from their actions. Even in our new maker space, our staff has created a school wide social contract. At Desert Rose, we know that academic achievement isn't possible without providing the love and support that every student deserves.

Dos Caminos *Dual Immersion Elementary K-8*

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



Dr. Sarah Zepeda
Principal

2021 Latino Knowledge Bowl Champions

At Dos Caminos, we are proud to celebrate our winning team for the 2021 Latino Knowledge Bowl, led by Ms. Wendy Aguirre. Our 5th-8th team members worked diligently and committed fully to the achievement of their goal. Their coach Ms. Aguirre shared, "The students were all very motivated. When the first competition day was approaching, they asked to meet extra days to continue to study and be well prepared. When we made it to the finals, all the students were extremely motivated and they knew that they were going to continue studying so they could get first place. I think one of the special things about our team is the way they supported each other and pushed each other to do their best."



Congratulations to our winners!

Joanna Orellana Trigueros (7th), Jacqueline Salcedo Barraza (7th), Lily Escobar (7th), Julianna Figueroa (4th), Jovel Calles (8th), Ms. Aguirre (Coach), Isabel Ureno (6th), Nayeli Caro (5th), America Magaña Huanosto (8th), Sofia Langlotz-Heinze (6th), Larissa Allen (5th) (honorable mention not in picture)

Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

Hello from Golden Poppy!

The Grizzlies have been up to some very fabulous things. Our 5th grade Team competed in the Latino Knowledge Bowl and received accolades for holding their ground while competing against 8th grade teams!! The team did a fantastic job with their coach Ms. Morris. Our ASB completed their first fundraiser. They collected 1,735 pairs of socks during the month of “Socktober” which were all donated to Grace Community Resources. All this under the guidance of their ASB coordinator, Mrs. Anderson. We finished the month with a week of different daily events, including students taking the pledge to stay drug free and our Halloween Parade!



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Alicia Garcia
Principal

New Social Emotional Team

Welcome to Dr. Kisha Campbell, Social Emotional Learning Specialist, to our Joshua Hills Family! She has recently started on our site to provide support to our campus, and will serve our school community on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and every other Wednesday. Together with our amazing Student Interventionist, Mrs. Jacqueline Cruz, Dr. Campbell has already begun connecting with students, families, and staff. This team is diligently working to help students be successful now that we are back to in-person school. Our team will serve as a valuable resource to all students and teachers by helping find solutions to conflicts that interfere with learning and instruction. We all know about the extreme importance of the social emotional health of our students, families, and staff- especially after these last unique months. Dr. Campbell will also work with our 5th graders to make the transition to middle school an easy process. We are lucky to have such a strong and empowering social emotional team!



Innovations Academy *K-8*

37230 37th St. E., Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-8908 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/5403



Melissa Garcia
Principal

Trick or Treating Event

Innovations Academy Staff has welcomed students in person. Part of any successful school is ensuring the social – emotional wellbeing of our students. One-way Innovations is doing this is providing students an in-person option activity. Students are welcome to come to the Innovations campus once per week for two hours to meet with their teacher and other students in their class. We have had some amazing activities from Science labs, to building clocks, amazing art projects, and so much more. Our teachers have created a welcoming and inviting environment for students who are participating in this optional activity. Innovations recently welcomed students for our Trick or Treating event. They were able to visit classes and the office for some fun. We look forward to continuing to connect with our students both online and in person.



Los Amigos *Dual Immersion K-8*

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



Dr. Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Many Right Things!

Even during these challenging times, our Los Amigos Associated Student Body (ASB) shows courage by doing the right thing. Since the first day of school, our ASB welcomed our students by having our Los Amigos Dragon greet students. Our students participated in Los Amigos Spirit Week in September, encouraging students to value diversity and inclusivity. We also had Kindness Rocks Week, where our students painted their kindness rock. In October, our ASB had “We Scare Hunger,” collecting perishable food cans. Our students donated more than 1,093 food items, which were delivered to Grace Resource Center. “I am happy we are able to help families!” Mercy Vides, an ASB student, said, “I counted *every* item that was donated!” added Malazjah Brandt. We also had our staff and students wear pink on Fridays for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The focus was on celebrating survivors, recognizing those fighting the disease, and remembering those who are no longer with us. We also had the Red Cross mobile van for their annual blood drive, and in November, we participated in our “We Won’t Rest” jacket and blanket drive to donate to Grace Resource Center. We have started our Thankful Banner, where students write what they are thankful for. Finally, our students participated in Leadership Development Day. We are very proud of our ASB students’ dedication and the countless hours they have dedicated to making all these activities possible for our Los Amigos students. Dragons are #1!

Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carmen Saenz
Principal

Manzanita Starts a PTA

At Manzanita, parents and teachers have joined forces and started a Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) this school year. They have worked diligently to ensure all steps in the process have been successfully completed. PTA has a board that meets monthly to plan events and fundraisers. They also hold monthly general meetings for all parents and staff. For the month of October, PTA worked hard to bring joy to our students at Manzanita. PTA president, Mrs. Jessica Holt was able to get over 200 pumpkin donations for our students from local stores and a farm. Mrs. Holt and Mrs. Wright, PTA parents passed them out as students exited campus. Students were delighted and surprised as they exited campus and saw the many pumpkins. On that same day, PTA also hosted a fundraiser



at the local Panda Express where they invited family, friends, and staff to buy dinner. PTA looks forward to continuing to bring smiles to the students at Manzanita.

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

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



Jason Deaville
Principal

Call of the Wild

Jennifer Wild is called to be an educator! She is a teacher at heart. This is evident everyday she comes to work. As a Learning Support Teacher (LST) for DGM, she has mastered the art of helping teachers to deliver the very best results for our students. She has a laser beam focus on student achievement. Data plays a huge role in Jennifer's world, and all of her actions are designed to have a positive impact on student outcomes. Whether it's designing high quality PDs, a highly functioning MTSS process, or supporting new teachers, she is always friendly, intuitive, and responsive to others. Most recently, with her guidance, DGM has been able to sharpen our focus on Common Formative Assessments (CFAs). These formative assessments are responsible for helping math and ELA teachers focus on the power standards and get great results for their students.



PD Early Childhood Ed 1221

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Mesquite's SEL Dynamic Duo

Please welcome Mesquite's SEL (Social Emotional Learning) "dynamic duo": Candice Collins, SELS (Social Emotional Learning Specialist), and Kristen Thompson, student interventionist! These two support personnel assist our students with learning about their emotions and fully feeling them (developing self-awareness), as well as controlling their emotions (developing self-control). They also demonstrate empathy to others and teach the students how to work collaboratively (developing interpersonal skills).

Ms. Collins is a licensed marriage and family therapist with a Master of Arts in clinical psychology. Mrs. Thompson holds a bachelor's degree in human services with a concentration in family and children. Both have created their own mindfulness rooms where children can come to calm and relax themselves, learn and practice mental health techniques, and express themselves in a non-threatening environment.

Ms. Collins and Mrs. Thompson also visit classrooms and present SEL lessons. Mrs. Thompson focuses on students in grades TK-2, and Ms. Collins focuses on students in grades 3-5. Their goal is to help provide students with a positive foundation in social-emotional learning that will lead to success not only presently in school and home, but also long-term in their future work careers and life.

Mesquite is very fortunate to have these two incredible staff members here to help our students with their social-emotional learning!



Candice Collins



Kristen Thompson

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Oak Tree Leadership Graduates

Oak Tree's Leadership cohorts are run under the direction of school site psychologist Tayari Ferrell with Brand Turner, Student Intervention Specialist. Students are nominated by their teacher for an intense and accelerated four-week program. During this time, students interview their teacher and primary caregiver, review their Individual Growth Plan, completed during their intake to the Oak Tree program, and complete an autobiography to be presented orally to the entire school during a morning assembly. Student candidates assume the additional task of completing their autobiographies, beyond their in-class



Angel Rojas Zuno, 6th grade; Angel Hernandez, 6th grade; and Freddie Medrano, 8th grade.

assignments, with teachers and meet with additional staff as they seek additional responsibilities best suited to their temperament. Successful candidates are expected to exemplify the best behaviors at all times and receive special privileges including access to the Leadership Lounge. The entire process culminates with a framed certificate of completion and a dark blue LEADER polo. Congratulations!



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Grandparents Day

Ocotillo has noticed the big impact that grandparents have in a child’s life, specifically our students, and for that we wanted to recognize them. We recently celebrated national Grandparents Day this year by providing a hot breakfast for all of our wonderful grandparents.

Before the event, we stood outside by the front of the school ready to distribute hot breakfast burritos, granola bars, and water for all the attendees. It made our day to see all the grandparents smile and feel appreciated! We look forward to celebrating this holiday each year.



Our Panthers also did an amazing job of adopting ducks this year, and which earned our school \$1,600! We were so excited for the support from our Panther family that we celebrated it by making Mrs. Pomerleau, our assistant principal, into a human duck, and Mr. Felix, our P.E teacher, a water balloon!

Students who bought ducks were given the opportunity to pour syrup or feathers to decorate Mrs. Pomerleau, and toss water balloons that exploded on Mr. Felix. This was a fun experience for all of the students, and we hope it motivates them to continue supporting community events hosted by Ocotillo.



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

So Far, So Busy!

This has been a very busy year at Palmdale Discovery Center! We opened three additional classrooms this year, so we have welcomed many new and wonderful staff members. At PDC, our staff members are so effective in the delivery of our specialized curriculum. They proved again to be experts in changing modes of instruction to meet the needs of students as they returned full time to the site this year. Though students learned at home during the last year, many of them have met their learning goals. We are so impressed with their ability to change with the times and continue to progress.

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 into our program so that each student has better opportunities to access the curriculum and meet their goals. I would like to thank all our staff members who are very valuable team members contributing to the success of Palmdale Discovery Center!

As we enter a new year and our second semester, I expect to see continued progress. I also want to thank all of our families for working with us to make this a successful program! I know that we will see many great new things in our second semester.



Dr. Kathya Arriaran - Buono
Principal

PACS Vision, Mission, Renaming and Mascot

Palmdale Academy Charter School is officially our name now! The students and staff at PACS worked really hard to come up with our official school name. Teachers, staff and parents all took a part in creating our vision and mission statement as well. Here at PACS we



are the home of the Jaguars and our official school colors are teal, black, gold and white. All of our students here worked very hard in their advisory classes to create our name, mascot and colors. We are in the process now of creating our school spirit prototype and we couldn’t be more excited. We have also opened up applications for next school year and already have over 100 interested families. If you are interested in joining the Jaguar family please go to palmdalesd.schoolmint.net, spaces are filling fast, so please sign up now. GO PACS!



Susan Summers
Principal

It’s Always “Summers” in PLP

Palmdale Learning Plaza welcomed Mrs. Susan Summers as its new principal in October 2021. Mrs. Summers comes to Palmdale Learning Plaza from Manzanita and is excited about returning to the PLP community, where she once taught first grade.

Mrs. Summers impact has been immediate.

Whether at the monthly IB Pep Rallies, or bringing her Capturing Kids Hearts expertise to the school gates, or participating in the Fall Spirit Week, students met their new principal and could feel her commitment to making their days of learning at PLP the absolute brightest.

Having taught at PLP when it first became an authorized International Baccalaureate school, Mrs. Summers background and knowledge of the IB framework is simply just another line on the list of reasons Palmdale Learning Plaza is feeling warm and sunny about its new principal: Mrs. Susan Summers



Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Engaging Students by Empowering Student Voices!

Bo Peep, Baby Yoda, and Buzz Lightyear strolled across our campus on Friday afternoon. Chilindrina got into mischief, while Frida Kahlo, Einstein, and numerous doctors and nurses conferred. Small, medium, large, and principal-sized superheroes stood by ready to help. Was this a Hollywood movie set?

No, it was Palm Tree's "Trunk or Treat", our first ASB-sponsored activity of the school year! Special thanks goes to Mrs. Egwuatu for coordinating the event and our student body meetings.



Over 350 Palm Tree students and their families enjoyed the event. As one parent stated, "I'm happy to see how good the interactions are with the students and teachers. It was an awesome sight!" Thanks also goes to all of the staff members who contributed to the occasion; we are so proud to be both a Silver Medal Recognized PBIS school and a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School too! Treats, hearts, and adorable memories were all captured that afternoon.

Giving students voice impacts the entire school community. More importantly, it promotes school pride and helps to create a school environment that every student wants to be a part of. We Parrots are amazing!

Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carol Black
Principal

October Fun at Quail Valley

In October we had all kinds of fun things going on for our students at Quail Valley. There was a fall themed classroom door decorating contest hosted by our amazing PTO. The top winning classes received one of three prizes: a pizza party, an ice cream party, or class treats. We also had a schoolwide art contest! Ninety-three students entered it and submitted fall, harvest, or Halloween themed art. QV staff voted for their top three favorite art pieces and the artists were featured on the Quail Valley Kids Morning News program and they got prizes too. October ended with our 5th Annual Trunk-or-Treat Community Event on our campus parking lot. Parents and community members decorated their trunks and gave candy to students. Students and parents came in costume to trick-or-treat and enjoy some family fun. We can't wait until next year!



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

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

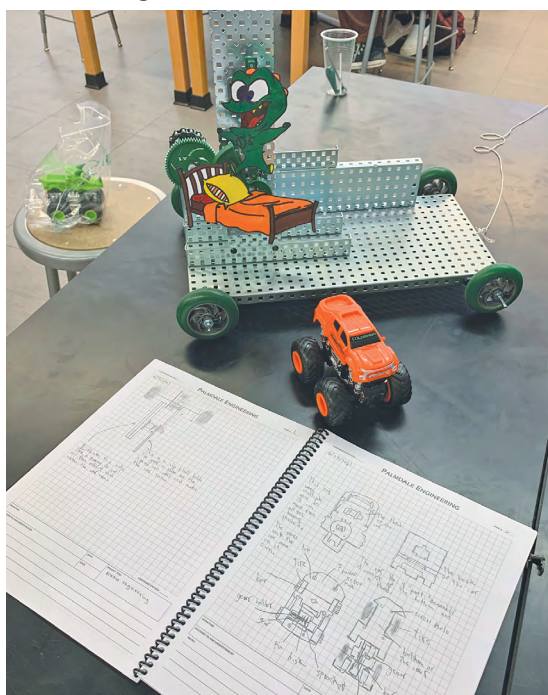
PLTW "Engineering" Pathway-Automation & Robotics

Students in our engineering pathway at S.A.G.E. explore Mechanical Engineering through Robotics. In Automation & Robotics, they learn about forces and motion, types of movement, speed and rotation, and the way gears work. Students learn about the eleven individual mechanisms through hands-on exploration, such as taking apart a mechanical toy car and putting it back together to observe how the gears work.

This observation

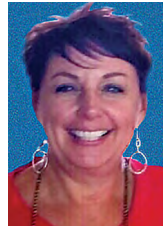
helped them prepare for their Pull-Toy Project. Students worked in teams to design and build a pull-toy using VEX Robotics parts. They were tasked to include two or more mechanical mechanisms working together that created movement when the toy was pulled by a string. Students documented their designs, tested their prototypes and made modifications throughout the process.

Here's one of the prototypes created in our PLTW: Automation & Robotics.



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

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

The Wheels on the Bus Go Once Again!!

The students at Shadow Hills are so grateful for the opportunity to learn outside the classroom! With the support of the Extended Learning Opportunity monies the district provided for us, we have already taken two AVID classes to Cal State Channel Islands for a college tour and there are more planned.

These ELO funds allow for access and equity for all of our Falcons to explore as most recently our SDC students were able to travel to the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and see the history they are learning in their classrooms come alive.



This trip was especially exiting for our eighth graders as this is the first field trip they have been able to participate on since attending Shadow Hills. Their smiles say it all! This is the Palmdale PROMISE in action!

Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



Marginese Streeter
Principal

Our New Social Emotional Learning Specialist

There is a growing need for mental health services at our school sites. Therefore, having an SELS (Social Emotional Learning Specialist) with a mental health background is crucial for the well-being and safety of our students.

Our own SELS is Annette Vasquez-Sanker, and she is one of the three original therapists that began the program in the Palmdale School District. Annette was originally placed at the middle school, and has since been transferred to the elementary school. She has been diligently helping our elementary students for the past four years, and specializes in those who have PTSD, depression, oppositional defiance, mood disorders, and autism.

Annette has a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's in counseling from CSUN. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist currently working on her doctorate in psychology. She also has a private practice in Palmdale specializing in trauma. She has 12 years of experience working with the DCFS as a social worker, which is beneficial because of our significant number of foster students.

Annette has the ability to build relationships with students and parents. When she is with a student, she treats all the parts of their lives, including school performance, family, community, and interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships with themselves. Her philosophy as a therapist when assessing a student stems from "Attachment Theory" and "Family Dynamic Theory." This means that she takes into consideration how the relationships we have can contribute to dysfunctional development.

Annette treats her students from a cognitive, behavioral theory perspective, which means that she helps her students become aware of their social emotional relationships and how it affects their interactions and learning.

Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Misti Larrick
Principal

Tumbleweed Health Office is Making a Difference!

We are blessed to have two amazing team members that work tirelessly to ensure our health office runs efficiently, effectively, and above all that it is safe. District Nurse, Michelle Carrigan, and Tumbleweed LVN/Health Aide, Roxana Guerra-Robertson, are a dynamic duo for sure. Their combined efforts, knowledge, passion, heart, and care for the safety and well-being of our students and staff make a difference each and every day. The constant changes, updates, mandates, protocols, and procedures that relate to Covid-19 and the effect on our schools has been



Michelle Carrigan and Roxana Guerra-Robertson

a challenge to say the least. These ladies have adapted quickly and have great systems and structures in place to meet these new demands. They do this all with big smiles and huge hearts that serve our Tumbleweed community. Tumbleweed celebrates Michelle and Roxy. THANK YOU to both of you. YOU make a difference!

Tamarisk *Renaissance School TK-5*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Annual Veterans Day Celebration

On November 8th, we held our Annual Veterans Day Celebration at Tamarisk Elementary. Mr. Maldonado along with

members of our PSD Board and directors, helped us welcome local, state and federal elected officials and other dignitaries. Together we were able to honor the 37 veterans that attended, including two of our own staff members that served their country. Our students expressed their appreciation for our veterans in attendance through song, dance and poetry. We would love to thank Ms. Harris who along with her committee went above and beyond as they prepared to put on our annual show. Thank you so much. It was truly a beautiful day to be a Tamarisk Tiger.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Gia Greaux
Principal

Field Trips

Yellen Learning Center has a uniquely consistent and thorough program for promoting positive student behaviors. Yellen's Level System for addressing behaviors is highly effective and efficient when implemented with strict fidelity to its program

components. Students at Yellen earn points throughout the day for meeting their behavior goals. These points are redeemed weekly in the student store. Students earn incentives, rewards, and privileges weekly based on their behavior. Field trips are scheduled monthly for students who have reached the highest level of the system and who maintain that status over time. These field trips are highly motivating for students. So far this year, our Level 4 students have participated in 2 highly motivating and engaging field trips. In September, they visited the LA Zoo and in October they visited Gilchrist Farms in Santa Clarita. Yellen students are highly motivated and looking forward to their next trip ice skating in November.



Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

38440 2nd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-5052 • www.palmdalesd.org/Page/4479



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Yucca's First Halloween Parade!

On the afternoon of Friday, October 29, 2021, our students dressed in their best costumes to participate in Yucca's first Annual Halloween Parade. Starting with our youngest TK and Kindergarten classes, our students got into a line and snaked and looped their way across our blacktop to show off their amazing costumes. Students who chose not to participate watched on as baseball players, clowns, doctors and princesses paraded by and waved. Yucca staff also participated and dressed to impress in their favorite costumes. This event allowed Yucca students from

all grades as well as certificated and classified staff to come together as a family and enjoy a fun and safe celebration. Our first parade was such a success we plan to make this an annual event at Yucca!



Contest!

These students are in this publication.

When you find them, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

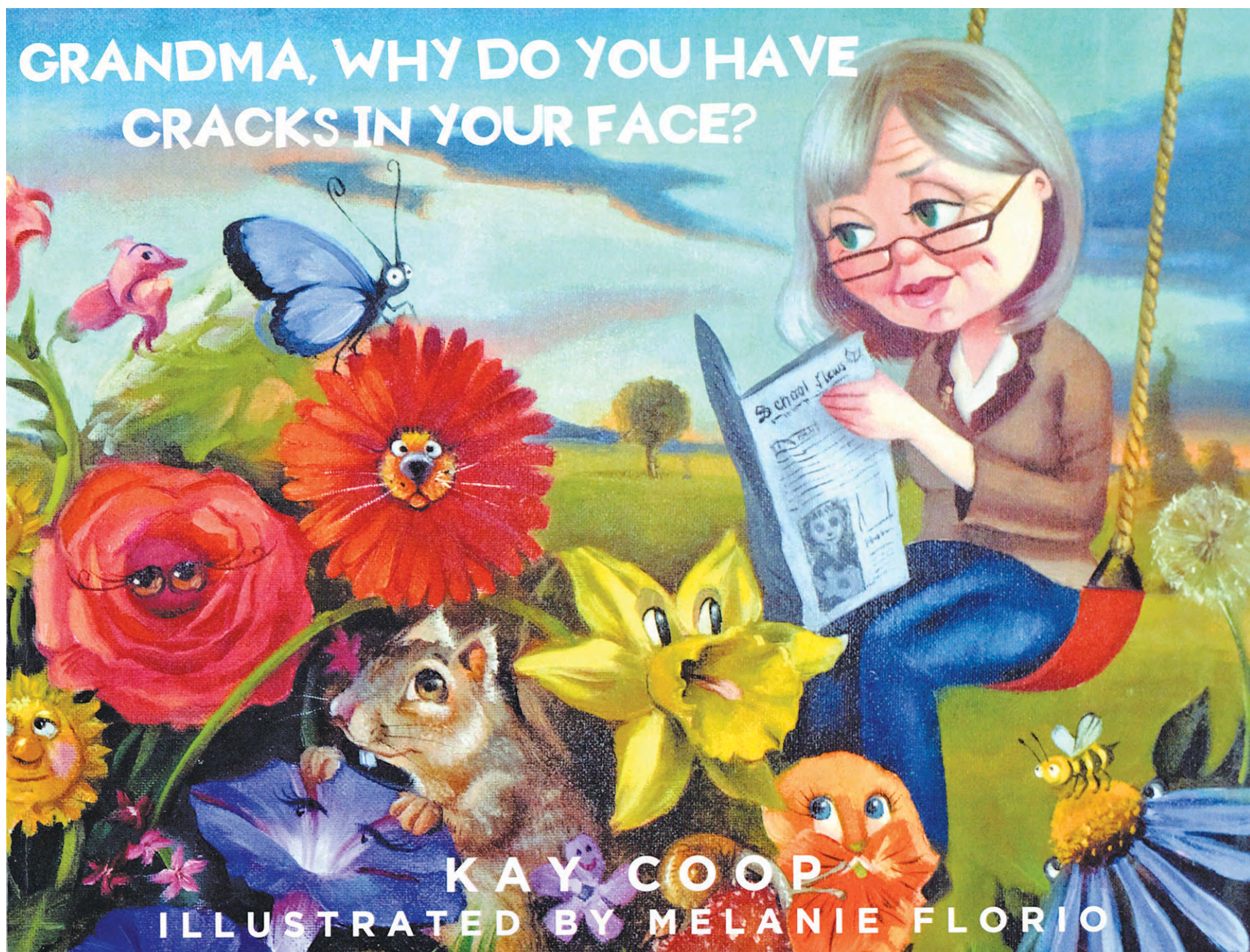
Please put Palmdale in the subject line

Your entry must be received by January 15, 2022

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



Congratulations to Ben Garcia
Winner of the October Word Search Contest!



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Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face? is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.