

SUPERINTENDENT



**Raul
Maldonado**

Thank You for Your Support

Dear Friends,
Community Members
and Supporters of the
Palmdale School District:

Two years ago, we
formed the Palmdale
School District
Foundation to support
our students, teachers and schools.
We just held our Second Annual
Foundation Dinner, and I want
to thank all of our partners who
donated funds to continue supporting
our arts, music, Science, Technology,
Engineering, and Math (STEM),
Science, Technology, Engineering,
Arts, and Math (STEAM), physical
education, and reading programs.

The foundation's goal was to raise
\$75,000. I am proud to report that
we met our goal. I would encourage
teachers and staff to be in the
lookout for the opportunities to write
grants. The grant opportunities will
be announced in spring 2019. Last
year, the foundation was able to
sponsor approximately \$35,000 in
grants. The foundation made many
students and staff happy by funding
projects and programs.

I would like to express my sincere
appreciation to the hardworking
members of the foundation's Board
of Directors, which represents a
diverse group of the community,
public agencies, private industries,
and educators. A special thanks to all
of our wonderful event sponsors and
volunteers who make this event possible.
Their generosity touches the lives of
many teachers, students, administrators,
and parents in our school district.

In particular, I would like
to acknowledge the generous
contributions of our partners. I want
to congratulate all of our schools,
principals, teachers, classified staff, and
parents for their hard work, dedication,
and motivation in supporting our
students in the city of Palmdale.

Palmdale Parents and Students Select Magnet Academy of Their Choice



Parents attending the Magnet Academies Parent Information Night

*By Barbara Gaines,
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Middle Grades and MSAP Grant*

Palmdale parents came out in full
force on January 16 and 23 to learn
more about the five middle school
magnet academies in Palmdale
School District (PSD) available
for their children to attend. Mr.
Jorge Maldonado, Coordinator of
the MSAP Grant, hosted the Parent
Informational Meetings at SAGE
Magnet Academy. Superintendent
Maldonado, Central office, the
MSAP team, site administrators and
teachers from each site were on hand
to answer questions and showcase
some of the academy electives
available for the children to take.

Palmdale School District is proud
of their five federally recognized
Magnet Academies. For the first
time, middle school students in
grades six through eight can select

See **MAGNET ACADEMY** • Page 11

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sharon Vega
President

A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends, Community Members, and
Supporters of the Palmdale School District,

I and the Palmdale School District
want to thank you for supporting the
Palmdale School District Foundation with
your generous contribution. The Palmdale
PROMISE is a strategic initiative that
follows our mission and vision for the
district. Together, we can radically enhance

outcomes for Palmdale's students.

Your participation is proof of your
commitment to the Palmdale
PROMISE.

I sincerely appreciate the
diverse representation of our
community, educators, private
industries, and public agents
that make up each foundation's
Boards of Directors. I also want
to offer a special thanks to all

event coordinators who make fund-raising events for
our foundation possible. Additionally, I want to thank
each and every one of our partners who has generously
contributed to our foundation. Without any of these
partners, the Palmdale PROMISE would not be possible.

I want to congratulate our schools, principals, teachers,
classified staff, and parents. Their hard work, motivation,
and dedication bring the Palmdale PROMISE to life. I
cannot wait to see the benefits this initiative will provide
in 2019 and beyond.

Board of Trustees



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Counselors Corner

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



Dr. Stacy Bryant
Deputy
Superintendent

Career Fair 2009

Students from the Palmdale School District got the opportunity to see and hear experts in a variety of career fields at the first annual Career Fair in February, hosted by the PSD school counseling team.

To celebrate National School Counseling week, our team of school counselors invited and welcomed more than 20 wonderful guest speakers to introduce their professions to our students. The Career Fair featured careers in law and government, medicine, science, technology, art, business, and much more.

We had the privilege of welcoming important people in our community, such as our PSD stakeholders, City of Palmdale Mayor Steven Hofbauer, AVUHSD School Counselors and Academics, L.A. County Sheriff Deputies, and Superior Court Judge Honorable Nancy Ramirez.

This event was created to give each of our students a purpose to reach high academic achievement. We want our students to develop their own personal career interests, and have a long-lasting passion to see their interests and dreams come to life.

Career development is a lifelong process through which we help our students understand themselves and how they fit into the world of work. We want our students to be prepared for the competitive and ever-changing 21st-century.



“Many students found their dream job at the career fair,” shared Camila Rodriguez-Garcia, an eighth-grade student at David G. Millen. “We should have these events more often.”



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This issue is filled with information from the Science Olympiad Silver Winners, Sports for Learning, Reading Intervention to the Importance of Health. I especially enjoyed reading the Palmdale Learning Plaza article on page 8...see how many of the museum items mentioned you can remember. Technology has changed everything!

Our next issue is May. Have a fun Spring Break!

School News

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**Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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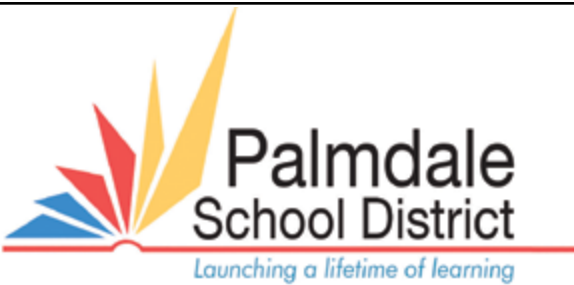


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Only online applications will be accepted at www.palmdalesd.org
To view all current job opportunities, click on
“Departments/Personnel Commission” then “Employment”

- ▶ Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant (Spanish)
- ▶ Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ Occupational Therapist
- ▶ Paraeducator-Certified Interpreter I/II (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ Substitute Health Assistant-LVN
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator-LVN
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator Moderate to Severe
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator Translator (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Paraeducator-Certified Interpreter (DHH)
- ▶ Substitute Special Education Instructional Assistant

Click on the link to “Apply.”

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

The Personnel Commission is located at
37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550

661-285-2902

Early Childhood Education

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



Donna Lebetsamer
Director

Brand New Classrooms

On March 2019, Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education Program is going to open the doors to five brand new, state of the art classrooms at Tumbleweed. This will be in addition to the five classrooms which are already there, for a total of ten classrooms.

Tumbleweed Head Start, will now offer ten full day classes. These classrooms will be taught by highly qualified teachers which all have degree's in Early Childhood Education and many years of experience within the district.

Five of the ten Classrooms at Tumbleweed will be "Dual Immersion", which means children will be taught in English and Spanish. This is a one of a kind program, a first of such offered to preschool children.



Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year begins in April. Please stop by the ECE office at 975 E Ave P-8, Palmdale Ca 93550.

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Buena Vista Story Club

In our pursuit of having each of our Panda scholars reading by the third grade, our learning community continues to brainstorm innovative ideas like the Buena Vista Story Club. The Club is for those kindergarten and first-grade students who are designated as English Learners. It is a program that helps build strong English-language skills in our EL students.

In this program, students are provided with multiple opportunities to read exciting and interesting books from different literary genres. They participate in discussions about the stories they have read to help stimulate their skills in critical thinking. They then complete projects based upon the books.



The Story Club supports the development of reading fluency, reading comprehension, and strong writing skills. At the end of this eight-week program, each student will earn a book to take home and keep, along with the confidence that they can read any book they put their minds to! Kudos to our dedicated librarian for taking the lead role in making our Story Club a success.

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Let's Go Bulldogs, Let's Go!

Barrel Springs Bulldogs gear up for student success! We kicked off our Student Success Project this school year with learning all about the power of "YET!" We are learning to add the word yet to the end of our statements. For example instead of saying, "I can't do this", we are learning to say, "I can't do this yet"! Our students also know it is all about not giving up and putting forth great effort to meet their learning targets every day.

Students set goals in both reading and math, track their effort with their "How's It 'Goal'ing" trackers to help keep their goals and achievements visible.

We are building habits for success.



Cactus *Middle School 6-8*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

Excited about the Future

Getting our students excited about the future is one of our main goals here at Cactus Medical, Health and Technology Magnet Academy. The entire staff encourages students to think about the future and establish goals.

The students learn through California Career Zone lessons, create digital portfolios, and take part in field trips to university and college campuses. They can also choose Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) as an elective.

In November, a select group of students visited California State University, Northridge (CSUN) for a tour of the campus and an in-depth presentation of their university's degrees and curriculum. During the tour, Cactus students were able to ask questions regarding CSUN's various programs, campus life, and extracurricular activities, which gave them a glimpse inside of a higher education environment. Cactus students were amazed by the variety of courses offered, the state-of-the-art gym, and the multitude of places to eat and socialize. Cactus students left the tour with CSUN memorabilia as well as a renewed sense of excitement about the future.

Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Parenting Partners

Chaparral Elementary School had its first set of Parenting Partners graduates for the 2018-2019 school year! Twenty-one parents graduated from the Parenting Partners program, a series of parenting classes in Chaparral's Parent Room.

Chaparral parent graduates expressed how grateful they are to have the Parenting Partners courses to help them become more effective and constructive parents. The graduates became a family within Chaparral, and many were appreciative of the opportunity to hear about others' experiences. These graduates understand that they are role models and leaders in their children's lives, and they are glad they have been able to further develop their skills. They learned the significance of communicating well and speaking positively in order to better support and nurture their children.

Parent graduates shared their successes at the graduation ceremony, including how their children's levels of cooperation had dramatically increased.



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Kindness Garden

This year Cimarron is focused on kindness and character. Each grade level is focusing on one of the Pillars of Character; Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Every Wednesday is Character Counts Day and students wear their grade level character color.

Along with character, our schoolwide focus is kindness. We take part in the National Kindness Challenge and we give a kindness challenge in our daily announcements.



We have started a Kindness rock garden at the front of our school. Every staff member and every student is painting at least one Kindness rock. Some of our rocks say words of kindness and some are just pretty pictures for everyone to enjoy. Everyone is welcome to add a Kindness Rock!

Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Importance of Health

Every day, our students are learning how to be healthy with the guidance of our physical education teacher, Mr. Dooling. After growing up with a diabetic father, he was inspired to educate others about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Because of this, he is teaching our students to be healthier by playing sports and exercising.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students can also participate in our Friday After-School Sports Program that is offered by Mr. Dooling. This great program was suggested by our ELAC parents and was enthusiastically received by our students! In October, interested students began the program and decided to first learn soccer skills. Right now, they are working on basketball skills but are looking forward to their next sport, field hockey! In the spring, Mr. Dooling hopes to offer this program to our third-grade student as well.



Desert Willow *Middle School 6-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Becoming Skillful!

Desert Willow is proud to announce the commissioning of a professional audio-recording studio, consisting of a 12-foot-by-9-foot studio area and control room. Our very own Keston Wright, who has an impressive professional resume as an engineer in the music industry, took the lead in equipping the Desert Willow studio with professional-grade equipment and software. We are teaching the process of recording and mixing. Stay tuned for a radio show, a podcast and sound for our students' short films created in Mr. Wicks' film program.

Desert Willow Students participating in our animation are immersed in an awesome animation program led by Kelly Jones. Students use industry-standard software to learn 2D animation that allows them to create multiplane animations as well as 3D animation software to learn how to model, surface, animate and render. Animation students are also creating motion graphics and learning how to use a green screen. Animation students also create and edit our multimedia school-news program.

So far this school year, the WEB Leadership class has learned about personal and character development and anti-bullying campaigns, and they are currently learning leadership skills. They have met with their sixth-grade groups a couple of times this year and continue to interact with them before and after school and at both lunches. They take it upon themselves to aid new incoming students, and they have stopped and reported fights and bullying on our campus. They have learned to speak up for one other and report to adults on campus. They are asked by other staff and students alike for help every week. This week, they are working on posters to help promote the upcoming The Great Kindness Challenge. Everyone can see their work displayed on the hallway walls as well as the windows in the eighth-grade quad

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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

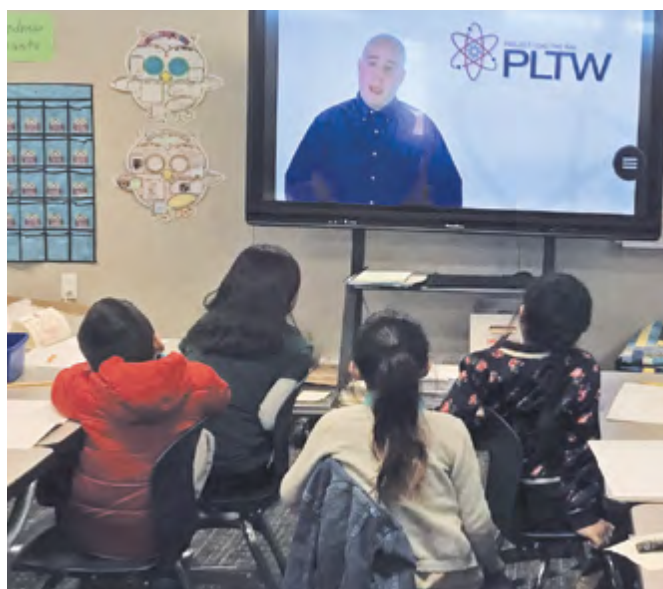


Laura Cervantes
Principal

PLTW K-5 Launch

Dos Caminos teachers are empowering students to discover and explore real-world problem solving that will prepare them for the 21st century. PLTW (Project Lead the Way) provides students with a transformative learning experience that is engaging and collaborative.

The curriculum consists of activities that build upon each other. Students are challenged to become confident in trying new things, to learn from mistakes, and to apply what they know to find solutions. Our goal is to inspire and prepare our students for lifelong learning.



PLTW is made possible by the hard work and dedicated teachers that elect to participate in professional development during summer break. Dos Caminos is proud of our supportive teachers and staff and their "whatever it takes" attitude.

Dos Caminos maintains a "students first" philosophy! Explorers all the way!

Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

In January, our fifth-grade students visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. Our students learned about the historical events during President Reagan's time in office from 1981 to 1989 as well as the president's personal history as a radio announcer, an actor and the governor of California.

The Air Force One Discovery Center interactive experience allowed our students to go back in time to reenact the U.S. invasion of Grenada on October 25, 1983. Students took on the roles of the White House Press Corps, top-level military advisors and President Reagan as they used their critical-thinking and decision-making skills to save American citizens living on the island. Students also had an opportunity to walk through Air Force One and Marine One, which transported several presidents all over the United States and the world.

We would like to thank the Reagan Library for awarding our school a grant to cover the cost of the buses for the trip. Our students had an amazing time!



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

Welcome, Stacy Lopez!

The Los Amigos Family would like to welcome Stacy Lopez as our new mariachi teacher! Ms. Lopez started playing mariachi music when she was in third grade. She was part of the first elementary

youth mariachi in LAUSD in the city of Huntington Park. She pushed boundaries as a music-education major at CSULA and was the first ever to declare the vihuela as a principle instrument in a classical setting. She now performs in an all-female group, Las Colibrí, and has performed alongside world-famous groups such as Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Mariachi Sol de México and Mariachi Femenil Nuevo Tecalitlán.

Palmdale School District caught her attention when they were specifically looking for a mariachi instructor, which is rare. She now works with students who have the same drive and interest as she had as a young child.



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Making Great Gains

At Joshua Hills, our Clinic Intervention Team is moving full steam ahead!

Learning Support teacher Anita Billeter leads the charge in giving extra help to struggling students. She has a team of five helping her carry out this important work on the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week. The team consists of four instructional assistants and a substitute teacher: Rosa Talavera, Sam Villatoro, Megan Farrell, Raymond Williams, and Lynne Hsia.

Our Clinic Intervention Team pushes into the kindergarten, first-, and second-grade classrooms the first two hours of the morning. The rest of the day the students in the first through fifth grades are pulled out of their classrooms to go to the two intervention rooms for 30 minutes of small-group instruction. Based on the STAR 360 results from the fall and winter, our students have made some big gains!



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

Science Olympiad Silver Winners

Teacher Mrs. Bolton coached students for the Science Olympiad this school year.

Congratulations to the Sensational Seven, Vincent Merrick, Brianna Merrick, Miguel Rosas, Paul Lovely, Noah Campos, Edward Escobar, and Kristian Bennett, who won a silver medal for Manzanita Elementary at the Science Olympiad competition, Saturday January 26th at Antelope Valley College.

Students worked diligently for 16 weeks, committing themselves to 20 different events that included research and taking observation notes on various topics, to building catapults, paddle boats, can race, pasta mobiles, egg drop and much more. Students not only increased their knowledge, they had a blast demonstrating what they learned at each event.



We are proud of the hard work, and dedication the students displayed and are honored to have them represent Manzanita.

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Parent Engagement

We are proud of our continued and growing relationship with the parents and guardians in our school community.

Mesquite hosts a monthly Principal and Parent Breakfast where parents are informed of upcoming events, plans, opportunities for involvement, and to provide input. Our parents and guardians are involved at Mesquite in three ways: parent learning, parent leadership, and volunteerism.

We also offer several opportunities at Mesquite for parent learning. Through Parenting Partners Workshops, Antelope Valley Partners for Health (AVPH) Parent Classes, and the upcoming CPR and First Aid Certification classes, the opportunity for parent learning is second only to that of our children.

Parents also serve as leaders in the community. Our English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC), the African-American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC), School Site Council (SSC), and Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), are all comprised of parent leaders working with Mesquite staff to better enhance student academic achievement and improve the overall campus environment.

Our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) does a fantastic job of providing funds to give Mesquite students unique learning experiences, incentives, reward activities, and family events. We are excited about our upcoming GATE Parent Council, and welcome a new perspective of parent leaders into conversation.

Mesquite would not be Mesquite without the gift of time from our parents and guardians. They volunteer as classroom helpers and field trip chaperons. They organize and run the Book Fairs, Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Dances, and many other student incentive activities. Beyond having time to offer, our parents also have talent! Mesquite parent volunteers instruct our four Folklorico Dance classes and conduct our student choir.

In January, Mesquite had the wonderful opportunity to host the PSD AAPAC “Unity in the Community” meeting. We are very proud to share our school with our Mesquite parents and guardians, as well as with all of the other parents and guardians in the Palmdale School District community.

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

A New Staff Member!

Hello, my name is Brandi Turner, and I am the Student Interventionist at Oak Tree Community Day School. I am currently finishing my senior year at CSU Bakersfield. This spring I will be receiving my bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in human services.

Education has always been an aspiration of mine. After facing personal setbacks, I am grateful to see my dreams being achieved. I was raised in the inner-city neighborhood of Watts, California. My parents were my heroes as a child, and I was determined to make them proud of me.

However, the sudden passing of my father at the age of four was devastating and traumatic. He and my mother believed that getting an education was important. As a result, my mother kept me active in after-school and mentor programs to shelter me from the temptations of our surrounding environment.

One of the highlights of my life took place during my sophomore year in high school. I was nominated, selected, awarded, and featured on ABC 7's Cool Kids segment highlighting the outstanding achievement in leadership qualities that I had displayed in community service. In addition to this recognition, I also received the Cesar Chavez Award for Outstanding Leadership in my community, presented by Mr. Chavez's granddaughter, Christine Chavez.

As a result of these honors, I was selected to appear on the Dr. Phil Show as a spokesperson on behalf of students who, like myself, love music. Unfortunately, due to limited funding, some schools find such programs unavailable.

I am happy to be joining the Palmdale School District family here at Oak Tree, and am looking forwarding to promoting the PROMISE for all of our students here on campus.

David G. Millen *Middle School 6–8*

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



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Helping Students Transition to High School

It is natural for students to have several concerns and multiple questions when transitioning from one school to another, specially from middle school to high school. Some students openly share their excitement and joy for starting anew, while others anticipate the new challenges, the information overload, and the ever-changing high school environment.

Our school counselor, Ms. Alamo, and every school counselor in the district all work diligently to make this transition lighter and smoother for our eighth-grade students.

To help our own eighth-graders transition to high school smoothly, Ms. Alamo has created special partnerships with eighth-grade English teachers Mr. Florence and Ms. Livingston. The goal is to present and share high school information with the eighth-grade students. An array of topics are covered at the presentation, everything from A-G requirements, credits, grades, report cards, sports, clubs, and helpful tips for high school success and academic achievement.

Ms. Alamo and each of the respective middle school counselors in our district have built a strong foundation with the surrounding high schools in our area. With the help of Highland High School, Palmdale High School, Pete Knight High School, and SOAR High School, we are able to make this transition a unique experience for our students.

From high school parent nights, to high school showcases, to the amazing roadshows, to the registration process; it is all because of the great leadership and common mission to prepare our students for high school and beyond.

Ocotillo *Elementary TK–5*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Lunch Bunch

Once a week, during the third- and fourth-grade lunch, Ocotillo Elementary School's speech room buzzes with student conversation and focused interaction. This group of students enjoying their lunch outside the cafeteria call themselves "The Lunch Bunch."

The Lunch Bunch is a social skills group consisting of both typical peers and students focusing on improving their social skills. These students are under the direction of Ocotillo's speech specialist, Jenni Grazer. As a speech/language specialist, Mrs. Grazer has set the goal of providing students with instruction in age-appropriate social skills, especially those outlined in the students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and those addressed in students' speech therapy sessions. The opportunity to practice these skills with typical peers and a facilitator is invaluable.

The structure of the Lunch Bunch sessions includes time for eating, conversation centered around a social topic, and a cooperative game. Skills addressed during the game include turn-taking, topic appropriateness, feelings, body language, posture, and teamwork.



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Continued Progress

The beginning of 2019 has been awesome for Palmdale Discovery Center (PDC)! This year we started a new adventure, with our programs located on two different school sites. I would like to share my appreciation for the wonderful staff members who work with our students in our preschool and Transitional Kindergarten through eighth-grade programs. Without their dedication and commitment, our programs would not be as successful.

We are very excited to be nominated for a second year in a row as a showcase school for Capturing Kids Hearts (CKH)! We utilize the strategies of CKH across both school sites in all of our classrooms. One of our top goals this year was to see extra improvement in the area of social communication skills. According to the results of one of our bi-annual assessments, the Student Annual Needs Determination Inventory (SANDI), the majority of our student have made progress in the area of social communication.

This year, we have started a very valuable Parent Night program, when we discuss a variety of topics surrounding Special Education. Parents also have opportunities to collaborate with staff and with one another.

The beginning of the school year has been very successful at PDC, and, as we move into the last quarter, we expect to see continued progress through the last day of school.

Palm Tree *Elementary TK–5*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

The Universal Law of Giving

Our students were deeply moved by the fires that were all over California this fall.

An exercise in altruism inspired our ASB to conduct a food drive at Palm Tree. The initial desire was to send food to the families affected by the fires. But upon receiving insight and direction from organizations that manage the needs of the people going through the crisis, we decided to assist the needy families in our own area.



The Parrots of Palm Tree donated enough food to fill 19 boxes. In addition, the ASB conducted a sock drive because winter was looming. We filled 11 boxes with brand new socks. We delivered four boxes of food to needy families in our school community, and sent the remaining 15 boxes, along with the socks, to Grace Resources. One of our fifth-grade teachers, Mrs. Egwuatu, spearheaded the drives as our classes competed to see who could donate the most.

Our students truly learned about the universal law of giving by practicing it first hand. Way to do it, Parrots! Palm Tree is definitely an "oasis" of education!

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Michael McNelis
Principal

Technology Museum

Remember dialing a telephone? Or when you had to develop film? What about a Sega Video Game System from the 80s, Kodak film, calculators, cassette tapes, or a video recorder and VHS tapes?

These are just some of the “old” artifacts that were featured in Melissa Wheeler-Vega’s second-grade classroom. These items were recently placed around the room as her students walked from each to each to try to identify their use. The children then chose an item, researched it, and developed a Google slide presentation to explain how it was used and how it had changed.

Her students’ inquiry into old technology led them to plan, organize, and lead their own Technology Museum. They then invited others to visit the Museum and watch their Google slide shows to explain the old technology. Our International Baccalaureate program encourages students to explore learning on their own, and these students did just that!



Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Latino Literacy is Growing

Last year our Parent Community Liaison introduced our Latino Literacy program to the parents. This was a 12-week program where parents of all languages came together to learn English via a reading program. This program was so successful that our parents asked if they could continue it and graduate to the Advanced Latino Literacy Program.

Anain Robles-Panduro, our PCL, heard them. First-time parents had the opportunity to participate in the Latino Literacy program in the fall, and then those from both last year’s program and this year’s were given an invitation to participate in the Advanced version which started in January.



The program works on expanding vocabulary and digging deeper into critical-thinking homework questions that engage both the parents in the program and the family at home. Our parents are excited to be learning a new language while also building their communication skills.

Shadow Hills *Middle School 6-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

The FalconBots Advance!

This past December, Shadow Hills had two robotics teams competing in the FIRST Lego League of the Los Angeles Regional Championship at La Canada High School. This tournament features 80 of the best robotics teams in the Los Angeles region. They compete for awards and post-season tournament berths.

One of the teams, the Nocturnal Astronauts, had an amazing tournament, earning second place overall and a berth in the 2019 FLL Razorback Invitational tournament to be held in May at the University of Arkansas. They will be the team representing the Los Angeles region at this tournament, an event that hosts FLL teams from around the world.



Axel Flores, Melanie Chacon, Valerie Rodriguez, Johnathan Perez, Stephanie Gonzalez, and Leo Rodriguez

In addition, the team also won a first-place trophy for Most Innovative Project solution. This trophy qualifies them for the first Global Innovation Award, which has a grand prize of \$20,000. Way to go, FalconBots!

Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Linda Brandts
Principal

Superhero Parent Committee!

This year, Summerwind had a float in the Palmdale Holiday Parade. Early in November, a parent committee was formed to design and build our float for this year with the theme of “Every Kid Has a Superhero.” They diligently met weekly until a few days before the parade to finish our float.

The float was magnificent! It was filled with our ASB students, peer mediators, committee members and staff. Our students carried the school banner in the front of the float, and our beautiful Folklórico group brought up the rear. All of our committee’s hard work paid off! We were awarded with the Mayor’s Award and “Best Large Float”!

A huge thank you to our committee members: Cecilia Cerna, Laura Chavez, Norma Barrera, Dolores Gutierrez, Elizabeth Onofre, Consolacion Jones and Wendall Jones.

SAGE Academy 6-8

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



Magnet Academy's January Launch

The spaceship S.A.G.E. is traveling faster than the speed of light! In November, our ASB sponsored two dances. After-school math tutoring was available for students. Our AVID students also visited AVC, and volleyball season ended with an awards banquet.

Our Eagles flew through December by attending the Saturday Promise Academy and club meetings like Mathletes, Cyberquest, and GLAM. The CAP and cheerleaders entered the Palmdale Parade. CAP won first- place in youth ROTC. The Planes and Drones students also entered their model plane in a competition for "Best Built and Best Piloted" plane and won!

Our Eagles experienced a voyage to Mars during their visit to the Columbia Memorial Space Center. They also participated in the Winter Concert and welcomed basketball season. S.A.G.E. welcomed the New Year with the creation of a Club Elevate, monthly attendance awards, and ELA tutoring after school.

Our parents embrace the ELAC and AAPAC meetings! Finally, our Eagles attended the AVC's Science Olympiad event. Our Eagles are definitely soaring!



Tamarisk Elementary TK-5

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



Sports for Learning

Tamarisk is focusing on educating the whole child and embedding opportunities for all students. This spring, Tamarisk has brought Sports For Learning to our school site. Sports For Learning creates programs for children that integrate STEM, PBIS and Soccer. Our goal in using STEM & Soccer programs is to help increase and encourage physical activity, incentivize attendance, introduce new skills, and build character. Our students are very excited and are looking forward to competing against Tumbleweed later this spring!



Yellen Learning Center K-8

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



Reading Intervention

Yellen School has implemented a Reading Intervention program for our 4th- 8th grade students called Read 180. *READ 180* is the leading blended learning solution that accelerates learning for struggling readers by merging the latest research in brain science, adaptive technology, professional development, and knowledge for school and life. There are three student components: Students work on the student application on the computer, they work with the teacher in small groups, and then they read independently at their instructional reading level. This program has proven to raise reading achievement by merging brain science, growth mindset, and ongoing assessment.

Our teachers and para-educators have had several days of training and are excited to see our students grow in their reading ability.



Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

A Collaborative Effort to Improve School Culture

The Tumbleweed Elementary School family has been working hard for the past two years in an effort to improve our school culture. We are collaborating with Dr. Anthony Muhammad, one of the most sought-after educational consultants in North America.

Dr. Muhammad has presented to our entire staff on three separate days and has met for three days with our site leadership team to provide coaching and strategic planning to improve our school culture. These sessions have all been very data-driven, allowing our team to take an in depth look at our current reality as it relates to our school culture. Our staff then used that data to develop and create a strategic action plan, which will be implemented over time.

We are learning about the factors that lead to a “healthy” school culture and gaining practical strategies to help us eliminate any possible staff divisions on critical issues of student learning. This work is helping our entire Tumbleweed family to lay the foundation for the creation of a powerful learning environment.



Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Students Benefit from the Generosity of Others

Right before winter break, over 300 Yucca students received NEW winter jackets due to the generous donation made by Northrup Grumman.

Representatives from Northrup Grumman, board members Nancy Smith, Dennis Trujillo and Simone Zulu-Diol, Superintendent Maldonado, and site staff were on hand to greet students and help them try on jackets.

Students left with smiling faces and warm jackets, and the volunteers left with warm hearts. We are beyond words at Yucca with the kindness and the magnitude of Northrup Grumman's donation.

At Yucca, we represent a family and a community. Northrup Grumman has been added to our family and we are forever grateful for their support and kindness towards our students.



which of the five academies they want to attend based on their CHOICE and interest, providing space is available. No longer is the student restricted to their neighborhood school. PSD received a \$15-million-dollar Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) grant in the fall of 2017, which supports the development of the magnet academies. Each academy has a very unique focused pathway even though they all share some common electives such as Band, Strings, Art, ASB, Foreign Language Lab, and Robotics that align to the community and are of high interest to the parents and students.

Cactus, a Medical, Health & Technology Magnet Academy offers students electives that introduce them to the many medical professions available. Courses are offered in Medical Detectives, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Anatomy, Junior Upcoming Medical Professionals (JUMP), and Hop-Sports Group Fitness to mention a few.

David G. Millen, a Law & Government Magnet Academy, inspires students with electives such as Mock Trial, PLTW, Intro to Media Arts, Civilizations, and others that introduce students to a career in law, law enforcement, and community leadership.

Desert Willow, a Fine Arts Science & Technology Magnet Academy promotes the imagination and curiosity of their students with unique classes in Film Literacy, Multimedia Animation, Dance, Digital Art and Choir.

SAGE, Space Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration Magnet Academy introduces their students to electives that highlight the workforce in the Antelope Valley such as Air Traffic Control, Airplanes and Drones, Civil Air Patrol, Rockets and Space Flight, and STEM Action Lab.

Shadow Hills, Engineering & Design Magnet Academy challenges their students with classes that promote interest in the engineering and design fields such as Geometric Design, Computer Programming and Game Design, Graphic Design, and Aviation.

Children are encouraged to attend the school of high interest to them. If students are planning to attend a school other than their neighborhood school, the Lottery is open for online applications on Palmdalesd.schoolmint.net beginning December 21, 2018. The Lottery will be held on March 8, 2019, and notices will be sent on March 10, 2019. The notice will either be the student being offered a spot at their school of choice, or informed that they will be on the waitlist. Additionally, they will be told what number on the waitlist they are. The goal of Palmdale School District is to place every child at the school of their CHOICE. Parents may call (661) 789-6751 or 789-6758 with any questions they have.

District Office (661) 947-7191 • Emergency (888) 474-8107

39139 North 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550

www.palmdalesd.org

Welcome and Enrollment Center

Child Nutrition.....

Educational Services.....

Health Clinic.....

Special Education.....

Student Services.....

Superintendent's Office.....

537-6100 (8am-3pm)

266-7280

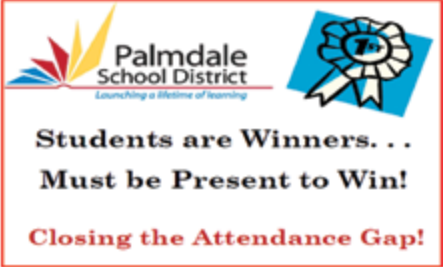
266-7233

537-6137 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)

456-1452

456-1457

266-7222 & 266-7220



Christina’s Book Review

Futuristic Series



Christina J.

Scarlet The Lunar Chronicles
By Marissa Meyer



This is the second book of the very popular series. There is a continuing story of a Cinderella-type character named Cinder from the first book, and it introduces a Red Riding Hood character named Scarlet. There is a lot of intense action and suspense in the book. The story is based in Dystopian future, where Cyborgs and Androids exist, along with Lunars, who come from Luna, a country on the Moon. The story takes place after World War IV and the world is nothing like we are used to. I like how well the story is written, and it reminded me a bit of Harry Potter-style of writing. I recommend the book to those who aren’t fans of science fiction, because it might actually change their opinion about the whole genre. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

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

Richard’s Book Review

Sibling Rivalry



Richard J.

The Lemonade War
By Jacqueline Davis



The is a book about the difficulties of a brother/sister relationship. The older brother Evan and his younger sister Jessie are complete opposites of each other. The brother is people-smart and the sister is math-smart. They start a competition on who could make the most money selling lemonade after Evan gets mad that Jessie is going to skip a grade and be in the same class with him. He feels that not only his kid sister is too smart for her age, but being in the same class with him she will embarrass him in front of his friends. The battle is on! However, after all this they both end up learning a good lesson about the undeniable value of teamwork. I like this book because it kind of relates to me and my sister. We often disagree with each other, but we always work better together. I give this book 4 out 5 stars.

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



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KELLY R.

Administrative Support Coordinator
Member Since 2017