



Tip Your Hat for Our Future Generation

On Friday, January 31, 2020, the Palmdale School District Foundation held their Third Annual Dinner. Tip Your Hat for Our Future Generation took place at the

University of Antelope Valley. It was super exciting to be able to see the community and its leaders come together for such a fantastic fundraising event for our students. The children are our future!

Contributions will go directly to our teachers and staff to enhance our students' educational opportunities. Some of the programs that this event will help are Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA), technology fluency, and athletics.

We want to thank our generous sponsors for helping us to promote excellence in education by providing valuable grant opportunities for our staff members. Community partnerships and relations are key to our community's success. The foundation grants will help to purchase additional supplemental materials to be used in our classrooms, which will provide hands-on learning activities. All students should have the opportunity to excel in school, and many students learn best with hands-on activities.

The mission of the Palmdale School District is to implement our vision with actions and services targeted to students, parents, and staff so our students can live their lives to their full potential, and we are grateful for the new opportunities these donations will provide.

PSD Schools Participate in Great Kindness Challenge

*By Candace Craven M.A. Ed.,
Coordinator of Extended Learning
and Community Outreach –
Educational Services*

During the week of January 27, did you see balloons with happy face emojis? Or were you asked, "Orange you glad you're here?" If so, you must have been at Summerwind and Manzanita Schools during the Great Kindness Challenge. Principals Marginese Streeter and Susan Summers encouraged their students and staff to think about kindness. Summerwind and Manzanita students joined over 10 million students from 19,797 schools in 103 countries to perform a total of more than 500 million acts of kindness.

The Great Kindness Challenge grew out of a chance meeting between an elementary school teacher and a high school student in 2006. From that meeting, Kids for Peace grew, and the Great Kindness Challenge was born. The challenge is an anti-bullying effort that helps



students realize everyone should be treated kindly, not just for one week in January, but every day.

The Great Kindness Challenge Web site provides a checklist of suggestions for kindness. Students chose to invite someone new to sit with them at lunch, smile at three students they did not know, and say thank you to a bus driver

See **THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE** • Page 11

Fulfilling Our PROMISE

By Dennis Trujillo, President

Thank you for this opportunity to become a part of the Palmdale PROMISE in action. I am excited to start off the year with enthusiasm and faith in the work we will be doing together for the children and our community. My hopes are high as we continue to focus on leading the district in high intellectual performance in our students, seeking outcomes and opportunities for equity, and being available to all in order to help build our children's strengths, cultures, languages, multilingualism, and multiculturalism. I hope to be a part of both empowerment and trust building for our community and our students.

My background is deeply rooted in the Palmdale community. Born and raised in Southern California, I moved here to the Antelope Valley with my wife and children in 1986. All of my children attended the Palmdale School District, and my wife, Cindy, is a teacher at

Dos Caminos Dual Immersion School. I worked for the Palmdale Water District for 18 years, and before that I was employed at Edwards Air Force Base for 14 years as an electrician.

Remember to continue our work in the community by Pursuing Remarkable Opportunities to Marshall Innovation, Inspiration, and Imagination for Success and Engagement (PROMISE). Let's make 2020 an extraordinary year by changing the world one school at a time!

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



By now students are settled into the new year with visions of Spring Break and their academic goals for this school year. In his issue you will read articles on subjects such as: Kindness Counts, the GATE program, acknowledging the noon supervisors, STARBASE, Strategies for Success and so much more...

We are celebrating 20 years publishing *School News* and there have been many changes especially in technology; however, the one constant is focus on academic achievement for all students.

Our next issue is May 6, 2020.

Counselors Corner

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

2nd Annual Career Fair

By Keisha Burns, School Counselor

Due to overwhelming response, the PSD School Counselors are hosting their 2nd Annual Career Fair on April 22 at S.A.G.E. from 5:30-7:30 pm. Students from the Palmdale School District will have an opportunity to learn from experts in a variety of career fields. The School Counselors invited more than 20 wonderful guest speakers to introduce their professions to our students.

Last year's Career Fair featured careers in a variety of fields including art, business, cooking, engineering, law/government, medicine, mechanics, science, technology, and barbering/cosmetology all of whom were invited to return this year. 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 Academies, LA County Sheriff Deputies, and Superior Court Judge Honorable Nancy Ramirez.

We want to expose our students to opportunities that will develop their personal career interests and create a long-lasting passion to see their interests and dreams come to life. In addition to the Career Fair, the School Counselors also teach classroom lessons focused on Career development. We understand this is an important process through which we help our students understand themselves and how they fit into the world of work. We want PSD students to be prepared for the competitive and ever-changing 21st century.

Save the date: April 22, 2020, See You There!!

2nd Annual Career Fair
on April 22 at S.A.G.E.
from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Look at these numbers! GOOD JOB PSD!

2019 State Indicator results have been published to the California School Dashboard.

Following the state wide trends, PSD showed improvement from 2018 to 2019.

For English Language Arts, PSD improved a dashboard level from orange to yellow, and in Mathematics, PSD maintained at the orange level. Average Scale Score and % of students achieving standard met or exceeded standard also improved.

of PSD Schools Showing Improvement or Maintaining their Dashboard Level!

23

22

English Language Arts Mathematics

19

18

Suspension Rate Chronic Absenteeism

of PSD Schools Improving Average Scale Score and/or % Met or Exceeded!

24

English Language Arts

20

Mathematics

of PSD Students Improving their Average Scale Score!

6,348

English Language Arts

5,733

Mathematics

Our students have been preparing all year and are ready to show us what they know!

* State Testing for 19-20 begins April 3. Please check with your school for their schedule.

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Kindness Matters!

During the week of January 27th to January 30th, our students, staff, and parents accepted the “Great Kindness Challenge.” The Great Kindness Challenge is a positive and proactive kindness initiative that has reached millions of students and families every year across the United States and other countries.

Our school had a wonderful opportunity that week to be proactive and demonstrate a positive culture of kindness. During the celebration, our students dressed to show their school spirit and commitment to being a kind person. They also had a kick-off assembly on Monday where they were excited to perform random acts of kindness like smiling to a friend and saying nice things to each other.

The students even had the opportunity during the week to make nice things for their parents, teachers, and friends during our lunchtime kindness station. They also had the opportunity to do different activities in the classroom, such as a door contest, kindness chain, offering positive affirmations, and writing thank-you cards.



Our staff also participated in the Kindness Tunnel. The week ended with a celebration assembly where the students could share their experiences of the Kindness Challenge, and note how they will continue their pledge for the rest of the school year.

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Minds at Work and Play!

At Buena Vista, we have a thriving gifted-and-talented educational program (GATE). The main approach we take to gifted education is enrichment and acceleration. An enrichment program teaches additional related material but keeps the student progressing through the curriculum at the same rate as other students.

While nurturing our students' gifts, we also like to have fun and learn at the same time! Mrs. Lake, our GATE teacher, loves



challenging their young minds with fun and exciting projects. During Halloween, the students were given a “witches brew” potion to create in class with their assigned groups. The goal of the task was to have the students critically think about why the potion was acting a certain way with different ingredients.

Our fourth- and fifth-graders get so excited about the different activities they get to do in class, and we really get to see their gifted minds at work!

Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

Kindness Counts

During the week of January 24–31, the students and staff at Cactus Magnet Academy took part in the Great Kindness Challenge. We are “changing the world, one random act of kindness at a time!”

Our week-long campaign for improving our school climate and student engagement included a commitment to performing as many acts of kindness as possible. Students were encouraged to practice kindness with themed dress-up days, including

Dreaming of Kindness Pajama Day, Twice as Kind Twin Day, and Teaming Up for Kindness Sports Day. Our eighth-grade Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) leaders handed out Caught Committing Random Acts of Kindness cards, and all students gave thank-you cards to teachers, campus supervisors, and other staff members to show appreciation and to spread kindness.

At Cactus Medical, Health and Technology Magnet Academy, we believe that in a world where our students can truly be anything, we should all strive to be kind!



Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

Capturing Kids Hearts

To build upon the Capturing Kids Hearts initiative adopted by our district, Chaparral Elementary has chosen to focus its attention this year on promoting kindness towards others on our campus. Each month, Chaparral recognizes students who have gone the extra mile to be kind to their peers and have demonstrated a sincere commitment to being a caring, honest, and respectful friend to others. If caught modeling kind behavior, students are recognized by having their picture taken, framed, and displayed for the entire school to see and celebrate them.

Chaparral is challenging students in every grade level to simply be kind to one another. They have embraced the belief that a kinder world is possible and it begins with all of us.



Phillip Walker, Jr. Phillip is the most kindhearted student we know. He is helpful to his friends, eager to help others and treats everyone with great respect. - Ms. King

Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Thank You!

A group that deserves the highest accolades is our noon-duty supervisors. At Cimarron Elementary School, that group includes Johann, Jocelyn, Maria, Rosa, Patty and Molly, who work hard to keep our students safe.

Our noon-duty supervisors build relationships with our students because they care. This is evident when walking the grounds. You will often see them assisting students who need a kind word or a helping hand. They model kindness and character on a daily basis, which reinforces our focus on these character traits. They go above and beyond every day.



Between their shifts, you will often see them around school volunteering in classrooms, making copies, overseeing rock painting, and helping in many other ways. We are so fortunate to have such a great noon-duty team at Cimarron!

Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

A Season of Giving

In November, a local church called The Well of AV provided all of the fixings for 50 families to enjoy Thanksgiving. Volunteers from the church and Desert Rose greeted each family and gave them all the supplies they needed to make their own delicious family dinners!

In December, The Well of AV also returned to our school and asked to adopt 15 families. In a wonderful expression of generosity, the church gave gifts to both the children and parents. Their generous gift-giving included items such as sheets and cookware, and even microwaves and refrigerators for some!



Inspired by the church's generosity, the Desert Rose staff (as well as friends and families) collected over \$2,000 to buy new winter jackets and pajamas for 53 of our students. These gifts helped to make their vacation especially warm and cozy.

A big thank-you goes to Pastor Juan and the generous parishioners of The Well of AV for making this a true season of giving.

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

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Achievement in Action

In January, we had the privilege of having two professional athletes speak to a selected group of students about goal setting, achievement, and what it means to pursue your dreams.

Former PSD student and Highland High School graduate Samantha Johnson visited our eighth-graders to share stories of her success, as well as the obstacles she faced on her road to playing professional soccer. Johnson, who graduated from USC before being signed by the NWSL's Chicago Red Stars, imparted the message of self-accountability. She encouraged our students to self-assess the various things in their daily lives, and then figure out how they could "Be Better." Johnson started the Be Better Foundation, and she currently does speaking engagements in California and Chicago.

Eric Calvillo of the San Jose Earthquakes also spoke about hard work and dedication, explaining exactly what it takes to be a professional athlete. On top of his motivational words, Calvillo also graciously donated equipment to the school and gave the children autographed pictures.



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Sarah Zepeda
Principal

Holiday-Inspired Evening

By Javier Tapia, Assistant Principal

Dos Caminos celebrated its first Family Literacy Night this past December. Our families had the opportunity to participate in a holiday-season-inspired Literacy Night filled with reading opportunities and arts and crafts connected to children's literature.

Our fabulous second-grade teacher, Mrs. Wilson, read a great holiday book titled *Simon and the Bear, a Hanukkah Tale* by Eric Kimmel to our young Dos Caminos explorers while their parents also enjoyed a wonderful book read out loud. Dos Caminos students were also involved in the hands-on experience of creating crafts related to some of the elements found in the story that they read with Mrs. Wilson. After they completed their arts and crafts, they all were able to take a picture with Santa Claus and take their arts and crafts home to proudly display during their winter break.



Dos Caminos students and families had a blast at our First Family Literacy Night! We can't wait for our next Family Night!

Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Grizzly Beats!

Can you feel the beat? Grizzly Beats, that is! Golden Poppy has a brand-new music program for fourth-graders called Grizzly Beats. Grizzly Beats is a basic music-theory experience, with an emphasis on drums and percussion. Plenty of research indicates that drumming has a positive impact on the development of the brain as well as many positive health benefits. It's also really fun!

Each fourth-grade class at Golden Poppy spent a month taking the class, which was team-taught by fourth-grade teachers Mrs. Landin, Mrs. Gann and Mrs. Anderson along with kindergarten teacher Jeff Mitchell. The students were given a practice pad and a pair of sticks to take home and practice. They practiced skills like snare rolls, paradiddles and other special challenges.



As the semester progressed, Mr. Mitchell invited 13 students to join our Grizzly Beat performance team. Thanks to LCAP support and the Palmdale PROMISE, our school purchased some brand-new equipment for the team!

The team completed their first performance at the District board meeting in January and was a smashing success! Congratulations to the Golden Poppy Grizzly Beat Performance Team!

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

Project Lead the Way

Our year has started with amazing things happening here at Los Amigos. We continue to work on community involvement here at Los Amigos. Our 8th grade Project Lead the Way (PLTW) students have created and are looking forward to testing their Therapeutic toy presentations as a collaboration with Buena Vista school students. We also had our Parenting Partners awards presentation for all our parents who participated in this very informative parent involvement class. We continue to grow and collaborate with other schools and community. A wonderful and exciting way to lead in the Palmdale School District.



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

More than Enough!

At Joshua Hills, we are focused on our theme, "I Am Enough!" Staff and students alike have stepped up to the plate with this theme and are doing more than enough.

Our extracurriculars have seen an increase in participation, and our students have many options because our staff has committed to making them available. Thanks to the following staff members—Ms. McNairy, Ms. Love, Ms. Gomez, Ms. Heads, Ms. Senegar, Ms. Gerrety, Ms. Everson, Coach Violeta and our guest teacher, Mr. Meza—our students have been able to take part in Fine Arts, Folklorico, Art Club, Book Club, ASB, Books and Sports, and Hand Bells, just to name a few. We've had many spectacular events that many staff and students have not only participated in but have enjoyed going to.



Fine Arts put on a great holiday show for our board presentation and school site, Books and Sports has had two tournaments in volleyball and basketball, ASB put on an attendance dance for the first semester, and Hand Bells had their first show in February. Joshua Hills has many more exciting events this next semester, and we can't wait!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Strategies for Success

Oak Tree Community Day School is one of the best and most effective institutions for matching positive behavioral interventions with at-risk students in Antelope Valley. Oak Tree School supports the Palmdale School District in providing structure, support, and a safe learning environment for at-risk students. These supports include consistent implementation of focused behavioral expectations, adherence to strategically planned lessons, student recognition, and student attendance expectations.

Oak Tree Learning Center is proud to implement our Student Leadership Peer Advisory Panel. These leaders use Accountable Talk strategies and anti-bullying disciplines to redirect and counsel students in need of intervention, helping to change counterproductive behaviors that hold them back from the growth and development needed to return to their zoned schools. A panel of student leaders and staff discuss the interventions with the students. Inappropriate behaviors are addressed, positive strategies are agreed upon, and a plan is implemented. Students learn strategies to improve conflict resolution, and mutual trust is developed within the school. This strategy has been met with passion, direction and success at Oak Tree.

Our students are working hard. This includes academics, behavior modification strategies, and interpersonal skills, which will serve them well in school and in their future endeavors. Our staff is committed to working with the "whole" student. Our work is complete when we watch them walk out the door with their heads held high on their way to a bright future.

Want to learn more about our program? Tour our campus, talk with our scholars, or have a conversation with our students who have returned to their zoned campuses.

Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Susan Summers
Principal

Making a Real Change!

Manzanita Elementary School's "Girls on the Run" team participates in a nonprofit organization which is dedicated to creating a world where every girl can activate her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her own dreams.

The program incorporates running, but the girls also learn to understand themselves, value relationships, and share teamwork.

At Manzanita, the Girls on the Run team meets every Thursday and Friday. They work for the first 45 minutes on a confidence-boosting and character building curriculum, and for the last 45 minutes in a running activity that puts their lessons into practice.

The girls recently ran their first 5k at Whittier Narrow. They then wrapped up their season with a school-wide "Penny War" fundraiser that collected an astounding \$1,558.00 for St. Jude's Hospital.

After 10 days of fundraising, the Girls on the Run team held an assembly for the entire school. Here the girls not only revealed the amount they had raised, and the winning grade level, they also shared with the entire student body how much of a difference this fundraiser was going to make to the community, and how much they have been positively affected by seeing their school come together in such a manner.



After the assembly, the students, parents, and staff members of Manzanita exited the cafeteria with faces sticky with smiles, laughter, and just a little bit of whipped cream. But their hearts were full knowing that they had made a huge change in the lives of others.

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

STARBASE

The fifth-graders at Mesquite Elementary School are participating in STARBASE! STARBASE is a five-day study trip learning opportunity for fifth-grade students, which takes place at Edwards Air Force Base.

At STARBASE, students are motivated to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) as they collaboratively work together to complete various engaging, hands-on learning experiences. The students learn about physics, aerodynamics, nanotechnology, robotics, navigation, and mapping during their five days at STARBASE. While completing terrific STEM learning activities, students actively engage in higher-order thinking skills as they problem solve to finish complex tasks. Additionally, students get to talk with and work alongside industrial leaders.



Aiden Age, a fifth-grader from Mrs. Boyd's class, shared, "It was really great and fun to make rovers and space shuttles, and I think that anyone would enjoy STARBASE!"

The Mesquite fifth-grade students and staff truly appreciate the STARBASE learning opportunity!

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Santa Visits Ocotillo!

Santa made a stop at Ocotillo on Wednesday, December 11 for our annual Movie and Craft night with Santa fundraiser! Students and parents had the opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa, watched holiday movies and made various crafts such as pinecone Christmas tree ornaments, reindeer food, candy cane reindeer and snow globe ornaments.

Fifth grade students who are raising money to attend Outdoor Science School in May became our worker elves and helped to run the event. Along with the activities we sold food, had raffles and had lots of fun! All money raised at the event went right back towards our worker elves' Outdoor Science School tuition.



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Great Efforts Everywhere!

It has been a great year thus far here at PDC! As we are entering into the last quarter of our 2019–20 school year, I would like to give a huge thank-you to our wonderful staff!

Both our certificated and classified staff drive the instruction in our program. Our main focus for our students is to see improvement in social

and communication skills. We have seen improvement in every classroom in these areas. I would like to thank all of our staff members for their positive contribution in our students' education. For our students from preschool through eighth grade, it is our promise that we will provide them with an individualized-education program that is effective and appropriate for every student.

I am happy to announce that Palmdale Discovery Center is a nominee for the Capturing Kids' Hearts showcase school for the third year in a row.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and we will be providing students with many activities focused around autism awareness. This is also a month in which we make an extra effort to educate our community about autism. Please join us in celebrating our students here at Palmdale Discovery Center!



Palm Tree Elementary TK–5

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Engaging Students Through Science

Our Palm Tree Elementary School Parrots were geared up for the Science Olympiad Tournament on February 1 at Antelope Valley College. They participated in events such as the egg drop, the tennis ball catapult and pill bugs. These activities test their science skills in a fun way. We're so proud of their efforts!

After weeks of preparation, our scholars are also excited to show off the skills they have acquired at Palm Tree's first-ever morning robotics club in conjunction with our Science Olympiad club. Robotics is providing our students a solid foundation

of information technology skill, digital citizenship, authentic learning experiences, and a love of research and reading.



Our staff and students would like to express their gratitude to our outstanding librarian assistant, Mrs. Heming, and Mr. Castro, one of our fourth-grade teachers, for fostering students' individual interests, creative pursuits, and intellectual risk-taking through our morning robotics/Science Olympiad class.

Palm Tree Parrots are amazing!

Palmdale Learning Plaza K–8

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Thriving and Transforming Lives!

Access to the arts is vital for a balanced educational experience. In the International Baccalaureate Program, our students are challenged to push their creative boundaries and cultural expectations while also developing analytical skills and connections to language arts, science, math, and technology.

PLP currently provides a variety of entry points to engage learners in the visual and performing arts. Quaver Music and Arts Attack provide classroom teachers with the tools they need to integrate music and the visual arts daily. Our instrumental music program provides all students with the opportunity to explore theory, appreciation, and participation on various levels.

Before and after school, our students are also able to participate in chorus and the Laity LEAP after-school program. In our MYP, or Middle Years



Program, students participate in all aspects of VAPA as instructed by our IB VAPA teacher, Mrs. Lighston. The school also celebrates Music in Our Schools Month in March. The visual and performing arts are thriving and transforming lives at PLP!

Quail Valley Elementary TK–5

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



Carol Black
Principal

Students Love These Programs!

Quail Valley is offering a variety of after-school activities this year, including engineering and design, robotics, math tutoring, Chess Club and dance. This year, our new Dance class has really taken off! Ms. Henry and Mrs. Montiel are working together to create an environment where students are able to show their talents through ballet and other types of dances. The Dance group performed at the holiday program and were a big hit with students and parents, too. They will perform at other events this year, such as Breakfast with the Superintendent, the African

American History Program, our annual QV Talent Show and the Palmdale Playhouse later this school year.



We are so proud of the students and their instructors, and we look forward their next performance! #QV LEADS!



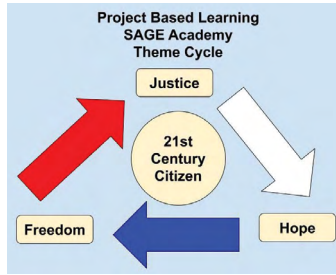
Larry Lueck
Principal

Project-Based Learning

Our social studies department is buzzing with excitement as they implement thematic Project-Based Learning (PBL) units at SAGE Academy. The department worked diligently over the summer to create three thematic units. Each unit culminated with a “celebration of learning” led by the students (pictured).

For the justice unit, students built video-based public service announcements, Scratch (programming language) animations, or computer games. They also wrote legislative bills around issues of “justice.” The students reported increased excitement and interest in their history class as a result of these hands-on projects.

An important component of the PBL units are the social emotional themes. Our teachers and counselor have integrated the social emotion theme of justice



into their daily lessons, and it is now a critical element of the product/performance created by the students. Student voice and choice is what PBL is all about!



Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*



Marginese Streeter
Principal

Becoming Confident Readers

System 44 is a program that is providing our students with direct instruction in foundational reading skills, reading and comprehension of both literature and informational texts, and writing, speaking/listening and language skills. Students receive whole-group and small-group differentiation in System 44 with fidelity.

The Summerwind students who are enrolled in System 44 are making amazing progress! The average rate of growth for Summerwind students enrolled in System 44 is 246 Lexile points. A Lexile gain of 246 points is astounding, especially when the average gain is approximately 100 to 150 points.



Mrs. Park, our Learning Support Teacher, is phenomenal. Students can participate in whole-group differentiated instruction, computer software learning,

and guided reading with the help of Mrs. Park. This program, combined with the experience and expertise of our Summerwind teachers, contributes to our students' strong reading growth.

The children at Summerwind really enjoy System 44, and they are making huge progress with the program.



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Celebrating Our School Counselor

Dr. Keisha Burns is the counselor at Shadow Hills. She is our WEB leader, academic advisor, lead mediator and all-around problem solver. Dr. Burns is an integral part of welcoming new students to campus, as she meets with them to share what services she provides and how they can reach out to her when they need support. She then lovingly hands them over to a very competent WEB leader who shows them around the campus.

Most recently, Dr. Burns successfully applied for and earned the RAMP (Recognized ASCA—American School Counselor Association—Model Program) recognition for our school. RAMP schools have shown a decrease in office referral and tardies and have an increase in attendance, GPA and postsecondary education. Shadow Hills is only one of 38 school nationally and just four in the state to be recognized with this honor. Shadow Hills is very fortunate to have Dr. Burns!



Tamarisk *Renaissance School*



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Warm Gifts

In December, our Tamarisk Elementary School family had the pleasure of hosting our friends from Northrop Grumman's Employee Coat Drive. Promptly at 8:40 a.m., our students lined up, and each received a wonderful warm coat to keep them snug during the cold months. Our students were beside themselves as they entered our cafeteria, five at a time, where each was welcomed as a guest of honor. Over 400 students received free jackets.



A special thanks to our Tamarisk family, who came together to make sure that our neediest students benefited from this kind gift. I am also very grateful to our friends at Northrop Grumman and to our community partners who supported the event, including our wonderful friends at Yum Yum Donuts, who provided donuts early in the morning.

Truly great things are happening at Tamarisk!

Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Misti Larrick
Principal

Celebrating Our PTA

Tumbleweed PTA is made up of a small but mighty group of parents that go above and beyond for our staff, students and families. This year is no exception. PTA has scheduled multiple family fun night events, including Read Across America Game Night, Camp Read-a-Lot, Holiday Boutique, and Father-Daughter and Mother-Son Dances, just to name a few.

This past December, our PTA surprised us all by arranging something very special. They provided and hand-wrapped over 720 individual gifts for every student. They spent countless hours wrapping gifts and preparing for the surprise. They were able to get Santa to come to our school before winter break and help hand-deliver the gifts to each and every student during our holiday performance assemblies. Needless to say, there wasn't a dry eye in the auditorium when we all witnessed the pure joy and exhilaration of the students.

Tumbleweed PTA rocks!



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Claudette Ward-Konovalov
Principal

Joy and Laughter

Yellen Learning is proud to be in partnership with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Researchers and experts agree that pets excel as therapeutic agents, and that dogs are an antidote to depression.

Studies have shown a decrease in both blood pressure and stress levels during a visit from a therapy dog. Our students are very excited to interact with the dogs, and they look forward to their monthly visits. Visits from therapy dogs break the daily routine. They can increase overall emotional well-being and stimulate the mind in dramatic ways.

Dogs can help bring children joy and laughter, even if for a short time. They also take the child's mind off of personal problems, aches, pains, or worries. They provide soft, comforting fur to be petted and stroked, and can act as an icebreaker in getting children to share their emotions and stories.

Therapy dogs also create an opportunity to develop and enhance socialization skills. They allow children to help develop a relationship in which they are simply seen as a friend, and not a child with a disability. They provide healthy, non-judgmental support and motivation, and can lower stress levels, thus optimizing learning capacity. Thank you to Angelique Milillo for helping set up this program at Yellen!



Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Clarinets, Flutes, and Trumpets, Oh My!

Yucca Elementary School is proud to present our new school band! This year we are fortunate to participate in an elementary school music program. Our fifth-grade students receive music instruction two times a week as well as opportunities to participate in an afterschool music class and to practice nightly at home.

The band had their first formal performance at Yucca's fifth-grade Holiday Performance in December, and the students were phenomenal. Under the direction of Ms. Gilreath, our students played a variety of songs that demonstrated their emerging abilities. Our students had been using instruments on loan from the middle schools, but in January, all fifth-grade students were presented with brand-new instruments to use for the remainder of the school year.





We are excited that our students have early opportunities for instruction in music, and we hope they will continue their musical careers into middle school and beyond.

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

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



Palmdale School District
Launching a lifetime of learning

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

Closing the Attendance Gap!



or child nutrition worker. The Web site also suggests that students “sprinkle kindness like confetti,” and students and staff from both schools did just that.

During the Great Kindness Challenge, students were greeted by signs with positive messages, high fives, and fun music. Bright yellow balloons festooned Summerwind, while Manzanita had brightly colored signs. Manzanita celebrated staff with oranges, cheese puffs, and orange T-shirts, reminding them “Orange you glad you’re at Manzanita?” At Summerwind, staff and students dressed like rock stars because “kindness rocks.”

Participation in activities like the Great Kindness Challenge, which was started by a student, reminds us all that anyone can create positive change, one act of kindness at a time.



Things to Sit On Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Palmdale in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| SOFA | BED | BLEACHERS |
| CHAIR | BUNK | SIDEWALK |
| CAR SEAT | ROCKER | STREET |
| TRACTOR | BENCH | TRUCK |
| TRIKE | GROUND | VAN |
| BIKE | GRASS | SWING |
| MOTORCYCLE | BLANKET | |

**Congratulations Jayden Hernandez
winner of our December Contest!**

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



LOOK AT THESE NUMBERS! GOOD JOB PSD!

2019 State Indicator results have been published to the California School Dashboard. Following the state wide trends, PSD showed improvement from 2018 to 2019. For English Language Arts, PSD improved a dashboard level from orange to yellow and in Mathematics, PSD maintained at the orange level. Average Scale Score and the % of students achieving standard met or exceeded standard also improved.

of PSD Schools Showing Improvement or Maintaining their Dashboard Level!

23 - English Language Arts

22 - Mathematics

19 - Suspension Rate

18 - Chronic Absenteeism

of PSD Schools Improving Average Scale Score and/or % Met or Exceeded!

24 - English Language Arts

20 - Mathematics

of PSD Students Improving their Average Scale Score!

6,348 - English Language Arts

5,733 - Mathematics

State testing for 19-20 begins April 3
— please check with your school for their schedule.

**Our students have been preparing all year
and are ready to show us what they know!**

