

SUPERINTENDENT



Raul Maldonado

We're So Ready

Safety is on everyone's mind. Palmdale School District is on the cutting edge of school safety. County officials have inspected our schools, and each school complies. When it is time to reopen, we will be ready.

We are very proud of all the preparation and planning that has taken place as we get ready to reopen schools. We are so proud of our staff for making significant progress in making our schools safe. Our team prepared a safety video to show everyone how proud we are of all the measures we have taken to prepare. Dr. Campbell has worked with videographers to show the public all the safety measures we have implemented at our school sites, district offices and departments.

You will observe that all school sites have multiple temperature scanners, touchless thermometers and safety measures in place in the video. Masks and health screenings are required of everyone on-site. Further, sanitizing wands are used on our buses, classrooms, worksites and offices. High-traffic, high-touch surfaces are continually cleaned. Plastic shields are in offices, on student and teacher desks, and in reception areas. Hallways, classrooms and offices have hand-sanitizing stations. An ample supply of personal protective equipment is maintained for the entire district. The iWave needle-point bi-polar ionization purifier breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold and allergens. The devices are already installed in each air-conditioning unit across the district.

Keeping students and staff safe is part of the Palmdale PROMISE: we will continue to make our students, staff and families a priority. We can all help drive down the number of positive COVID-19 cases by continually washing our hands, keeping social distance, and wearing our masks. Please keep safe!

Safety: Our Top Priority

By Candace Craven, Coordinator, Extended Learning / Community Outreach

If you have been by a school site picking up materials, library books or lunch, you have seen some of the safety measures the schools have implemented to keep students, parents and staff safe. Everyone knows that masks, gloves and face shields are being used and are available at the site for both students and adults. But not everyone knows what has been added to the inside of the schools.

First, each and every site now has iWave needle-point bi-polar ionization air purifiers installed inside every HVAC unit. The ionization process kills mold, bacteria and viruses in the evaporator coil and throughout the breathing space. It also reduces allergens, smoke, odors, static electricity and dust particles.

Hand-sanitizer dispensers and soap dispensers are in each classroom, office and hallway. Certain staff members are assigned to wipe high-traffic areas such as door handles and counters on a regular basis throughout the day. Enter and exit pathways have been marked to minimize contact, and signs and floor markers remind everyone to stay six feet apart. Sites have multiple thermometer kiosks, some that can scan 30 people at one time, in addition to handheld touchless thermometers.



Sanitizing wands are used to disinfect classrooms, offices, buses and restrooms on a regular schedule. In the cafeteria, the staff prepacks lunches, and only your child touches their food. Libraries deliver books in ziplock baggies similar to the way technicians deliver laptops, hotspots and headphones.

When schools reopen, Palmdale School District will be ready to do everything we can to keep your children safe.

For more detailed information, see the COVID safety videos [here on our website.](#)

We All Work Together

By Ralph Velador, Board of Trustees President

This is my 5th year on the Board and my first as Board President. I am looking forward to working for families of the Palmdale School District in this new role.

A recent Board action created a Dependent Charter High School that will open in August 2021. Parent input helped to shape this decision. The Board also responded to parent requests for more Dual Immersion opportunities by creating neighborhood plaza schools. With four plaza sites across the district offering the same biliteracy opportunities for students, they are closer to home.

Choice is part of the Palmdale PROMISE as shown in the Magnet Schools Pathway Program, and the plaza schools Dual Immersion Program. The programs we offer come as the result of input from students, parents, and the community. The Palmdale PROMISE works when we all work together and I am excited to work with you.

Board of Trustees



Ralph Velador
President



Simone Zulu-Diol
Clerk



Nancy Smith
Member



Sharon Vega
Member



Anthony Hunt
Member

THE GREAT RATE DROP

NEW OR USED, NOW GET THE SAME GREAT RATE.



YANNA T. & Family | MEMBER SINCE 2011

AS LOW AS

2.44% APR

NEW OR USED

APPLY NOW
schoolsfirstfcu.org/autoloans

SCHOOLSFIRST 
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rate quoted includes a 0.75% discount for payment made by automatic transfer from your SchoolsFirst FCU account. Terms and conditions are subject to change. All loans subject to approval. SchoolsFirst FCU auto loan rates range from 2.44% APR - 18.00% APR on new and used autos. Financing available up to 100% of the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price on new autos (Kelley Blue Book Suggested Retail Value on used autos) or purchase price, whichever is less; plus tax, license, documentation fees, GAP Plus and Mechanical Repair Coverage.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung
COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia
SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik: By Neta Madison

@SchoolNewsRC

SchoolNewsRollCall

SchoolNewsRollCall



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of School News Roll Call, LLC. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Palmdale School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



If you saw the movie Groundhog Day, you may feel like you are living it in reality. However, in this issue you will read how the teachers are motivating and connecting with students during this pandemic.

Hopefully, soon we will be able to look back on this pandemic. In the meantime, being optimistic is key.

We have converted all of our publications to digital and the response has been excellent. Thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest (open to all ages) on page 15. Our next issue is May 5.

Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being

Anti-Complacency

By Alecia Woods, MS, SNS, CDM, CFPP, Director of Child Nutrition

With the continuation of drive-through meal service, it would have been easy to recycle our first semester menu and coast along on cruise control. Not these lunch guys and gals! In an effort to keep healthful food fun and encourage the normalcy of coming to school, we are trying out new menu items throughout the winter and spring. Seasonal promotions include heart shaped nuggets for Valentine's Day, shamrock cookies for St. Patrick's Day, and more! New menu items include Cuban Pork Bowls, BBQ Chicken Wrap, butternut squash, and broccoli slaw. We hope these promotions keep our valuable customers coming back every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



SELebrations! Social Emotional Connections

Mental Health

From the Special Education Department

The Palmdale School District implemented staff professional development in the area of Mental Health beginning in March 2020. This series of professional development was created in an effort to address the challenges that were presented by the pandemic and shift to Distance Learning. The professional developments are delivered through free webinars that are available to all district staff.

All topics have an emphasis on helping students and staff well-being making sure they feel supported and understood. Topics include-Trauma Informed Practices Training, Suicide Risk Assessment, Bullying Prevention, Parent/Caregivers, and Foster/Homeless Youth. Additional topic areas will be added as the school year progresses.

Presenters include highly qualified staff from within the district including our very own Social Emotional Learning Specialists, Counselors, and the Mental Health Professional Community. The Palmdale School District places a high priority on the mental health of its students and staff.



You may contact Aaron Yoscovitz, PSD Mental Health Liaison at ayoscovitz@palmdalesd.org for more information about the Mental Health Professional Developments.

Early Childhood Education

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



Melanie Culver
Director

Supporting Our Early Childhood Education (ECE) Families!

During these unprecedented times, ECE continues to support families with much needed resources and work to meet Head Start and State Preschool program goals.

October — A “Socktober Fest” event was held where our health team conducted student health screenings to meet Head Start requirements. Every child also received socks, books, toothbrush/toothpaste, and a pumpkin.

November — The “Great Turkey Drive-Thru” provided each family a holiday turkey to show our “thanks” and to distribute our monthly educational packets.



December — The “Holiday Drive-Thru” event provided toys, books, baby products, and clothing to 798 students/families through donations received from our grantee, CCRC, and the non-profit organization, Baby 2 Baby.

In addition, our Disabilities/Mental Health Specialist, sends out a weekly “Mindful Monday” Newsletter to staff and families offering motivational words and resources for social-emotional support during these difficult times.

ECE continues to look for effective ways to support students and families!

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Thank You, Noon Duties!

When it comes to loyalty and working together as a team, the Barrel Springs noon-duty staff stands in a league of its own. Throughout the school year, these extraordinary women have bonded together and set out to make this year as successful as it possibly can be.

These dedicated people come to work each day with smiles on their faces and energy flowing through every vein in their body. They show authentic care for everybody in the Barrel Springs community and strive to bring about the very best in the life of every person that they encounter. Often, they go about their daily work not realizing just how much of an impact that they make on the individuals that they encounter. Throughout the school day, the energetic voices of our fine group of noon duties will be heard saying comments such as “We have this!” or “We can take care of that for you.”

In the words of Kobe Bryant, “Success takes precedence overall. No gray areas. No almost.” Our incredible Barrel Springs noon duties work collaboratively with precision and excellence to complete any task that needs attention. One example of this team’s superior skill shined brightly when it came time for our school to distribute instructional materials to our students. They formulated and established a plan of how we could get materials quickly and easily to all of our students while still maintaining social distancing. The team prepared in advance all materials that were needed for each student and packaged them together neatly. The parents were given a very convenient way to pick up their child’s materials.

The Barrel Springs noon duty staff is a perfect example of how their work directly connects to the success of our families and community.

Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

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



Jorge Maldonado
Principal

Our Cactus Family

Although we are all well past the holiday season of 2020, and gliding quickly into the spring of 2021, it is still important to take a look back and recognize the amazing difference that a school community can make in the lives of its students and their families.

Just before the most unique holiday season any of us have ever experienced, the families of two Cactus students were faced with devastating hardships: one student lost her father, and the other student lost his home to fire.

As soon as our incredibly compassionate and caring Cactus staff heard about the adversity that these families were facing, there was a call to action. The generosity of our staff members was astounding. They rallied together to make a donation of \$500 in gift cards to each family. The cards were contained in beautifully crafted holiday baskets; baskets which were also created and donated by a member of the Cactus family.

Our amazing Cactus staff is unaware that this article is being written to celebrate their charity and bigheartedness. But these are qualities that we want to instill in our students. They are our young citizens, and so these are qualities that we need to recognize and celebrate in our staff members as well.

The hope, of course, is that all of our students and families are healthy, happy, and well taken care of. But in the event that hardships or tragedies must be faced, we hope they know that they are cared for and supported by their Cactus family.

Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Buena Vista Gets iPads

Buena Vista Elementary School put the mantra, “It takes a village”, into action with the Ipad and sneaker distribution sponsored by 5th District Supervisor, Kathryn Barger on November 3rd.

Kindergarten families in attendance had the opportunity to come through a Covid-19 safe drive through and pick up their iPads. Families were greeted by colorful balloons, exciting music and the kindergarten teacher team. Given this time of uncertainty, technology is one of the few means of communication and learning between the school and our parents. Buena Vista was proud to be able to provide such an important tool to their families.



Chaparral *Prep Academy*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

Custodial Staff

Chaparral Prep Academy would like to give a Bobcat welcome to a new addition to our custodial staff. Day custodian Everardo “Lalo” Juarez joins us and has been in the district for three years. Prior to Palmdale School District he worked in the

Alhambra Unified School District. Everyone has been impressed with how clean our school looks. Lalo comes to work with a positive attitude and has been a wonderful team player. Lalo always says “I like to work, that is why you never see me sitting down.”

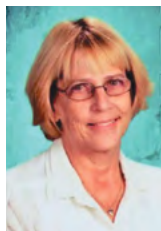
In his free time, Lalo likes to watch movies, take walks and lift weights. “I enjoy working out. I’ve got to stay fit to keep up with all of you young guys!”

Thank you to all of our custodians as well as all of the custodial and maintenance staff at Palmdale School District for making sure our beautiful new campus is clean and sanitized every day.



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Activity Boxes

In these difficult times when we are not able to be with our students in person, we've seen many instances of people reaching out and going above and beyond for the good of the community. One such group is the Boys 'N' Girls club of Antelope Valley. Three times this year, they have shown up at our site with 80-100 Activity Boxes that are given out with lunches. These boxes are filled with crafts and fun educational activities. Our students are very excited when they receive one of these boxes! This partnership between Cimarron, Boys 'N' Girls Club, and Cimarron students, is just one of the ways that Cimarron keeps connected with our fabulous families.



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

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

DW Dream Team

We've got spirit, yes we do! Our outstanding collection of teachers continue to create magic and miracles every single day. Teachers like Mr. Cecere and Ms. Birds are committed to keeping the culture, spirit and vibes positive on campus and virtually by being on multiple school teams. Rosa Lomeli shines not only as a supportive teacher, but she maintains constant contact with parents and is always on top of her documentation. Always a team player and ready to lend a hand is Ms. Farmer.



Her teamwork has been helping the DW dream work for the last five years. Nothing says dedication more than a teacher playing Ding, Dong, Ditch with her students. Ms. Godinez was awarded grant money and put it to good use. Purchasing nearly 500 books, she and her daughters made deliveries to students by placing the books on porches and doorsteps, ringing the bell, and running back to the car.

Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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

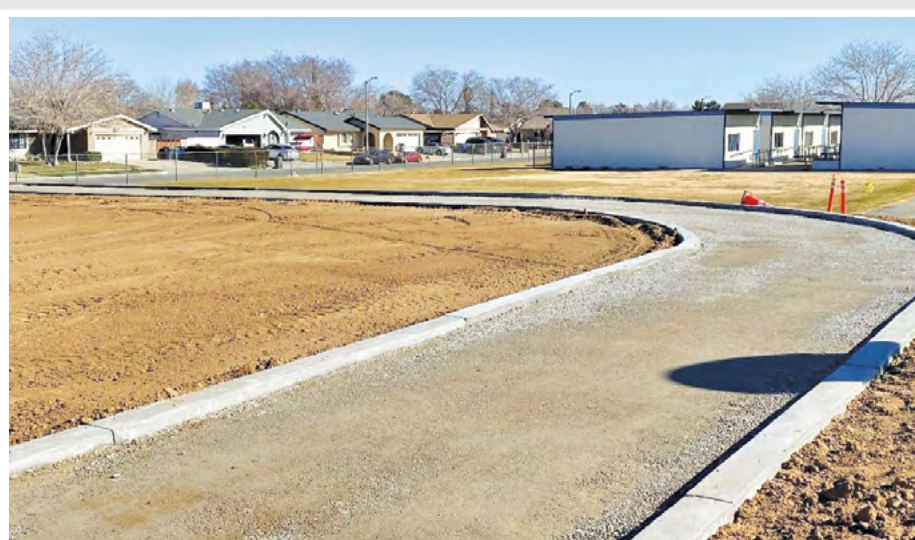


Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

More changes at Desert Rose

For the last few months, construction workers have been busy working outside at Desert Rose. On the upper field we have a brand new track with bleachers being installed. The track is approximately 1/10 of a mile around and will be one of the largest tracks at an elementary school in the district. The sand pits have been removed and an improved playground area is ready for the new equipment.

Construction workers have also repaired some sidewalk areas on campus making them safer for everyone. Soon we are expecting work to begin resurfacing the blacktop area of our playground making it safer, more functional and beautiful. Luckily, workers have been able to do all of the planned improvements to our playground area while preserving the 30-year-old trees. These mature trees not only look great, they are also popular on hot, sunny days!



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Sarah Zepeda
Principal

Holiday Family Gifts

Our December gift distribution was a great success! Dos Caminos staff prepared gifts from ASB and PTA for all grade levels. Our students were able to receive and enjoy family games and small gifts to celebrate the holiday season.

Our plan was to offer Dos Caminos families safe activities that could be done at home with the family. For example, ASB purchased dominoes and Jenga games in hopes that our families would enjoy a fun competition at home with their loved ones over the holiday break while still honing their reasoning and thinking skills together.



PTA held an Arts and Crafts Family Night, which was also a great success. We had over 50 families enjoying a warm beverage of their choosing—PTA provided the cup and decorations, arts and crafts, caroling, and book readings in English and in Spanish from our very own eighth-grade biliteracy students. Many of our families were very thankful, and we were happy to provide a little joy and fun for all our Dos Caminos Explorers!

Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Looking to the Future

As part of the Palmdale Promise Goal 1 and 4, Golden Poppy has spent a lot of time building relationships with our community. We believe that education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students, and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.

We especially believe that during these times of not seeing each other face-to-face, it is still very important to make those personal connections with each other.

Golden Poppy does this by organizing biweekly community events. The most recent community event was our Winter Light Parade. Many of our GP staff lined their cars up in the front of the school and decorated them with lights, decorations, and one inflatable balloon. Students and parents were able to drive by waving at their teachers and listening to music.



This cheerful holiday spirit helped our students, teachers, and parents connect with each other and build better relationships. We are so grateful for the school community that we have built, and are looking forward to watching it grow throughout the rest of the year.



Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



Read Across America

Innovations Academy

37230 37th St. E., Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-8909 • <https://www.palmdalesd.org/Page/5403>



Christine Jones
Principal

MakerSpace

Innovations Academy is pleased to have their MakerSpace ready for students. The school recently moved to its new location near the Dry Town Water Park. The MakerSpace has been outfitted with Legos, building blocks, robotics, and science equipment. Additionally, new ergonomic furniture has been added that will accommodate students from TK - 8th grade. The staff is hopeful that students will return soon to participate in STEAM related activities that are being designed by the teachers.



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

Great Things are Happening

Great Things are happening here, at Los Amigos. Construction on the two new science buildings is in the last phase of completion and is already looking fabulous! Mrs. DeYoung one of our 3rd grade teachers was part of a video that helps bring attention to the wonderful dual language program. We honored two of our very own students at Unity in the Community for their academic achievements. Congratulations to Amani Orasa and Kynnedie Pierre! Our students have been involved in different projects related to Black History Month. Some students are creating presentations and will be presenting in a little over a week. Thank you to our staff and our families for your continued support!



Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

The Indefatigable Mesquite Noon Duty Team

Indefatigable is the adjective that best describes the Noon Duty team at Mesquite. Donna, Delia, Jeanette, Lily, Priscilla, John, and Tony are tireless, selfless, and flexible. During a typical school year, they monitor students' activities

and behavior on school grounds during non-instructional periods to ensure a positive and safe environment. Each member of this team has formed bonds with the students, parents, and staff. It is amazing to see the level of collaboration among them and how well they move through different tasks with a smile: events to commemorate special occasions such as Halloween and Christmas, sorting through supplies, getting packets ready for distance learning, attending to parents (e.g., during learning materials pickups), inspecting playground equipment, assembling drumsticks from scratch for the fifth-grade music class, supporting the cafeteria staff, and helping to ensure that the campus is COVID-19 compliant among other things. The staff, students, and parents would like to thank the Noon Duty Team for its diligence!



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

The Generosity of Others

Joshua Hills was very fortunate to have community members reach out to us with the willingness to help our families. Walmart donated a pallet of backpacks and pencil pouches for our students. Our 4th grade team reached out to Vallarta to see if they could donate anything to their students to help the families through the winter break. Vallarta donated a \$100 gift card to our 4th grade teachers that helped them buy supplies for their students to use during the break.



An employee of Vallarta, Rosa Romero, and her immediate family felt it in their hearts to personally donate a grocery bag of non-perishable goods to our 4th grade students. That is 75 bags of groceries! It does take a village to raise a child. We are grateful for the generosity of others to the JH family!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Career Day

Oak Tree Community is planning for a successful career day in April for our students. This will be the first career day that Oak Tree students will get a chance to participate in, in recent years. We will have professional athletes, nurses, entrepreneurs, police officers, firemen, hair stylists, and more.

We also have few of our Oak Tree parents that will volunteer their time to share their careers with our students. Our students are very excited for the opportunity to listen, ask questions and engage with our guest (zoom) speakers.

We are definitely trying our best to engage our diverse families, students and communities in powerful learning and collaboration.

Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Susan Summers
Principal

Attendance Matters

At Manzanita attendance is our top priority. Teachers and Instructional Aides made sure students were acknowledged daily when arriving at their Zoom classes. Administration popped in and was excited to greet students and watch them learn. Weekly prizes were given to students who attended classes during our weekly attendance drawing. Office staff took the time to call and congratulate attendance winners and as they arrived on campus to get their prize they were greeted with a burst of excitement.



Not forgetting about the students who missed school, a weekly report was run that included students that missed one to five days. It was all hands-on deck, with everyone taking a few minutes of their day to call home to let the family know that the student was missed that day. The Manzanita family worked together to bridge the connection between school and home and their attendance rates show this great effort.



David G. Millen *Law and Government Magnet Academy*

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

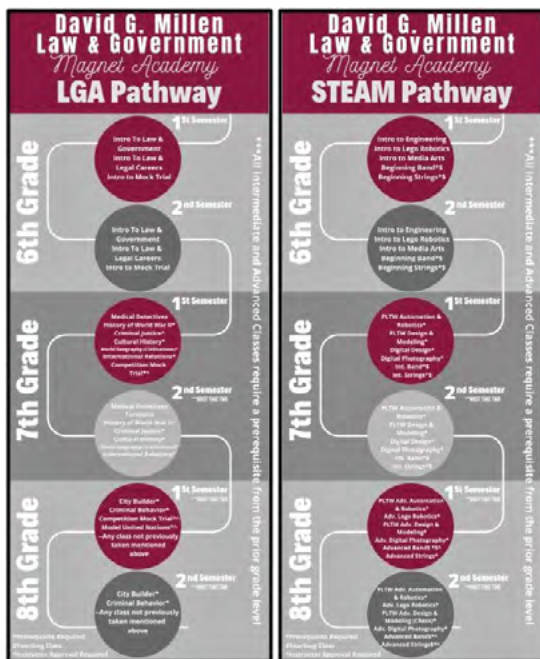


Jason Deaville
Principal

Trailblazing Pathways

David G. Millen is proud to have two well defined pathways for student success: the 'Law and Government' and 'STEAM' pathways. As students enter 6th grade, they are enrolled in introductory courses that serve as prerequisite courses to the more advanced pathway courses. Students begin to specialize in a specific pathway midpoint of their 7th grade year. 8th grade students who successfully complete their introductory and intermediate courses are eligible to complete a 'capstone' class within their

chosen pathway, which is the culminating experience within the pathway. Students are recognized for completion of a specific pathway during promotion with a sash that clearly identifies the student for the achievement and pathway completion is also noted on the promotion certificate. Mr. Vela, DGM's school counselor, works closely with students to provide guidance and progress monitoring to ensure students are "on track" towards completing their preferred pathway.



Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Our Versatile Mrs. Moquette

Delly Moquette has been on our staff for a year as our bilingual typist clerk. She has made a definite impact with staff, students and parents here at Ocotillo Elementary School.

For the past several months, Mrs. Moquette has taken on new responsibilities while our parent liaison is on leave. She has participated in weekly meetings, communicating with students and parents and extending her knowledge of technological marketing tools. This has also given her the opportunity to work with our school committees, like the School Site Council and the English Learner Advisory Committee.



Delly Moquette

Although we are moving into the last quarter, Ocotillo would like to emphasize the effort that Mrs. Moquette exhibited by setting up a donation for a sock drive. She and Rosy Lopez were able to drop off the donation at a local thrift shop. The thrift shop is in charge of distributing clothing to a homeless shelter.

We are proud to have a staff member who exhibits the qualities of an Ocotillo Panther!



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Dr. Kimberly Wright
Principal

PSD's The Lunch Box Delivers AR Prizes

Keeping students reading has been a priority at Palmdale Learning Plaza throughout Distance Learning. The benefits of nightly reading are immeasurable as the extra practice allows students to better access their learning in all subjects. And now, thanks to PSD's The Lunch Box Food Truck, the benefits of nightly reading are also delicious.

Palmdale Learning Plaza has been holding monthly Accelerated Reader competitions for each grade level (1st-8th) since the start of the school year. Each month, the winning class, and top three student readers for each grade level is named during the weekly video announcements. Past prizes have included brownies, fruit tarts, trifles, peppermint bark, sugar cookies, and more, all specially

created and designed in partnership with Palmdale School District's chef Genaro Anaya.

Palmdale Learning Plaza is proud of all of its students for discovering a real "taste" for reading.

Go PUMAs!



Palmdale Discovery Center

39175 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-0181 • www.palmdalesd.org



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

A Special Thanks

As we enter the final quarter of our school year, I would like to congratulate our PDC family. Our students have made a great effort during this period of distance learning, and they have been working hard towards meeting their goals and participating in instruction.

Our parents have played a vital role in supporting their students through this virtual platform. They are assisting them with their work at home, and are bringing them in for designated support services on site. We value our parents, and appreciate their guidance and support.

Thank you to our staff members! They have made sure that all of our students and parents have what they need to get through this difficult school year. They have also been providing relevant instruction and materials on a regular schedule, and have engaged in continual communication with parents and students.

I would like to give a special thank-you to our office staff members who have been on site each day making sure that paperwork and materials are given to our parents. They have been providing the parents with the information they need to support their students' success during this school year.

It is an honor to be working with such a gifted staff and wonderful supportive families! I am grateful to be a part of the PDC family!

Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Every Student, Every Day ...

Palm Tree Elementary, a proud 2020 California PBIS Community Cares recognized school, is a family of students, parents, staff and community, where every student belongs and everyone is committed to our school's expectation of inclusiveness and our one thing: our commitment to student engagement—every student, every day.

This school year, as a result of our continued partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, our students have benefited from monthly Club in a Box Enrichment Activity Kits, which our scholars earn by completing their Zearn weekly math lessons, Footsteps2Brilliance and Imagine Learning time commitments and by engaging and participating in their Zoom sessions. The activity kits contain enrichment hands-on activities for 80 of our scholars, monthly. Our goal is to continue to engage and motivate our students to participate in distance learning.



Palm Tree is proud of our scholars and our families for their partnership and all of their efforts to continuous learning. We Parrots are amazing!

Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carol Black
Principal

Giving Tree at Christmas

Just like everything else this year, when it came to planning our annual Giving Tree Campaign, we had to think “outside the box” to make it a reality.

Every year at Christmas we set up an Angel Giving Tree in the front office where our families can choose an angel and provide a Christmas gift for foster and homeless youth. Since we are distance learning right now, we had to do everything virtually. We weren't sure it would work, but wow, we couldn't have been more wrong! In fact, this year we even had donations left over that we are saving for next year's event.



Through the generosity of our Quail Valley families, our amazing PTO, and our staff members, this event was a huge success. So thank you to everyone who donated: the PTO, all of the staff members who wrapped the gifts and called the families, and everyone who coordinated getting the gifts to students before the winter break.

At Quail Valley, we are always looking for ways to give back to our community one child at a time!





Larry Lueck
Principal

PLTW "Engineering" Pathway

Aerospace engineers develop technologies for use in aviation, defense systems and spacecraft. They are involved in designing aircraft and propulsion systems and in studying the aerodynamic performance of aircraft and construction materials. Students at S.A.G.E. learn to think like engineers in our Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes where they design, build and test to solve real life problems. Every year we have had the support of engineers at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. who stop by our campus to build and launch rockets with our students. This year they will once again go into our virtual classroom to share

their experiences as engineers and walk our students through an at home rocket build. We are very excited as we plan for the pick up of materials and the student designs.



Way to go Eagles, and a shout out for the support our school has received these past few years from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics!

Shadow Hills

Engineering & Design
Magnet Academy



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Falcon Store Is Open!

At Shadow Hills, Falcons RISE. They are Responsible, Independent, Self-Directed,--- Eager to grow and learn. To encourage students to RISE, students were able to earn Falcon Bucks that they could use to buy items from the Falcon Buck Store.

Our RISE Team came together with our staff and created a way to continue to do this in the digital world!!

Students are now earning Falcon Bucks digitally. Teachers document that students earned bucks and in which category online and then the Team monitors them through another platform- Educlimber. With this documentation, we are able to see in what categories and how many students are RISEing. Since January 19, students have earned 4,193 Falcon Bucks across all four attributes!!!

Students then have access to a google form where they can shop and schedule a curbside pickup time to pick up their order- like a Target run!!



Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



Teachers Collaborate to Articulate Their "Why?" & Create Bitmoji Photo

Inspired by our Resource Specialist Program Teacher Jodi Bateman, all Summerwind Teachers came together to create a Bitmoji group photograph. We used the Bitmoji photo to welcome our students and families

back to school for the Spring Semester. Not only did teachers create a Bitmoji group photograph, but also teachers created a collaborative digital presentation where each teacher articulated their "Why?".

Teachers shared their inspiration for entering the teaching profession. The digital presentation is viewable on the television display in the Summerwind front office. Our team is moving forward with a clarity of purpose, knowing their "Whys" and continuing with the values, beliefs and goals of the Palmdale PROMISE!.



Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Together We Will Celebrate our Community Partner

Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization Blessed Seeds of God surprised our students with a shower of gifts just before Christmas. This is the third year

that Mrs. Rose McKinney and her team have done this. They gave each student a rolling luggage bag stuffed with goodies. Our students received items such as new clothing, socks, pajamas, shoes, jackets, toys, and electronics inside the bag. They received another goody bag full of treats on their way out. This year due to COVID-19, we could only have one family enter at a time, but in years past this was done together with singing, dancing, eating, game playing, and lots of joyful celebration. This is always an event that brings tears of joy to many of our eyes. Our parents, students, and staff are so grateful for our wonderful community partner, Blessed Seeds of God! #TWW



Tamarisk *Renaissance School*

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



Well of AV

There are two amazing people, Pastors Juan and Jenna Palomino, who live by the Golden Rule and we are grateful for them sharing their love and kindness with us at Tamarisk.

Last year, Jenna Palomino walked into Tamarisk with a big smile and presented us with gift cards to a shoe store for our students, we were so shocked I do not think we even said thank you. Since then the Palominos and their church, The Well of AV, have showered our students and our families with much needed love and resources. During the pandemic, the holidays were difficult for our families, and again the Palominos and The Well of AV came through, giving away over 100 turkeys and baskets, and adopting over 15 families during Christmas. There are no words that can describe how honored we are to call the Palominos and the Well of AV our friends.

Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Student Mental Health and Well-Being

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for schools across the country most notably the negative impact it's had on student mental health and their overall sense of well-being. Yellen Learning Center made a commitment from the very start to ensuring that the social emotional and mental health needs of its students remained a top priority as we dove into distance learning in the fall and continued with virtual services into the Spring.

Gia Greaux
Principal





Mental Health Awareness Each Mind Matters

To help students feel more connected and less isolated, Yellen staff members have conducted home visits, reached out to students virtually to assess their needs, provided supplemental counseling by collaborating with outside agencies and has responded quickly to families in need of additional support. These efforts have resulted in an increased level of participation in distance learning, improved student engagement, greater motivation and an overall positive sense of well-being for our students and their families.

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

Welcome and Enrollment Center	789-6707 (8am-3pm)
Child Nutrition	789-6565
Educational Services	789-6755
Health Clinic	789-6766 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)
Special Education	789-6746
Student Services	789-6744
Superintendent's Office	789-6502 & 789-6503



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

Closing the Attendance Gap!



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Yucca's Classified Staff Soars!

During challenging times, Yucca's phenomenal classified staff has gone above and beyond! Our PCL, Mrs. Berumen, and librarian, Ms. Buchholz host weekly bilingual story time and art classes after school. Ms. Bertha and Ms. Elizabeth represent our instructional aides who have jumped in learning new technology to support teachers virtually. School secretary, Mrs. Coleman, works to keep our office running smoothly and efficiently while continuing to support families. Ms. Valerie represents our campus supervisors who come in daily to ensure bundles of school materials get to our students. These are just a few examples of how our dedicated classified staff continues to serve our students and families during distance learning. They infuse Capturing Kids Hearts in their attitudes and interaction with others. Yucca would not run as it does without the earnest work from all our classified staff members. We thank you deeply for all that you do!



Curious George Goes to the Zoo—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, 2021

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------|
| Amazing | Giraffe | Water |
| Animals | Headquarters | Wild |
| Climbed | Hippo | Wonderful |
| Curious | Leaves | Zoo |
| Danced | Park | Zookeeper |
| Fun | Party | |
| George | Rhino | |



Tyson's Book Review

Monsters aren't real...are they?



Tyson

Percy Jackson's *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It's also the start to the Percy Jackson series and what a start it is! I've read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have



heard of the series but if you haven't, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kicked out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to take care and play with Chewie, his dog.

Sean's Book Review

Middle School Can Change Your Life



Sean

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt, is about a 7th grader, Julian Twerski, who attends McMasters Middle School. There, 9th graders are a real problem, as they are the bullies. Julian is seen admiring a painting of a historical picture, and then is accused of messing it up! Julian's friend, Quentin, suffers from a tumor in his head, and due to this, is promised a visit from a famous baseball player. Another friend, Beverly, is constantly asking Julian to race her in running, but he always says no.



This book has a lot of side stories that contribute to the main idea, making the book interesting, suspenseful, and funny. Mark Goldblatt did a great job connecting this book to his previous book, *Twerp*.

In conclusion, *Finding the Worm* is really cool, but you should read *Twerp* before this, as you will have a much better time!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

Taegyung's Book Review

Being Normal



Taegyung K.

Title: *Wonder*

Author: R.J. Palacio

Do you think you are normal? What is being normal? This book is the story about the boy, August, who has facial deformity and wants to be normal. He had surgeries many times and he couldn't go to school. When he becomes a 5th grader, his parents decide to send him to school. He often gets bullied by other kids at school because of his appearance, but he doesn't stop going school.

In addition, this book shows the stories of his family and his friends. You can read their stories as their views because it is written by multiple perspectives. So, you can know what they think and why they say or do that.

What will happen to August? How can he make a real friend? If you wonder, find out from the book, *Wonder*. Also, if you are looking for a warm-hearted story, this book is just right for you.



Taegyung K. is a 5th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to play video games, board games, and badminton with her family. She would like to be a person who is kind and helps others.

Kailani's Review

Positive Outlook



Kailani T.

Ways to Make Sunshine is written by Renée Watson, a Coretta Scott King Award and Newbery Medal winner. The story is about a 10-year-old Ryan Hart who had to adjust to many changes in her life after her father had lost his job. Her dad's new job did not pay as much as his old job, so her family had to move into a smaller house and must limit their spending. Ryan faced many challenges at this point of her life.

With the help from her loving family and friends, she was able to see the positive sides of the changes. Ryan brought sunshine to her family and anyone around her by trying to be a good daughter, good sister, and a good friend.

Reading this book taught me to think positive. If we look at things positively, we can always find some good things even in the worst situation. I give this book 5 stars out of 5.



Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Katie's Review

Magical World



Katie C.

Title: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Author: Roald Dahl

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to live in a world where waterfalls spewed chocolate, chairs were marshmallows, and mystical animals were at every corner? If so, you should visit *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Coming from a poor family, Charlie could only dream of chocolate once a year on his birthday. However, when he finds a dollar bill on a snowy, cold day, he's just in luck. He's



transported from his small shabby room to a magical world: the Chocolate Factory. Willy Wonka and the Oompa Loompas show Charlie the inside of the wonderful land that the factory hid from the rest of the world. As he travels through the factory with other children, Willy Wonka teaches them the importance of generosity, kindness, and a humble attitude. If you want to read a heartwarming story of a young boy who finally sees his kind characteristics pay off, read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.