



### Building the Future Together

In our last issue, I shared with you our district's path to a new strategic plan. Since then we have been hard at work building our new strategic plan.

**Raul Maldonado**

We have been clear from the beginning that we want everyone's voice to be heard while building our plan. Students, parents, community members, teachers, and administrators all have unique perspectives on what goes on in our district. Each group can bring unique opportunities and solutions to the table.

In February, we had three separate meetings. The first was held with our Community Advisory Committee. The second was with our Board of Trustees and district leadership. Our third meeting in February was very exciting. Called a stakeholders meeting, it included anyone with an interest in our district. The meeting was well attended by a diverse group of members of our community, including students.

In March, we held an additional stakeholders meeting and met with the Palmdale Elementary Teachers' Association. We are in the process of setting up meetings with our classified employees, as we continue gathering all stakeholders' input. In addition, we held a special Spanish language meeting to ensure all voices are heard, regardless of what languages they speak.

In our meetings and forums we have identified the essentials of our plan, such as our mission. We have also defined what our goal of student success actually means and looks like. We have done this by looking

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 12

## Cyberquest Competition Returns to PSD!

*By Diana Nardi, Coordinator, Testing and Assessment*

On Saturday morning, April 11, student teams from 15 schools arrived at Tumbleweed School with their teachers and parents to compete in the return of the Palmdale School District Cyberquest competition. It had been 7 years since the competition had been held in the District and all involved were excited to have it offered again this year. Cyberquest is a problem based learning activity designed to lead students to apply higher level thinking skills in a public speaking arena.

Common Core Standards require students to learn 21st Century learning skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Dr. Frances Ufodu, Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program, stated, "Our goal is to teach students how to integrate research skills, oral and electronic presentation. Students started their research in January with the release of the practice topic and support from their coaches."

In the opening ceremony, Dr. Ufodu thanked Superintendent Raul Maldonado and Assistant Superintendent of Education Services Judy Hall for their continuous support of the GATE program. She also thanked her Cyberquest Revival Team (CRT) – Marilyn Pearce, LaWanda Duboise and Carol Black for organizing and coordinating the event. Parents were given gratitude by Mr. Maldonado, "We come up with the programs, but without parent participation they would not be possible."

During the morning's events, special booths from the community were available for parents and students to visit. These included

See **CYBERQUEST** • Page 7



**2 teams from Palm Tree.**



**Shadow Hills.**



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Superintendent Maldonad's article on the front page is very informative. It is wonderful when the community has input for the District's Strategic Plan. Parent and community involvement makes for a successful educational experience for students.

In this issue you will read about CyberQuest, cultural and folk dance classes, hands-on science, after school clubs, and so much more.

Our next issue is September 23rd. Have a wonderful summer and remember to include reading as one of your activities.

# School News

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The Personnel Commission has relocated to  
37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550  
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# Palmdale

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Palmdale School District  
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# Welcome and Enrollment Center

39139 10th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/947-7191 • www.palmdalesd.org

## Enrollment Information

The Welcome and Enrollment Center serves as the Palmdale School District's central site for registration of all students in grades TK-8. Whether you are new to Palmdale or have moved within the District your registration will be processed by our friendly and courteous staff. **The Welcome and Enrollment Center is open throughout the summer from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.**

Students born between September 2, 2009 and September 1, 2010 are eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2015-16 school year. Transitional kindergarten serves students born between September 2, 2010 and December 2, 2010.



Enrollment packets are available at all school sites or may be downloaded from our website: www.palmdalesd.org. Choose the Welcome and Enrollment Center from **Quick Links**. Each packet must have a completed enrollment form, verification of residence form, home language survey form and health appraisal form. The student's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of address and the parent's picture ID, must also accompany the packet. Once the packet is returned to the Welcome Center, it will be checked for completion of all required information (listed below.)

2015-16 Immunization Requirements		
	Age 4-6	Age 7-17
	<b>4 doses</b>	<b>4 doses</b>
<b>Polio</b>	3 doses if one after 4th birthday	3 doses if one after 2nd birthday
	Age 6 & Under	Age 7 & Over
	<b>5 doses</b>	<b>5 doses</b>
<b>DTP</b>	4 doses if on after 4th birthday	3 doses if one after 2nd birthday
	Age 4-6 & 7th Grade Students	Age 7-17
<b>MMR</b>	<b>2 doses</b> both after 1st birthday	7th grade - <b>2 doses</b> otherwise <b>1 dose</b> if one after 1st birthday
	Age 4-6	Kdg. & Above
<b>HEP B</b>	<b>3 doses</b>	<b>3 doses</b>
	All Ages	Age 13-17
<b>Varicella</b>	<b>1 dose</b> or physician documented disease history.	<b>2 doses</b> if not admitted to CA school by 7/1/2001.
	7th Grade	Out of State
<b>TDAP</b>	7th grade - <b>1 dose</b> after 7th birthday	<b>1 dose</b> after 7th birthday if 8th - 12th grade transferring from out of CA

## Requirements for Enrollment

- **Completed** enrollment packet
- Parent/Guardian/Foster Parent: **valid picture identification**
- **Student's verification of age:** original certified birth certificate, (baptismal certificate, visa or passport might be accepted if birth certificate is not possible.)
- **Proof of Residence:** A current (within one month) utility bill (gas, electric or water) showing the parent's or guardian's name and home address **or** final escrow papers or property tax payment receipt or voter registration or current pay stub with Employer's name and address and parent/guardian name and address.
- **Living with Others:** If you and your child are living in someone else's home, please bring a letter signed by that person or a Residency Verification Form, their current proof of residence (as described above), and their picture ID (or bring the person with you.)
- **Immunization Records** (see below for requirements)
- **IEP or Special Education Reports** (if applicable)
- **Legal Custody or Court Orders** (if applicable)
- **Foster Placement papers** (if applicable)

# School News



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# Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



**Kimberly Wright**  
*Principal*

## Great Things

As Barrel Springs Elementary School teachers diligently prepared our third- through sixth-grade students for the Smarter Balanced Assessments standardized tests, students had many opportunities to give back to our community.

Barrel Springs Bulldogs became superheroes by raising over \$1,000 for United Way. Students proudly participated and donated money in efforts to raise money for the Antelope Valley community. Students who were able to donate money took pictures for the Barrel Springs United Way superheroes wall in the office.

In addition, students had an opportunity to participate in and raise money for the South Antelope Valley Education Foundation: Celebrate Education Event May 1. For every ticket purchased students were eligible to participate in Barrel Springs's Lucky Duck-Duck race, a fun school activity at the school site.

The Barrel Springs PTA has planned end-of-the-year events for our students, who have not only made contributions to our community but have also worked hard learning rigorous lessons and building character each day by "being a buddy and not a bully."

Great job, Bulldogs, for all of your hard work!

# Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



**Tom Pitts**  
*Principal*

## Signature Activity

Under the guidance of Dr. Eugene Otuonye, and the tutelage of Mrs. Margarita Garcia, the students at Chaparral Elementary School have started their cultural and folk dance classes. They practice and perform every Tuesday and Thursday with energy and passion, fully committing themselves to the movement and the meaning behind their choreography.

In addition to the sheer joy, talent, and artistry displayed by the students, we are happy to see the wave of interest being shown by both the families and parents. We are seeing a natural and respectful interaction between the students on stage, and a growing level of camaraderie and dedication towards the program itself.

The Chaparral Elementary Cultural Dance Troupe was initiated to fill a need and desire by both our students and the parent community for a signature activity that would showcase the school's cultural diversity and talents. The Troupe is now entertaining many requests for its unique presentations!



# Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



**Chris O'Neill**  
*Principal*

## The Love of Reading

On March 12th Buena Vista students and staff celebrated Read Across America in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday and to share the love of reading. Readers came from all over the community and shared breakfast together in our library, without Green Eggs and Ham. After eating, readers were escorted by students, to teacher's classrooms to read a favorite children's story and to share in a discussion the importance of reading. Readers included Superintendent Raul Maldonado, Assistant Superintendent Dr. John Porter, Assistant Superintendent Judy Hall and various community leaders. Students really enjoyed the time spent reading and discussing their favorite books.



## Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



**Ruth James**  
Principal

### Great Things Happening

There are some great things going on at Cactus Intermediate School. We just completed nine weeks of parent training with the Parent Institute for Quality Education. The 73 parents who graduated were thrilled to receive their college invitation certificates. This has always been the highlight of the program.

With the re-implementation of intramural sports at the middle schools, Cactus students are excited and turning out in large numbers to participate. We currently have more than 100 students participating in basketball.

Cactus has made anti-bullying one of our main focuses for this year. We have partnered with a healthcare provider and Free the Children to put on



assemblies that will help students understand the impact that their words and action can have on others. We are also addressing the issues associated with cyberbullying. Twenty-five students were trained to be peer counselors to help us address some of these issues.

## Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



**Kathy Wehunt**  
Principal

### Hands-On Science

The fantastic fifth grade classes at Cimarron were all hands on when they built models of either plant or animal cells this February. Students studied cells and their contents along with the periodic table and elements learning that cells are the building blocks of life. They noticed differences and similarities between the plant and animal cells and were able to articulate why each cell was the way it was. They studied the functions of the various parts of the cells. Fifth graders take the Science portion of the California Standards Test and we are sure this activity will enhance their science knowledge.



## Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



**Melanie Pagliaro**  
Principal

### CyberQuest is Here!

Many of our Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students at Desert Rose Elementary School worked hard researching, creating, and honing their multimedia presentation skills to get ready for the districtwide CyberQuest event on April 11. CyberQuest is a student-centered, problem-based learning activity designed to lead students to apply higher-level thinking skills.

The process began in January, when two teachers, Kristi VanderHyde and Carol Black, started coaching teams of three or four students after school. During the first round, 32 GATE students chose to participate. Students were given a practice scenario to prepare for a Site Presentation of Learning, which took place at the end of February. One third- and fourth-grade team and one fifth- and sixth-grade team were selected to advance to the districtwide competition.



We are very proud of all our GATE students for creating meaningful solutions to present in this forum.



# Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



**Melanie Culver**  
Principal

## Desert Willow Music Students

On March 5th and 6th, Desert Willow Advanced Band and Advanced Strings students participated in a music competition sponsored by Littlerock High School. Our students put on a wonderful performance and each received a rating of “Excellent” by the judges, which is the second highest rating given. Our Advanced Band students were also selected from over one hundred school bands to participate in a music workshop on Friday, April 3rd, hosted by Disneyland. Students were required to record and submit an audition tape as part of the selection process. The band and orchestra students will also be participating in a competition hosted by Magic Mountain on May 2nd. We are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of our students and music teacher, Ms. Angela Clayton!

### Upcoming concert dates:

- 4/23 The James Rosenquist Palmdale School District Honor Band and Orchestra Concert-Shadow Hills-6:30-8:00 p.m. (Tickets are required for this event- \$5 Balcony/\$10 Row 2-5 Loge/\$25 Front Row)
- 4/29 District Wide Beginning Band Concert at Cactus-6 p.m.
- 4/30 District Wide Beginning Strings Concert at Shadow Hills-6 p.m.
- 5/21 End of the Year Band Concert at Desert Willow-6:30 p.m.
- 5/28 End of the Year Strings Concert at Desert Willow-6:30 p.m.



# Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



**Marlene  
Batista**  
*Principal*

## Multicultural Festival!

Question: What has 960 legs, 480 costumes and presents music from 16 cultures? Answer: The Dos Caminos Multicultural Festival. Each May, Dos Caminos teachers and students present traditional dances from countries that have included Cuba, Hawaii, Mexico and Puerto Rico and this year will add Ireland and the Philippines!

Dos Caminos celebrates the cultural heritage of students, staff and the world around us. Parent volunteers busily sew costumes so teachers and students will represent their chosen country authentically and with flair.

The Guiding Principles for Dual Language emphasize the need for students to become knowledgeable of other countries and their cultures. Folk dances are rich in history and customs, and costumes and dance movements are full of symbolism.

Over 300 parents and family members attended last year's festival, and more are expected this year. The strong connection families have with the school is never more evident than at the festival. The pageantry and joyful atmosphere is one way Dos Caminos relates to students, families and community.



## CYBERQUEST COMPETITION • *From Page 1*



**Cub Scout Pack 145 color guard presented colors to open the competition.**

robotics demonstrations, juice for sale, science experiments, the Palmdale Library Techmobile and safely viewing the moon and the sun with special telescopes from the Sage Planetarium and AV Astronomy Club. Tim Hall, teacher and coach of the team from Cactus, shared his thoughts, "This is great, it is well organized and I enjoyed the addition of the extra things going on." Video broadcasting of some of the presentations made it possible for parents to see the students present their project.

At the end of the competition the grade level winners were announced. Shadow Hills Principal Barbara Gaines and Palm Tree Principal Gerald Luke were on hand to congratulate their teams for winning first place and being awarded a trophy for their presentations.



**LaWanda Duboise (OC), Marilyn Pearce (TW) and Carol Black (DR)**  
**Organized and coordinated the Event.**



**Dr. Frances Ufodu, Coordinator of the PSD GATE program.**



**Summerwind Competitors**

# Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



**Ryan Beardsley**  
Principal

## Leading the Way!

*By Nebiyou Samuel, ASB Vice-President*

Golden Poppy students have the Grizzly Spirit! Here at Golden Poppy, we have an active Associated Student Body (ASB) club. Golden Poppy's ASB has participated in many activities to help the school and our community. We actively collected food for the South Antelope Valley Emergency Services (SAVES) program. Our students were recognized by the city of Palmdale for raising the most money in the district. The Golden Poppy ASB also participated in our school's Annual Animal Shelter Drive,

collecting food and supplies for animals in the Antelope Valley. During the month of February, ASB also helped raise spirits with Valentine grams for every student. One of the next tasks that our ASB will be participating in is Pennies for Pasta, which will help in the fight against blood cancers like leukemia.

The ASB experience has taught Golden Poppy students about leadership, communication and working in groups. This experience will continue to benefit us in middle school and high school by providing a foundation for the skills we will be developing. The same skills needed in ASB will be needed when we become active participants in our future education.

This school year, I was elected to the office of vice president by our school's fifth- and sixth-grade students. My career goal is to be a doctor. My path will require hard work, communication and leadership skills, which I have learned this year as an ASB officer.

# Juniper *Intermediate 7-8*

39066 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-0181 • www.palmdalesd.org



**Dr. Donna Campbell**  
Principal

## Juniper Students Speak Out

As the school year winds down and we prepare to close, our students took some time to say what they will remember the most from this year.

One student remarked that she will remember going into the office and looking at the pictures on the walls of past students, and seeing her mom as an eighth-grader. Several others insisted that their favorite memories will be of teachers who took time outside of the classroom to help.

Pep rallies at lunch also rated highly on the "best memory" list. Students played music, made motivational speeches, sold

Valentine grams, and hosted dance exhibitions and fun competitions. Some students watched, some danced, but all had fun.

Juniper has only the eighth grade this year, which makes for a small student body and small classes. But many students said they enjoyed and relished the opportunity to develop deep friendships before heading off to Highland, Palmdale or SOAR high schools.



# Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



**Regina Tillman**  
Principal

## Our Heroes

Joshua Hills students, staff, and community members did a three-day United Way fundraiser that raised \$2984.69! All of our students and their families were asked to participate in this event by writing a pledge about supporting the community.

Student Brian Trujillo wrote that he and his family "will support our community by recycling and donating to charity." Student Mackenzie Godinez wrote, "I will support my community by donating \$7 to support this cause to help people."

Student Anthony Barragan said, "It felt good to give money to homeless people. I can't believe our class raised \$500!" Kaylee Zuniga added, "It is sad that homeless people don't have anything. We need to help



them." Student Emily Guzman remarked that, "Some people are poor forever. We need to give them money."

By donating to United Way, all of these students became hometown heroes. A big thank-you goes to our Joshua Hills community for making this happen!

# Los Amigos *K-8*

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



**Maria Elena Esquer**  
Principal

## Thank You, Volunteers!

The Los Amigos community of learners is very thankful for its group of volunteer parents and PTA members who do so much for our school. We are fortunate every day to have parents who come in and help our teachers provide the best advantages for our students. Our volunteers help our school community in every way, including preparation of materials and service to children. An especially big thank-you to Mrs. Panduro, who has enriched our school by teaching folklórico classes every Monday and Tuesday to students after school. The students have loved and enjoyed their weekly lessons and have performed in various events across the Antelope Valley.

Another big thank-you is for our fabulous group of PTA mothers. They are a small but mighty group that is always present in our school and in events for our school community. They have always done all they can for students. Our

deepest gratitude is extended to Mrs. Howie, Mrs. Silva, Mrs. Torres, Mrs. Morrin, Mrs. Newman, Ms. Rae and Mrs. Cortez for all of their time and service.

Events coming up are various Folklórico performances, Family Nights in various grades, Family Science Night, Family Book Exchange and the Multicultural Faire in May and June. The Los Amigos community is so appreciative of all of our volunteers for their efforts and dedication to our school.



## Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



**Kelly Jensen**  
Principal

### Technology Enhances Learning

In today's world, students need to know and be able to use technology. This year, Manzanita Elementary School students are enjoying a new computer lab and laptop carts. With a total of 160 new computers and our recently-installed Wi-Fi, teachers are able to provide students with more opportunities to use computers in the lab or in the classroom.

Computers are used to assess students and provide opportunities to research and create presentations. Teachers also use technology to prepare engaging lessons as they access pictures and videos. The technology provides opportunities for classes to learn new vocabulary, collaborate in group discussions or on projects, and participate in virtual field trips. Kindergarten classrooms have electronic tablets, and students participate in a program called Footsteps to Brilliance, which allows students to engage in interactive reading lessons. Our third-grade classrooms have a new keyboarding program and practice daily to develop their keyboarding skills. Coming soon, our sixth-grade classrooms will have 60-inch high-definition televisions and electronic tablets, which will create a learning environment that is more conducive to student learning.

Our new technology will revolutionize classroom lessons and provide students with needed computer skills for the future in a rapidly-changing world.

## David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



**Brian Williams**  
Principal

### Pathways to Follow

Our new site will open on time for the 2015-16 school year as a magnet-school, focusing as a college and career/technical-education school.

Special programs called pathways will lead students to particular college majors and career choices. Students interested in science and engineering will be offered a new course called Project Lead the Way. Our law and government pathway will attract students interested in becoming lawyers or serving in law enforcement, politics or student government.

Our newest course focuses on design and marketing. Students will work in teams to design and sell T-shirts manufactured on site and sold to school teams and clubs. For college-bound students, we'll continue to offer AVID, and we also now offer Spanish I, which can meet a high school A-G requirement. Finally, there are three fine-arts options in music, art and film analysis.

There will be a program for everyone! Please contact the Millen Parent Liaison for more information.



## Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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

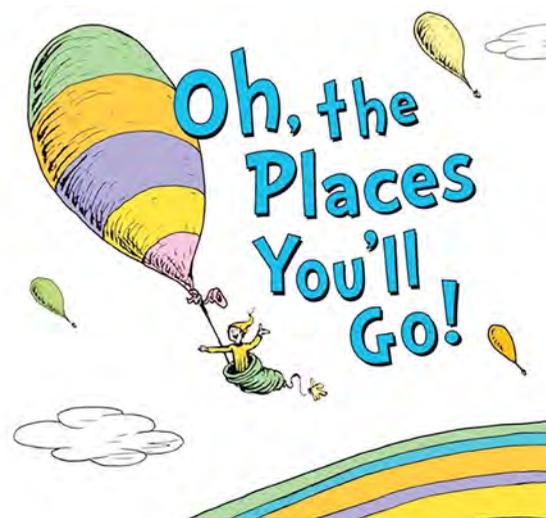


**Sonia Salcedo**  
Principal

### Dr. Seuss Night

Mesquite Elementary School has sponsored a Dr. Seuss Night for many years now. The students have enjoyed favorite stories being read by various teachers, employees of Palmdale School District, and dedicated volunteers.

This year, children had the opportunity to listen to stories being read in different locations of the school, including the library, the cafeteria, the principal's office, and various classrooms. They were able to choose their favorite books on a large wall graph as they entered the cafeteria. Then, referring to a passport with a map, they chose where they would travel in the school to listen to stories. At the end of the evening, they returned to the cafeteria to receive refreshments and to pick new books, which were donated by the PTA.



Decorations for the event were created by the students, teachers, and a committee of dedicated Dr. Seuss lovers. A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success.

## Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



**Timothy Howell**  
Principal

### Safety, Clarity and Caring

The staff at Oak Tree is dedicated to providing an educational environment that supports students emotionally and academically. We continue to refine our approaches based on the specific needs of each student. At Oak Tree, leadership is a characteristic that will be cultivated within each student.

In order to prepare each student for leadership, the staff models the look and characteristics of leadership: compliance, consistency and structure, calculated behaviors, and restorative justice. Once students have a firm grasp on what is expected, they are then challenged to the next step: leader of the class, leader of the school, and ultimately the mentor level, where they are assisting new student leaders.

Oak Tree takes pride in their student leaders and Leadership Lounge: lunch responsibilities, walking in hallways and PE monitors. Oak Tree focuses on replacement behaviors, which are respect, discipline, leadership and structure, so that we can implement the number-one goal, which is academic achievement. As we continue to change the culture here at Oak Tree, we will help close the achievement gap as students return to their home schools.

Oak Tree implements the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on accountable student talk, text-dependent questions and Standards for Mathematical Practice sentence stems. Our goal is to help students make a smooth academic transition back to their home school.

Students like the program at Oak Tree because they feel safe, the expectations are clear, and they know we care.

## Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



**Ken Young**  
Principal

### Math Masters

During Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing, wouldn't it be great to have students who were Math Wizards? How about Brainiacs, Denominators, or Math Minions? At Ocotillo Elementary School, we do! These are some of the nicknames of our Math Quiz Bowl teams. Our Math Quiz Bowls were fun, friendly, and interactive SBAC reviews for students in third through sixth grades. Teachers randomly assigned their students into groups. Classes brought banners and pennants to cheer on their teammates. All students brought individual whiteboards with dry-erase markers and, most importantly, their math problem-solving and collaboration skills!

Class groups were called to the front of the cafeteria to work collaboratively to solve SBAC-related math problems. All problems were free response. Problems with only one answer were worth one point. Problems that required answers along with explanations and/or models were worth two points. Three-point problems required answers, explanations, and models. While their fellow teammates were collaboratively working on the problems at the front of the cafeteria, the rest of the students were sitting with their classmates solving the same problems to see how their answers compared. At the end of each round, Mr. Young demonstrated the different ways to solve each problem to get the correct answer. Then, the group answers were revealed and points awarded.

Being the grade-level winner of the Math Quiz Bowl was a great feat. But, most importantly, every student was actively engaged in the SBAC math practice review!

## Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



**Gerald Luke**  
Principal

### Showing Support

It was a great day when Palm Tree had the honor of inviting Superintendent Raul Maldonado to attend our combined ELAC and "Coffee with the Principal" meeting last month.

Mr. Maldonado shared the PSD's LCAP goals with our parents, and he also entertained questions during the meeting. We were excited that our superintendent was able to schedule this time with us. It was a wonderful day!

Palm Tree also had another successful Teacher Night! A local restaurant has always been a gracious host for this PTO fundraiser, and our families and staff members came out with a strong show of support. It was an exciting atmosphere helping to prepare and serve the food.

We are now turning our focus to the SBAC and CST testing. Everyone has worked hard all year leading up to this point, and we are ready for the challenge of the Common Core assessments. Palm Tree continues to move forward.



## Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



**Danny Kanga**  
Principal

### Musical Opportunity

This year the Palmdale Learning Plaza was pleased to be able to offer band to interested 7th and 8th grade students. Many of our junior high students had expressed an interest in pursuing a musical instrument, and this program has allowed that to take place. We offer brass instruments as well as wind and percussion instruments. All of this is orchestrated by our part-time music teacher, Miss Angela Clayton. Our band students will also be able to participate in concerts at the site and district level. Miss Clayton, the Puma family is thankful that you have been able to provide this wonderful opportunity for our students!



## Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



**Donna Lebetsamer**  
Principal

### For the Benefit of Our Students

We are truly impressed with the amount of growth that the Quail Valley Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has achieved. We started the school year without a PTO; within a matter of months, we were able to organize a group of very dedicated and involved parents. Our PTO has fund-raised to provide all students with the opportunity to participate in field trips and has organized various family events.

Their most recent event, a father/daughter dance, was a huge success! Hundreds of little ladies showed up with their dads, all dressed for the occasion, and enjoyed a night of food, fun, and lots of dancing! We are so proud of everything that our parents do to support our school, and we can't wait to see what the future holds!

Our parent/community liaison, Patricia Garcia, has been a wonderful addition to our staff here at Quail Valley. She is very engaging with our parents and has done a great job building relationships with them. Further, our liaison works very closely with the school's PTO and was essential to the group's organization. Patricia reached out to parents and helped them organize themselves into the successful group they are today. Patricia does her best to ensure that the needs of our Quail Valley parents are being met to the best of our ability, and she is more than willing to find community resources for our families in need. We are very grateful to have her on our team!

## Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



**Barbara Gaines**  
*Principal*

### Exploratory Offerings and Afterschool Clubs

Shadow Hills Intermediate is excited to add Spanish and Project Lead the Way, a STEM class to their already existing exploratory classes for the 2015-16 school year. The addition of these two classes will afford SH students 14 various selections ranging from STEAM classes, Computer classes and Career-Technical courses. In addition, SH has increased the number of afterschool activities. This year students have the opportunity to participate in Intramural Sports, Art Club, Chess Club, Newspaper Club, Science Olympiad, Mathletes, ASB, CyberQuest, PSD Honors Band & Strings, and Builders Club. Plans are in place to offer more afterschool clubs in the 2015-16 school year.



## Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



**Roberto Lopez**  
*Principal*

### California Gold Rush Play

Every year Summerwind's fourth graders participate in a play. This year's topic will be the California Gold Rush and it will be performed on May 15, 201. It is a fun way for the students to study California's historical gold rush. There will be lots of singing and dancing, as well as memorized story characters and lines.

Students try to earn money for props, costumes, etc. through recycling efforts, donations, and other fundraisers. Parents will be invited and are encouraged to help the teachers and students with decorations, backdrops, posters, etc. in the weeks prior to the actual performance day. It has become an annual Summerwind tradition for the past 12 years! We look forward to watching our fourth graders in this performance.

## Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



**H. Alex Morales**  
*Principal*

### Collaborating as Mentors

Collaboration is a critical skill that students need to develop as they grow up. Our efforts to promote the development of this skill include opportunities for students to collaborate in the classroom with various class projects as well as with other students within our campus.

Our sixth-graders have immersed themselves in collaborating with both one another and with younger students. Each month, sixth-graders do a team project and present their end product to the class, parents and younger students. This past month, they learned about Egypt. They created various artifacts including mummies, hieroglyphics and scale replicas of the Great Pyramid.



After presenting their learning to their class, they put together an Egyptian museum for our younger students, who asked them questions about Egyptian civilization. The younger students were fascinated by the facts that our sixth-graders shared with them. They look forward to having the same opportunity when they reach sixth grade!

## Tamarisk *Elementary K-6*

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



**Martin Herrera**  
*Principal*

### Hit the Ground Running

Our Tamarisk certificated and classified staff members have done an exceptional job in planning the many great performances, events, and workshops that we had during this first year back in session.

Most recently, our Parenting Partners workshop was well attended. Read Across America was a great success; our students are attending Tamarisk Empowerment Saturday School because it was well planned by teachers; the Holiday Winter Concert

performance witnessed an excellent parent turnout; and more than 50 percent of our fifth-graders attended the Outdoor Science School in April!

These are just a few of the many wonderful things that our teachers and staff members have made possible during our first year back in session.

Tamarisk Elementary School is fortunate to have a staff that is dedicated and passionate about student achievement. Through their resiliency, patience, and empathy for our students and parents, they demonstrate a strong commitment to student success.



# Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



## Wrapping It Up

The Yellen Learning Center Eagles are soaring through the final two months of the school year. We have so many exciting things happening before the end of the school year, including state testing, our annual talent show, our annual art festival, eighth-grade activities, graduation, end-of-year awards, and other celebrations.

**Colleen Sawyer**  
*Principal*

At this time of year, it is important to let staff members know how much we appreciate them. On behalf of the Yellen students, parents, and myself, I would like to thank all of the wonderful staff members who work together to make Yellen such a successful program. We would not see the growth that we do without the hard work and dedication of our staff members and the other support providers who work with the students. Thank you for your compassion and continued excellence. You make all the difference!

# Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



## Yucca Campfire Family Night!

The Yucca cafeteria was transformed into a campground with trees, tents, campfires and a wolf howling at the moon!

**Pamela Egbert**  
*Principal*

Children and their families brought sleeping bags, blankets and ate Smores to complete the experience. Once inside the cafeteria students were greeted by their teacher who read them stories. Students and families shared their favorite books with one another using flashlights and lanterns to light up the pages. The Yucca Bully Free Committee sponsored this event as part of Yucca's commitment to being a Bully Free school.



**Mrs. Bohannon reading to her 3rd graders.**

## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Raul Maldonado**

back at our recent successes and challenges and building on the foundation of our past.

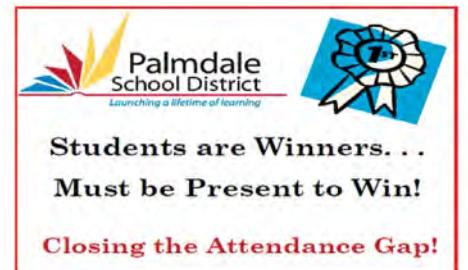
So far we have received a lot of great input, but we would still like more. As we continue this process, we will have additional stakeholders meetings, including one to focus specifically on the needs of our African American community. We will also be breaking out into a few separate student and parent focus groups.

Do you have ideas on how we can improve our district? Please share them with us! We would love to have you attend one of our meetings. You can get information by calling us at (661) 947-7191 and asking for the superintendent's office.

We understand that life can be busy and that meetings don't always fit into your schedule. If you can't attend any of our meetings, please send an e-mail with your input to our strategic plan consultant, Francisca Sanchez, at fssanchez@palmdalesd.org. We look forward to hearing from you and building the future of the Palmdale School District together!

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

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



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# Summer Reading

By Debra Jamison,

Coordinator of Professional Development and Intervention

When you think about reading, do you think of it as a skill just like any other skill? Just like football, basketball, and baseball players continuously practice their skills, our students need to practice as well.

Lessons learned in the classroom during the school year can easily be lost during the summer months if reading is not included in your vacation plans. In fact, Richard Allington, a professor of literacy at the University of Tennessee, writes that the summer slide can be as much as three to five months of learning for those students who struggle to read, and even three months for the average students.



As a parent, none of us want our children to return to school in September falling behind. That's why it is critical to find time each day to support your child's reading. After all, if professional athletes work out during their "off season" in order to be prepared for their regular seasons, why wouldn't we want our children to return to school ready to start their next grade – instead of working just to catch up with the others who did practice their reading skills?

So how can we include reading in each day? The good news is that even 15 minutes of reading a day will help prevent this slide. But intermediate students should strive to read five or more books during the summer in order to keep from losing ground with their peers.

Make reading an activity that everyone in the family can do together. While books are a great choice, magazines, newspapers, comics, and reading on the internet are also good options. Head to the public library every week and keep those book choices fresh!

Include reading aloud to all your children too, even those who can read for themselves. One idea is to choose family books that you can all enjoy together. Whatever you choose, make sure it's something your child will want to read. Don't worry about the grade level or difficulty of the book. Choose books based on interest, and read lots of what intrigues you. All reading is good reading.

## Palmdale School District's Sage Planetarium

Located at the corner of 20th Street East and Avenue R

### A Fun Summer

By Jeremy Amarant, Director

#### June 18

5:30 Pre-K and Kinder Planetarium Show

6:30 A Planetarium Show for All Ages

8:30 Public Star Party (Free)

Telescopes in front of the Palmdale School District's SAGE Planetarium

#### June 25

5:30 Pre-K and Kinder Planetarium Show

6:30 A Planetarium Show for All Ages

7:30 Scout Night

#### July 23

5:00 Pre-K and Kinder Planetarium Show

6:30 A Planetarium Show for All Ages

8:30 Public Star Party (Free)

Telescopes in front of the Palmdale School District's SAGE Planetarium

#### July 30

4:30 Pre-K and Kinder Planetarium Show

6:00 A Planetarium Show for All Ages

7:30 Scout Night



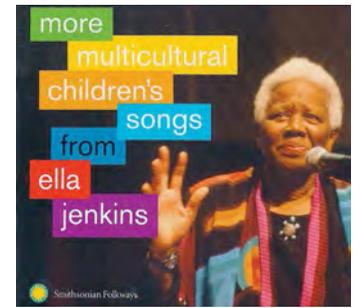
## Note-ables

### More Multicultural Children's Songs



Kate Karp

In celebration of the giving season, here's an offering from an award-winning children's music icon. Smithsonian Folkways has just released Ella Jenkins' 34th album, a sampler of music and spoken word that represents many diverse countries and cultures around the world.



Jenkins, called the First Lady of the Children's Folk Song, has recorded collections for children since back in the days of vinyl. My teacher played her records when I was a child in 1957, and yours may have, too, in the six-plus decades of her still-active career.

This collection sends children on a global tour that will educate them about vocabulary, special celebrations and cultures from here in the United States straight through the planet to the Great Wall of China—well, actually, that would be in the Indian Ocean, but you get the idea. There are stops at an Australian zoo for a visit with the continent's unusual animals, in Cuba for a dance lesson and in Israel for a dreidel spin. Children will learn how to count to ten in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and Greek (and in English, of course) and will hear how *Cairo* in Egypt is pronounced differently from *Cairo* in Illinois. And their passports are good for a dozen other lands.

Jenkins turned 90 years old in August, and she's still singing. *More Multicultural Songs* comprises her continuing gift of learning and connection to cultures through song to children everywhere.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



Setting the Stage for Lifelong Learning  
Early Childhood Education Programs

**Now accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year!**

ECE is recruiting eligible children birth to four years of age, including services for pregnant women and their families. Our programs provide support in the areas of: Health, nutrition, social services and academic readiness. Parents who have children with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Placement Pending Least Restrictive Environment as specified by their child's IEP. Early Childhood Education promotes school readiness for children 0-4 years old.

All families are encouraged to apply including: Homeless, Foster Caregiver and families who have children with disabilities.

#### Programs offered:

Head Start  
Early Head Start  
State Preschool  
Los Angeles Universal  
Preschool (LAUP)



Enroll now for  
preschool

For more information call

Palmdale area:  
975 East Ave. P-8,  
Palmdale, CA 93550  
(661) 273-4710

Or

Lancaster Area:  
540 E. Lancaster Blvd. #101  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
(661) 942-2450

[www.Palmdalesd.org](http://www.Palmdalesd.org)

Select: Early Childhood Education

Our District also sponsors the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The program is available without charge to all children enrolled in participating programs. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Early Sponsored by: CCRC, funded by Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, California Department of Education, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP).

## Summer Fun With Kids



Jodie Lynn

**Q:** This summer we want to try and do more things with our kids at home. What are some of the best, most entertaining and/or most educational products that are quality items? The children range in ages from almost 4 to around 12.

**A:** There's plenty of exciting creations for summer fun. Crayola has some awesome products, among which are markers, sidewalk chalk in tons of amazing colors, colored outdoor bubbles, and a traveling, mess-free kit for kids in the car or on a plane. If you're looking for unusual, high-quality clothing for kids, the Hiho Batik Handmade company makes beautiful cotton items that are light, soft and almost airy. Check out [www.hihobatik.com](http://www.hihobatik.com) for more details. The Flutterbye Surprise Butterfly Diary, by Spin Master, is a grand surprise that requires no batteries. It's supposed to be for the girls, but everyone seems to enjoy it when we checked it out. There's great towels for the kids or anyone in the family for swimming, after a bath or just any old time. Check out [www.karamagifts.com](http://www.karamagifts.com) for their well-made beautiful items. Don't forget to keep them brushing their teeth. There's a toothbrush for kids, and the whole family, made out of biodegradable bamboo that is non-toxic, BPA-free and antimicrobial. See [www.woobamboo.com](http://www.woobamboo.com) for more info. Lastly, there's a business start-up kit, Lemonade Stand, by Bizainy™, to inspire the entrepreneurial in your kids and is also great amusing educational fun.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com) for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

## Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

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

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

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

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

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

# Summer Fun 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Palmdale in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2015  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome   | Lessons   | Sunscreen  |
| Barbeque  | Lifeguard | Surfing    |
| Beach     | Picnics   | Swimming   |
| Fireworks | Pool      | Vacation   |
| Fun       | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot       | Sand      | Water      |
| Ice Cream | Summer    | Wave       |
| Lemonade  | Sunny     |            |

**Congratulations to Barbara Markov  
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**





## Every Step – a Journey!



**Tyler Robert Armstrong**

I am 11 year old, Tyler Armstrong, mountaineer. At age 9, I set the World Record as the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Aconcagua (22,841 feet). I also set the record for the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney (14,505 ft) in a single day (age 7), and was the second youngest to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft) (age 8).

Everyone always wants to know why a kid would want to climb mountains? I wanted to start climbing because when I was 6 I watched a nature documentary on the Great Divide. What was interesting about that documentary was that you hiked all the way from Canada to Mexico! Also, my dad had just come back from a hiking trip and showed me some videos. After the video was over I was inspired by what he just had accomplished! The next night I told my parents I wanted to start hiking! Then, after my dad got home I told him, “Let’s go jogging.” At first I could only go about a quarter mile. The next time I went jogging my goal was a half mile and it kept building from there. About a month later after a lot of hard work, it was time for my first hike!

My first hike was for about 6 miles and I could climb only to about 5,000 feet elevation, but at that time it was very challenging to me. I slowly made it to the top of the mountain and back, but I still made it all the way! The next day I was very sore. About a week later I told my dad that I wanted to do something bigger. We went on the internet and found more mountains that I was ready for. After climbing other local mountains and longer distances, I was ready for my test - Mt. Baldy (10,064 ft)! My dad decided to take a difficult trail up Mt. Baldy for 6,000 feet of elevation gain and 12 miles round trip. That day was very tough and tiring, but I was ready because of my hard training. When we got to the top I could see every thing. I was so high I could see LA! It was amazing that everything was under me, even the clouds! And right there I knew what I wanted to do... Mountain Climb!

After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record by ...(to be continued).

Publisher’s note: I read an article about Tyler and immediately invited him to be a guest columnist. He is such an inspiration and I want our readers to hear his amazing stories. If you can’t wait for the next column, please enjoy Tyler’s web site! [www.topwithtyler.com](http://www.topwithtyler.com) and [www.facebook.com/topwithtyler](https://www.facebook.com/topwithtyler) and [www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler](https://www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler)

## A Bit of History

### The Jazz Age: The Roaring Twenties

By D.H. Coop

In American social history, the 1920s period is often overshadowed by the Great War, Prohibition and the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Yet, it was a period of sudden change in the home, on the road, in the economy, in attitudes, and in behavior. These changes seem so second nature to us today that we think they have always been around.

Starting in the home we can see changes in workload, entertainment, and travel spread across the social environment. Prior to the '20s, the housewife scheduled her work according to the days of the week. Washing was done by hand and took all day, along with preparing the meals and caring for the children. Her workload was lightened with new time-saving devices, such as the electric vacuum cleaner, the electric refrigerator and stove, and the electric iron.

Also, the radio changed home entertainment. Before the radio, communities were informed of the local news by the newspaper or gossip at the market or pub. Now it was broadcast (a word from farming for scattering seeds by hand) right in their front rooms, along with other programs. Family entertainment then shifted from board games and singing to sitting and listening to the radio. As the price of the radio dropped, the children



## Remember When?

### 1964 and “I Feel Fine”



**Charlene Ashendorf**

The year was 1964, and I remember it like it was “Yesterday.” There were more than 52 million television sets in homes across America; that’s one in nine. Ours was a cabinet style Westinghouse with blonde wood and it would be turned on and tuned in...the year that the British rock band from Liverpool, The Beatles, was preparing for their first American appearance. Reports indicated that more than 73 million people would view this premiere television event and would be mesmerized by these four musicians in their early twenties. That Sunday night, February 9, 1964, I would convince my parents to allow us to watch the Ed Sullivan show while eating dinner on tray tables. “After a Hard Day’s Night” my mother broke down and agreed to serve the Swanson TV dinners in front of the television set (which was always forbidden on Sunday nights).

The Fab Four were introduced to a record breaking crowd. The audience was made up primarily of screaming teens like myself. I wept, I jumped up and down and choked on the words to “I Wanna Hold Your Hand.” My dad took his dinner, got up from the plastic covered sofa and finished his meal in the kitchen. My mother, disgusted by the gyrations of these teen idols and appalled by the behavior of these youngsters promised we would never watch Ed Sullivan again. And we never did.

Of course you know the rest of the stories... What followed were movies, solid gold album sales, and dozens of number one records. Two of our Beatles are gone, one murdered and the other died of cancer. The two who remain are in the early seventies. And by the time this article goes to print the British pop duo, The Eurythmics (Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart) will have performed in Los Angeles celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Beatles appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. If you don’t remember when, or you were late to that party, you may be able to catch “The Night that Changed America” youtube style. And if you are like me, you will always remember when.

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

moved off to their own rooms with their very own radios. During the day, the programs were centered on housewives and sponsored by soap companies, thus the birth of the “soap opera.”

Availability of the automobile changed all aspects of life. It provided the housewife with more independence and a more convenient way to do her shopping. Automobiles required better roads and better roads cost money, which caused a shift from railroads to automobiles being the force driving the economy. Restaurants became roadside cafes, hotels became motels, and crime became more mobile. To get the car into everyone’s hands, Henry Ford produced the Model T from 1914 to 1927 with the sales pitch of “in any color (black).” Ford outsold all other carmakers until 1927. General Motors allowed credit and sold cars in multiple colors, finally overtaking the Model T in sales.

Credit shifted the sales pitch. Advertising became more scientific, with research and studies. Slogans and sayings were rooted in the '20s, such as “Say it with flowers” and “Don’t light three cigarettes with one match.” Advertising was given a boost with the Silver Screen and the images it portrayed in dress and style.

Finally, the '20s saw the development of sports and entertainment on a mass scale. Baseball became a national spectator sport. The local bar became a speakeasy that respectable couples could go to and have a drink. The new drink to appeal to women was called the “cocktail”—drinks with decorations. The drinks required illegal alcohol, which was provided by bootleggers in fast cars, which gave birth to the modern race called National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

All in all, the 1920s changed the modern home, transportation, the economy, and social life.



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