

SUPERINTENDENT



**Raul
Maldonado**

A Strong Foundation

This time last year I shared our plans to create a new district-wide strategic plan. I am glad to report that the Palmdale Promise has established a new foundation for the district to implement

its vision and mission for students to reach new heights in the 21st century.

The Board of Trustees and our faculty and staff have been hard at work providing cutting-edge programs, electives, and opportunities for students to grow. We are consistently putting the needs of our students first by combining the latest technology with our teaching methods to help each child in our classrooms.

The Palmdale Promise in Action

One of the most recent steps our Board has taken is modifying the classrooms of our deaf and hard-of-hearing program. If you are not aware, the students enrolled in this program live throughout the Antelope Valley. This program focuses on visual communication plus auditory and verbal training to help students learn to speak. Our district decided to upgrade the classrooms by installing sound-dampening acoustic boards to enhance the learning experience for each student, specifically those who need more auditory input, not just signing. This small step is one of many that our district is taking to meet the needs of all of our students as part of the Palmdale Promise.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 14

Palmdale School District
39139 North 10th St East, Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 947-7191
<http://www.palmdalesd.org/>

CyberQuest 2016



Students at CyberQuest Competition

*By Janet Simons, Coordinator,
Federal and State Accountability
and Parent/Community Outreach*

Forty-two student teams, representing 21 school in the Palmdale School District, participated in the CyberQuest competition. CyberQuest is a problem based learning activity where students are presented with a scenario and they must research the issue and present both an oral and electronic presentation. These teams have six weeks to complete their research and create their electronic presentation. The students competed against other teams at their school with the winning teams moving on to the district competition. This is a chance for the teams to showcase their research, writing, presentation and technology skills. Both Common Core State Standards and the 21st Century Learning Skills of Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Communication are imbedded throughout the process.

See CYBERQUEST • Page 15

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Juan
Carrillo**
President

Great Things are Happening!

Great things are happening around the district as we further our plan to build excellence through the Palmdale Promise. One of our responsibilities of your Board of Trustees is to become active community leaders and seek new opportunities for the students of our school district.

We recently collaborated with our community partners to provide students with insight as to what is available to them here in the Antelope Valley. Our staff has been quite busy arranging tours for our intermediate students to learn and explore. We want to dispel the belief that students must seek opportunities outside the valley to expand their knowledge and careers once they graduate from high school. One of the goals for the Board is to connect students with the careers and endless possibilities available to them in our backyard.

One approach the Board has taken is encouraging more student tours at a variety of locations in the valley.

This past month, a select group of students was invited to a private tour at the Kinkishayro facility, which is located in a former bomber assembly plant here in Palmdale. The students were able to see firsthand how the plant's employees assemble light rails for the Los Angeles County Metro rail lines. This collaboration gave students exposure to the careers available in the Antelope Valley that relate to the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We plan to continue working with our community partners to offer more private tours for our students in the future, so they too can learn about the opportunities available to them in our valley.

Another tour that took place with our intermediate students was at the Antelope Valley College (AVC) campus, which provided a chance for students to explore the idea of attending college in the future. Students were able to tour the campus and attend a college fair to learn about different career paths. The AVC tour directly

See BOARD OF TRUSTEES • Page 15

Early Childhood Education

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

A Busy Time



Donna Lebetsemer
Director

The eligibility process is in full swing for the 16-17 school year. We held our Annual Recruitment Fair on Friday, April 8th, 2016 and we were able to complete applications with over 160 families! It was a great turnout and featured the Antelope Valley Community Clinic providing free dental exams, a mobile Care-A-Van for students to receive complete physicals, childcare for the kids, the mobile library, and other community vendors.

Our students are also participating in Harvest of the Month and gardening activities at the sites this spring. In this picture, they are excited to water and watch lima beans grow at Antelope.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The end of school is in sight and students are focused on testing and their final goals for this school year.

On the front page Superintendent Maldonado proudly writes about the success of the Palmdale Promise.

This is our last issue until October 5 when we'll be back publishing the excellence again. Thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* among your reading choices. Thank you for your many contest entries. We have another Word Search on page 11 and remember it is open to all ages.

Have a wonderful summer.

School News

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Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Car Parts 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 June 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| antenna | gearbox | radio |
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| engine | lock | wipers |
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| gas tank | muffler | |



Personnel Commission

Dr. Frances Ufondu, Director, Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Thank You Ned Beadel

Mr. Beadel has held the Board Appointment of the Personnel Commission for 19 years. The Personnel Commission is a governing body that oversees the activities of the Merit System of the Palmdale School District under Education Code 45240 through 45320. The Merit System operates to ensure that employees' selections and promotion are on the basis of merit and fitness to minimize preference or prejudice. Ned Beadel has been instrumental in helping the Commission run smoothly for the past 19 years. Through changes in systems and processes he has remained a sounding board for the Commission.

Mr. Beadel has been a member of the Personnel Commission since 1997. Ned and his wife, Wendy, have been residents of the Antelope Valley for over 25 years. He recently retired as the pastor of Desert Winds Community Church after 25 years of service to his congregation and the community.

Mr. Beadel was recognized by the Palmdale School District Board of Trustees and employees at the board meeting on April 19th. A reception was held to recognize



Mr. Beadel, his mom and wife Wendy with Superintendent Maldonado and Board President, Mr. Carrillo

his 19 years of service to the Personnel Commission as the representative of the Board of Trustees. He also participated during the process of developing the District's strategic goals, "The Palmdale Promise".

We would like to thank Mr. Beadel for his dedicated service to the Personnel Commission and the Merit System.



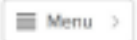
Only online applications will be accepted at www.palmdalesd.org

To view all current job opportunities, click on the "Employment" icon.

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- ▶ Sub Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant
- ▶ Sub Paraeducator - Moderate to Severe
- ▶ Sub Special Education Instructional Assistant

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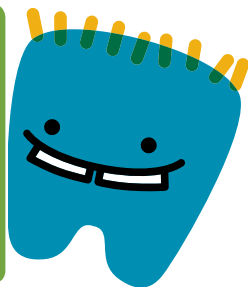
The Personnel Commission is located at 37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550
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Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Bulldog Pride!

Barrel Springs teachers have diligently prepared our third-through-sixth-grade students for the Smarter Balance standardized test, which take place through May 12! All students worked hard all year long. This year, they've also given back to our community and participated in district competitions.

This past month, Barrel Springs Bulldogs became superheroes by raising money for the United Way Campaign. This month, they're participating in the Pennies for Patients fund-raiser.

Our school reclassified almost 30 English learners, and we're proud of their accomplishments! Barrel Springs third/fourth-grade Fantastic Four team and fifth/sixth-grade Fierce Bulldogs team participated in the PSD CyberQuest competition. We're so proud of them all, especially our fifth/sixth grade team who were finalists. Additionally, two sixth-grade math teams participated in the PSD Mathlete Competition; one team placed first, and several students received medals.

Great job to all our Bulldogs for working hard, participating and giving back to our community!



Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Lots of Excitement

There's a lot exciting things happening at Buena Vista. A very popular after school enrichment class is Art, taught by MaryGrace Salayao, a teacher who majored in Art. Primary students are learning the Elements of Art (line, shape, and texture), and Upper grade students are working on Principles of Design. We also have a Lego engineering class, Lego Master Builders that is led by a parent volunteer, Lindsay McGriff to encourage our future engineers. In addition, our CyberQuest teams practiced, prepared and competed in the district

competition on Saturday, April 2, under the leadership of teachers Norma Cervantes and Michele Lake. Our 4th grade team made it to the finals and our 6th grade team placed 2nd in the district. We're very proud of them! We plan to keep these popular activities going next year and hope to add even more fun!



Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Ruth James
Principal

Changes and Additions

As we approach the end of the school year, Cactus Intermediate School has quite a few activities planned.

We have been meeting with our feeder schools to help prepare our incoming students for the transition into middle school. Next year we will be welcoming a small group of sixth-graders to our campus, so we are making plans to ensure that this goes smoothly. We are also working with the staff at Palmdale High School to help our students have a positive experience as they transition into high school. The high school staff has visited with our teachers and students at Cactus, and our students visited the high school campus at the end of April.

For the 2016-2017 school year, we will be increasing the number of electives offered to students. We are planning to expand Project Lead the Way and our



Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program, and we will also add robotics and dance as regular electives. We are also partnering with Palmdale High School to introduce the Junior Upcoming Medical Professional Program (JUMP), which is the middle school version of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

A Different Approach

On March 9, our school was honored to have Dr. Tyrone Howard, a guest speaker and consultant, present a well-received professional development seminar to our team. Dr. Howard focused on access, equity, and increasing the academic achievement of culturally diverse students. He also discussed the significance of the vital role teachers play in the development of students' academic and social success.

In his presentation, he also demonstrated how adopting greater awareness and a comprehensive understanding of race

and culture can improve educational outcomes. Dr. Howard's strong message not only resonated well with the staff, but it also left our team with a better understanding of the backgrounds of all students and helped them to feel better equipped to serve our culturally diverse population.

Here at Chaparral Elementary School, we always strive for our students' academic and personal excellence! We look forward to more professional development with Dr. Howard and his team!



Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Our Cyber Experts are Finalists!

The District CyberQuest Competition took place in April, but teams started working on their presentation skills long before that day. Our school had several GATE student teams formed in October to learn and explore the CyberQuest process. Initially, all the teams participated in a practice round that culminated with a Site Presentation of Learning. One team from our fifth/sixth-grade-level span and one team from the third/fourth-grade-level span were selected to advance to the district level to represent Desert Rose. The two teams were then given a final scenario to use to create a presentation to take to the district competition.

We are proud of both teams and the hard work each student put into preparing for the April competition. This year, our third/fourth-grade team, the Cyber Experts, advanced to the finals. While our team did not place, our Desert Rose family is proud of all our CyberQuest team members!



Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Take Us Out to the Ballgame

Cimarron School is participating in the 2016 Lancaster Jethawk's and KaBoom's Reading Challenge. This will be our sixth year. The program is designed to encourage our children to read. It also shows them the importance of reading in every

aspect of life. Here's how it works:

Students are given three weeks in April to accumulate 300 minutes (five hours) of reading time. The children and parents keep track of their hours on a reading log that is sent home with each student. Parents then sign and send in these reading logs to the classroom teachers. Those students who complete their reading goals will receive a free ticket to the Jethawk's game on Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m.

The class with the most minutes gets to have their teacher throw out the first pitch of the game. So come out early to play catch and participate in a parade on the field before the game begins.

This is a family event, and family members may purchase tickets for \$6 each. That way everyone can have a fun afternoon at the ballgame!



Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

A Positive School Culture

Desert Willow Intermediate School's Associated Student Body (ASB) is doing their part to promote a positive school culture for all students! They have planned school-wide celebrations each month to include every student on campus.

In February, ASB chose to celebrate every student on campus on Valentine's Day. In past years, Valentine Grams were sold and distributed to students. However, this practice tended to isolate students who didn't receive anything and make them feel bad. So, ASB made grams for every student on campus and hand delivered

them to their classes, so every student knew they were special and cared for.

On March 14, ASB collaborated with the cafeteria staff to provide Pi Day cookies for each student as we celebrated the mathematical value of pi, 3.14. This month, ASB will be hosting Birthday Day, when each student's birthday will be celebrated. ASB will have birthday games for students to play during lunch, birthday songs will be heard during the day, and there will be birthday party favors. What a perfect way to wrap up the school year!

These changes have had a big impact on our students and our school culture! Thank you ASB and advisors, Mrs. Richey and Mrs. Davis, for all your hard work and dedication!



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Marlene Batista
Principal

A Great Event

In early April, over 70 parents and students either took a bus or caravanned from Dos Caminos to USC for this year's Los Angeles Times Book Festival. It was an amazing day! Our students had the opportunity to receive free books signed by authors. They were also able to participate in read-alouds and other fun activities throughout the day.

The highlight came when our Dos Caminos students joined "El Guero Loco," a very cool and fun educational rapper, on stage to sing his alphabet rap. El Guero Loco, who happens to be Caucasian, explained to the students in his very fluent Spanish the importance of being bilingual and bringing our communities together so that the United States can compete in this global world.

One of our book publisher friends also gave each of our students a free book. Overall it was an amazing day. We definitely decided that this trip will be repeated again next year. Hopefully we will provide two buses this time to take even more families to this great event!



Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Taking Education Outside of Classroom

Golden Poppy students have taken their education to a variety of locations during the past months. From Outdoor Science School in Wrightwood, Cyberquest at Millen Intermediate, to our Dance Force team taking their talents to Antelope Valley College, Grizzlies are out and about to both enhance and showcase their skills. Within the walls of Golden Poppy we are also taking our thinking outside of the box with a second helping of the Mad Science Program, hosting a four school RISE Basketball tournament, and completing the first year of our coding class!



Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Tech Over the Top!

Joshua Hills Technology Class has shown tremendous promise! Headed by Ms. Lemon, students learn computer programming along with engineering hardware designs to make the most amazing projects! Initially, students were taught programming to make visual displays, and after surpassing lessons from code.org, the class took on a life of its own. Students began experimenting with other programming language, and by interfacing circuit boards to their hardware designs, they were able to design

extraordinary projects.

At a board meeting, female students demonstrated their technological ingenuity by coding music programs that plugged into everyday items. There were cups of water that were played like a piano and a guitar made out of paper. Male students created a program that replicated a dance-based arcade game, which displayed during the STEM Showcase.

Congratulations to these amazing students who are preparing for the age of technology!



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

The Tech Café

Our Los Amigos teachers have had the opportunity to participate in several sessions of Tech Café, led by our technology lead teacher, Kelley Brown.

Mrs. Brown has volunteered her time to open up the computer lab twice a month before school in order to provide professional development around Google Classroom, Google Docs, OARs, and much more. As a result, she has led the movement to motivate our teachers to go outside their comfort zone and find excellent ways to incorporate new technology in their classrooms.

One teacher recently remarked that, "I appreciate Mrs. Brown taking the time to teach technology. So far, I have learned how to use our Google Drive to make easy and captivating presentations with video links. I have also learned how to use Google Docs and Excel sheets."

On behalf of the Los Amigos staff, we would like to thank Mrs. Brown for her commitment.



Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

CyberQuest Success

Manzanita is proud of the students who participated in this year's Palmdale School District CyberQuest competition.

Manzanita sent two teams to the competition. The Time Twisters (3/4 Division) and the Tiny Mice Apps (5/6 division) represented our school. The Tiny Mice Apps took third place in the competition. The Tiny Mice Apps team members were Tristan Lovely, Melissa Preza, and Erika Mondragon.

The purpose of the CyberQuest presentations is to integrate 21st-century research and critical thinking skills with oral and electronic presentation. It is a chance for students to showcase their research, writing, presentation, and technology skills.

Manzanita is proud of all the students who participated, and is grateful to those parents and teachers who supported them during this journey. A big thank-you goes to Mrs. Connie Bolton and Mr. Jeff Pettipas for their commitment and dedication to our students.

Our Manzanita students are moving forward into the 21st century!



Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Rocking the Reading!

Mesquite Elementary has always had terrific community support, and that tradition continues! This school year, Read Across America (RAA) committees did a fantastic job of planning engaging activities.

"Reading Rocks" was this year's theme, and Mesquite certainly rocked with reading! We had an outdoor assembly, essay and poster contests, and spirit days. Teachers decorated the cafeteria with beautiful RAA bulletin boards. The highlight was our morning and evening guest-readers, another Mesquite

RAA tradition. During both events, our readers included parents, a PSD Board member, district and site employees, Pete Knight High School basketball team members, and a pageant queen! And we had a special group of readers in the evening—eight second-through-sixth-graders! Students who listened to at least three stories during the evening event selected a reading book of their choice, courtesy of our PTA.

Mesquite was definitely rocking the reading, and we are eagerly looking forward to next year's Read Across America!



David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Brian Williams
Principal

Transforming

Millen Intermediate is transforming into Millen Middle School. Next year 60 6th graders from our feeder schools will be invited to participate in our Middle School Pilot program. In 2017-2018 school year, we expect to have an equal number of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Our transformation into middle school coincides with our creation of the Millen Law and Government Academy. Our school will have all of the same S.T.E.A.M. programs like Project Lead the Way and music; however, we will have speciality programs like Mock Trial, Forensics and Model

United Nations as part of our Law and Government Academy. We are excited to welcome all of our incoming sixth and seventh graders, and we look forward to proving a positive, engaging middle school experience.



Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Making Wise Choices

Oak Tree Learning Center continues to progress toward closing the achievement gap and supporting the district's goal in preparing students for the 21st century. Oak Tree's unique program has a foundation in restorative justice and team cooperation. Students are placed in a structured environment and given multiple opportunities for successful learning. Students are taught social skills, team cooperation, accountability, and academic indulgence.

Restorative justice focuses on restoring students and holding them accountable for their actions. In the Restorative Justice Circle, students recognize how their choices affect others and have the opportunity to dialogue about solutions. Our school psychologist, Mr. Ferrell, supervises the circle as he rotates to the different classrooms. The students support and respect the circle, as it allows them to express their opinions and listen to others. The circle is an effective tool that is used as an alternative to discipline. It has helped to change the culture here at Oak Tree.



Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Capturing Kids' Hearts

Ocotillo Elementary School was lucky enough this year to receive Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) training. We created a school-wide CKH team and are focusing on building relational capacity. We intentionally plan meet and greet activities at each staff meeting to build a stronger team amongst our staff members. We have students at each of our drop-off gates in the morning to greet students and parents with handshakes or kind welcoming words.

Our CKH team meets monthly to plan CKH implementation ideas and strategies. The team leaders intentionally plan CKH into their weekly PLC meetings to ensure we are building relational capacity within classrooms and that social contracts and the EXCEL model are being used to foster powerful teams.

Capturing Kids' Hearts has allowed us to fulfill the commitment of providing a relevant and challenging education, as well as a positive school climate built on the foundation of relationships.



Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Collaboration is the key at Palm Tree Elementary School. We are fortunate to have an abundance of people who make our programs possible. We understand that we cannot do everything but we can always do more.

Through our clinic and intervention program, students are reading at grade level by the time they reach third grade. Our teachers receive coaching in culturally responsive pedagogy, lesson planning, and English learner instructional strategies. We continue to offer extended-day language arts and math programs three days a week.

The Boys and Girls Club is on campus daily. We offer soccer and basketball teams, a folklorico dance group, ballet, visual art, and computer animation. We have a family center, where parents volunteer and participate in parent groups. Our PTO organized multiple fund-raisers to send our students on field trips this year.

At Palm Tree, teamwork makes the dream work!



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Another Wonderful Year!

We are very busy at PDC this time of year. April is Autism Awareness Month. It is important to raise awareness about autism in our schools and in our community at large. The information we can share with others about autism ensures greater support for our students with autism. This year, we have some special activities planned for our students, and our neighbors at Ocotillo will be hosting a dance for our students. We are very much looking forward to it!

Staff and students are preparing for state testing, and we expect 100 percent participation from all students in our program this year. Our preschool program is working hard this time of year to prepare all of our



preschoolers transitioning into kindergarten next year. Palmdale Discovery Center would like to thank all our transportation staff members for their valuable support and making sure our students get to and from school safely every day. We appreciate all their hard work!

It has been a successful school year! We have many staff members to thank for their hard work and continued dedication to our program!

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Danny Kanga
Principal

Cyberquest Competition

The Palmdale Learning Plaza did a fantastic job at the PSD Cyberquest competition held on Saturday, April 2nd at David G. Millen Intermediate School. Our intermediate team came in 2nd place, our

5th and 6th grade team came in 1st place, and our 3rd and 4th grade team also came in first place. Our students were not only well-prepared, they were also deeply inspiring! Congratulations to the following students for their excellent performance: Michelle DePaz, Katherine Gonda, Anthony Rivera, Raul Santana, Gabriel Montesdeoca, Jennifer Chor, Rosie Rivera, Anthony Aguilar, Julia Magallanes, Esbai Navarro, Kristie Charter, Jordyn Paland, Emma Montesdeoca, Gabby Santos, Hermis Medrano, and Esteban Claros. We also want to thank our coaches for their hard work and dedication: Beverly Gonda, Jamie Kreutel, and Lauren Monson. Great job, Pumas!



Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Interim Principal

CyberQuest 2016

This year, Quail Valley teacher Carol Radigan took up the task of coaching our CyberQuest teams.

The teams started working back in November for the school competition presentations in February, which were held after school for parents and staff to judge and watch.

Quail Valley had four teams in the preliminary round. The Intelligems were Sophia Parker, Paulina Martinez, Celeste Salinas, and Michelle Hughes. The Cyber Stars were Alejandro Huezo, Angelo Uriarte, Ikenna Akporji, and Arely Orozco.

The Techno Experts were Selah Clark, Amber Asuela, Oluwatoyin Sunday, and Vanessa Hernandez. The Techno Kids were Riley Franklin, Andrew Esquivel, Jacob Garcia, and Symari Martin.

All teams presented themselves well, but in the end, one team was selected to advance to the district level competition: the Intelligems. The girls re-invented the team and represented Quail Valley at the district competition in April, and did a great job!



Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Dr. Linda Brandts
Principal

Summerwind Mathletes Take Third!

Summerwind students participate in many enriching activities. In April, two district-wide competitions offered an opportunity for students to shine. Under the direction of Mrs. Eisenmenger, Summerwind Mathletes, Martin Huerta, Efrain Espinoza, Mia Jones, Ethan Gatdula, Abigail Escobar, and Mesrop Patatanian, won third place. They now will go on to compete at Pete Knight High School. Good luck, Mathletes!

Summerwind's two Cyberquest teams presented their projects to a panel of expert judge. Team members, Suzy Avetisyan, Emma Perez, Maudine Matos, Jeremy Torres, Chanelle Dumuk, Juan Silva, and Syeda Fatima Tirmzi, worked with their coach Mrs. Perkins to polish their projects. The team said they hope others have the opportunity to participate next year. Thank you Summerwind students and teachers for all your hard work.



Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Dr. Donna Campbell
Principal

Celebrating Academic Success

It was a wonderful month for Shadow Hills, as students participated in the Palmdale School District's Cyberquest and Mathletes competitions. Students were well prepared by their coaches, Mr. Schneider and Ms. Mayoral for Cyberquest, and Mr. Vanderzee for Mathletes. Our Cyberquest team took home the first place trophy in the 7th grade/8th grade division with their winning presentation and delivery of their "Homework Helper" app. Similarly, our four

Mathletes teams took home group and individual trophies. Our two 7th grade teams won 1st and 3rd place trophies, and our 8th grade teams won 1st and 2nd grade trophies. We also had the overall 1st place individual winner! Go Falcons!



Tamarisk *Elementary K-6*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

Fundational Skills

Tamarisk is doing amazing things around foundational skills! In February, our first and second grade teachers began the journey of working with Jill Jackson Consulting. The training was focused on a series of Mastery Guides that provided curriculum and routines for teaching foundational skills. Over the course of the first three weeks, first grade students had a 22 percentage point gain and second grade had a 27 percentage point gain in student achievement in foundational skills! The amount of growth made over this short time period is astounding. First grade

teacher Christine Del Llano said "I am excited by the progress my students are making and that even my struggling students are showing amazing growth". The dedicated teachers are commended for their openness and willingness in putting student achievement first. Go Tigers!



Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Victor Torres
Principal

Lifelong Learners

Here at Tumbleweed, we create an atmosphere of learning for both our students and our parents. We encourage parents to increase their knowledge with a multitude of workshops and encourage them to voice their interests. This sets the tone for collaboration in creating more workshops. Just this year, we have introduced basic computer classes and nutrition seminars with parents' input and ideas and are developing more. Additionally, the Parenting Partners and Parent Academy workshops address parent strategies and school/district programs.

Encouraging parents to contribute establishes strong parent relationships, increases family engagement, and builds school, family and community partnerships. Research strongly indicates that students achieve better grades, test scores and attendance when their parents are involved in their education.

One of our goals is to instill in our students the importance of being lifelong learners. It's exciting to see so parents exemplify this goal! Go Titans and our Titan parents!



Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Pamela Egbert
Principal

The Raven's Café

Yucca is a buzz with the renaming of the school's cafeteria to "The Raven's Café." This change was brought about by Mrs. Johnston's 6th grade class after not winning the weekly

"Golden Tray" award. Her class decided that a "mindset" change about the cafeteria was necessary. They decided that they needed to view their time in the cafeteria in a different way. Their idea was to behave like they were in a restaurant every day during lunch. Much to their surprise they began to win the coveted Golden Tray filled with cookies week after week. A week long contest to name the school's cafeteria produced the new name of "Raven's Café." A mural celebrating this change will be visible as students walk in through the doors reminding them to be on their best behavior and they too might win the Golden Tray of cookies.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Another Successful Year

We have seen many improvements in academics. We have also seen many students increase their reading skills with "Footsteps to Brilliance." With the use of Chromebooks, we have also seen more student engagement, collaboration, improved technical skills, faster access to information, and self-directed research.

We are now gearing up for state testing. Another big event is our annual Art Festival. We're so thrilled that AV Sunrise Rotary continues to bless Yellen with supplies for art projects.

The theme this year is "Nature," and some of the projects are already nearing completion. Not only are the students able to participate in staff-provided lessons in art, they can also create a project to share with the community.

We wouldn't have such success at Yellen without the dedication and hard work of all of our staff members. Thank you to all who are involved in our students' daily lives.



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Build It Back Again



Kate Karp

I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks. *Build It Back Again* by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even



with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.

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

Magical!



Lucy Davis

The Land of Stories – Beyond the Kingdoms
Author: Chris Colfer

The Masked man uses a portal potion to jump from story to story to recruit a powerful army of the worst fairytale villains!

Alex has been un-godmothered, so she and Conner are in trouble. No one believes her except Mother Goose. Conner, Alex and Mother Goose along with a few other friends they make along the way, follow the Masked Man through some of literature's most loved fairytales. Meanwhile, Bree discovers a family secret that you just won't believe.



The author delivers another MAGICAL book, while using different fairytales than the first three books of the Land of Stories series. The book jumps back and forth from one setting to another so you must pay attention to what's happening. For those that haven't read the first three, I encourage you to do so before reading this book.

Another five bookworms out of five, it's a brilliant read!

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

We Love Our Dogs 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 June 15, 2016

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

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Akita | Dalmatian | Puli |
| Basenji | Doberman | Rottweiler |
| Beagle | Great Dane | Saint Bernard |
| Bloodhound | Labrador Retriever | Samoyed |
| Boxer | Malamute | Shiba Inu |
| Bulldog | Mastiff | Shih Tzu |
| Chihuahua | Pinscher | Siberian Husky |
| Chow Chow | Poodle | Weimaraner |
| Collie | Pug | Xoloitzcuintli |

**Congratulations to Matthew Harris
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**



Honoring Our Teachers



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

On May 11, educators around the state marked the 34th anniversary of California's Day of the Teacher.

California's Day of the Teacher is patterned after the celebration of the traditional El Dia del Maestro, which is observed in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

It arose out of legislation authored by Sen. Joseph Montoya and co-sponsored by the California Teachers Association and the Association of Mexican American Educators in 1982.

At the Los Angeles County Office of Education, we honored our teachers who work very hard to instill in our students an appreciation of our society's cultural diversity, a love of learning, and the skills to pursue productive lives.

I started my career in education as a teacher, and the occasion reminded me why I became one. I became a teacher because I had amazing teachers who were able to shine a light of hope and inspiration in my young life.

Most of us remember the special teachers who touched our lives. We recall the way they made us feel and how they encouraged and challenged us. They helped us become who we are today.

Teachers care for their students well after the school day ends. They put in long hours finding new ways to make lessons come alive. They work hard to build relationships with students' families to make sure the students have the support that they need at home.

These are just a few examples of how teachers go above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in their students' lives.

As one of our past Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year, Rebecca Mieliwocki, who went on to become the 2012 National Teacher of the Year, said: "A schoolteacher is the best tax-dollar bargain you will ever get. If you want to see tax dollars hard at work. Come into a classroom and see what's going on."

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nation's largest regional educational agency, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

Keira's Book Nook

Don't Judge a Book/Person By the Cover



Keira

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

This amazing book is about a boy named August (Auggie) who was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to school. When he finally goes, well you know how hard it can be starting a new school! Auggie is just a normal boy inside with an unusual face. He talks about his life filled with

challenges, such as the many surgeries he has gone through to improve his face.

This story teaches that no matter how you look, it doesn't change if you are a nice person or not. Whenever people see Auggie, they just think about how he looks, not about whether he is funny or kind. It is also about his fifth grade year at a new school.

This story is so good I already read it twice, and I plan on reading it again! I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.



Keira Fukuwa is a fourth grader. Besides reading, she enjoys soccer, jazz dance, crafts and cooking. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 the best.

Parent To Parent

Growing Up—Summer Vacation



Jodie Lynn

Q: We are hoping to possibly go on a vacation this summer where there are activities just for the kids. Our children are both girls ages 10 and 12. The oldest has begun to pull away from her younger sister and we are afraid she will not want her hanging around her on the trip, particularly during the activities. How much should we allow the oldest to do on her own?

A: It sounds like your oldest daughter is perhaps striving to become a little more independent from not only her younger sister, but also from you and your husband. This is a perfectly normal development that most kids her age go through, especially if she is close to turning 13. Before deciding on your summer vacation destination, read as much material as possible about the activities offered for kids. It should have a breakdown pertaining to age and gender, an in-depth description and where it takes place, including a specific schedule for each. Depending on the oldest girl's maturity level and what grade she will be in for the fall, she could meet the criteria of activities geared for the middle-school age range. It is important that you and the kids are satisfied and that the activities are fun for each one. For example, if somewhere you are considering for your vacation sounds great for one but not so much for the other, keep looking until you can find a more balanced plan for both. This way, they will both feel appreciated and comfortable with what is being offered for them individually. If the brochure or online information does not answer all of your questions, there may be a toll-free number to call to ask more questions or an online form you can use to contact customer service.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. 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 for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

College 4 Less

Is America Paying Too Much for College?



Susan D. Marshall

That is a resounding YES!

Most families will over pay for college. That is evident by the growing level of student loan debt in this country. It is currently over \$1.2 Trillion. Double that of credit card debt. Unbelievable right? Just ask those college graduates. Many are still buried in debt; struggling to get ahead.

Middle America is now saddled with most of the burden. If you fall in that category you make too much to qualify for grants and subsidized loans. Yet, not enough to pay the price of a college education out of your pocket without huge sacrifices. Usually to your retirement.

Many students are shocked when their financial aid packages arrive. Expecting to find help, they find an assortment of loans or money they will have to pay back. This is especially true if it is a state school.

What you can do:

- Learn how to best position yourself to take advantage of need based aid or tax strategies that may be available to your family.
- Get counseling before you sign up for those loans. Understand how they work. Some loans you have to start paying back 90 days after disbursement.
- College selection can play heavily into what your overall expense will be. Don't rule out the college because of the sticker price.
- If you don't know how to navigate the financial aid process, find someone who does.
- Realize grades are still important!

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com



Raul Maldonado

SBAC Testing

It's that time of the year again for students to wake up bright and early for their Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing. Please make sure your child eats a healthy breakfast and sleeps properly to help them do well with their testing. The SBAC was implemented last year as the new statewide Common Core State Standards adaptive testing that measures student knowledge and mastery of skills. The test is designed to evaluate student performance and help improve education efforts nationwide.

Footsteps2Brilliance

I am thrilled to share with you the success of the Palmdale Promise: Early Learning Literacy Initiative Press Conference. The event was well attended by our community leaders, dignitaries, district staff and Palmdale School District families. It was an honor for me to share with the community the efforts we are taking to close the achievement gap. As I mentioned in our last Launch Pad, the Footsteps2Brilliance application is an interactive program designed to increase a child's literacy skills in both English and Spanish. Our faculty and staff in all of our elementary schools have already witnessed how this free application has improved our students' knowledge this school year.

With that said, it was very important to hold a press conference with our community partners to share with them our progress and the possibilities of helping each child in Palmdale read at a third-grade level by the time he or she enters third grade.

The school district was joined together with Congressman Steve Knight, the mayor and city council of Palmdale, the Palmdale City Library, the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department: Palmdale Station, the Palmdale Water District, the Palmdale Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the African American Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Antelope Valley Chamber of Commerce, and other superintendents to get the word out about Footsteps2Brilliance, with the goal of increasing childhood literacy across our community. I would like to thank our staff and, most importantly, our students for making this implementation a true fiesta through your performance and hard work.



Superintendent Maldonado launching F2B citywide to ensure every student is reading by 3rd grade as promised in "The Palmdale Promise"

As always, if you have questions, feel free to reach out to me. I am always available to listen to your concerns. Thank you for being a part of our family and helping us lead the way with the Palmdale Promise.



PSD Trustees, PETA members, Pat Russell, Councilman Fred Thompson, Mayor Jim Ledford, Congressman Steve Knight and wife Lily, AV College President Ed Knudson and some of the crowd at the F2B Launch



Students at Summerwind Elementary learning how to read with F2B in the classroom



Danny Bazzell, Superintendent Maldonado, Mayor Jim Ledford, High School Superintendent David Vierra, Eugene Narcisso (founder, F2B), Isaac Barcelona



While the teams competed in CyberQuest, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Showcase was going on for families to enjoy as they waited for the results. There were many hands-on activities in which children and adults could participate. We had the NASA Dome, Antelope Valley Water Agency, City of Palmdale Library Tech Mobile, PSD /LACOE Harvest of the Month and Rethink Your Drink, and several Robotics presentations for families to enjoy. The biggest hit was the Red Bull Stratosphere Capsule and it's creator Art Thompson were on hand as the centerpiece of the showcase. Students were able to get their picture taken in front of the capsule, while the video of Felix Baumgarten's 128,000 foot freefall from the capsule was playing nearby.

Over 400 people attended the event.

3rd and 4th Grade Division:

- 1st Place — Palmdale Learning Plaza
- 2nd Place — Ocotillo
- 3rd Place — Mesquite

5th and 6th Grade Division:

- 1st Place — Palmdale Learning Plaza
- 2nd Place — Buena Vista
- 3rd Place — Manzanita

7th and 8th Grade Division:

- 1st Place — Shadow Hills
- 2nd Place — Palmdale Learning Plaza
- 3rd Place — David G. Millen



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES • From Page 1

connects to our goal of having students think about college and a career planning prior to entering high school.

With the help of our families, faculty members, and community, we will be able to guide and pave the way for our students' success.

Recently we held the Palmdale Promise: Early Learning Literacy Initiative Press Conference at Summerwind Elementary School. The press conference was a huge success in gathering our community leaders to spread awareness of how our district is leading the way to close the achievement gap. (For more details, please read Superintendent Maldonado's article)

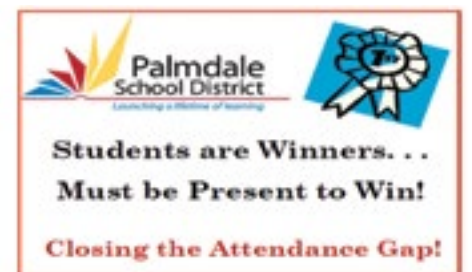
It was also the perfect opportunity for the Board and the district to begin unveiling the new outreach plan. You may have noticed our billboard on Avenue S near Sierra Highway and a space in our local newspapers encouraging families to register for the free application. These efforts mark the beginning of a new chapter for our school district and our city to make a difference in the education system. Families that take advantage of the free application can begin teaching their children early learning literacy skills before they take their first step into a kindergarten classroom. If you have the opportunity, please spread the word about Footsteps2Brilliance. It is really working!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the faculty and staff at Summerwind Elementary School for allowing us to hold the press conference. I would like to further extend my gratitude to the students of the David G. Millen Intermediate School Band, the Oak Tree color guard, the Summerwind Elementary School first-grade choir, and the Chaparral Elementary School folklorico dance team for their performances. Finally, thank you to all Palmdale School District (PSD) families for attending and showing your support.

If you would like to share your perspective on ways we can continue to help students grow, I invite you to attend our Board meetings. The Board always welcomes the feedback we receive from our PSD families and community members.

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