

## Palmdale Promise Interscholastic League

*By Barbara Gaines, Director  
Curriculum and Instruction*

**For the first time in several years, Palmdale School District is offering interscholastic sports at the middle school academies and the K-8 schools.**

The Palmdale Promise Interscholastic League kicked off this year with all eight schools competing in basketball. Thanks to the Transportation Department, the teams were able to travel by bus to their away games. New uniforms were purchased for every site which highlighted the schools' colors and mascots.

The teams played each other throughout league play. They entered the tournament brackets based on how well they did in the regular season. David G. Millen School won the sixth- and seventh-grade girls, eighth-grade girls, and sixth- and seventh-grade boys championship trophies. Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration (SAGE) Academy took home first place in the tournament for the eighth-grade boys.

This first season would not have been such a huge success without the support of all of the students who participated as well as the efforts of the parents, coaches, administrators, scorekeepers, referees, and security, who made sure things ran smoothly at each game. Special thanks go out to Rick Myers and Mike Butler for their



**Zaniyah Wyatt, Riley Lockhart, Kenna De La Rosa, Sariyah Todd, Alana Harris, Alexiah Thomas, Allison Travis and Coach Fred Gatlin**

tireless efforts to make sure this season had very few hiccups. We would also like to thank Mr. Randie Almonte for getting our new uniforms and Ms. Astrid Cante, our right arm in Educational Services, who pulled everything together for a successful season. Finally, a special thank you goes out to Superintendent Maldonado for his leadership in getting interscholastic sports revived in the Palmdale School District.

Soccer season opens on April 10, with all eight schools competing again for top honors.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2017-18 school year.

I want to highlight some of the additional services provided by our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). In the Palmdale School District, we take the responsibility of working with all of our stakeholders very seriously. We have gone above and beyond in getting input to develop, implement, and monitor the LCAP services. I want to thank the LCAP committee for all their dedication, commitment and recommendations. These are some of the ways we engage our stakeholders: site visitations; stakeholder meetings, which include students, parents, teachers, classified staff and administration; Interscholastic Communication Council;

*See BOARD OF TRUSTEES • Page 11*



**Raul  
Maldonado**

### Dear Palmdale Families,

As we get closer to the end of the 2017-2018 school year, I want to highlight and celebrate some of our outstanding accomplishments. It has been an exciting

and fun school year! Here are some of the accomplishments we are very proud to celebrate:

We successfully approved the Facilities Master Plan, which will invest approximately 70 million dollars back into repairing and upgrading all of our schools in the next three years.

We successfully opened our new Parent Center, which will provide a place for our parents to take classes such as English as a Second Language (ESL), General Education Development (GED), parenting classes, computer classes, and more.

We celebrated the 20th anniversary of our planetarium, the first Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program in the city of Palmdale. We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of Quail Valley Elementary School.

We received the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) \$15 million federal grant. All of our middle schools are now officially magnet schools.

We successfully implemented interscholastic competitive sports. Students, staff, and parents will have an opportunity to help build pride and a positive culture at each middle school.

Furthermore, spring is the time to measure how well students are performing in our classrooms. Your children will be participating in the

*See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 11*



**Nancy  
Smith**  
*President*

### Letter to Our Families

Dear Palmdale Families,

We are very proud of all the accomplishments that we have achieved this school year. We have much to celebrate.

I want to highlight the work of our team. Our school board members are all committed to keeping one end in mind: student achievement. For the past two years, our focus has been the implementation of our Strategic Plan: the Palmdale PROMISE. We have aligned all of our other plans to the overall vision and mission. I want all of our employees who work with our students to make sure they are ready for the next challenge. This has been a fantastic

# Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

3636 Ponderosa Way, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-9270 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Kimberly Wright**  
Principal

## In Loving Memory Of One Of Our Finest Mrs. Ligouri



Thank you for your dedication and service to the students, staff and PTA of Barrel Springs Elementary. Always loved, never forgotten & forever missed.

# Cactus *Middle School 6-8*

3243 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-0847 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## Showing Their Stuff!

The Cactus AVID teachers, Tim Hall and Lisa Fellers, organized an evening to showcase our AVID students. The night began with over 90 people enjoying a spaghetti dinner and the Cactus band, under the direction of Jennifer Gilreath, playing several pieces that included "Star Spangled Banner," "Mystic River Fantasy," "Nottingham Castle" and "On Parade."

The evening then turned the focus to the AVID students' presentations. The sixth-grade AVID students displayed their university/college banners and gave a brief description about the university/college they had researched and were interested in attending. The seventh- and eighth-grade AVID students dressed in their career attire and used Promethean boards to present their career and college research and goals. Many of the presentations were absolutely outstanding!

The Cactus students have career and college plans and are ready to commit, work hard, and embrace their dreams!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This school year is coming to a close. Thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* among your reading choices. Our next issue is October 3. Have a fun summer and we'll be here to begin publishing for the new school year.



**Congratulations Class of 2018!**

# School News

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# Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

37005 Hillcrest Drive, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-4158 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Alusine Conteh**  
Principal

## In Pursuit of Equity

What makes special education special? It's the children! In the words of Gardner (1995), we are not all the same. We do not have all the same kinds of minds, and education works most effectively if these differences are taken into account rather than denied or ignored.

The Buena Vista Special Education program strives to teach through direct instructional activities or learning experiences designed primarily for students who are identified as having exceptionalities in one or more aspects of the cognitive process, or are underachieving in relation to their overall abilities.

Our special education services are provided for students with physical, emotional, or cognitive learning disabilities. Teachers work one-on-one or in small groups to ensure that each student benefits from differentiated instruction at his or her instructional level. This is in order to meet each unique educational need, and to ensure that all students are making adequate progress throughout the year.

We hold deeply an unwavering belief in the vast potential of each student, and root ourselves in the work of equity. In this pursuit, our special education staff members are relentless in their commitment to improving the special education program, in particular for our historically most disenfranchised students.

# Have a fun summer!

# Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

37500 50th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9777 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Tom Pitts**  
Principal

## Yay-Saturday School!

The Promise Academy at Chaparral is getting students excited! The Promise Academy is a way for students to make up their absences throughout the current school year by attending an assigned Saturday. Not only are the attendance rates at Chaparral going up but also the Promise Academies have proven to

be extremely successful, and the feedback from students is that they love coming to Saturday School because it is so much fun!

Chaparral's Promise Academy has had 80 to 110 students in attendance each time from all grade levels TK through five. Students rotate to our enthusiastic team of different teachers throughout the day, learning and participating in various educational subjects including art projects, math, reading, Footsteps2Brilliance, Zearn, physical education, technology, science experiments and creative writing.

Chaparral is looking forward to the continuing Promise Academies in the spring, and we know our students are, too!



# Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

36940 45th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-9780 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Chris O'Neill**  
Principal

## Challenges

In November, to foster good relationships with our Deputies, Cimarron 4th and 5th grade students took on the "Deputy Challenge." 4th and 5th grade students divided into two teams with a deputy on each team; The Principal's Team and the Assistant Principal's Team. Our students had a chance to show off their soccer skills by kicking soccer goals. The assistant Principal's Team won! The deputies even brought prizes! Then in January, we had another challenge. This time the teams were demonstrating basketball skills by shooting free throws. This time, The Principal's Team won! We plan to have at least one more challenge that will be a football throw. The kids have a great time and a chance to see the deputies in a friendly light. This is part of building a strong Cimarron community and supporting the Palmdale Promise.



# Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

37730 27th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/272-0584 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Melanie Pagliaro**  
Principal

## Three, Two, One, Blast Off!

In February, a local aerospace corporation brought “Engineers in the Classroom” to school to help encourage our students to explore career opportunities in science, math, engineering, and technology.

Teachers from the first to fifth grades invited these volunteers to join their classes for a day of inquiry and exploration. With the help of their classroom’s visiting engineer, our students took part in engaging in team projects that explored the world of aerospace. Some built building paper airplanes, and others built rockets!

After constructing their prototypes, the students tested their inventions and later discussed why some of them were more successful than others. All of our student-engineers actively experienced the scientific process in a fun and exciting way.



These professional engineers not only inspired our students, but our teachers as well. Be on the lookout for more awesome science and technology investigation coming to a classroom near you.

# Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

3030 Fairfield, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9992 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Michelle White**  
Principal

## Ready for Action!

Joshua Hills has established an associate student body (ASB) this year. Students in fourth and fifth grades were allowed to run for president, vice president, treasurer or secretary with teacher recommendation and parent permission.

The students had a weeklong campaign during which they displayed posters around campus to promote themselves. They even had to create a one-minute speech video in which they explained why they were the best candidate. It was viewed by all the fourth-and-fifth-grade students during breakfast in the classroom. Elections were held, and students chose the following candidates:

Lindsay Cisneros for president, Cheyann Gay for vice president, Derek Guiral Hidalgo for treasurer and Jane Villalobos for secretary.



The student council is excited to represent Joshua Hills by planning fun activities that will bring pride and enjoyment to the students and the community.

# Desert Willow *Middle School 6-8*

36555 Sunny Lane, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/285-5866 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Timothy Howell**  
Principal

## Excellence through Music

Through our performing arts pathway, Ms. Clayton, our music teacher offers students the opportunity to enhance their musical talents through lessons in beginner and advanced strings. She also offers classes in beginning and advanced band. Recently, she took her symphonic band and string orchestra to watch the LA Philharmonic perform at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Furthermore, we are so proud to announce that both the symphonic band and the string orchestra received “Unanimous Superior” at the Littlerock Festival! Ms. Clayton is now preparing

her students to compete at a local amusement park this month. We are so proud of the accomplishments of Ms. Clayton’s students and we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher that continues to set the bar high for our students at Desert Willow!



# Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

39175 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-1849 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Laura Cervantes**  
*Principal*

## The Sound of Mariachi Music

Dos Caminos is proud to introduce the Mariachi Explorers Ensemble. The roots of mariachi music go back hundreds of years. Mariachi also brings a unique sound to our goal of multiculturalism, and helps to preserve our cultural heritage.

The Mariachi Explorers Ensemble, led by Dr. Leticia Soto, contains trumpets, violins, guitars, flutes, vihuelas, and a harp. The students practice daily as part of the exploratory program offered at the school. This new music program provides our children with the opportunity to work together and relish songs that teach about everyday life and how people used music as a form of artistic expression.

The Mariachi Explorers Ensemble performed to a full house at the holiday show, and most recently at a local book fair. We are proud of their commitment and dedication as they share the gift of music with our community.

Dos Caminos definitely maintains a “Students First” philosophy! They’re Explorers all the way!



# Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

37802 Rockie Lane, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-3683 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Melanie Culver**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Black History

In February, 30 fourth- and fifth-grade students put on a performance to celebrate the rich heritage of African-Americans. Our behavior interventionist, Mrs. Wanda Ezozo, and our school library aide, Mrs. Chevhan Esparza, worked with our students to write and choreograph an amazing performance!

The students presented the journey of African-Americans through song, interpretive dance, and oration. Their goal was to teach the rich history of African-Americans while entertaining the audience.

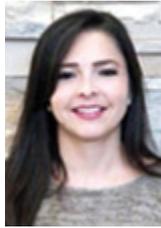
The performance was truly inspirational, highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to our country and the many talents of our Golden Poppy students! Our students rehearsed and made props during their recess time starting in September, which demonstrates their commitment to excellence and diversity!

Students received certificates of recognition from Assemblyman Tom Lackey’s office for their effort and commitment to celebrating culture. We are very proud of our Golden Poppy students and staff!



# Los Amigos *K-8*

6640 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-1546 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Sonia Salcedo**  
Principal

## A First for the District

Meet Palmdale School District's first National Association for Bilingual Education Teacher of the Year, Sra. Nancy Alatorre!

Mrs. Alatorre is an exceptional bilingual teacher and leader at Los Amigos Dual Immersion School. She is a respected educator who is constantly seeking to learn and grow. Mrs. Alatorre consistently models the best for our students, staff, and community. She is always willing to invest her personal time and support to help struggling students.

Mrs. Alatorre has been working for the Palmdale School District for the past 12 years, with eight at Los Amigos as a Spanish teacher. Her volunteer work includes providing professional development for staff around her areas of expertise, which include teaching Spanish in Spanish, AVID, and DOK.

Her commitment and belief in bilingual education is demonstrated by the fact that her own children have been enrolled at Los Amigos Dual Immersion School.



# Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

38620 33rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/947-3128 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Roberto Lopez**  
Principal

## Manzanita's Future Plans

Mr. Maldonado came out to Manzanita in February to share the master facilities plan with our parents and community members. Our staff and student ambassadors welcomed parents and got them involved in the work that is being done here at Manzanita. We are very excited to see the positive changes that will be taking place here at Manzanita. The district recently painted the school cafeteria and the students are excited about the new look. We look forward to the future plans and changes that are coming our way!



# Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

37622 43rd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/285-8376 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Ken Young**  
Principal

## Thank You, Ms. Schroeder!

How does one thank and say goodbye to a dynamic person who has been at Mesquite Elementary School since its beginning? As you can imagine, it is not easy.

Nina Schroeder started working for Palmdale School District in 1984, and she was part of the staff that opened Mesquite in 1989, serving as our health clerk. In 1992, Nina assumed the role of school secretary, which she held until her retirement this year. Nearly 30 years at the same school site is an amazing accomplishment!

As the "director of first impressions," Nina was a welcome presence in the school's office. Over the years, she became a friendly and familiar face to generations of Mesquite families and staff. Upon hearing of Nina's retirement, current and past staff members and parents, while overjoyed for her future endeavors, were also saddened that she would no longer be at Mesquite.

However, we all are very excited that Nina will have opportunities to pursue her individual interests, travel, and spend more time with her family!

Nina has been able to touch many lives, both personally and professionally. The entire Mesquite family would like to thank Nina for all of her time and effort to make Mesquite a wonderful place for everyone! Nina, we thank you again, and we wish you the best!



# Palmdale Discovery Center

1330 W. Elizabeth Lake Rd., Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/274-0849 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Colleen Sawyer**  
Principal

## Thank You Team

As we enter the last portion of the school year, I would like to highlight the fabulous staff here at Palmdale Discovery Center. We have a successful program and students who are happy to come to school. Being an employee at PDC is not an easy job. Staff members have to be equipped to work with students, who have varying ability levels, extreme behaviors, and those who come from very different backgrounds. If you are not able to be a team player, you don't belong at the Discovery Center. Our staff members participate in training throughout the year and have

to apply the skills they learn in training on a daily basis. It is a great pleasure working with this staff. Thank you to all of our classified and certificated staff! Thank you team!



# David G. Millen *Middle School 6-8*

39221 22nd Street West, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3075 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Ryan Beardsley**  
*Principal*

## A Banner Year at Millen

The Trailblazer sports program is thriving this year with participation in both the Palmdale Promise and Tri District Sports leagues, giving our students the opportunity to participate in competitions with teams throughout the valley.

With active programs in Cross-Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, and Track & Field, the Trailblazers were able to challenge students to improve on the field, and also hold them accountable in the classroom to comply with participation requirements.



**Components of the Trailblazer basketball machine that took 3 of 4 Promise League Championships.**

# Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

38737 Ocotillo School Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-9987 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Larry Lueck**  
*Principal*

## Dance Force

Since early November, Ocotillo Elementary School's cafeteria has been filled with the sounds of music and laughter. Under the direction of Mona Barrios and Jenni Grazer, Ocotillo's fourth- and fifth-grade Dance Force team has been perfecting the merengue, the foxtrot, the East Coast swing, and a line dance.

The team had a very successful competition season. At the social dance, Ocotillo students earned first-, second-, and third-place awards. On March 10, the team competed in the High

Desert Dance Classic at Antelope Valley College. Ocotillo's team won first place in foxtrot, third place in merengue, and third and eighth place in the East Coast swing. The team was ecstatic when they received the trophy for being the school with the most spirit.

Though the competition season is over, the team continues to prepare for an upcoming assembly and the Palmdale Promise performance in May. What an amazing feat for these students and their dancing feet!



## Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

38043 Division Street, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/538-9034 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Michael McNelis**  
Principal

### The Month JAM Festival!

March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM). This is the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation.

This year, PLP celebrated this special month by having each grade level learn a song of their choice, along with a school-wide song selection. Various genres of music were also sung each day in March before the morning announcements. As a culminating event, orchestrated by LST Mrs. Goins, the entire student body participated in an afternoon concert where everyone sang together.

In addition, our PLP students and families celebrated an evening of vocal and instrumental music featuring IB community projects, young musicians from Laity LEAP, the Puma Chorus, the Puma Band, and Latin Grammy musician Javo Barrera with his trio of awesome jazz musicians. Mrs. Ratcliff, our secretary, also surprised the audience with a beautiful song!

MIOSM has left a lasting and meaningful impression on our campus family.



## Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

326 East Avenue R, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-9357 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Gerald Luke**  
Principal

### Becoming an Oasis of Education

There are many great things happening at Palm Tree! From state data, Palm Tree matched Dos Caminos with the highest level of growth for English Learner progress in the Palmdale School District. Additionally, Palm Tree also demonstrated the second highest level of growth in improving suspension data.

During the month of February, Palm Tree competed in the PSD Black Knowledge Bowl and came in second place by only 300 points. In March, the school conducted a Read Across America/ Dr. Seuss Week culminating on a special Friday where readers came on campus and read to every classroom. Palm Tree also held an art contest that yielded entries from each grade level.

Our School Site Council is currently in the middle of evaluating the effectiveness of the Single Plan for Student Achievement, and they are encouraged because of the reading growth they have noticed. We also played

Tumbleweed in a basketball game and came out victorious. They are itching for a re-match! Our soccer team is also scheduling to play Tumbleweed.

At Palm Tree, we attempt to educate the whole child. This aim moves us to actions that will help fulfill our vision of becoming an Oasis of Education.



## Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

37236 58th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7100 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Kathleen Moshier**  
Principal

### We Turn 20!

On March 15, Quail Valley celebrated its 20th anniversary in the Palmdale School District with a week filled with festivities and ending with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and recognitions from several dignitaries.

We were lucky to have several former staff members return to share in our celebration! Among them, two very special guests were in attendance—inaugural principal Brenda Smith and inaugural assistant principal Kathy Wehunt. It was a great community event as well. We were able to collaborate with Palmdale Youth Soccer, Young Champions MMA, Taquizos y Carnitas, Castillo Event Rental, Menchies and our fantastic PTO to offer food, sports demonstrations and games. Building those relationships with our parents and community members is one of our Promise goals!

A special thank-you to Jaime Ortiz and Chelsea Martinez from HPLE for sponsoring parts of our event and helping make it the incredible day it was. Here's to another 20 years of educating the students of Palmdale!



# SAGE Academy 6-8

38060 20th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/537-6101 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)

## Positively Cultural!

**Dr. Helen Rodriguez**, *Interim Principal*

As the Eagles soar, we have provided activities that give students and parents a positive culture.

The eighth-grade boys' basketball team won the 2018 PSD Interscholastic Promise League first place, and the eighth-grade girls' basketball team won the 2018 PSD Interscholastic Promise League second place. Our AVID students continue to soar through the year with culminating activities. AVID students went on a field trip to Magic Mountain in March. Also in March, Palmdale High School representatives interviewed eighth-grade AVID students for the Palmdale High School AVID program. We had 13 strong candidates. Our AVID tutors have been instrumental in fund-raising efforts and providing supervision with the Magic Mountain field trip.

SAGE Associated Student Body (ASB) is planning a second after-school dance for May 4. The music, snacks and fun interactions made the first after-school dance a great success. We will call the second after-school dance Spring Fling. There will be an eighth-grade Court with a DJ. The dress will be semiformal.

ASB will hold officer elections in April for the 2018-19 school year for the following ASB positions: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The newly elected ASB officers will experience the exciting trip to the ASB summer camp in Santa Barbara.

Finally, SAGE parents attended a series of three workshops on creating healthy eating habits at home, which is part of Parenting Partners. Two Sage parents presented to 13 SAGE parent attendees.

# Summerwind Elementary TK-5

39360 Summerwind Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-3863 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## Strong Messages in Art

Three students from Summerwind represented the school in the annual PTA Reflections competition. Students had the choice to enter in several categories, including music composition, literature, film production, dance choreography, 3-D art, photography and visual arts. The theme this year was "With-in Reach."

Evan Salcido chose to enter a poem about autism, "Everyone Counts with-in Reach." His poem is about being friends with everyone, as many students are afraid to be friends with someone who is different. Jared Martinez chose visual arts with an oil painting titled "Working Together, Anything is in Reach." Hunter Heinze chose film production. He acted, directed and produced the film "Always Believing with-in Reach." His concept was that people get depressed because they keep failing, but if they work hard and keep trying, they can do anything.

All three students said everyone should plan to enter next year.



# Shadow Hills Middle School 6-8

37315 60th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/533-7400 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Donna Campbell**  
*Principal*

## STEM News

February and March were big months for competitions for our Falcons. Along with 26 other middle schools from the Antelope Valley, on February 17th we had 16 of our sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students participate in the Science Olympiad.

Although these students had only six weeks to prepare, they exceeded our expectations. Of the 23 different science events, our Shadow Hills team took first place in the Battery Buggy event, fifth place in the Mystery Architecture event, eighth place in the Roller Coaster event, and eleventh place in Fast Facts and Microbe Mission.



Then came Mathletes. Shadow Hills had teams competing in all grade levels: sixth, seventh, and eighth. We had students who won several individual medals, along with the teams taking home top prizes. The seventh-grade team took home the first-place trophy, the eighth-grade team a second-place trophy, and the sixth-grade team a third-place trophy. Our Falcons are on the rise!

# Tumbleweed Elementary TK-5

1100 East Avenue R-4, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4166 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



**Dr. Regina Tillman**  
*Principal*

## Making Family a Priority

Tumbleweed Elementary School's family night goal is to bring families together at school. We had a family night during our Read Across America week. More than 50 families came together and shared book or played board games with their children during this time. We also had the Palmdale Mobile Public Library on site, and our PTA gave new books to every student who participated.

Kindergarten students were recognized and celebrated for having perfect attendance for the first semester with a special family night. More than 40 families came watched a movie together. Tumbleweed also hosted the Unity in the Community event on March 15. Dr. Nicoline Ambe spoke on the importance of success.



Tumbleweed values and understands the importance of family involvement in our school, which has an impact on student engagement and success. Family nights are also a time to plant the seeds from which active volunteers participate in our school. Together, we are educating tomorrow's leaders!

# Tamarisk *Elementary TK-5*

1843 E. Ave. Q-5, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/225-9647 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)

## Enthusiastic Readers

**Claudette Ward-Kononov**, *Interim Principal*

Tamarisk Elementary School knows how to celebrate Read Across America! Thanks to the awesome organization of our learning support teacher, Myra Young, 29 readers attended our event. Our readers included district office personnel, Board member Sharon Vega, the cow from a national chicken sandwich restaurant chain, taekwondo master Robinson, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers, representatives from an international auto manufacturer, and community members. These visitors read to our students and reminded them of the importance of reading.

All of our classrooms participated in a door decorating contest and were judged by our PTA, the auto company representatives, and employees from the chicken sandwich restaurant. The first-place winner for each classroom received a coupon to a local trampoline park and an invitation to a pizza party, sponsored by our PTA. The second-place winners for each grade level received coupons for ice cream at a local ice-cream store. The chicken restaurant also donated books to our library.

Every day that week, students participated in spirit activities based on Dr. Seuss books.



# Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

38440 2nd Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-5052 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## A Positive Environment

Yucca Elementary School is excited to announce that it is a “Capturing Kids Heart Showcase School.”

At Yucca, we focus on developing a healthy relationship with each child on campus. In the classrooms, our teachers actively build rapport to help create a safe and trusting learning environment. Every classroom also uses a Social Contract. If



the students need support, they are asked the four questions for behavior.

We start each day welcoming students, and have students who greet other students in the morning. Good things and positive affirmations by our students and teachers can be seen and heard in every classroom. We also have a staff affirmation wall.

The teachers at Yucca really get to know the students personally, emotionally, and academically. Learning can only take place in a safe environment.

We have a wonderful staff at Yucca who truly care about children. The administration would like to thank our staff members for all of their hard work and dedication.

# Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

37015 Goldenview Way, Palmdale, CA 93552 • 661/456-1600 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)



## Flying Like Eagles

We are earning our wings by learning so many new things at Yellen Learning Center. Students are learning math concepts and applying what they have learned in collaborative group projects.

Writing is an everyday activity. We are practicing cursive writing, which also helps with our fine-motor skills. All grade levels are composing great sentences, writing paragraphs and essays, and learning how to edit their compositions.

Behavior skills are a fundamental part of learning at Yellen. We have many opportunities each day to implement our training in positive behavior support and effective praise strategies.

The adults are involved in learning, too. We have many opportunities for personal and professional growth in the professional development offered by our district leadership through Student/Special Education Services and Education Services.

We are looking forward to many special activities in the near future that will reflect the talents and skills of our students.

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



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

**Closing the Attendance Gap!**

## Board of Trustees



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Member

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES • From Page

PROMISE Ambassador meetings; District Parent Advisory Council (DELAC); Superintendent Parent Advisory Council; Superintendent Student Advisory Council; Breakfast with the Superintendent and surveys. As you can see, there are many ways to give input.

### Funding for the Good

In addition, when we think about how we fund programs from LCAP, we need to keep this question always in our mind: “Are the actions and services funded by LCAP principally directed toward increasing and improving services for our unduplicated students?”

Here are some of the additional services funded by LCAP: bank time (PLCs); extended day (seventh period); PE teachers/aides; parent-community liaisons; media techs; technology coaches; SPED coaches; teacher coaches; intramural sports; professional development, including CKH, Innovate Ed and Howard Groups; social-emotional learning specialists; campus-security assistants; assistant principals; student-engagement advocates; counselors; school resource officers; education technology; Foster Youth Program; and Saturday School.

Again, we are very proud of the work and dedication accomplished this school year! High intellectual achievement is one of our values; we wish all of our students a very successful end of the school year.

### SUPERINTENDENT • From Page



**Raul Maldonado**

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium assessments, which are part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) system. These exams are very important because they measure how well our students have mastered the skills and content in mathematics and English language arts at their grade levels. The exams evaluate critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem-solving skills, which students need for success in college and 21st-century careers. Teachers can use this information to provide targeted help to address student needs.

Remember—test scores, along with student report cards and teacher observations of your child’s performance in the classroom, are used together to form a complete picture of your child’s achievement. The testing program intent is to ensure all students achieve their full potential. I want to wish all of our students, teachers, and schools good luck with the CAASPP exams. Thank you for all you do to partner with us in your child’s education.

## Counselors Corner

39139 North 10th St., Palmdale, CA 93550 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)

## Transitioning to Summer



**Dr. Stacy Bryant**  
Deputy Superintendent

By, Karen Alamo, Keisha Burns, Julie Howard, Christina Loukatos, Diana Marlatt, Carol Radigan Counselors

The lazy, carefree days of summer are upon us. While most students are thrilled about the last days of school, many parents and guardians may experience some apprehension about keeping their children occupied during the summer months. The following are some ideas to ease the transition from the busy school year to the more relaxing days of summer.

Keep your routines. Breakfast, chores, and bedtimes should stay the same. Consistency of activities will ease the transition back to school in August.

Create a summer to-do list. Plan places to go. Post a calendar for the months of June and July, and fill up the days with great activities. Check out <https://www.eventbrite.com> for ideas.

See what your city has to offer. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/PalmdaleActivities> for family movie nights, plays, music, sports, and much more! The city of Lancaster also has many summer offerings. You can find out more at <https://tinyurl.com/LancasterActivities>.

Organize your child’s summer reading. Visit your local library to find out about the programs they offer. Reading will open up new possibilities and adventures. Daily reading provides opportunities for great conversation. Your local library also has special summer activities for students. For more information, go to <http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/Library>.

Stay connected with school friends. Building and keeping friendships is important to students, which requires the support and communication of family members when school is out. Try arranging weekly park days. Children learn important skills through play, including negotiation, compromise, taking turns, and imaginative play.

Keep learning. Ask your students’ teachers for suggestions or activities. Visit museums and local animal refuges, play online learning games, watch educational videos, play board games, or go hiking to support learning. (For information about local trails, visit <https://www.alltrails.com/us/california/palmdale>.) Call the Antelope Valley College Welcome Center for a “First Year Experience” tour.

Spend your summer enjoying fun learning opportunities together!

## Early Childhood Education

975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4710 • [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)

## Now Enrolling



**Donna Lebetsamer**  
Director

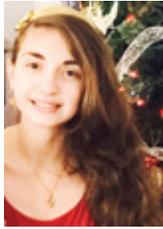
The Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education Program is now enrolling students birth to four years of age and pregnant women for our 2018/19 school year. We offer several different program options to meet the needs of our families.

We have ½-day classes and full day classes at thirteen different sites throughout the Antelope Valley. We also have a Home Based program where our teachers are available to come to your home. We even have a Dual Immersion program where our students are taught in both English and Spanish! Please visit us or call us for information about documentation required to register. Space is limited and students are accepted based on need so it’s never too early to see if your child qualifies to get a Head Start on their education!



## Christina's Book Review

### My Favorite Book Series



Christina J.

In *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* Sammy is bored in her Grandmother's "Seniors Only" apartment where she has nothing to do, since she is not allowed to live there, stays there in secret and can't make any noise. One day Sammy borrows her Grams' binoculars and looks across the street at the shady Heavenly Hotel.

Suddenly she sees a robber running out and he sees her. They stare at each other for a split second. Later a threatening note is slipped under the door that forces Sammy to solve the case before her Grandmother gets hurt. Sammy also has to start middle school and gets suspended on her first day for punching the Mean Girl Heather who started their rivalry by jabbing Sammy with a pin. To top it off, Sammy's nosey neighbor Mrs. Graybill knows that Grams is hiding her and wants to rat her out. With all this against Sammy, how is she ever going to catch the thief?

The Sammy Keyes series are very action -packed stories about your everyday girl who must deal with very adult problems, all hidden in a seeming boring town. This is by far my most favorite book series and I give it a 5 out of 5 stars.

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).



## Richard's Book Review

### Interesting Mystery



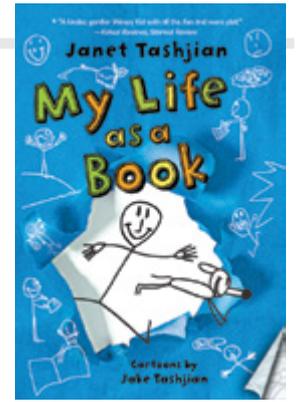
Richard J.

*My Life as a Book* is about a kid named Derek Fallon. All Derek wants to do this summer is goof around and hang with his friends. But his parents have other ideas. They signed him up to a summer reading camp. Derek hates reading! Nothing in the world could be duller to him than reading a book. So he hid in the attic, and

found an old newspaper there about his babysitter who drowned when he was a baby. He wants to learn more about her and finds that the story is she saved him from going into the rough seas but drowned ... But then with more digging he finds out that wasn't the case at all!

*My Life as a Book* has an interesting mystery and is relatable to someone who doesn't like to read. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.



## Things in the Sky Word Search Contest

- |          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| STARS    | MARS    | SLEET   |
| SUN      | MERCURY | WIND    |
| MOON     | SATURN  | CLOUDS  |
| AIRPLANE | URANUS  | SMOG    |
| KITE     | PLUTO   | FOG     |
| BALLOON  | RAIN    | RAINBOW |
| JUPITER  | SNOW    |         |

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



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