



**Raul  
Maldonado**

### SMART Test Tips

Hello, Parents! It's almost time for state testing. Soon, it will be the students' chance to show what they have learned by taking the state testing called the Smarter Balanced Assessments!

Students have given their best efforts to learn this year in order to be prepared for the next grade level. I have confidence that their teachers have prepared them for the state exams.

The results of the assessments will help their teachers decide the best way to help them next year to learn and be prepared for high school and beyond. The results will help fifth-through-eighth-grade students by giving them a choice for electives and other classes in order to have the best opportunity for success!

We are all pulling for them. We know how much they like school, and now it is time to show how much they know. They have been preparing for the test since the beginning of school.

Here are some tips to follow:

**S**—Stay Focused

**M**—Mark the right choice

**A**—Always do your best

**R**—Recheck your work

**T**—Take your time

Students should listen carefully in class and do their best. They should eat a good breakfast and get a good night's sleep. If students have questions about what they are learning, they should ask their teacher for help. We are all here for them to help them be the best person they can be. They are all very smart.

As your superintendent, I am very proud of our students, teachers, support staff and, most importantly, our schools. Students can achieve, can succeed and can do well on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. I want to wish all of our students good luck!

## Performing Arts Opportunities



**The Cactus gym was packed on the night of March 30th for a world-class performance by the Young Americans and over 100 PSD students.**

*By Kelly Jensen,*

*Director of Curriculum and Instruction-Elementary*

It's common for a school district to encourage students to visit college campuses. Instead of hearing about college or visiting a campus, Palmdale School District brought The Young Americans College of the Performing Arts to the students. The Young Americans College students provided a three-day workshop that brought students together as they participated in classes in the areas of voice, dance, songwriting, acting, and performance. Rather than experiencing a typical view of college courses or campus, students experienced how college can go beyond the academics and can complement their passions.

As the Young Americans students mentored and coached over 100 fourth- through eighth-grade students, the talents of the students were quickly revealed. In fact, within a day and a half, students already knew their lines, dances, and musical numbers. The students and Young Americans later packed the house as they amazed the audience with their musical numbers. It is a lesson to all that when students are given opportunities to learn at high levels, they can push through and rise to the occasion.

See **PERFORMING ARTS OPPORTUNITIES** • Page 12

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Sharon Vega**  
*President*

### New ECE Center

For the past two years, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program and the Palmdale School District's Facilities Department have been working on a very special program on the Tumbleweed Elementary School campus. The ECE program received a grant to expand their program into full-day ECE classes. It is thanks to the vision of Dr. Lebitsamer that

we embark on the planning of a new center of the ECE students at the corner of R-3 and 10th Street East.

We did not want to just set up more portable buildings. Our team wanted to purchase state-of-the-art Gen 7 buildings. The buildings are made from recycled material, have solar panels, and are just beautiful.

On March 26, 2019, we had the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new center. We had quite a crowd on hand! Everyone was very proud of the project, and now our students in the city of Palmdale can enjoy the gorgeous center. In fact, Dr. Lebitsamer was very careful in planning the instructional program. We decided to open the center as a Dual Immersion program. How exciting for everyone in the community!

When we talk about the Palmdale Promise, this is the promise in action.

### Board of Trustees



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Counselors Corner

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



Dr. Stacy Bryant  
Deputy  
Superintendent

Transitioning from School Schedules to Summer Time

With the carefree days of summer right around the corner, many parents and guardians may experience some apprehension about keeping their children occupied during the summer break. The following are some ways to ease the transition from the super busy school year to the more relaxing days of summer.

**Create a Summer to-do List:** plan places to go. Check with your city’s recreation department for fun events planned for entire families.

**Keep Your Routines:** such as breakfast, chores and bedtimes.

If you throw the bedtime and routines out the window for the next several weeks the whole house will have difficulty when school starts making the transition back during the first few weeks of the new school year.

**Organize Summer Reading:** if you and your kids visit the local library once every 2 weeks this would open up new reading possibilities and adventures through pages. Setting up daily reading schedules and reviewing the topic also allows for great conversation. Students who will be taking English Honors high school courses will have summer reading lists provided by their high school.

**Reduce Screen Time:** play board games to support learning, go hiking, visit museums, or the local animal refuges. Simply schedule and plan fun time to learn. You can also check with your student’s teachers for summer learning suggestions or activities.

**Stay Connected with School Friends:** building and keeping friendships is an important aspect of any childhood. This takes the support and communication of family members especially when school is out. A suggestion would be to plan for once a week park days. Children learn through playing together, including skills such as negotiation, compromise, taking turns and imaginative play.

See your School Counselor for a list of additional ideas, including many local activities.



Kay Coop  
Founder/Publisher



The end of this school year is in sight and the students are testing and focused on their academic goals. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choice. Have a wonderful summer.

Our next issue is October just in time to begin a new school year.



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

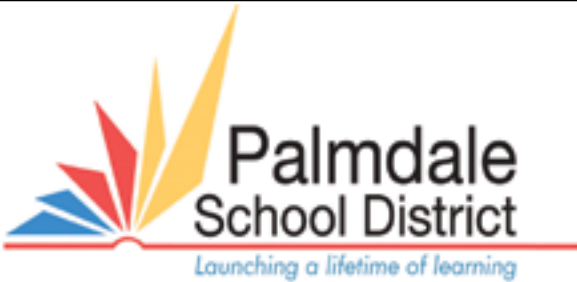
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Only online applications will be accepted at [www.palmdalesd.org](http://www.palmdalesd.org)  
To view all current job opportunities, click on  
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- Bilingual Early Childhood Education Teacher Assistant (Spanish)
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# Early Childhood Education

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



**Melanie Culver**  
*Director*

## Parent Involvement is KEY!

In the Early Childhood Education program, our major focus is working with families to create the best educational outcomes for children. We hold regular parent workshops to support our children and families. In March, we provided health and fitness training where parents learned about the importance of fitness, healthy food options, and participated in a Zumba class. In April, workshops were held on “Language and Literacy Development” and “Supporting Your Child’s Speech Development”. During these workshops, parents were provided information on how children begin language and literacy skills at birth and the importance of early interactions in any language spoken at home. A variety of strategies and activities were also provided for parents to use. A parent is a child’s first teacher, so having tools and strategies are helpful in supporting their growth and development. We are very happy to provide these opportunities for our parents!

New Enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year begins April 30th.

Please stop by the Early Childhood Education office for more information.

**Did You Know...?** From birth to age three, babies gain more than a million neural connections EVERY SECOND.

Source: In Babies, Crucial Neural Connections Happen Before Age Three. UNC TV: Science <http://science.unc.tv/content/reportersblog/babies-neural-connections>

# 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*

## Multiculturalism at Buena Vista

The concept of multicultural education is more than just celebrating Cinco de Mayo with tacos and piñatas, or reading the latest biography of Martin Luther King Jr. It is an educational movement that is built upon basic American values like freedom, justice, opportunity, and equality. At Buena Vista, we have embraced multicultural education because it creates a safe, accepting, and successful environment for all.

Multicultural education can also strengthen cultural consciousness and cultural awareness. These elements were evident in several recent projects presented by our fifth-grade students during Multicultural Week, an event that was also promoted by our ELAC parents. The storyboards that were presented by our students demonstrated their ability to think critically and articulate viewpoints from multiple historical perspectives.

According to the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), multicultural education helps students develop a positive self-image. It also offers them equitable educational opportunities. Additionally, multiculturalism can combat stereotypes and prejudiced behaviors. It teaches our students to critique society in the interest of social justice.

# Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Kimberly Wright**  
*Principal*

## Gear Up

Barrel Springs Student Ambassador leaders in grades three through five had the pleasure of going on a college tour to UCLA. Yes, that is right—UCLA!

This was a game changer for our student leaders! No experience can compare nor can words express enough about the importance of going to college than the experience of stepping onto the campus to see its beauty and energy with your own eyes. You may think our students were a little young for the field trip, but rest assured it is never too early to plant the seed and encourage children to think about their future.

College and educational field trips tie into our leadership focus, called Gear-Up: raise and promote early student awareness and exposure to colleges, and it makes a difference. Our students had relevant questions to ask, and it was an amazing experience!

With Bulldog Pride!





# Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

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



**Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.**  
*Principal*

## Great Minds Event

On March 1, Cactus Medical and Health Academy hosted the Great Minds Event for sixth-grade students and staff members. Volunteer engineers from an aerospace and defense technology company and engineering students from various local colleges assisted students in a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) activities and competitions.

The event was extremely engaging, and the students worked hard to earn tickets for all the fun raffles at the end of the event. Students worked in teams with visiting engineers and engineering students to design pulley systems and catapults for various competitions. Engineers interacted with students and encouraged their creative and critical thinking. The students also enjoyed the guest speakers, who talked about their education and their field of engineering. In addition, all students were given the opportunity to be honorary doctors for the day.

Students received name badges, lanyards, and backpacks full of information. The day culminated with the distribution of raffle prizes, including virtual-reality glasses, tablets, headphones, and drones. The students loved the event and described it as the highlight of their year. They also said that they were very grateful that the event was at their school.

# Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Tom Pitts**  
*Principal*

## The Chaparral Car Show

Our Chaparral PTA was very excited to have had their second annual Car Show! This year the Car Show was held on Saturday, April 13th.

Chaparral held its first Car Show last year. It was a successful day for our school community to all come together! There was a great turnout of cars entered into the contest. Several trophies and awards were given out to those who had registered their cars for the big competition. During these events, the Chaparral PTA also provided many fun activities for the children to participate in, such as face painting, games, and simple sports competitions.



The Chaparral PTA also organized various food trucks to be available to the public. Our Car Shows are a whole day of fun for the entire Chaparral community to enjoy!

# 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*

## Tech 'SWAT' Team

Cimarron is excited to offer to our fourth- and fifth-grade students an opportunity to participate in our school Tech Club led by our awesome technology support liaison, Tashia Finley. We call them our SWAT Team (Students Willing to Assist with Technology). They have learned so much that they have become troubleshooters in their classrooms and around school for addressing Promethean board and AirServer issues. They shadow our tech staff and will set up computers and will install and uninstall computer systems and software. They help prepare multimedia for school events. They identify, remove, and install hardware components. They learn video editing while designing a commercial. They even learn the processes to decommission computer systems to get ready for surplus.

Now, they're preparing to introduce coding of augmented reality with funding from a Palmdale Foundation Grant. This is a great opportunity to experience 21st century skills!



# 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*

## Celebrating Black History

Black History Month was so much fun here at Desert Rose! With the help of our Assistant Principal Ms. Miller, each of our classrooms was assigned a famous African-American artist, poet, scientist, or historical place to highlight on their classroom door.

The students first had to research their assigned topic and understand its importance. Our students and teachers then worked together to create a unique and artistic door decoration that would also provide a great learning opportunity. These



displays provided an exciting way for our students to learn more about African-American history as they walked through the school.

The doors looked amazing, but so did our hallways! Artwork that reflected African-American artists was also on display. Our staff and students alike were often seen admiring the beautiful work as they learned about the important contributions of African Americans.

Our Desert Rose students look forward to the next learning opportunity that Ms. Miller has for them!





Timothy Howell  
Principal

Green and Clean!

Diamondbacks are going green! In the very near future, Desert Willow will have the district’s only schoolwide recycling program.

As part of our Environmental Pathway, students will be working with the community in an effort to help us help our planet. Over the last few months, sixth-grade honor students have had the opportunity to visit landfills and learn about the importance of recycling. Representatives from a waste-management corporation held workshops and assemblies in class to provide students with heaps of knowledge to push this initiative. These students have spent hours doing research and putting together slide shows, and they’re now our official Green Ambassadors.



When the program is launched, students will distribute colored plastic bins to the classrooms and collect them once a week. There will be Green Zones around the school where people can drop their recyclables. Green and clean is the mindset and the culture on our campus.

From the District  
Learning in Nature

During the first week of April, 26 of our fifth-grade students attended five days of Outdoor Science School in Wrightwood. Two of our teachers, Mr. Updyke and Miss Morris, accompanied our students for the week.

While at camp, students engaged in daily hands-on exploratory science activities, which promoted critical thinking and problem solving. Students were taught each day by naturalists who took them exploring in different environments to help them better understand nature and its inhabitants. All of their learning was tied directly to the state standards for science, allowing them to see firsthand concepts they have learned in class.

One of the goals of this program is to give students “a new sense of personal responsibility, independence and understanding of the natural world around them.” This is a wonderful opportunity for students to have nature as their “classroom.”



Laura Cervantes  
Principal

Baile Folklórico

Traditional dance is woven into the rich tapestry of Mexico’s cultural history, and no dance troupe represents this better than the Dos Caminos Baile Folklórico performers.

Maestra Bañuelos and her parent assistant Mrs. Magallon have dedicated their time and talents for the past three years to instill a sense

of pride in the traditions of multiculturalism. The student performers are in the third through sixth grades, and the majority of them have performed with Maestra Bañuelos throughout this time.

The Baile Folklórico program provides our students with the opportunity to experience Mexican folk music and the routines that are specific to various geographic regions. The dance troupe has performed at many events, and they love to display the colorful and traditional costumes that represent the joy of folklórico dance and which date back hundreds of years.

We are proud of our Baile Folklórico performers and their dedication to folklore. Dos Caminos definitely maintains a students-first philosophy. We are Explorers all the way!





# Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Michelle White**  
*Principal*

## Science Fair

On March 14, Joshua Hills Elementary School (JH) hosted its first Science Fair. Families and the community were invited to attend this special event, which included many fun and interesting science activities.

In the multipurpose room, Vicky White, the Science Lady, demonstrated interesting science experiments. Jeremy Amarant, from SAGE Planetarium presented about space. In addition, students presented their science projects and all the teachers planned science-based activities in their classrooms.



Parents and students were invited to visit all the grade-level classrooms. JH's ASB also conducted a food fund-raiser, selling hot dogs, chips, and water to the attendees. Parents, students, and staff were very pleased with the event, and over 150 families attended.

Joshua Hills is excited to continue offering family and community events that will bring the community together for fun and learning.

# Los Amigos *K-8*

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



**Sonia Salcedo**  
*Principal*

## Celebrate with US!

*(¡Celebre con nosotros!)*

Amazing things are happening at Los Amigos Dual Immersion School! We are elated

to announce our first WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation and recognition as a Top School for Los Angeles County. WASC accreditation is a statement to the community that Los Amigos is a trustworthy institution for student learning and is committed to ongoing improvement.

Los Amigos is one of the few schools being recognized this year in the first annual report Top Los Angeles Public Schools for Underserved Students in collaboration with the University of Southern California Sol Price Center for Social Innovation and Rossier School of Education Center for Education Policy, Equity and Governance. Los Amigos made the list based on its strong results in English or math proficiency for low-income African American and Latino students in 2017-18.

Together, we are making a difference. Dragons are number one!



# Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Roberto Lopez**  
*Principal*

## Future Young Americans

Manzanita students Paul Lovely, Leilany Aquirre, De Shaun Mayo, and Evelyn Casillas had the opportunity to participate in the Young Americans Performance on March 30th.

These students were chosen to participate for a variety of reasons. According to Leilany, she, "Felt very inspired." She wants to continue to dance and sing and express herself. De Shaun stated that he experienced how, "You need to do your best and never give up." His favorite part was when he got to use sign language for a song. He also has a desire to continue to dance.



Evelyn said, "You should never give up on your dreams," and that she had fun doing it. Paul added, "It was fun and exciting, and a great way to focus on the singing and dancing." He also stated that while he was singing, he "forgot about everything else and enjoyed the moment!" This was an amazing opportunity for our students.

# Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Ken Young**  
*Principal*

## Read Across America Week

Ready! Set! Read!

The first week of March was Read Across America Week here at Mesquite Elementary School. It was a week filled with assemblies, spirit days, essay and art contests, and, of course, books; all in celebration of the power of reading.

"I promise to read each day and each night. I know it's the key to growing up right." This "Reader's Oath" kicked off the celebration at our special Read Across America assembly. Student winners were announced for their essays and art pieces that

described how they would protect the Earth, each drawing inspiration from the Lorax and his efforts to save the truffula trees.

Our Mesquite hallways sprouted their own truffula trees, and the cafeteria was lined with reading billboards like "Take Me to Your Reader" and "Dive into a Good Book," all to welcome our Read Across America evening of guest readers. A choir and folklorico performance also sang and danced in the festivities before our families made their way to a number of rooms containing guest readers, including our own Superintendent Raul Maldonado.

Then, for the grand finale, a variety of current and former Palmdale School District students, Antelope Valley University and Pete Knight athletes, and community members, all read stories to our classrooms. With their heads full of stories, the students of Mesquite surrounded the basketball courts to watch the Pete Knight basketball team slam-dunk Read Across America to an end.

But there was one more lesson. Reading is not just worth one party for one week a year. The power of reading is always, always here!





Fredrick Gatlin  
Principal

Mathletes Excel at DGM

By Travis Estes, Student reporter

On March 13th, Kenna De La Rosa proudly walked away from Shadow Hills with a shiny gold medal draped around her neck. Kenna took first place in the eighth-grade Mathletes PSD competition. The David G. Millen eighth-grade team took fourth, and was coached by Brenda Glover. Roberto Jaramillo took fourth place and Melody Melendez was fifth.

Kenna, along with the other top-four PSD individual finishers, moved on to the regionals for LACOE at Glendora High School

in April. “Our team went in strong and finished strong,” said Glover. “They did awesome!”

Mathletes from PSD middle schools competed in both individual and team competitions. There were four individual rounds, with students being drilled and quizzed on various math problems. There were then four rounds of math problems where they worked as a team to solve questions.

DGM also did a stellar job at the sixth-grade level, as Team A took third and Team B was sixth. The third-place finish allowed DGM’s sixth-grade team to advance to the regionals. Sixth-grader Eirean Nagnot placed eighth, while Mane Patatanian was ninth. “They did really well,” said sixth-grade coach Dr. Joanna Meester. “This is the first time we came home with a trophy at the district level.”

For the seventh grade, Gabriel Capilitan placed third, and the team took seventh place, coached by Keith Eisenmenger. “All the kids enjoyed being there and competing against kids from other schools,” he noted.

Besides the district event, there is a valley-wide competition at Knight High School on May 17, 20, and 21 that will feature middle schools throughout the Antelope Valley, as well as a Rosamond team. Each team consists of six students. The teams have been practicing during the past month twice a week during the student lunch period.



Dr. Beverly  
Martin  
Principal

Important Lessons

Oak Tree’s Ready to Learn Program (RTL) prepares young students for school with lessons in everything from science and technology to how to hold a carton of milk or carry a food tray. Besides the basics of “kindergarten protocol,” our RTL program also teaches math, social studies, beginning reading and writing skills, and good manners.

This semester, our students have been focusing on learning to be kind and engaging in mindfulness practices. Students can earn stickers, points and other incentives for using their hands and feet appropriately in and out of the classroom. Teachers in our RTL program are working collaboratively on the social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth of their students.

Additionally, through the assistance of our SEL intern, our students are learning how to deal with their anger and emotional outbursts in appropriate ways. These lessons are sequential so that each lesson builds on and refers back to lessons that have come before. As you walk down the hallways here at Oak Tree, you will be greeted by the Social Contract Wall of our RTL Program and the pledges by our students to be safe, respectful and responsible at all times.

The months ahead are filled with academic, social and emotional opportunities for our students to grow, and our vision is clear and achievable. Here in our RTL Program, we are building bridges and preparing students for a lifelong learning experience.

Ocotillo

Elementary TK–5

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



Larry Lueck  
Principal

Sportsmania!

For the past few years, students in fifth grade have had the opportunity to participate in competitive intramural sports during their lunch recess. ASB members Mr. Lueck and Dr. Oliver organize the

events, develop the rules, and teach sportsmanship to the team members. Students create a team and choose their own team name.

In November and December, students competed in dodgeball. Each coed team had six players. To go along with March Madness, the focus in February and March was basketball. The basketball teams comprised four students: three members played, while the fourth team member served as a referee.

Next month, the fifth-graders will be competing in kickball, with each team having 10 players. These teams compete for the opportunity to have their team picture featured in our yearbook as well as bragging rights.





# Palmdale Discovery Center

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



**Colleen Sawyer**  
*Principal*

## A Showcase School

April was Autism Awareness Month. During this month we saw the international community come together in recognition of those

who have autism. At PDC, we were excited to start the month with a full calendar of activities planned to increase awareness and acceptance. The ultimate goal of Autism Awareness Month was to foster world-wide support for those who have autism.

For the past year the Palmdale Discovery Center has also been a showcase school for “Capturing Kids’ Hearts”! We are excited to be nominated once again for this great title, and hope to be honored to represent Capturing Kids’ Hearts again next year.

Our PDC staff members are so effective in the delivery of our specialized curriculum. I would like to thank all of them for their hard work and dedication to our students. They are the driving force responsible for the positive learning environment we have here at PDC.



# Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



**Michael McNelis**  
*Principal*

## How the World Works

Mousetraps, dog toys, an umbrella holder, and a board game were all part of the second-grade International Baccalaureate (IB) unit “How the World Works.” Students were required to create their own inventions using simple machines that made work or play easier. They could also tie their inventions into earlier IB units to make a positive impact on our environment or habitats. The simple machines include levers, pulleys, inclined planes, screws, wedges, wheels, and axles.



To make the unit even more fun and interactive, parents were instructed to find six different students who met the criteria to complete an activity. A rubric was provided, and parents answered the question, “How does this simple machine help the invention work?” Parents completed their activity sheets and turned them in for prizes. Look out, Shark Tank!

# 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*

## Good Morning, Chameleons!

That is how our QVKMN (Quail Valley Kids Morning News) news crew welcomes their peers every day! With the guidance of their advisors, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Guydish, the 10-member news crew works hard after school

filming, editing, and producing their morning news report for the following day. Tuesday is exceptionally challenging, as they record *two* shows Wednesday and Thursday, as Wednesday is staff planning.

The students have learned how to read off a teleprompter, work with green screens, and present themselves in a fun yet professional way to capture their audience’s attention. They were the critical piece of Quail Valley’s 2019 Board Report and continue to grow while they learn new broadcasting strategies and editing skills and implement new pieces of technology.

You can see our daily news report by visiting our YouTube channel: Quail Valley Chameleon TV.





# Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Gerald Luke**  
*Principal*

## Knowledge Bowl

Palm Tree Elementary School hosted the 2019 Black 365 Knowledge Bowl. The tournament was held over three days. The competition was fierce, and students demonstrated their abilities to absorb, retain, and apply large amounts of information in a short amount of time. In fact, the students taught many of the adults things they did not know!

Mr. Jamaal Brown, once again, did a wonderful job putting together the tournament and moderating the games, and our director of equity and access, Geoff Brown, was very successful in coordinating another great program. Palmdale Learning Plaza and Palm Tree made it to the finals, and, I am excited to say, Palm Tree came out on top as the 2019 Black 365 Knowledge Bowl champion!

Board members, our superintendent, and a host of parents, teachers, and students were in attendance to witness this competitive and intense day. All students were awesome! Great job, Parrots!



## SAGE Academy *6-8*

38060 20th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/537-6101 • www.palmdalesd.org

**Michael Perkins, Principal**  
**Civil Air Patrol**

We've had a few changes at SAGE, and in spite of it all, students and staff continue to SOAR! Civil Air Patrol, WEB and AVID students visited three of our feeder schools to showcase the magnet-themed electives offered at SAGE. They answered questions and talked about their experiences and the classes they are taking. Incoming fifth-graders requested to see our Civil Air Patrol students in action, so our students performed a drill and chant for the fifth-graders.

Under the direction of Sergeant Adams, our Civil Air Patrol students have participated in parades and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. In the aviation pathway, our students are building a model airplane to compete in a model airplane competition on May 13. This year, we opened a robotics elective, and out of that class, two teams will compete in a robotics competition at Shadow Hills on May 4.

Keep on soaring, SAGE Eagles!



## Contest!

These students are in a picture somewhere in this publication. When you find them, email the **page number** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Please put Palmdale in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by June 1, 2019  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations to Belle Hernandez,**  
**winner of our last issue word search contest.**



# Shadow Hills *Engineering & Design Magnet*

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



**Dr. Donna Campbell**  
Principal

## Winners, All

The past few months were big ones when it came to competition wins for our Falcons. On January 26, thirteen of our sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students participated in the Science Olympiad. Shadow Hills took second place in the Boomilever event, third place in the Roller Coaster event, fourth place in Road Scholar, fifth place in Battery Buggy, and sixth place in Codebusters.

We also had teams competing in all grade levels in Mathletes, grades six, seven, and eight. Our students won several individual medals and trophies. The eighth-grade team took home the first-place trophy, and the sixth grade a third-place trophy.

Our basketball teams also did very well, not only in their regular games, but also in the playoffs. Our six/seven girls team made it to the championship game, where they fought hard and took home the second-place trophy. Congratulations to all of our students and their coaches!



# Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Linda Brandts**  
Principal

## Improvements and Expansions

Here at Summerwind, we have had quite a few landscaping improvements this spring. By our kindergarten parking lot, we have three large beds full of native xeriscape plants, rocks, trees and rock for cover. The look is so clean and fresh. In the front of the school near the front gate and quad, you will notice some beautiful native paloverde trees in the planters, and along the fence line outside of rooms 1 and 2, there are fruitless pear trees in the planters. This has really brightened up our entrance!



This summer and fall, our campus will begin the process of building our maker space, a specialized room for project-based learning and activities; a new parent center; and future learning spaces. These additions are able to be accomplished thanks to current bond funds for PSD.

It is an exciting time here at Summerwind with our campus improvements and expansions.

# Tamarisk *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Stacy Williamson**  
Principal

## Second Step

Tamarisk is excited to be implementing Second Step as part of our Social Emotional instruction every Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

The Second Step curriculum works on developing social emotional skills to provide students with the tools necessary to work with one another. The program teaches skills for learning, empathy, emotional management and problem solving as a way to empower students to work cooperatively and feel safe and secure at school.

Our goal at Tamarisk is to ensure that every child feels safe and welcomed. The Second Step program in addition to the bully-free lessons and social stories that all teachers are teaching in the classroom will offer students an opportunity to learn and be successful at Tamarisk!!





# Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Regina Tillman**  
*Principal*

## Latino Literacy Program

For the past six weeks our parents have been participating in the Latino Literacy Program. The Latino Literacy Program's goal is to establish a regular family reading routine at home.

Ms. Rebeca Barragan and Mrs. Liseth Lopez have been teaching our parents about the importance of reading a book at home. Our parents have participated in a picture walk activity each week, and have gone over the author, the illustrator, and the theme of their books. Mrs. Lopez and Ms. Barragan have also demonstrated various reading strategies, such as front-loading vocabulary, and are modeling to parents how to teach these strategies at home when they are reading to their children.

The main thing that each of our parents took from this program was to continue to read in their native language, talk to their children about their childhoods, and establish a love for reading. We are excited to be offering the Latino Literacy Program to more parents here at Tumbleweed Elementary.



# Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Terrie Dowling**  
*Principal*

## Building Super Heroes!

Every other month Yucca honors our superhero students. Students who have shown superhero behaviors, such as being respectful

and responsible, get to have a special lunch with the principal.

Students sit at a specially decorated table in our Raven's Café and eat a healthy lunch of pizza and vegetables with administration. They also get to wear their own super hero cape! These students are honored at our award ceremonies at the end of each semester.

Yucca supports an environment of positivity and leadership at Yucca for all students. We are committed to recognizing and honoring all of our amazing superhero students. We have many, and they are awesome!



# Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



**Claudette Ward-Konovalov**  
*Principal*

## All-Level Robotics

The district provided our students with a kit that exposes our students to robotics and coding. The program is designed with three ways to program for beginning and intermediate coders and then on to using JAVA Script to write text programs.

Yellen staff was trained by our district coach, Steve Stucky, and were excited to bring the robots to their students. Students are excited to use and teach one another about coding their robot to move around the room. The level of engagement with the robotics kit is very high, and students are now showing staff how to program the robot.

Yellen has purchased another set with our own budget so that we have two sets on campus, one for each building.



While coding and 21st century skills are necessary, the manufacturer of the kit also goes beyond code by incorporating robotics and technology with collaborative STEAM activities, nurturing student imaginations.





Hidden talents were revealed as students sang, danced, and performed!

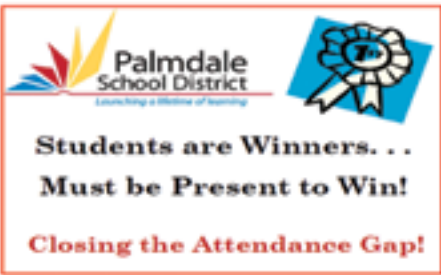
The Palmdale PROMISE (a strategic plan that provides opportunities for students to pursue remarkable opportunities to marshal inspiration and imagination for success and engagement) proves to be more than a district plan that is hidden in binders or a poster that hangs on a wall. It is a plan that is more than just hoping that “every student leaves ready for success.” It provides various choices and different paths for students to succeed. It is a promise that engages students as they explore and foster their talents to enter high school with more confidence and a passion for lifelong learning.



Students showcased their love of the Performing Arts!

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>



Christina’s Book Review

Journey for Victory



Christina J.

*The School for Good and Evil: Quests for Glory* by Soman Chainani  
The 4th book in *The School for Good and Evil* series follows through the quests of recently graduated students (most of which are children of famous storybook characters) on a journey to create their own legends.

These kids will be either heroes or villains of their own stories. But as Tedros, the son of King Arthur of Camelot, struggles to rule his Kingdom, it is realized that a great menace is keeping Tedros from being able to pull Excalibur from the stone, which causes other students to fail in their quests. Now several former and current students are off on a journey to save everyone’s story from getting ruined. I enjoyed this book, as it is like the Harry Potter series, you read from book one and on, and watch the characters grow, change and become the great heroes and villains they were trained to be at school. Now they have to use these lessons against a villain who threatens to disrupt their world. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.



Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and 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

Timmy Grows Up



Richard J.

*Timmy Failure It’s the End When I say It’s the End* by Stephan Pastis

This is the 7th and last book of the *Timmy Failure* series. Timmy and his imaginary polar bear named Total (T. Failure + Total = Total Failure of Total Failure Inc. Detective Agency) take on a task of solving the world’s problems and defeating crime. Timmy also has to do

routine things like writing a script for his class project. But then a new student takes over the show and ruins Timmy’s vision of Greatness. The script gets stolen and more Christmas shenanigans follow.

I liked these book series because despite it’s ridiculous, over-the-top narration by Timmy, you can see he’s just a young kid with great imagination, producing action-packed scenarios, which help him escape the harsh reality of struggles — like getting a new step-dad, finding his real dad and trying to get him to participate in his life, and not realizing his aunt, with whom he and his mom lived during hard times, is dying. But in the end Timmy grows up and lets go of his imaginary sidekick Total by helping him find his long-lost brother and releasing Total to the Arctic. This book is definitely 5 out of 5 stars.



Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.



Be sure to include reading among your summer activity choices!