



Dear PSD Community,

Following the Governor's press conference from Wednesday, April 1, 2020 and following the recommendation from the Los Angeles County

Raul Maldonado

Superintendent, it is now clear that California's schools will be engaged in distance learning for the remainder of the school year.

During the regular school board meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, the Board of Trustees voted to extend school closures. The following is the action item, "That the Palmdale School District physically close all school-sites and continue instruction by long distance learning methods and other methods through the end of the school year 2019-2020."

Our students' learning will continue, and our teachers' instruction is not ending. All Palmdale School District schools are now in the process of creating a long-term plan for distance learning, which will cover the remainder of the school year. Our campuses remain physically closed. Instruction matters, no matter whether it takes place in a classroom or in living rooms, there is no question this puts an even bigger burden and stress on families at a time when anxiety is already high. However, this action attempts to protect all of us in trying to stop the spread of COVID-19. We are asking all parents and caregivers to continue checking the PSD website for updates and assistance. Many of our wonderful staff members are already contacting their students. We miss not seeing our professionals teaching our children,

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 13

By the District

Palmdale School District is experiencing very unique challenges due to the global pandemic, but our district is nevertheless at the forefront in our community ensuring that students' needs are still being met. Certificated and classified staff as well as district office personnel continue to heed warnings from our government leaders to quarantine and to engage in social distance, but as "essential employees," we are proud of the work we continue to do each day during these unprecedented times in the service to the students and families of our Palmdale community. Let's hear from some of our departments!

The meals must go on!

Child Nutrition has been working tirelessly to serve breakfast and lunch at 9 of our school sites and at McAdam Park via our Food Truck, The Lunch Box. To minimize contact we are providing meals through

Palmdale Leads!



Student Services Department. The Welcome and Enrollment Center is open every Mon, Wed, and Fri. From 9:00-1:00.

drive up service in which families can pick up lunch for their children and at the same time receive a take home breakfast bag for the next morning. We are serving over 15,000 meals every day and our numbers continue to increase on a daily basis. This extraordinary task of course could not happen without the dedication and hard work of all our fantastic Child Nutrition staff. *Their unwavering commitment to our students is a magnificent site to witness.* We are extremely proud of our staff for putting our students first to ensure they are receiving nutritious meals just as they would if they were on the school campus. Lunch guys and gals really do rock!

See **PALMDALE LEADS!** • Page 12

We Will Be Ready When the Children Come Back to School

By Dennis Trujillo, President

This is not the letter that I was originally going to put in the *Launchpad*. In my first letter, I was going to talk about how proud the Board is of all the positive changes that we have made in the District in the last six years under the leadership of our superintendent, Mr. Maldonado. But then, we all heard about a thing called COVID-19 and how it is affecting the world. And with that:

The Board would like to say Thank You to our Superintendent, Management Staff, all of our teachers and support staff, classified staff and to our parents and students for your patience, understanding and support as we navigate this new way of educating our students. Also, A BIG THANK YOU to our Child Nutrition

department for the amazing effort you are making to keep our students fed. I'm sure that a simple Thank You will never be enough to tell you how much we all appreciate you dropping everything to make sure our students are not hungry. You are our heroes.

See **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** • Page 13

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Counselors Corner

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

PSD Schools Earn ASCA Awards RAMP Designation

By Keisha J. L. Burns, Ed. D., P.P.S., School Counselor,
Shadow Hills Magnet Academy of Engineering & Design

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) is pleased to announce the following three middle schools in Palmdale, California as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP): David G. Millen Law & Government Magnet Academy, SAGE (Space & Aeronautics – Gateway to Exploration) Magnet Academy, and Shadow Hills Magnet Academy of Engineering and Design.

Shadow Hills Academy school counselor Dr. Keisha Larry Burns, SAGE Academy school counselor Ms. Christina Loukatos, and former Millen Academy school counselor Ms. Karen Alamo are credited with writing, implementing and applying for the RAMP designation.

The RAMP designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering an exemplary school counseling program. Honorees are awarded for aligning their program with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, a framework for a data-informed school counseling program. Research findings indicate fully implemented comprehensive school counseling programs are associated with a range of positive student educational and behavioral outcomes.

“This year’s RAMP honorees have shown their commitment to students and the school counseling profession,” said Jill Cook, ASCA assistant director. “These schools used data to drive their program development and implementation so all students can achieve success. The RAMP designation distinguishes these schools and encourages school counselors nationwide to strive for excellence.”

Dr. Burns, Ms. Loukatos, and Ms. Alamo spent hundreds of hours and three years planning, implementing, and evaluating their school counseling programs prior to application. The application process is rigorous and is evaluated by trained readers from across the United States.

Four LA County Schools were awarded this year and there are now twenty RAMP schools in California, three of which are PSD schools. David G. Millen Magnet Academy, S.A.G.E. Magnet Academy, and Shadow Hills Magnet Academy will be honored at a recognition ceremony at ASCA’s annual conference in Seattle, WA, on June 29, 2020.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



During this coronavirus pandemic the Palmdale Unified School District quickly sprung into action implementing distance learning. Students embraced their new way of learning .high school students accepted the reality of not celebrating their graduation in the traditional sense and parents were creative with ways to celebrate their child’s birthdays and milestones.

Americans by nature are social people. We will figure out our new normal. In the meantime, it is true we are all in this together.

Our next issue is October 7, 2020.

Until then be healthy, be kind, be optimistic and have a fun summer!

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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562/493-3193

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Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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Road Trip 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 July 15, 2020

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

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| MAPS | CAMERA | CLOTHING |
| BLANKET | CAR GAMES | CELL PHONE |
| GPS | BOOTS | RADIOMONEY |
| PILLOW | SNACKS | FLASHLIGHT |
| MOTEL | SUNGLASSES | CREDIT CARD |
| HUMOR | WATER | SPARE TIRE |
| HOTEL | SUNSCREEN | |

Congratulations to Danica Barillas
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!



Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Fundraiser

Every school year our students and parents at Barrel Springs Elementary participate in a school-wide fundraiser with World's Famous Chocolates. The World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser has been in existence since 1939 for schools across the United States.

I am happy to inform you that our students and parents reached our school goal and surpassed it! They helped raise money for school field trips, student incentives, and motivational assemblies for our students. We are beyond proud of our students, parents, and staff for their hard work and dedication, they put into making this fundraiser fun and successful. In the end, we made 150% more sales than last year! Now, due to the school closure because of COVID-19, we are planning on how to get the incentives to students before the school year ends. We are going to connect with families. Thank you!



Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

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



Dr. Anthony "Tu" Price Jr.
Principal

The Cactus Environmental Club: Every Day is Earth Day!

Even though Earth Day is officially April 22nd this year, the members of the Cactus Environmental Club believe that protecting the planet should be something that we focus on all year, each and every day.

What is the Environmental Club all about?

The club was developed for students and staff to take pride and interest in the environment in which they live. Students and teachers have collaborated to do a variety of projects this year.

The club members had a recycling campaign, collecting bottles and cans to help clean up the environment and even using some of those recycled materials to create art. The students in the club researched and designed an aquaponic system and they built and

maintained a hydroponic system. The Environmental Club planted and grew a variety of vegetables and herbs, as well as learning the uses and benefits of the plants they grew. They even created interdisciplinary connections by exploring the roles of Mathematics and Home Economics in their projects and creations.

Because the members of the Cactus Environmental Club believe that caring for and being aware of the environment starts at home, they have cleaned up trash and debris from our own campus while also discussing global environmental issues and ways to solve them.



Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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

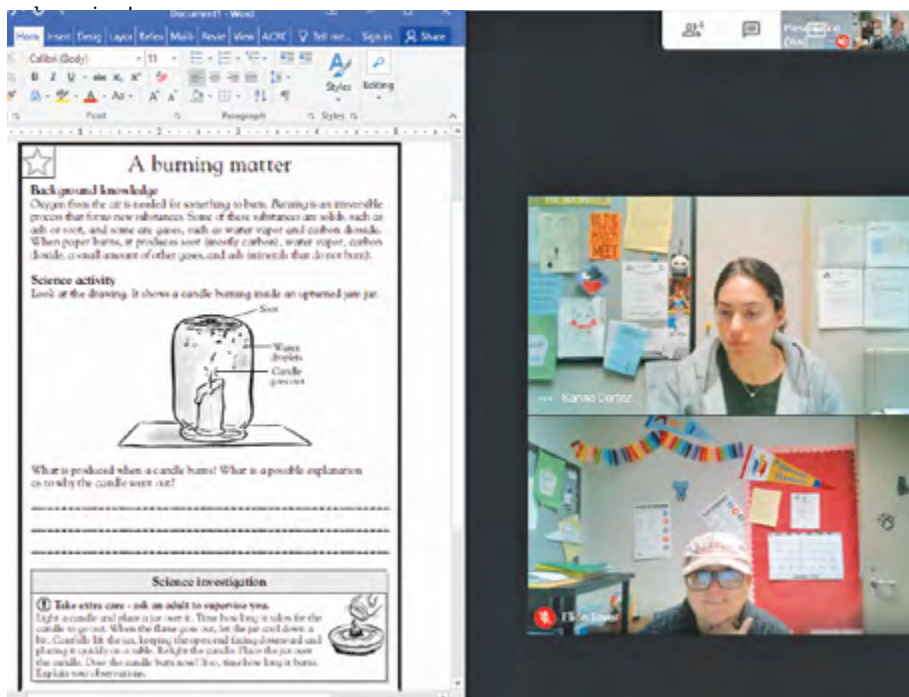


Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

A New Way of Learning

It is an unprecedented time in our world and learning community. No one thought that we would have to switch to an online form of instruction and communication. As educators, we are not giving up on our students but reaching out to them in a new way. We are implementing "distance learning". At Buena Vista Elementary school, our teachers are working together to provide instruction to our students virtually. We have met

to create a schedule and plan how our students will continue to learn and not fall behind. Students will have access to the curriculum and their teacher virtually. Our teachers are using programs like google meets, Zoom, Hapara and google classroom to ensure that our students are continuing their learning. With our teacher's hard work, parent help and our students' drive, we are confident that our students will continue to be successful with our new way of



Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

William Coleman – Bobcat Hero!

When school closures rippled across the Antelope Valley in mid-March, school districts turned to online programs to provide a continuum of instructional and educational services to meet the needs of its students. The success of Chaparral's transition to distance learning would not have rolled out as smoothly and effectively as it has, if not for our Tech Support Liaison, William Coleman. Will's extraordinary commitment to serve Chaparral families allowed students to secure the materials they needed to continue their learning from home. Will supported parents

in all grade levels to access resources to get their children online, into google classrooms, and using Zoom to connect and interact with their teacher and classmates. Will has worked tirelessly to secure, disinfect, and distribute chrome books to students in need. Will represents what it means to be a team player and a leader. We proudly recognize him as our Bobcat hero!



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

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

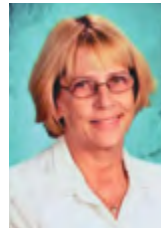
Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

How many times have we heard that teamwork makes the dream work? In light of recent events, the adage has proven to be true. Desert Willow was able to transition to a virtual format quickly due to the awesome staff and their diligent collaborative efforts. We were able to have our first virtual staff meeting during the week of our Spring Break. For a small part of our staff, this was a new concept. Mrs. Garcia, our LST, previously worked in the virtual school setting for over 10 years and was able to bring her expertise to the table. Our swift-acting MST,

Dr. Hirsch, introduced a virtual schedule and through our combined efforts, we developed a schedule that worked for the DW students and teachers. The DW team established a spreadsheet to collaborate so we are able to jump in and support students with class codes, computers, translation, and much more. Many of our teachers have quickly adapted to the virtual world and have posted video lessons for their students. The team has worked together to have full year paper packets available to those students who do not have access to technology. Our team has made every effort to ensure that every student is able to continue their education during this challenging time. Our communication as a staff has been phenomenal and I would really like to thank every member of the staff for the work that they have done.

Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Congratulations Abby Craig

We are proud and excited to announce Cimarron's Teacher of the Year for 2020-2021, Abby Craig, third grade teacher. Ms. Craig has been

teaching for 25 years. She started as a substitute teacher at Mesa Middle School and then stayed on there for two more years. When Cimarron was ready to open, she came on board and has been here ever since. She is our GATE Lead teacher and offers before school tutoring. She loves the Cimarron community and its family feel including staff, students, and parents. Ms. Craig is married and has two sons and two dogs. In her free time she loves to be outdoors; hiking, riding her bicycle, or traveling. She also enjoys, reading, cooking, and shopping! We are so fortunate to have her on our staff.



Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Maker's Space

This is not how any of us expected our school year to end! There were many great things happening at Desert Rose such as our beautiful and freshly painted cafeteria and most recently the new Maker's Space. The Maker's Space construction was completed just as the Stay-At-Home requirement began. The Maker's Space is a large multimedia room that can accommodate art projects, science experiments, robotics, dance and many other STEAM activities. Everyone at Desert Rose is excited to begin using this fantastic, flexible learning space...but we will have to wait until next school year.

The administrators and entire staff at Desert Rose are incredibly happy to see our students online, but we can't wait to all be together at our school, hopefully in August. From all of us to all of you, please have a safe and healthy summer.



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Sarah Zepeda
Principal

Being Brave Together

Dos Caminos students continue to excel at home and are rising up to the challenge of Distance Learning! Our DC students have been busy creating work spaces at home where they can learn as their teachers venture into online google classrooms. We are super excited to see all of our students quickly adapting to this virtual environment, zooming with their teachers. Our wonderful parents have also taken the challenge of connecting with their students and their teachers, to support their learning. We, at Dos Caminos have seen the outpouring of support from parents becoming teachers and our teachers becoming like parents nurturing our students through virtual platforms. We are very excited to see the Dos Caminos family of teachers, staff, parents and students coming together to ensure that all of our students are well taken care of at home while they continue to learn to the best of their ability!!! Go Dos Caminos Explorers!!! Let's be brave together!!



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Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Keeping Promises

Joshua Hills, along with all PSD schools, has been closed due to COVID-19 safety measures. However, that hasn't stopped progress on meeting promises of giving our students multifaceted ways to learn and create. Contractors have been working hard while we've been out and have finished our Maker Space. Our teachers and students have been looking forward to utilizing this space all year. Once school reopens it will be ready for student use. We cannot thank the School Board and Cabinet enough for their mission to meet the needs of our students with new and creative spaces to learn.



Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Learning from a Distance

The sudden closing of schools was hard for the community, staff, and students. One of the things that Golden Poppy thrives on is making school fun! However, with the school closures and the unknowns of what was to come, we banded together as a staff and started generating ideas in order to get the students involved and realize how much we miss them. We did a check-in video and the responses from our community were amazing! It gave us the need to continue. The week following, we coordinated a car parade for the students and we didn't realize the emotional impact that the parade would have on our staff, families, and community. It was so touching to see the families and students and our hearts grew heavy with how much we miss our school community. From there, we couldn't help but think "How are we going to top that and keep the momentum going?" Immediately we began to plan out additional virtual connections with students. The week after the car parade we sent out messages to our community that read: "Missing our Peeps." We were able to place 75 peeps on the front yards of our students homes and offer an opportunity for our community to participate in locating all of the peeps that were hidden.



While face-to-face interaction is gone, we can still interact with our students in positive ways. By following social distancing guidelines, we are still able to create an interactive experience for staff and students. We're excited to share more of our Spirit Days with our kids, continue to capture kids' hearts, and provide safe and positive opportunities for all, even if from a distance.

Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

Our Dragons Continue with their Learning

By Mrs. Garcia, Assistant Principal

Our learning and instruction continues despite our current challenges. As the safety and health of our Los Amigos family continues to be a priority, staff and students remain committed to continuing their learning and staying in touch from home using Chromebooks, technology, and phone calls. We are currently implementing our site plan for distance learning, and are proud to announce it is working successfully! Teachers and support staff engage with students daily to meet their academic and emotional needs. We received about 370 requests for devices and our office staff fulfilled every request. They worked around the clock to contact each family and set up no contact valet device pickup, so our students could be up and running in a short matter of time. Our Los Amigos staff and families are absolutely AMAZING! We know we will get through this, as we always do, by working together because... Dragon's son #1!



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Susan Summers
Principal

Space Night

Have you ever had an opportunity to travel through space? The students at Manzanita Elementary had this wonderful experience at Manzanita's first annual Space Night which was held on March 5th, 2020 from 5:30-7:30pm. All Manzanita families were welcomed to attend this fun filled event where students had an opportunity to explore the Solar System with their families by engaging in many hands-on activities. Students were given a Space passport that was stamped as they traveled through space



by visiting 8 different planets. We even had Jeremy Amarant, Director of the SAGE Planetarium bring one of his incredible telescopes to help students and their families study the constellations in the night sky. After students completed their journey through space they earned an incentive graciously donated by Mr. Amarant from the SAGE Planetarium. It was a fun filled adventure.

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Brandie Strachan is Mesquite's Classified School Employee of the Year!

Congratulations to Mesquite's Classified School Employee of the Year, Brandie Strachan! Affectionately called "Miss Brandie" and "Nurse Brandie" by our students and staff. Brandie serves as our LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse), and she has worked at Mesquite for three years. Brandie ensures that our students and staff receive prompt and proper health care. During this school year, Brandie's quick thinking and emergency response skills saved two student lives! In addition to attending to health care needs, Brandie also participates on a variety of site and District committees. She co-chairs our Social and Yearbook Committees and is our site representative for CSEA (California School Employees Association). Brandie is actively involved in school events and is always willing to offer assistance - with a smile! On behalf of the Mesquite Family, we graciously thank Brandie Strachan for everything she does to make Mesquite a great place for students and staff!





Jennifer Blake
Principal

Virtual Learning and Technology Distribution!

By the Law and Government Magnet Academy (DGM) Administrative Team

As we adapt to our new reality and abide by the Safer-at-Home order, we are thrilled to provide our students the opportunity to continue their learning, while connecting with caring Teachers and staff members (which is of utmost importance especially during this time of change and limited social interaction). Teacher and staff communication and collaboration has soared at DGM as we collaboratively and continuously plan, build and deliver online distance learning opportunities for our students. As we plan for the delivery of meaningful instruction that maximizes student engagement and success, DGM has been diligently working every day to ensure that all of our students have access to appropriate technology and the online platforms needed by implementing a technology distribution plan. If our families don't already have the necessary technology at home, we are ensuring they do! DGM is distributing

Chromebooks/technology on a daily basis from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. As families complete the Chromebook Request Form, Ms. Hegre, our Technology Support Liaison, and our office staff, are working with families to provide them with a Chromebook and the technology support they need, as quickly as possible.

It's incredible to share that a total of 970 students have received Chromebooks this school year with 133 Chromebooks being distributed over the last two weeks! All technology is cleaned and disinfected before it's distributed to students and families and social distancing protocols are used. To increase everyone's safety, appointments for the pick-up of technology are through a drive-thru model, where staff meets families outside wearing protective gear. Ms. Hegre shared that our families have expressed gratitude for our staff's promptness and support with Chromebooks. We thank our Technology Support Liaison, our office staff, and our Teachers for the great work they are doing as we embark together on this Trailblazing Journey!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

Safer at Home

As the culture of schools have changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Oaktree and Innovations Academy teachers and students have pressed on to adapt to our new distance learning model. Our teachers and parents have been working together to make sure the best possible teaching environment is created and maintained throughout this "Safer at Home" movement.

Our teachers and parents are working together through "Class Dojo", "Remind" and Odysseyware (IA), to stay in contact with one another to make sure everyone is in the educational loop. Our teachers are doing a great job of recording lessons, sending out virtual field trips, and connecting with our social/emotional piece, through our "Zoom" virtual meetings. Our students are having great success and access to their learning materials through "Google Classroom" and through physical (site) packet pickups and drop offs.

Everyone is doing their part to make sure our students are getting the best that Oaktree and Innovations Academy has to offer.

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Embracing Distance Learning

Chromebook pickups and homework delivery have been successful due to our wonderful staff at Ocotillo. Happy parents lined up in cars on distribution assigned days. Students in grades two through five were provided with cleaned, disinfected, packaged Chromebooks ready for online learning as needed.

Parents' safety was a priority and packages were hand delivered while parents stayed in their cars as we adhered to the social distancing protocols and guidelines. A we miss you parade is planned for April where staff members will caravan through the neighborhoods of our students, letting them know how much we miss having them on campus and can't wait to see them physically in their classrooms again. Panthers have shown Spirit, Passion and Pride as we have embraced Distance Learning.



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Continuing with Positivity and Enthusiasm

It has been a fantastic year for Palmdale Discovery Center! As we enter the last part of our school year, I would like to recognize the commitment and enthusiasm of our staff members who have continued to lead our program with positivity and enthusiasm. Though we have all been faced with a new adventure in how we instruct our students, everybody is moving right along. Our collaborative teams work daily to make sure that their instruction is appropriate and interesting for our students. In order to make sure we are providing accessible and understandable curriculum,

our teachers have utilized the Google classroom platform to push out practice assignments to each other and support staff to try out before sending assignments to our students. I would also like to thank our wonderful parents! We know the challenges that come with instructing our students at home and changing their schedule that they were so accustomed to for years. We value your support, cooperation and positivity. Thank you for being partners in your children's education!

April is Autism awareness month, and I would like to recognize all of our students! We all value and appreciate their uniqueness and special gifts.

I look forward to having a successful end to the school year!

Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Go PUMA Leaders!

California Association of Student Leaders (CASL) is a student-led organization whose mission is to create a statewide network to facilitate the development of

ethical, responsible, and servant leaders. 8th grader Alvaro Pineda has been elected as Southern California Freshman Director for 2020-21. We are so proud of him!

Palmdale Learning Plaza's ASB received CASL's Outstanding Leadership Program Award (OLPA) for 2020. This award recognizes the achievement and change that student led clubs, community programs, and student organization make across our state and world. Today and tomorrow leaders at PLP.

With PUMA Pride!



Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Engaging Students through Before School Tutoring in Reading

Our Palm Tree Elementary Before School Tutoring Program for Kindergarten and First grade students, began on January 27, 2020. The Program focuses on building a strong foundation in phonemic awareness, phonics and reading fluency. Assessments are conducted weekly to track the students' progress and the data is used to differentiate instruction.

The Kindergarten and First grade students are excited about receiving a different story each week to take home and practice reading to their parents. During tutoring the students practice letter/sound and sight word identification and they underline the focus sounds in their weekly story prior to reading the story. The following week the students

reread the same story at the beginning of tutoring and the Assistant Principal and instructional Assistants monitor the students reading progress. Building fluency and motivation using short stories to help develop our kindergarten and first grade students' automaticity is a major goal for our tutoring program.

We would like to thank our instructional assistants for empowering and building a strong reading foundation in our Kindergarten and First grade students in our Before School Tutoring program led by our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Thorogood. Also, a special thank you goes out to several of these students' parents who participate in monthly Parent/Student Reading workshops designed to empower parents with instructional reading strategies they can use at home with their children.

We Parrots are amazing!!!

Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carol Black
Principal

Rain or Shine: QV's Cafeteria Team is Serving the Community

Since March 15th QV's Cafeteria Team has been distributing meals to families our community. Before 11:30 a.m. everyday, cars can be seen, waiting in the long lines wrapping-around Quail Valley onto Avenue S. Eight amazing people work at our site led by cafeteria manager, Crystal Cabrera.

When interviewed, Cabrera shared,

"The preparation takes all of us working together to be able to finish in time and serve our families. I find that my staff as well as myself enjoy serving our community that is clearly in need."

Cabrera shared some challenges,

"Being able to get everything prepped in time especially since we are serving 2000 meals a day. The hardest part is just making sure that my staff as well as myself are protected to ensure that we do not get sick while we are trying to help."



SAGE *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

S.A.G.E. Students Take to the Air!

Come to S.A.G.E. Magnet Academy on any given day and you're likely to hear the zooming sounds of drones flying overhead. Classes in the aviation program are filled to capacity and students are excited to show off their skills! S.A.G.E. offers a multifaceted aviation pathway for students. This pathway allows students to explore high paying careers right here in Palmdale! Courses include Airplanes and Drones, Space and Rockets, Air Traffic Control, and Flight. This past year, 18 of our students in the Planes and Drones II class completed their FAA Safety

Aviation--Part 107 Small Unmanned Systems Certification and have learned about the safety involved in operating drones. Students were required to score a perfect 100% on the test. At S.A.G.E. Academy, the sky is not the limit!



Airplane and Drones students walking to the launchpad.

Shadow Hills *Engineering & Design Magnet Academy*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Putting Tech in the Hands of our Falcons

We are certainly in new and interesting times. In a world of uncertainty and social distancing, the staff at Shadow Hills came together, at appropriate 6-foot spacing to help pass out Chromebooks to our students.

A huge shout out to Quail Valley's Technology liaison, Gerry Guydish, who gave of his time to clean, package and organize the system needed to get technology out to students. A special thank you to the classified staff who came out over the week to work in getting the packaged computers out via our contactless delivery systems. We had over 150 families come pick up Chromebooks. One more way Palmdale Leads!!



Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



Marginese Streeter
Principal

2nd Grade Students and Teachers Head to the Denver Museum

Summerwind Teachers are innovative, tech-savvy, and creative! Our second grade team partnered with the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration to provide students with a unique educational experience!

On March 9th, all Summerwind second grade students participated in a “Virtual Field Trip” to the Denver Museum. During the virtual field trip they were able to talk with a scientist who taught them dinosaur facts, then guided them in an art lesson to create dinosaur clay models.

Our awesome PTA purchased the clay for students to create their dinosaur models. Students were busy researching and writing about their favorite dinosaurs; each student was engaged and learning.



The activity was tied to the Benchmark Unit 7 Week 3 story, “A Dinosaur Named Sue.” The students also read about fossils. *The Antelope Valley Press* visited campus to cover the virtual field trip. The students had lots of fun with it. They loved the Virtual Learning Experience.

Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Misti Larrick
Principal

Celebrating Tumbleweed Distance Learning

Tumbleweed, along with every other school in the Palmdale School District, began the adventure of providing our students with distance learning beginning the week of April 6th. It is certainly not an ideal situation, but one that the entire Tumbleweed staff embraced to the best of their ability. One of the first things that happened was that the teachers all received a week of professional development to prepare them for the technological demands of this type of learning. Tumbleweed teachers worked tirelessly and put their whole heart into doing what’s best for our students in this unprecedented learning situation. The next thing was to get our students the electronic devices they needed to engage in distance learning. Our office staff worked numerous hours to ensure our students got the devices and any supplies they needed. A special thank you to Mr. Wines and Mr. Westreicher!



Tamarisk *Renaissance School*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Rocio Nelson Raises the Bar

At Tamarisk there is a person who goes above and beyond her job qualifications, and everyone on campus knows the dedication and love that that person does their job with. No matter the circumstance, Rocio Nelson, our Child Nutrition Manager is that person. Rocio gets the job done while going the extra mile. Recently, a politician assisted with our Drive and Walk Through Meals, and one could see he was tired, he mentioned to Rocio, “I’ll take a break when you do”. What he didn’t know is that Rocio never takes breaks of any sort, she’s the consummate professional who thrives in helping achieve the impossible. Rocio raises the bar and leads by example, she does her job with pride and treats all stakeholders the way she likes to be treated, with respect. Thank you, Rocio, for all you do for Palmdale. We are proud to have you at Tamarisk.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Claudette Ward-Konovalov
Principal

Spring Door Dash

Yellen Learning Center cares and misses their students. Prior to the school's closure due to COVID_19, Ms. Newell and her staff, Erika Brown, LaShonda Fischer and Angelica Casillas were organizing a Spring Level party with an egg hunt and rewards such as books and chocolate bunnies or baskets of treats. Nydia Sanchez, our school psychologist, came up with the idea to do a Door Dash and deliver the treats and baskets to our students. Thank you to all of our staff volunteers who came and picked up baskets and bags of treats and delivered them to our students throughout the Antelope Valley. All students at Yellen received a special treat with staff leaving the baskets on the doorstep while practicing social distancing.



Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Whatever it Takes

Yucca was fortunate to receive over 650 boxes filled with 30 pounds of non-perishable food thanks to the generous donation from the Boys and Girls Club. Twelve pallets of boxed food arrived at Yucca on a Thursday morning and by 11:30 am that day we had a group of volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club, Yucca staff and the district office handing out boxes of food to the families who were lined up for breakfast/lunch distribution. With only a couple of hours' notice, our community came together to provide much needed support for our PSD families. We handed out over 250 boxes that day! Yucca staff is also distributing boxes of food to our families on Chromebook distribution days. We are honored to be able to support our community. A huge thank you to those who supported Yucca and truly embraced our "whatever it takes" motto!



Congratulations Class of 2020!

People Power!

Human Resources has worked extensively with the different bargaining units and departments in order to keep student learning and employee well-being as top priorities. In addition to the employees of the Human Resources departments, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the leaders of CSEA and PETA for collaborating early and often as the challenge of COVID-19 unfolded across our country. Timothy Barker, Jacquelyn Hearne, and Elena Esquer worked with their stakeholders to create a remote system of learning that could be implemented with very little notice. Solange Henriquez worked with Helena Perkins and the entire negotiations team to create an MOU for work to continue and even reached a two year Tentative Agreement with CSEA in the midst of one of the most challenging periods in recent history. Though we are far from the end of this challenge, I have no doubt that the Human Resources department will continue to work toward solutions with our employees to ensure the safety, financial stability, and health of our employees.

SPED Promises Support to ALL!

Like everyone else, our hearts dropped at the thought of what school closures meant for our students and staff. That drop was momentary, however, as the Special Education department, school sites, teachers and staff began to show their true colors! Here's a synopsis of what has been going on out there in the field.

Moderate to severe teachers at Buena Vista and Desert Willow reached approximately 80% of their families to get them started in distance learning. The DHH teachers and interpreters created synchronous class times, and will use a sign language interpreter to either sign or voice what is said —making online instruction a viable option for our deaf and hard of hearing students. Teachers at Palmdale Discovery Center set up online classrooms, and tested this process with their paraeducators before involving their parents and students with moderate to severe autism. They used teamwork to create as seamless a transition as possible, doing this in just the first 3 days back from the closure.

Our Leadership team for Special Education successfully provided multiple informational sessions to apprise our special education and general education staff across the district regarding the Special Education Plan. This was truly a team effort to ensure that a wide variety of service providers were able to join and ask questions. Lastly, our team is seeking to provide ongoing communication and support through weekly messages: Wellness Wednesdays — with a focus on self-care tips, fun activities, and flexible thinking to remind staff that their health and well-being matters, and Friday Facts — From Your Special Education Office, that details important information requested by staff members needing clarification.

The Special Education Department is here to assist and serve in any way that we can, and will continue to do our absolute best for our students, in these unprecedented times.

Schools, Students and Families Reach Out in New Ways



Safer at home has driven many to use creative ways to stay close. From phone calls to packet pickups to parades, schools reach out and families return the favor. Many schools have held neighborhood parades and the response is amazing. Families turn out to watch, hold signs and cheer for school staff. One PTO organized a salute to the child nutrition workers who feed anyone 18 and under Monday through Friday. Teachers held signs up from their cars, honked horns and cheered as the



workers handed out meals. Students coming to pick up laptops or packets were greeted by computer technicians, principals and teachers wrapped in gloves and face masks, while packets and laptops were wrapped in plastic. For teachers who could not come into the school site to close their rooms, video calls were used to explain to staff what needed to be packed, what needed to come off the walls and what could stay in place for next year. There are many creative ways to get the job done while staying safe at home. We all discover new ways every day.

Technology – Keeping Us Connected!

There are not many times in history when we can mark the moment and the day that our world shifted. And yet, on Friday, March 13th, that is exactly what happened. We were told that L.A. County schools would be closed for the foreseeable future, and we were guided by Governor Newsome to continue educating our students using technology. Our Technology Services and EdTech Teams quickly jumped into overdrive to make this suggestion a reality.

Through collaborations with multiple departments, a plan was developed to disseminate Chromebooks to our students in grades 2 - 8. The plan included making appointments for parents to go to school sites to check out devices for their children to maintain social distancing. Site Tech Liaisons, along with Site Administrators, removed Chromebooks from their carts and staged them in the parking lots and driveway areas of their schools. Parents were allowed to drive-thru and take the devices with them. Students in grades 5 - 8 were given TAP Chromebooks (Technology Access Program) donated by the PSD Foundation. These devices are available for students to keep. Other devices are on loan from the school and are expected to be returned when school starts again in August.

At the same time that devices were being distributed, our EdTech Team quickly developed a series of online professional development sessions for our teachers and Classified staff aimed at assisting them with transitioning their regular classroom content to an online environment. Webinars were hosted on Zoom with as many as 300 people attending each session. Topics included Google Classroom, Zoom, Hapara, Screencastify, ClassLink, and many others. Sessions were offered multiple times and were also recorded. They have been posted to the EdTech Coaches website. bit.ly/psdtechcoaches

See PALMDALE LEADS! • Page 13

As devices were quickly rolling out to the community, the Tech Services team saw an increased need for technical support to the community — an area that had not been addressed before. They created a Tech Hotline (661) 789-6600, and an email contact <psdtechsupport@palmdalesd.org>. Several TSLs and other Tech Services members have been assigned to assist parents and students as they try to use various technologies to connect to school from home. They also implemented a live Facebook session, two days a week in both Spanish and English, to address the most common parent and student concerns.

Our teachers, staff, parents, and students have stepped up to the plate and swung for the fences. The level of adoption and engagement online has been phenomenal! A survey of staff last week showed that nearly 75% of our teachers and support staff are meeting students synchronously online (using Zoom or Google Meet) three or more times per week. And two-thirds of our teachers report making contact with 80 - 100% of their students since we started remote learning. Surprisingly, teachers mostly reported that one thing that has gone well for them during this time has been the use of Zoom to have synchronous meetings with their students online. Most teachers have been grateful for a tool that allows them to see and hear their students and allows students to see and hear each other as well. In deciding whether synchronous online time was necessary, the Ed Services team agreed it was vital to the social and emotional well-being of students to make this human connection during this time of social distancing. The EdTech and Tech Services departments teamed up to lock down the best settings for teachers and students to remain safe within the platform. Again, our teachers and support staff have done an amazing job in this area with 90% of them reporting they are using Zoom to meet with students online.

Through the rapid development and implementation of a thoughtful plan, we have leveraged the technology available to us to continue connecting with students and staff during this difficult time. No, it isn't perfect. We continue to work on the lack of access to technology and the Internet for some parents and students and to continue to offer technical assistance to those in need. But we are working diligently to keep our students connected to school — one device at a time.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Raul Maldonado

not seeing our wonderful classified staff welcoming our parents, and not seeing our students roaming our school hallways.

Palmdale remains committed to placing the health and learning needs of our students' front and center. Schools still play a vital role in our communities. Schools will continue working with our students using technology, webinars, Chromebooks, and regular phone calls. We are committed to helping all students get connected with their school and teachers.

We are asking for your understanding and patience. Currently, many parents are requesting devices for use at home, at this time devices are limited. We understand that many parents do not have internet and currently we are working with local vendors to provide free Wi-Fi. Also, we are using work packets for instruction to many of our students. Many principals, teachers, and support staff have created video messages and contacted students. We will continue to provide distance learning, meals, and online instructional options.

We will continue to provide updates as often as warranted in these fast-changing days. Please refer to our website for the most updated information at <https://www.palmdalesd.org>.

Business as Usual

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Business Services Division has managed to keep the business of the District moving forward thanks to all the dedicated and tireless support staff in the division. As mentioned, the Technology department continues to deploy devices and a YouTube channel for informational training for our parents and community with some introduction to technology topics. These trainings were developed based on the hundreds of support calls the Technology Support Specialists received and assisted with. The Child Nutrition department staff “our heroes” continues to feed our students and families with a whopping 75,800 meals served weekly. The Facilities, Maintenance and Operations department are supporting ongoing projects and making sure our facilities are sanitized and cleaned daily. A big thank you to our warehouse drivers for all the deliveries and continuous search and purchase of PPEs for the district. The Fiscal Services staff ensures that employees and vendors are being paid continuously while working on school site and district budgets for the 2020-21 school year. The Transportation department staff are hard at work to ensure that our vendors are keeping up with the maintenance of District fleets while detailing our school vans and supporting our Child Nutrition Lunch Box for food distribution. We cannot thank all our support staff enough for keeping the district afloat in the midst of the unprecedented pandemic. Palmdale will continue to Lead!

The Palmdale PROMISE is more than a written set of goals and actions. It is the way the district ensures that our students and families remain the number one concern of all of our efforts! Though these times are challenging, they also reveal that we are staying focused on the vision of the Palmdale PROMISE where...

Palmdale will become a district where . . . Every Student Leaves Ready for Success in High School and Beyond: College, Career, the Global World.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES • From Page 1



Dennis Trujillo
President

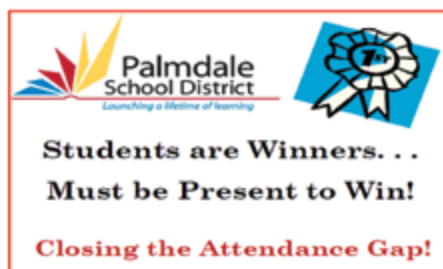
There was a boxer who once said, “Your fight plan goes out the window after the first punch in the face.” Schools have never had to deal with something this massive before, and for so long. Without much of a plan to start with, we have been punched more than once and have had to change our plans many times, sometimes just 10 minutes after we thought we were ready to go. We know that all these changes and uncertainties have put a lot of anxiety and stress on everyone involved. We also know the main concern of everyone at the District is our students and our staff. We have had teachers reaching out to students to check on them and we have other employees coming to work to make sure that things keep moving so we don't get too far behind on the day to day workings of the District.

We just want to tell all employees and parents that this will end someday, but until then, just try to do your best and what you think is best for the children. Teachers, the students will only learn so much during this time, but they will remember this time in their lives and who was there helping them get through it. Parents, I know this is stressful for you and your kids. Just remember that this will pass, and try to enjoy all the extended time you have with them.

In closing, I want to say that we look forward to the day the children come back to school, we will be ready and waiting for them.

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

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



Sean's Book Review

Finding Your True Identity



Sean

If you don't know anything about Greek Mythology, but you have a desire to, Percy Jackson *The Lightning Thief* is a great book to get started! This is Rick Riordan's first book in his Percy Jackson mythology series. Even if you already know about Greek mythology, this is an exceptional book that will keep you hooked. It's a great read with lots of detail and fun information. In here, you'll get introduced

to Percy Jackson, a 12 year-old demigod (child of a god and a mortal) and is the son of the powerful sea god, Poseidon. The book is about how Percy discovered his identity and finds new friends and has crazy adventures along the way. It has action, suspense, and always makes you want to keep reading. When I first read this book 2 years ago, I was hooked and could not put it down even to this day!

Sean Cheng is a 5th grader who enjoys cubing (Rubik's Cubes), watching Rubik's Cube videos, and playing basketball. His favorite subjects at school are math and P.E. He loves his 3 guinea pigs and looks forward to summer vacations.



Tyson's Book Review

Every Day is a Gift



Tyson

"*Finding The Worm*" by Mark Goldblatt is a great book that tells the troubles of Julian Twerski. Julian is just entering middle school in 7th grade and he goes through crazy adventures that make you smile. You'll be attached to the Thirty-Fourth Avenue Gang while going through the book. *Finding The Worm* has twists and turns that you would never expect. Mark Goldblatt does an outstanding job in hooking

the reader. I'm usually not the biggest reader, but after reading this book, I want more of what Mark Goldblatt writes. This book is the continuation of the first book, *Twerp*, but you don't have to read the first to read the second. This is probably one of the best books I have ever read, and I give it a 10 out of 10. I hope you will enjoy reading this awesome book!

Tyson is an athletic 6th grader who loves basketball, soccer, and volleyball. His favorite subjects are P.E. and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of his 3 guinea pigs with his brother. He looks forward to going to Lakers games with his dad.



B is for Book

Life is Numbers



Bailey

Rated by Melissa Grey is an intriguing, mystery like book.

In this society, it truly matters what people think because every person has a "rating." Their rating reflects just about everything, from if they have a good job, to if they said "thank you" to the waiter. The future of every individual lies on their rating. When someone vandalizes

Maplethorpe Academy with red paint reading "THE RATINGS ARE NOT REAL," it will bring these six students together, Bex, Tamsin, Hana, Chase, Noah, and Javier. Although they have absolutely nothing in common, they thrive together! But will they be enough to solve the mystery and conclude the corruption of their society?

This dystopia depicts a possible reality that will keep the reader thinking days after finishing the book. I have read the book several times and it still fascinates me. I rate it 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is an eighth grader who loves to read whenever she's not dancing or with her friends.



Ethan's Review

The Deep, Dark Secret



Ethan H.

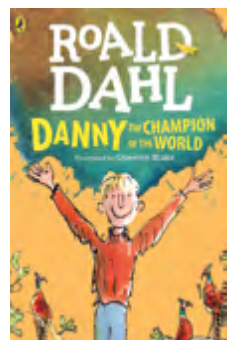
Danny, The Champion of the World
By Roald Dahl

Danny is a little boy who lives in an old, rusty, broken-down carriage at a filling station with his dad. His mom died when he was very young. Danny has always admired his dad's strength and bravery. He always looked forward to his dad's stories about a

Big Friendly Giant that captures and bottles dreams because it sparked his imagination. Danny woke up one night and discovered that his dad was not home. He went outside to look for him and saw a shadowy figure moving on the street. It was his dad! Danny finds out about a deep, dark secret his father had. Read *Danny, The Champion of the World* to find out what happened next! I loved reading this book because it was filled with action.

I recommend this book to people who like suspense and mystery.

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.



Manhar's Book Review

Half Man Half Dog



Manhar M.

Dog Man Unleashed is a great book. It is very humorous. The best thing about Dog Man is that it is very entertaining. Once you read it for a while you get addicted to it. My favorite characters are Petey and Dog Man. I like them because they are very smart and witty. It is a great choice for someone who does not like to read. My favorite pages are the "flip-o-rama" pages that show animation. I also like how Dog Man fights against injustice.

Manhar M. is in First Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.



Katie's Review

Daydreamer



Katie C.

Title: *Words with Wings*
Author: Nikki Grimes

Gabby is what you would call a daydreamer. She always seemed to be in her own world and sometimes it got her in trouble. Daydreaming was a way to escape from her parents' arguments. She daydreamed at home, at school, everywhere — until it became a way of life. She seemed to meet everyone that discouraged her dreams, until she meets a new teacher. This new teacher shows her that her dreams can help her, that they can spark imagination and cause her to create great things. Gabby finally realizes that rather than daydreaming everything, she can WRITE. This book is a collection of poems that shows the mental growth of a girl who was lost in her own world.

Katie is in 10th grade. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to the kids who want to find more good books.



Jenna's Review

A Soccer Hero



Jenna C.

Title: *Alex Morgan*
Do you know who Alex Morgan is? Alex Morgan is a famous soccer player for the United States Women's National Team. She helped the US soccer team win many games. This book explains how Alex Morgan grew up, how she built her career and how she became famous. There are fun facts about Alex Morgan including her personal life, her published



books, her favorites, and what she likes to do when she is not playing soccer. Additionally, this book includes US Women's soccer history such as the World Cup and Olympics. It also talks about some soccer heroes. Interestingly, this book also has a board game on the last page for readers to play. I especially like this book because there are multiple realistic photos. I recommend this book to people who like soccer and Alex Morgan.

Jenna is a 4th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

Kailani's Review

Magical New Best Friend



Kailani T.

Unicorn Diaries, Bo's Magical New Friend, is 1 of the 4 books in *Unicorn Diaries* chapter book series written by Rebecca Elliot. Bo (Rainbow Tinseltail) lives in Sparklegrove Forest where lots of other magical creatures live. Bo is a unicorn with a wish power who can grant one wish weekly. Bo doesn't have a best friend, but she wishes she does. Although Bo is a wish unicorn, she wants to find her best friend naturally without using her magical power. One twinkly night, a unicorn was born. Bo thought maybe this new unicorn could be her best friend. You have to read this book to see if Bo's wish came true. Reading Bo's diary makes me feel like I'm one of the unicorns at Sparklegrove School. The daily journal takes me through the magical journey in Sparklegrove Forest. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves magical powers and unicorns.



Kailani is a 2nd grader. When not playing with or reading to her baby brother, Kailani enjoys coloring and drawing. Her favorite weekend activities are ballet, hula, and musical theater.

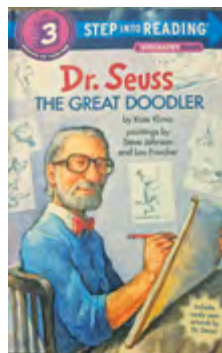
Yoona's Review

Dr. Seuss' Life



Yoona C.

Title: *Dr. Seuss The Great Doodler*
Author: Kate Klimo
Have you read any Dr. Seuss books? Dr. Seuss was actually called Ted. His mother read to him a lot when he was young. Ted also liked to doodle. He doodled pictures of animals. After college, he worked on a humor magazine. He signed his drawings with just his middle name: Seuss. He wrote



his first book titled *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street!* When Ted was having trouble with a story, he wore wacky hats to think better. Ted wanted to write a book using 225 simple words. Do you know what this book is? It is the *Cat in the Hat!* I like this book because I can find many facts about Dr. Seuss and learn about how his books were created. This book also includes rarely seen artwork by Dr. Seuss. I recommend this book to kids who are interested in Dr. Seuss and his books.

Yoona is a 2nd grader. She likes playing soccer and the piano. She likes to create stories as well.

Alana's Book Review

Making Video Games



Alana F.

As a young person that's going into the field of game development, it's surprisingly hard to find any sources to look to for guidance. Fortunately, however, I had the luck to come across this book at my local library: *The Ultimate Guide to Video Game Writing and Design* by Flint Dille and John Zuur Platten.



This text tells you all you could ever hope to learn about video game creation- character development, world-building, establishing a franchise, and so much more. With special assignments and tangible activities for the reader to complete throughout the book, this flawlessly executes education on a very specific topic like I've never seen

I'd give this book 7 out of 8 Triforce shards for creativity and readability. With the help of this book, I went from having no experience with video game development to having countless pages of work done on my very first video game.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd." When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 triforce shards with 8 being the highest



Congratulations Class of 2020!



The Study of History

History tells who we are and about our connections to the past. Those connections tie us together today with a common identity.

“Once a Marine, Always a Marine” is not a title. It is a shared experience that all Marines have been through. Part of the Marine boot camp is the learning of the traditions and history of the Marine Corps. It is that shared experience of the past that connects all Marines together today. This is one example of the value of history.

The study of history has changed over the last half-century in American schools. Rather than focusing on the values of the American ideal, the focus has been to address the negative and to separate historical events. The “melting pot” has been replaced by the “quilted patchwork.” This new identification shifted the idea that new groups no longer need to be integrated into the American ideal framework of a common culture.

People come to this country, or any country, for opportunity. That opportunity might be for the “three G’s”—god, gold and glory—but behind each of these are the desire for and the opportunity to practice religion, become rich, or obtain fame. The English colonies provided a fertile region for the opportunities to grow. The colonies threw off the past and created a new culture that has grown into the ideals that were stated in the Declaration of Independence.

Each new immigrant group was met with hostility. Germans were called “clodhoppers” and depicted as apes. Other groups met with the same reactions and name calling as Germans immigrants faced. Assimilation took time, and within four to five generations, the original language was forgotten along with many cultural traits.

Today, most individuals whose ancestors came here from Europe four or five generations ago cannot tell what their nation of origin was without mentioning more than one country. The melting pot normally took four or five generations to assimilate. Africans, Asians and Native Americans were excluded from the basic ideals of the Declaration of Independence at the time. Yet that document had the seeds to change over time. Looking at the South Carolina State Legislature debate on public education during reconstruction after the Civil War, one sees that former slaves and freed men and women were making the same arguments that the founding fathers made in 1775 about individual rights. They often quoted the founding fathers. They did not come to these ideas independently but through the study of history.

Today, the focus on history is on the horrors of slavery and treatment of immigrants. History seems to ignore the part played in the emancipation and freedoms gained by those groups using the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution to gain those rights. For example, most high school students of American history never hear that slaves did go to court to win their freedom before the famous Dred Scott case. Slaves going to court won their cases about 50% of the time before Dred Scott. Bridget “Biddy” Mason won her case (Mason v. Smith 1856) in California and became a wealthy person selling real estate in Los Angeles. She helped start the AME Church.

All Americans today are better off under the U.S. Constitution than they were in the past. Yet there appears to be a strong belief that the nation is worse off under the Constitution. The negative focus on history reinforces this belief in spite of the facts. One study suggests that Hispanic assimilation was taking place within two to three generations. Many third-generation children of immigrants have lost most of their native Spanish language.

Replacing the melting pot with the quilt created the shift from assimilation into one common culture to separate cultures living side by side with little in common. Before the 1960s, everyone read the Dick and Jane Books in their early years whether they were in New York or California. Foreign languages were an academic requirement to broaden the learning experience—Latin, German, French and Spanish. Today, foreign language is offered more for social engineering to preserve a cultural identity.

Social engineering has divided the study of history into specific groups that isolate historical understanding of events: black history, Hispanic history, women’s history, and recently, gender-identification history. Yet if you walk into any of these classes, you will not see a broad cross-section of groups. The students that sit in the class are there because they identify or they have been required to take the class as a graduation requirement. The same could be said of a history class.

However, a history class has a larger goal than to reinforce a cultural identity. A United States history class is an attempt to mold individuals into American citizens with a common history using the same pattern that the Marine Corps employs to individuals from every walk of life and cultures into U.S. Marines.

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

Novelist 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 July 15, 2020

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

COMPUTER	READERS	BING
EDITOR	PENCIL	ASPIRIN
IPAD	IDEAS	KEYBOARD
SPELLCHECK	PEN	TELEPHONE
PRINTER	BROWSER	WIFI
PUBLISHER	GOOGLE	IMAGINATION
NOTEPAD	INTERNET	

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