



**Raul  
Maldonado**

As we end the 2020–21 school year, I want to thank our teachers, staff, students and parents for everything you have done during this uncertain and challenging time.

The Palmdale School District's focus has been to deliver the best distance-learning education for all our students. We had a lot to learn to move our curriculum online and find new ways to serve and connect with our students, parents and community remotely. Teachers had to quickly learn how to use videoconferencing, curriculum applications and Google Classrooms. Furthermore, parents had to adjust their lives to support online and at-home learning. The most important thing is that we all work together to instruct our students. "It takes a village to raise a child" is an African proverb that means that an entire community of people must interact with children for those same children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

I also want to thank our director of Child Nutrition, Alecia Woods, and her fantastic staff. During the pandemic, Child Nutrition served over 3.3 million meals to our students. Since closing our schools back in March 2020, the staff has continued to work and serve much-needed meals.

The good news is that Palmdale School District has been approved to reopen schools. The Palmdale School District complies with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidelines, and we received permission to reopen using a hybrid teaching model.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 10

## Palmdale Academy Charter School



**Palmdale Academy Charter High School**

*By Dr. Kathya Arriaran-Buono, Principal*

The opening of Palmdale Academy Charter High School will be a continuation of the excellent work, academic programs, and learning experiences that the Palmdale School District has been offering its students under the Palmdale PROMISE.

This upcoming school year we will begin with our founding ninth-grade class. Our primary goal will be to ensure that all of our students reach their fullest potential. Therefore, we will be offering student-centered, research-based programs that promote academic excellence for all students.

We will also be offering a school program that includes an AVID elective, CIF sports, an advisory program that includes social-emotional learning, and a mariachi and

orchestra elective led by Ms. Stacy Lopez. Our mission is to prepare students for the demands of the real world so that they may become productive citizens and future leaders.

The success of our school relies upon our partnership with the Palmdale School District, along with support and guidance from the Palmdale School District Board of Trustees. We will be creating a learning environment where all students can feel supported in their academic and social-emotional growth and well-being.

We look forward to opening our doors in the fall of 2021 for our founding ninth-grade class, and becoming one step closer to realizing the Palmdale PROMISE. If you would like to book a tour of the campus or have any questions, please contact us at 661-234-4800.

## A Year of Difficult Decisions

*By Ralph Velador, Board of Trustees President*

Most of us have had to make difficult decisions over the last year. The Palmdale School District board is no exception. The board would like to thank you for trusting us to make the best choices under challenging circumstances, and for your input that helped shape those choices. The best interest of students is always the underlying factor of every decision of the board.

We have seen some wonderful socially distant events this past year. Each site has been creative in making families feel connected by having costumed characters, book giveaways, hearts or photos in the office lawn. Schools also reached out through fences with

colored cups, parades, or signs greeting families during material or lunch distribution.

As we move into the next school year, the board is looking forward to our continuing partnership. We are strong when staff, students and families work together to keep the Palmdale P.R.O.M.I.S.E

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Velador**  
*President*



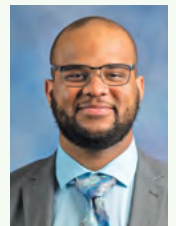
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The Personnel Commission is located at 37230 37th Street East, Palmdale, CA 93550 **661-285-2902**



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This issue begins with Superintendent Raul Maldonado's message bringing you up-to-date on the reopening of schools. It has been a long year of changes and innovations to meet the challenges.

We have included several student book reviews (pages 11 & 12) to help with your choices during the summer. Also a word search on page 12 for fun.

Our next issue is October 6.



**Congratulations Class of 2021!**

# School News

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**Covering the PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Yesenia Diaz**  
Principal

## The Bulldogs are Back and Barking!

We recognize that one of the best places for children to learn is in the classroom, and so we have been working tirelessly to prepare our classrooms to welcome our students and staff back to school.

Following the guidance of our public health offices (CDC), we have prepared our site for the safe return to school. We have hosted several parent meetings to inform and discuss our school reopening plan, schedule, procedures, and protocols.

While we realize that the world around us continues to change, our commitment to the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and families remains steadfast.

So does our commitment to equity and a superior education. We are very proud to be able to deliver to our students the ability to succeed academically and emotionally, no matter what!

On March 29th, we proudly opened our doors to the first group of students who elected to participate in our in-person classes. The students were greeted in the front of the school as they arrived, and were shown how to properly and safely enter the classroom. Once they were seated, the teachers displayed their true talents and effectiveness in working with the children.

Laughter and excitement were heard from the voices of all. It was an experience that many of us will remember for a very long time. We are looking forward to the next several weeks as more and more students will be filling desks and chairs as we continue to roll out class re-openings for all grade levels Tk through fifth.

# Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

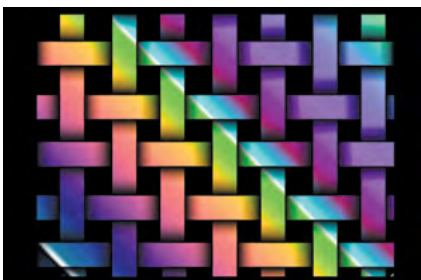
3243 East Avenue R-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-0847 • www.palmdalesd.org



**Jorge Maldonado**  
Principal

## Youth Artists Blossom at Cactus

Cactus Magnet Academy is very proud to announce that at the end of February 2021, four of our own Cactus Coyotes were featured in L.A. County's Youth Art Month Show! This was a juried show with a panel of 5 judges! Our 4 featured students were recognized as "2021 Winning Art" recipients and in the 6th-8th grade Digital Art category, as well. This winning artwork will move on to the SoCal Region Art Show, to be hosted by the Riverside Art Museum.



**Anahi Velazquez, 8th Grade,  
FIRST PLACE**



**Diana Mollinedo, 7th Grade,  
SECOND PLACE**



**Arianna Aragon, 6th Grade,  
HONORABLE MENTION**

### The featured students are:

Anahi Velazquez, 8th Grade,  
FIRST PLACE

Diana Mollinedo, 7th Grade,  
SECOND PLACE

Nissy Romero Barahona, 8th Grade,  
THIRD PLACE

Arianna Aragon, 6th Grade,  
HONORABLE MENTION

The link to the virtual art gallery  
<http://www.layamcaea21.com/>

# Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Alusine Conteh**  
Principal

## Way To Go Pandas!

Even during these unprecedented and challenging times, the Pandas always show courage and do the right thing when nobody's watching.

Throughout the month of February, the students at Buena Vista participated in the American Heart Association's Kid's Heart Challenge. Students learned about the heart, completed fitness challenges, and fundraised to help children born with sick hearts. Buena Vista set a goal to raise \$1,500! If we hit this goal, the school would then be able to watch their Physical Education



Teacher Ashley Sharp get SLIMED by principal Dr. Conteh! As a school we surpassed their goal and raised a total of \$1,645!!! The top fundraiser for Buena Vista was Rylee Sharp from Mrs. Lakes Class with \$366 raised! On Thursday March 18th students virtually watched principal Dr. Conteh pour a 5-gallon bucket of slime over Ms. Sharp's head! This is the third year that the Pandas have participated in the Kid's Heart Challenge! WAY TO GO PANDAS!!!

# Chaparral *Prep Academy*

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



**Roxanne Dashti**  
Principal

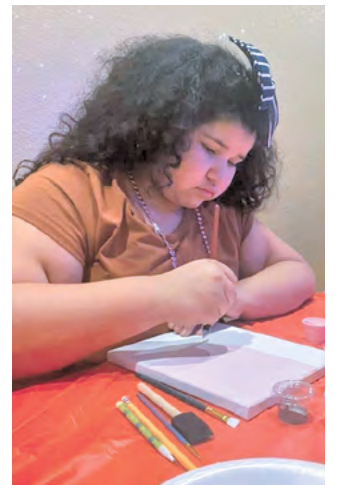
## PTA Virtual Art Night Success

Last month, Chaparral Prep Academy PTA hosted a virtual Art Night. Families purchased art kits that were provided by the school as a fundraiser. Local artist and PTA President, Melina Munoz, led the event and it was a smashing success. Over 30 families participated in the

event and created some wonderful paintings on canvas. PTA sold art kits for \$10 that included the canvas, paint, brushes and the art lesson. Proceeds will go to host future Bobcat Art Nights - both virtually and in person when we return.

PTA member and parent Maricruz Calderon

said that "we needed to get creative and wanted to find a way to connect with families during the pandemic. We were happy that so many families joined in on the fun." Work was displayed on Chaparral Prep Academy's PTA Facebook page. Thank you to all the families that participated and to our wonderful PTA. Go Bobcats!





## Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Chris O'Neill**  
*Principal*

### A Well Oiled Machine

Cimarron has the best Noon Duty Supervisor team in the district! All year long our Noon Duties have organized all of our materials push outs for parents, helping to prepare tech devices to be handed out, collecting and keeping track of returned students work, handing our breakfasts and lunches, organizing supplies as they arrive and a myriad of other tasks that come up daily. They work well as a team and have created systems for each and every task that occurs on a regular basis.

Now, as our students are returning they haven't missed a beat! They are welcoming and supervising students, escorting them around our campus as needed, while continuing with lunches and material push outs. We are lucky to such an awesome team!



## Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Melanie Pagliaro**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back!

The entire staff at Desert Rose is excited to welcome back our students! For many, this will be the first time they are physically coming to school. Classrooms look a lot different now than they used to with the addition of clear plexi-glass shields and teachers wearing masks.

To make the transition back to in-person learning as smooth as possible, ALL the teachers at Desert Rose have decided to teach their in-person and their distant learning students simultaneously. This means students will get to stay with the teacher they have been with since the beginning of the school year!

We would like to thank our students and families for their hard work and dedication to distance learning this school year.



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

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



**Timothy Howell**  
*Principal*

### Setting Up and Stepping Up

Things are in full-swing for the Diamondback team! We are anxiously preparing for the return of our students and making sure that they return to an even safer space than before. Some students will even return to classrooms that have been totally transformed. The classrooms outside of our main building were completely renovated last year. While teachers are returning to school sites and making preparations to receive students, some teachers have the added task of unpacking boxes. Donna Minter (SDC), along with her dream team (Rollins, Lemons) were a few of the first to come back to new classrooms. Even with the extra load, Minter's motivation remained steadfast because seeing the faces of her kids was the ultimate reward. Thomas Haddad, another SDC superstar, has also been leading the charge on campus by providing exemplary care to his students. His patience and empathy, along with individualized care for each student is exhibited daily!



## Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



**Dr. Sarah Zepeda**  
*Principal*

### Dos Caminos is Getting a New Kitchen!!

When the dust settles, Dos Caminos will have a new kitchen! Dos Caminos is getting a new kitchen makeover that will improve our capacity to feed both Dos Caminos and Palmdale Discovery Center students more effectively. The student traffic pattern will change making it more manageable to move students faster through the lines. The windows will make it easier for students to make their selections quickly. Also, the capacity in the kitchen has been increased with an additional oven and walk in freezer. We are very excited to see our brand new kitchen completed and ready to use!!





# Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Stacy Williamson**  
Principal

## Coming Back!

We are so excited to have our students coming back to school for in-person learning! Here at Golden Poppy, we embrace the Palmdale PROMISE and believe that all students are capable of success.

Our main goal on campus is to work collaboratively with one another to ensure staff and student safety. We recognize the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to our students and families. Our staff is preparing to help students reach their full potential in the classroom, as well as meet their social and emotional needs.

Our custodians have completed a deep cleaning of the entire school, and have set up all the required PPE in each classroom. Teachers are being trained in protocol procedures. The students will also be required to wear a face mask and have a daily health screening with a temperature check before they can enter campus.



Our amazing food services team is preparing to send each student home with a healthy, delicious breakfast and lunch every day. We are committed to making this transition back to school an easy and positive experience for everyone involved.

# Innovations Academy

37230 37th St. E., Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-8909 • <https://www.palmdalesd.org/Page/5403>



**Christine Jones**  
Principal

## Thank You Maintenance Staff

We are grateful for our district maintenance staff who are helping us to get ready for the return of students. Our maintenance staff has recently

repaired restrooms, broken windows, and even the cord on the flag pole (pictured). Their role is crucial to ensuring our schools run smoothly and are safe for staff and students. We would also like to acknowledge our custodial staff who have gone above and beyond in keeping the students participating in the Boys and Girls Club and RISE daycare program, which is located on the Innovations Academy campus, safe and secure during COVID. Their efforts cleaning and sanitizing spaces ensures that the children on our campus are protected from viruses and bacteria as well as other forms of contamination. We thank you all!



# Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Michelle White**  
Principal

## Keeping Engagement Alive through Competition

Joshua Hills participated in the Black Knowledge Bowl and the Latino Knowledge Bowl for the first time! It was a nail-biter competition for both, but our students were prepared and performed so well. We are very proud of our students' dedication and the hours of practice it took to prepare. We are especially proud and grateful for our two teachers, Mr. Neeley and Ms. Senegar, that coached many hours and days to help our students get ready for the site and district bowls. Thank You!!



# Los Amigos *K-8*

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



**Sandra Salas-Rodriguez**  
Principal

## Welcome Students

We are ecstatic to see the return of our students here at Los Amigos! Our students were welcomed by all, and our amazing PTA put up a banner and balloons to welcome our students back. Having our students back has given us all a sense of normalcy. As the year goes on, we will be bringing back all our students. Our staff has been preparing for the return of students. It is exciting to see how our year will end with finally having our students back on campus. Thank you to all our staff and parents for your continued support, patience, flexibility and understanding. Dragons are #1





## Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Ken Young**  
Principal

### Presenting Ms. Honey Flores, Mesquite's Classified Employee of the Year!

Amazing, hardworking, resourceful, and dedicated are just a few of the characteristics that describe Ms. Honey Flores, Mesquite's 2020-2021 Classified Employee of the Year! Ms. Honey, as she is affectionately called, is the Mesquite cafeteria manager. Ms. Honey has done an awesome job in guiding our meal program through the pandemic, as Mesquite has served as a meal distribution hub for Palmdale School District (PSD).

During last spring and summer, she led her team in distributing over 1,000 meals per day to the outlying PSD community and is currently serving nearly 700 meals per day to the local Mesquite community. With a huge increase in her workload, Ms. Honey rose to the challenge as she stepped up to the hot plate, took a big swing with her spatula, and hit the meatball out of the kitchen! The Mesquite Family is honored and grateful to have a member of such high quality as the fabulous Ms. Honey Flores!



## David G. Millen *Law and Government Magnet Academy*

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



**Jason Deaville**  
Principal

### It Takes A Village!

Parent involvement is a game changer in the quality of a child's education. At David G. Millen Law and Government Magnet Academy, parental input is sought after and cherished! We are proud of the strong teams of parents that regularly create programs and engage our students. One such team is the African American Parent Advisory Committee (AAPAC). This committee has been instrumental in increasing students and parent involvement this year. The AAPAC, led by one of DGM's parents, Ms. Kiely Pleasant-Culver, has developed multiple



**AAPAC baskets for families who competed in the Family Kahoot nights.**

family engagement events, celebrated the successes of African American students, and helped shape academic programs to support students. Events hosted by the AAPAC have inspired students to participate in district and site programs at the site, like the Black Knowledge Bowl and AAPAC family Kahoot nights. DGM is blessed to have such an active and caring group of parents and staff increasing African American student engagement.

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

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



**Fredrick Gatlin**  
Principal

### No Steps Missed!

The Oak Tree Community Day School resumed in-person instruction in March. Those parents that chose to have their K-6 children return to full day instruction five days a week had them in uniform and on time at 7:18 a.m. for Mr. Gatlin's Monday morning motivation. The students that returned to campus were supported by a variety of COVID-19 safety protocols that included mask wearing, increased hand washing, touchless drinking fountains and exterior traffic patterns. Students eat breakfast and lunch outdoors and redirect while continuing to practice social distancing, and classrooms are routinely sanitized throughout the day.

It was easy to transition some of the unique accommodations to continue with in person instruction. We're excited to mention that we have a special

Zoom job fair event that has been planned for our fourth-through-eighth-grade students, which will give them an opportunity to investigate different career choices. Our Oak Tree students also recently participated in the Black365 Knowledge Bowl in which one of our students placed fourth in the regional qualifier.

Tree staff and K-6 students looked forward to the return of our seventh- and eighth-grade students in April as we marched into the future!



## Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Dr. Beverly Martin**  
Principal

### Happy Hearts

The staff and students at Ocotillo Elementary believe that taking care of your heart matters. As such, we recently signed up for a fundraiser to help raise awareness about the importance of eating a balanced meal and getting good exercise.

The "Heart Challenge" became a part of our physical education program. Mr. Joe Felix, our physical education teacher, included a message about the "heart" during each instructional opportunity in each grade level. Students were exposed to multiple ways to keep their hearts healthy. Diet, exercise, and a sense of kindness were themes that helped students learn to de-stress during the winter months of COVID-19.



Through this process of learning, and acquiring sponsors, our students raised more than \$2,428.88 for the Heart Association. Our goal for the school was \$1,500 dollars, and our students met and surpassed it. We rewarded them with incentives and an opportunity to observe via Zoom Dr. Oliver, our assistant principal, and Mr. Felix both being slimed by the teachers!

Way to go, Panthers. You showed passion, you showed spirit, and we are proud of you. We appreciate you supporting others in our community!



# Palmdale Discovery Center

39175 Palm Tree Way, Palmdale, CA 93551 • 661/947-0181 • www.palmdalesd.org



**Colleen Sawyer**  
Principal

## Much to Thank!

As we wrap up this school year, we can mark it as a year with new challenges and possibilities. Our whole PDC family learned to work together in the virtual world.

I want to celebrate our parents for their support in their children's education. Our parents worked very hard to make sure that our students were participating in their Zoom classroom lessons and picking up their materials on a weekly basis. I want to celebrate our students for their hard work. It was exciting to see our students participate through distance learning. We were very excited to welcome our students back to onsite learning in March. The transition back to the classroom was very successful, and students quickly adapted back to their classroom environment even with the added changes to the structure of the day.

Finally, I would like to recognize and affirm our wonderful staff here at PDC! They have worked very hard this past year to support our students in their learning. It is very apparent that they have the students' best interests in mind at all times and work toward making sure they have a successful year!

Thank you, PDC family, for a great 2020–21 school year! Have a wonderful summer!

# Palmdale Learning Plaza K–8

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



**Dr. Kimberly Wright**  
Principal

## PLP's Amazing DHH Program,

During the last week of April, PLP's Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) program resumed our in-person learning for the DHH students. Our teachers have done an amazing job of simultaneously teaching students who are both in-person and virtual distance learning. This is not an easy task, and we are so proud of their accomplishments.

The DHH program has the listening and spoken language class, which focuses on the students' auditory skills to communicate. PLP houses the DHH SDC program, which is from preschool to the fifth grade. Our DHH SDC teachers are Jayna Nastally, Alisha Fathy, and Karen Fathy. Our teachers were so excited to have the opportunity to work with their students again in person.

Nichole Sandlin is the DHH teacher, and the program is housed at First Steps School site. The sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade DHH SDC classes are housed at DGM, and the DHH teacher for these grades is Laura Pepping.

Our program consists of the Early Start classes, which are birth to three years of age, and this covers any infant in the AV SELPA. The DHH Itinerant teachers are the service providers for the Early Start program, and the DHH Itinerant program covers all ten districts within the AV SELPA. The DHH Itinerant teachers for the program are Darby Marin, Nichole Sandlin, Crystal Lopez, and Della Topham.

In addition, we have wonderful support staff in our para/translators and certified interpreters. They have all worked really hard this year during distance learning and now during in-person instruction.

There is one audiologist (Dr. Jamie Ross) who covers all DHH programs across the ten districts of the AV SELPA. She is also the DHH program specialist for the regionalized DHH program, which is housed at PLP and DGM and takes students from all ten districts. Our entire staff is dedicated to the success of our DHH students and families.



# Palm Tree Elementary TK–5

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



**Laura Cervantes**  
Principal

## Every Student, Every Day...

Palm Tree Elementary, a proud 2020 CA PBIS Community Cares recognized school, is a family of students, parents, staff and community, where every student belongs and everyone is committed to our school's expectation of inclusiveness and our ONE thing: our commitment to student engagement-every student, every day. This past week our English Language Learner Committee members in collaboration with our Associated Student Body, our School Site Council Members and all staff



donated Spring treat bags to all of our Palm Tree scholars with a special surprise guest bunny on site to hand these out. We are proud to have such committed and dedicated Palm Tree families and look forward to this continued partnership as we prepare for our TK through grade 5 reopening.

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

## Celebrating QV Noon Duties!

Throughout the pandemic our noon duties have been asked to do a variety of things. Everything from preparing instructional materials, helping in the office and with meal distribution before holidays, and occasionally decorating the hallways with new and improved bulletin boards. When we have curbside instructional pick up days these ladies greet every parent and sometimes our students in the car with a smile on their face (under their mask of course), and are always ready to answer questions to ensure our families get what they need so students can continue learning at home. Now with reopening they are busy making welcome baskets with school supplies and a special Palmdale Promise mask for our students returning to our QV campus. We don't know what we would do without Noemi Rodriguez, Zulehika Pedroza, Stephanie Claro, Yami Laguanas, Patrise Burney, and Claudia Aguilar. Thank you for all you do!





# SAGE *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration Magnet Academy*

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



**Larry Lueck**  
Principal

## Soaring Eagles

Our admin team rolled up their sleeves in late February and put together over 900 personalized SAGE student backpacks. Each backpack held various school supplies; colored pencils, markers, pencils, comprehension books, spiral notebooks, portfolios, student planners, headphones, and personalized SAGE bracelets and window clings. Our parking lot drive through pick up was a busy place each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for the first two weeks in March. Go Eagles!



A.G.E. Magnet Academy Backpack Giveaway!!!

# Shadow Hills *Engineering & Design Magnet Academy*

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



**Kathleen Moshier**  
Principal

## It Takes a Team!

At Shadow Hills we have a magnificent group whose sole job is to ensure the safety of the campus and all those on it.

Our team of Campus Supervisors- Maria Arias, Feliciano Meno-Fernandez, Isabel Gonzalez, Mayra Alfaro, Maggie Pelayo, and Estella Zepeda have been on campus every day since August 6 working to not only help clean the campus but support our families with book distribution, awards pick up, and assist staff.

Our Campus Security Guard (back row)- Lewis Wright- walks our entire campus daily, beginning at 6:45am to clear it of any trespassers and to secure the safety of the staff who are working on site.

All of them are very diligent and take pride in what they do. They are a very integral part of the Shadow Hills team and always #ProtectTheNest!



# Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Marginese Streeter**  
Principal

## Congratulations, Knowledge Bowl Competitors!

Coaches Terrie Lavender and Kevin Mira recruited a group of 20 diverse students eager to prepare and participate in both the Black and Latino Knowledge Bowls. Students met with the coaches for one hour each day during the lunch break to prepare to compete in our SW Mini-Bowl.

The Summerwind Mini-Bowl took place in March. Elizabeth Ekenedilichukwu Onwuka won first place. Izabella Odette Mejia won second place. Leila Sonanes-Garcia won third place. Elizabeth and Izabella moved on to compete in the Region 2 Cluster Knowledge Bowl, competing against Ocotillo, Palmdale Discovery Center, Palm Tree, Tumbleweed and Yucca.

Summerwind's very own Elizabeth Ekenedilichukwu Onwuka took first place in the regional bowl and moved on to compete in the district-championship round! Elizabeth won the Palmdale School District Black Knowledge Bowl Championship and brought the first-place trophy home!

Our students are now preparing to bring home another trophy for the upcoming Latino Knowledge Bowl! Go Thunderbirds!



# Tamarisk *Renaissance School*

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



**Dr. Regina Tillman**  
Principal

## Students are Achieving

At Tamarisk Elementary we believe, "All students can and will ACHIEVE!!!". In our short time together as a school community, a special group has distinguished itself in making huge strides towards helping our students achieve, Tamarisk's very own A-Team: Dr. Amber Willis, Leonora Monka, Connie Schatz and Lillie Wang Simpson. As part of our Special Ed Team, this A-Team has shown us that there is no mountain high enough they will not climb, or a home visit so far that they are not willing to make, or no stone will be left unturned if it means that one of our students will receive the personal attention they so desperately need. We are proud of our A-Team. These ladies are consummate professionals who with an open and willing heart, strive to work together with our parents and staff to foster student success. Our students are achieving thanks to you. #weloveyou.





# Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Misti Larrick**  
Principal

## Together We Will Celebrate our Noon Duties

Tumbleweed's noon duty team is top notch. To say they go above and beyond is an understatement. Throughout this year, these amazing women have thrived and made this year very successful. They are so dedicated and serve our staff, families, and students with huge hearts. They have been an integral part of planning, preparing, decorating, attending, cleaning up, and cheerleading at so many wonderful parent and student engagement events and celebrations. This picture is just one of the many events and activities that we hosted throughout distance learning to stay connected with, and to love and support our families. Our noon duties also assist our kitchen team serve meals, they help organize, pack, and hand-out student supplies on an ongoing basis. They do this and much more with joy, exuberance, collaboration, and passion. Our noon duty team exemplifies our theme! #Together We Will!



## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Raul Maldonado**

Please refer to the reopening plan on our website for specific details and dates on the hybrid reopening plans. I want to thank all of our school administrators for all their work putting together and creating their reopening site plans.

In preparation for a safe reopening, Palmdale School District invested \$25 million in preparing all of our school sites. Some of the items purchased are touchless drinking fountains, mobile sink units, air filters in all classrooms, iWave filters in all HVAC units, cleaning supplies, plexiglass for students and staff, masks and safety signage. Please watch the safety video on our website.

As we look forward to the new 2021-22 school year, we are reminded that we are not out of the pandemic yet. Please continue to practice safe distancing, wash your hands frequently, and use a face mask. We appreciate your collaboration, support and understanding.

**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>789-6707 (8am-3pm)</b>
<b>Child Nutrition</b> .....	<b>789-6565</b>
<b>Educational Services</b> .....	<b>789-6755</b>
<b>Health Clinic</b> .....	<b>789-6766 (8:30am-11am, 1pm-4pm)</b>
<b>Special Education</b> .....	<b>789-6746</b>
<b>Student Services</b> .....	<b>789-6744</b>
<b>Superintendent's Office</b> .....	<b>789-6502 &amp; 789-6503</b>



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

**Closing the Attendance Gap!**

# Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



**Gia Greaux**  
Principal

## Reopening

In March, Yellen Learning Center welcomed students in grades 2 through 8 back to school for full time, in-person, face to face instruction. This reopening was driven by the collective efforts of district and site personnel, working together to ensure that all procedures related to operating our campus met the safety guidelines required by the county department of public health. Yellen wishes to recognize the outstanding efforts of our day custodian, Greg Bradford, who worked tirelessly to ensure that Yellen was successful in carrying out the safety



modifications needed to welcome students back to school. Greg was charged with helping to distribute personal protective equipment, gather furniture, sanitize, restock, disinfect, and deliver countless supplies to classrooms. Making sure our campus was ready and that all safety protocols were in place for students and staff upon their return was a top priority at Yellen and no one was more instrumental in seeing this happen than our exceptional day custodian, Greg Bradford.

# Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



**Terrie Dowling**  
Principal

## Welcome Back, Yucca Ravens!

On a sunny Monday morning, Yucca staff welcomed back our first group of students returning to in-person learning. Students were dropped off with excitement and smiles while administrators, teachers and staff greeted them with enthusiasm. Yucca's custodial staff has been hard at work to ensure safety protocols and PPE are in place in every classroom and areas on campus. Our teachers and support staff are working hard setting up classrooms that allow for social distancing while still creating an enriching and engaging learning environment. As we venture

into new routines and procedures, we are committed to ensuring the safety of our staff and students. We look forward to welcoming more students in the weeks to come. Welcome back, Ravens!





## Daniel's Review

### Funny and Silly



Title: *Cat Kid Comic Club*

Author: Dav Pilkey

Do you like funny and silly books? If you do, you will love *Cat Kid Comic Club* because it's about Li'l Petey from the Dog Man series and this book will make you laugh!

**Daniel H.**

Li'l Petey starts the Cat Kid Comic Club where he and his friend, Molly the tadpole, teach their friends how to make comics.

My favorite part of the book is the show and tell party where everyone in the club shows the comics that they created. Everyone agrees that it's okay to make mistakes because you can always improve yourself.

You should read this book because it is a funny book that has no scary parts, no violence, and teaches a good lesson. The author also uses silly words and pictures in this book. I read this book very quickly with a smile on my face and you will too!

Daniel is in first grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.



## David's Review

### Funny Mystery Book



Title: *The Boxcar Children #157 – Science Fair Sabotage*

Author: Gertrude Chandler Warner

Would you like to read a funny mystery book? If so, you should read *Boxcar Children #157 Science Fair Sabotage*.

The main characters are siblings Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden. Henry is calm, Jessie is curious, Violet likes photography, and Benny loves food.

Jessie is doing a science fair project on pollution and finds that the stream she's studying is shrinking but can't figure out why. The plot is tricky but the kids work together to solve the mystery. You have to pay attention to the story and details, but if you do, it's worth it because you get to solve the mystery and feel good about yourself!

I liked the book because the author wrote the book in a witty and funny way that makes you feel like you're right there with the Alden kids.

If you love puzzles like I do, this is the book for you!

David is in third grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.



## Jenna's Review

### Riches to Rags



Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Muñoz Ryan

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be rich almost your whole life then become poor all of a sudden? Well this is the story of a girl named Esperanza. She used to live a luxurious life but one day when her father died everything went downhill. Esperanza's Uncle asked Esperanza's mother for a hand in marriage, of course she denied but then

Esperanza's Uncle wasn't expecting that answer. Later one night her uncle set their nice house on fire! Then, Esperanza's mother accepted the proposal. But, something no one knew was Esperanza's mother planned an escape for California where they were free. They managed to escape secretly with a few friends, leaving her grandmother behind. They later landed in California in a camp that provided food and a place to stay as long as they worked. But, a few months later her mother got sick! Do you think Esperanza can save up enough money to bring her grandma? Do you think her mother will survive? I give this book 5 out of 5.

Jenna is a 5th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and painting. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.



## Kailani's Review

### Whoa, a Giant Peach!

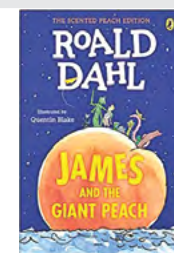


*James and the Giant Peach* is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl. The story is about James, an orphan boy who was forced to live with his wicked aunts after he lost his parents in a horrible rhinoceros accident. One day, James received a bag of magic crystals from an old man. The man said these crystals would change his life forever. James accidentally spilled the crystals on his aunts' peach tree. The peach fruit kept growing bigger and bigger.

It grew big enough for James to fit inside. From that point on, his adventure began.

The story is magical and suspenseful. Reading this book taught me the importance of friendship and having hopes and dreams. I recommend this book for anyone who loves magic and mystery. Since this book is not very warm and fuzzy, it may be best for kids who can separate facts and fiction or younger kids to read with parents.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys.



## Yoona's Review

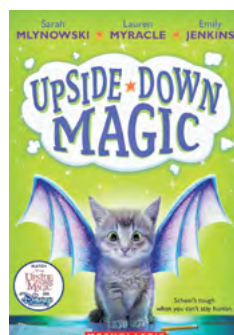
### Magic goes...



Title: *Upside Down Magic*

Author: Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Miracle, and Emily Jenkins

This book is a book where magic is real. A girl named Nory Horace lived with her father, sister, and brother. Nory was a fluxer. Fluxers turn into animals. Every single time she wanted to become an animal she would have turned into that animal, but the other



half would be another animal. When she turned into those things she would cause a lot of problems. Nory wanted to get to Sage Academy but she failed. After that her Aunt comes and takes Nory to Upside-Down School. Upside-Down School is a school where people go if they have Upside-Down magic. She enjoys Upside-Down school but she wants to be normal still. She then uses a box to help her and Elliot get out of Upside-Down School. She succeeds but she starts thinking how she is going to miss Upside-Down magic and her friends. Will Nory leave the school or not?

Yoona is a 3rd grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys singing and listening to music.



## An Adventurous Mouse

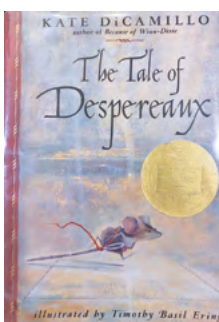


Katie C.

Title: *The Tale of Despereaux*

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Have you ever felt like an outsider? Or like someone who didn't fit in? That's exactly how Despereaux, the tiny mouse with large ears, felt like in his family of mice. He learns to read (which is forbidden) instead of eating books, and despite the consequences he faces, he continues to stay curious and explore the human world that has been largely left untouched for many years. Once he meets Princess Pea, he realizes that humans aren't as bad or dangerous as the mice claim to be. Rather, he wants to get to know them more and be able to live harmoniously with them, as they had once done before. In multiple adventures and close scares, Despereaux, accompanied by his companions, set out to rescue the princess from the danger that awaits. Will he be able to save her and unite the mice and humans? Read to find out! If you enjoy reading adventurous books, I recommend this book to you.



Katie is a junior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

## The Tomb of a Dead Emperor



Sean

*The Tyrant's Tomb* is the fourth book in Rick Riordan's series, *Trials of Apollo*. Apollo (aka Lester Papadopoulos) was banished from Mount Olympus (home of the Greek Gods) by the almighty Zeus. During his exile, he experienced many adventures and losses. Meg, his 12 year-old gifted assistant, travels with him to a Roman demi-god camp, where they are greeted by lots of old war friends. Apollo has a vision and tells the camp to prepare for a gruesome war caused by two evil Roman emperors, both with whom Apollo had treacherously fought recently. He then needs to go on a dangerous journey investigating a Roman ghost tomb for crucial information. The vivid details of the battle preparation and fighting scenes are riveting. Overall, this book is a solid 5/5 and I hope you eventually read this amazing series!

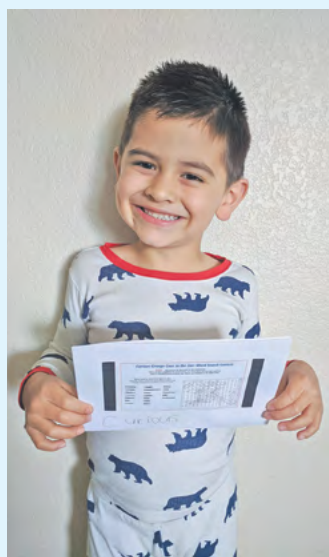


Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

# Camping Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Palmdale in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 30, 2021  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn  
to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!



**Congratulations to Drew Brandt Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| MAP      | FOOD       |
| BOOTS    | SNACK      |
| JACKETS  | BEDROLL    |
| COMPASS  | MATCHES    |
| GPS      | FLASHLIGHT |
| BACKPACK | FLARES     |
| THERMOS  | CELLPHONE  |
| KNIFE    | CAMERA     |
| TENT     | BUG SPRAY  |
| BLANKET  | COT        |
| WATER    |            |

