

SUPERINTENDENT



Raul Maldonado

Welcome Back!

As much as I love the summer, spending time with family and friends, and learning new things, I am always very excited when we have a great start to the school year. There have

been some great things happening across our district during the summer. Our new summer feeding program was a great success; the program provided meals for our students and encouraged a healthy and active lifestyle throughout the year. As always, our administrators have been trained in the newest educational techniques to share with our teachers this year. We have also been hard at work on the Palmdale Promise. Many of you have already heard about the Palmdale Promise, our district's new multi-year strategic plan. The Palmdale Promise focuses every effort, district-wide, on helping our students achieve success. In the last few months of the 2014–2015 school year, we held many workshops to ensure everyone's voice was heard. This includes our students, parents, teachers, and community members.

We also had meetings focusing on specific sub-groups in our student population that have been overlooked in other school districts. All of this information was collected, and we have been hard at work throughout the summer building it into a cohesive, all-inclusive plan to guide our district to student success for years to come. Now, after all of our study, planning, and refining, it's time to get to work. You have the commitment of every member of the Palmdale School District team to work toward that single objective of student success. We can't do it alone, though. We need your help, too.

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Vision

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

Mission

The mission of the Palmdale School District is to implement our vision with actions and services targeted to students, parents, and staff so our students can live their lives to their full potential.

VALUES & BELIEFS

After reviewing the current values in the context of today's realities and a globalized 21st century environment, Palmdale School District has adopted a new set of five values that incorporate most of the current beliefs, sharpening and focusing them:

HIGH INTELLECTUAL PERFORMANCE that prepares every student to graduate ready for college, career, and the global 21st century world.

EQUITY for all our students, schools, and communities as reflected in outcomes and opportunities. Facilitating and supporting every student's achievement by **BUILDING ON THEIR STRENGTHS, CULTURES, LANGUAGES**, and experiences to create new successes.

MULTILINGUALISM and MULTICULTURALISM as individual, community, national, and global assets in the 21st century.

INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY based on trust and common purpose that empower individuals and communities.

Board of Trustees



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Dennis Trujillo
Member

Palmdale Promise

By Nancy Smith, Board President

Great things are happening around Palmdale School District, and they aren't happening by accident. They are part of our united effort to make Palmdale the greatest district in the nation, thanks to a strategic plan we call the Palmdale Promise.

After collecting information, studying and collaborating, we drafted the Palmdale Promise. From there, improvements were made and the Promise was fine tuned to meet the specific needs of Palmdale students.

With the task of planning and preparing complete, the Palmdale Promise was finalized and adopted in August. Now comes the real work: coming together to focus on our community goal of student success.

You will likely see changes in your child's school and classroom, as we move forward implementing new educational strategies and techniques that support the Palmdale Promise. Many of these changes will be intuitive, while some will require us to leave our comfort zone to do things a little differently.

As we continue on this exciting journey, we ask you to partner with us. This means working together and maintaining an open dialogue about what's going on in our schools and classrooms. As Board President I am always happy to meet with our parents, as are the rest of the school board and district staff.

Board of Trustees 2015 Scheduled Meetings

October 20
November 3
November 17
December 8

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another exciting school year. This is our third year publishing the excellence from the Palmdale School District and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Superintendent Maldonado's message on the front page sets out the year's strategic plan that includes the entire community.

Our next issue is Dec 2. In the meantime, have a fun Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed services.

School News

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**Covering the
PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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David Vannasdall, Ed.D. '16
Superintendent of Schools
Arcadia Unified High School District
Current Azusa Pacific Student

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Kiwanis Student of the Month for Palmdale School District

August

Garrick Hardiman	Dammyon Weaver Jr.	Dominique Tablizo	Judi Alvarado
Ronald Davis	Pearl Hill	Natalie Elias	Abigail Escobar
Talbert Mitchell	Wanda Perez	Miranda Garibay	Paulina Lopez
Ashley Jimenez	Alex Gonzalez	Priscilla Caloca	Felix Alvarez
Brooklyn Jordan	Ashlee Silva	Kenneth Chung	Rory Watts
Samantha Sison	Samantha Vuong	Ryan Contreras	Makayla Guzman



September

Johnny Falcom	Jonathan Pineda	Chloe Serrano	Nicholas Wall
Kenia Valencia	Jadyn Harris	Kaitlyn Duran	A'myah Tate
Ilan Rodriguez	Johnny Escalera	Gabrielle Santos	Alexa Feldman
Alessandra Araujo	Brandon Taylor	Precious Youngblood	
Francisco Elenas	Georgina Yuman	Edwin Newels-Hall	
Silva Vega	Raymundo Diaz	Emily Valasquez Moreno	

For More information on Kiwanis West of Palmdale
follow us at



www.facebook.com/kiwanis.palmdalewest

Barrel Springs *Elementary K-6*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Tools for the 21st Century Learner: Technology

Barrel Springs School is already off to a great start. Not only are we putting learning first, but we have a shared vision to help students prepare for 21st century challenges and become proficient in 21st century skills to compete globally. We are so excited to participate in the Palmdale School District's (PSD) Chromebook pilot program this school year which will be placing over 3,000 Chromebooks into classrooms throughout the district. So far two of Barrel Springs's classes are participating! Students have multiple opportunities to develop proficiency in all subject areas by collaborating with one another and sharing their created documents online which will build their knowledge and skill set. Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Lugo-Valladares says, "We are so excited to have Chromebooks for our students to collaborate & produce rigorous projects virtually." Now that's student engagement at its finest!



Buena Vista *Elementary K-6*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Building Successful Students

Buena Vista is on board with the Palmdale Promise! Our motto is "Buena Vista is building successful students." If you visit Buena Vista you will see a 'tool' theme around school.

When teachers came back to work this year, we read, reviewed and discussed the Palmdale Promise and what that would look like at Buena Vista.

So, with these two themes in mind, we started off our year with each teacher customizing their own personal tool belt with a Panda (our mascot) and a promise. Teachers were asked to think about what their promise to their students, our school, and the district would be. Then they wrote their promise on their tool belt.

If you visit Buena Vista, you will see teachers wearing their personalized tool belts!



Chaparral *Elementary K-6*

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



Tom Pitts
Principal

Chaparral's Wonderful PTA

Chaparral's P.T.A. Board Members are so excited after our initial recruitment meeting. Most vacant board positions quickly filled up which will guarantee an awesome year for students. This year's event schedule includes Red Ribbon Week, Read Across America, Halloween Parade and activities, Movie Nights and many more. Chaparral School is very grateful to have such an energetic and fun group of parent volunteers.



Cimarron *Elementary K-6*

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



Kathy Wehunt
Principal

Find a Friend

By Holly Davison, Teacher - 2nd Grade

My students and I had a great time getting to know each other through our Find a Friend activity. Students had to find friends in the class who matched specific criteria: flew on a plane; went camping during summer; read five books; and other things. We practiced asking questions and answering in complete sentences. We practiced speaking loud enough and carefully enough for others to understand us. These are the skills we

have been working on in English language arts: statements versus questions and speaking and listening.

As a teacher, I really enjoyed the activity, since it gave me time to build deeper relationships with my students. I was able to have a few minutes to find out what the students did over summer break. All in all, it was a fun way to practice skills and get to know each other better at the same time.



Cactus *Intermediate 7-8*

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



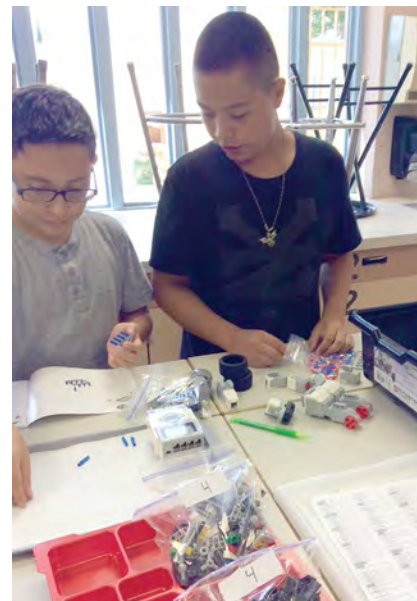
Ruth James
Principal

New Programs

We were glad to welcome back all of our incoming seventh-graders as well as our returning eighth-graders. We are off to a terrific start this year.

We are implementing a variety of new programs this year. In addition to two new electives, Spanish and Project Lead the Way, we have also added robotics, drama, home economics, and dance to our after-school activities. After-school sports are getting started with girls and boys soccer, which will be followed by volleyball in the winter and basketball in the spring. We are also planning monthly activities and trips to encourage good citizenship among our students.

Cactus Intermediate School is planning a new community outreach program. Our retired home economics teacher, Mrs. Vega, is working with our parent community liaison to teach home economics classes in the evenings for our parents. We will be sending information out to parents soon.



Cactus Robotics Class.

Desert Rose *Elementary K-6*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

The Year Begins

The new school year is off to a great start here at Desert Rose! This year we are implementing Thinking Maps throughout the school. Our classrooms are buzzing with student learning, and there are now many new ways to help engage students and parents alike.

Imagine Learning is also up and running smoothly for the students. Our teachers are being trained on how to utilize this program in their classrooms. We also have a new parent information board in the office that is filled with news about school events.

There is a new Parent Room too that will be used for the Parent Academy, Parenting Partners, and other parent meetings taking place throughout the year. Our coaches are also running games for the students at lunch recess, such as "Simon Says Basketball," to name just one. On October 1 we had our first Family Night!

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-8*

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



Marlene Batista
Principal

Family Learning Center

The Dos Caminos Family Learning Center has officially opened! With more space now, we have turned the old Juniper band room into an amazing place for our parents. Parent liaison Daniela Langlotz-Heinze has done a beautiful job of making this area one where

parents can enjoy volunteering, attending trainings, and socializing.

Some of the upcoming plans for our Family Center are to offer computer classes, nutrition workshops, fitness classes and much, much more! This past Friday, we had our first Coffee with Principal Batista and were thrilled to have over 40 parents come to our event!

Our goal at Dos Caminos is to make this a true school-family partnership, where all parents can feel welcome and excited about coming to our school and being part of our learning community.



Golden Poppy *Elementary K-6*

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



Ryan Beardsley
Principal

Parents Stepping Up

It is no secret that student achievement is dramatically increased when parents are actively involved in school activities. Therefore, it is no surprise that the students of Golden Poppy Elementary School are continuing to make excellent academic gains. Our parent involvement has dramatically increased over the past few years through a campus-wide effort, which was spearheaded by our parent community liaison, Mrs. Jessica Alborno.

Golden Poppy proudly offers parents numerous ways to become involved through programs such as our annual Parent Academy, parent English workshops, Parenting Partners classes in both English and Spanish, the Latino Literacy Project, Project 2 Inspire, adult computer classes, and one of the most active PTA groups in the valley. Many other official school and district committees are forming as we begin the school year. We have a place for you!

Desert Willow *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Melanie Culver
Principal

Building Tech Programs

This year, we have added two new technology-focused electives at Desert Willow Intermediate. We are excited to now offer digital art and robotics classes as we seek to provide students with new and engaging courses aligned with 21st century learning and skills.

These classes provide collaborative opportunities in planning, design and creation as students work in groups on a variety of projects. Digital Art class focuses on creating artwork using several computer programs. Our students learn the basics of art design and apply those skills to a digital format. The Robotics class is a great avenue for students to use design plans to build a variety of robots capable of performing a range of tasks. Students learn computer-programming skills in order to achieve the required tasks for each project.

These classes are both challenging and fun for our Desert Willow students!

Joshua Hills *Elementary K-6*

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



Regina Tillman
Principal

Acting and Sword Fighting

This year at Joshua Hills, the owners of a local modeling school, Tonia and Wayne Crews, are holding acting classes and sword-fighting classes for our students for free. Mr. Crews uses padded boffers to teach safety, fair play, chivalry, history and the ancient art of the sword. Mrs. Crews' acting class focuses on film and TV acting, using cold-reading skills, scripts, commercials, improvisation and scene study. The owners' mission is to use the arts to increase self-esteem and proper etiquette and manners and to introduce new ideas with artistic flair.



Students in the acting class are looking forward to producing, acting, and directing a school commercial promoting our bully-free environment. Students in the sword-fighting class are looking forward to putting on a fencing exhibition for the whole school.



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sonia Salcedo
Principal

Various Opportunities Offered

Los Amigos is happy to welcome everyone back to a new school year! Classrooms will all continue to focus daily on student and teacher creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication in conjunction with rigorous academic experiences in both English and Spanish. Additionally, we are excited about the new and continuing programs offered for students and parents within our learning community.

This year, Los Amigos will continue to offer families various opportunities to attend grade level family nights for math and reading. These nights will be scheduled throughout the year in order to help parents and students work together at home. Parents will also be able to attend trainings for Parent Academy and Parenting Partners. Depending on the grade level, students will have the opportunity to participate in ASB, PTA activities, Chess Club, Folklorico, the Los Amigos Chorale, JOOI Club, Learning Lunch, Certificate of Biliteracy, after school sports, robotics, Project Lead the Way, and band.

Manzanita *Elementary K-6*

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



Roberto Lopez
Principal

ELD Summer Camp

While many students were enjoying their last few days of summer, swimming and playing video games, Manzanita had 60 English Learners attend an ELD Summer Camp! Students in grades 3rd-6th with a CELDT score of 1, 2, or long term 3, were selected to attend the camp.

Students participated in activities that required student talk and writing.

The students especially enjoyed science experiments that centered around the states of matter. There were many smiles as students made rootbeer floats, popcorn, and mixed household items to create gooey Oobleck and homemade ice cream. A visit from PSD's science guy, Jeremy Amarant, was always the students' favorite part of the day.

As our English Learners are preparing to have their English acquisition assessed by writing sentences, describing pictures, and giving reasons for choices, it is our hope they will draw on their summer experiences to assist them through the California English Language Development Test. Regardless, their enthusiasm, laughter, and smiles is a summer we will all remember.



Mesquite *Elementary K-6*

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



Ken Young
Principal

Welcome to the Mesquite Family

The Mesquite family is thrilled to welcome some new staff members to our site.

Joining our family for the 2015-2016 school year is Erie Robertson, our assistant principal. Ms. Robertson brings with her 10 years of classroom teaching experience, two years of experience as an assistant principal, and three years of experience as an instructional coach.

The fifth-grade team is excited to welcome Edith Avilez and Jennifer Garsez. They both have multiple years of experience to bring us new ideas and perspectives. Giselle Gitter is our new resource specialist, with nine years of teaching experience. David Arnold, our special education instructional assistant, has two years of experience. They already make a great team!



We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new school psychologist, Martha Quevedo-Ruiz. Finally, we would like to welcome our three instructional aides, Marysol Welch, Victoria Ramos, and Kelsi Vasquez-Garibay.

Only one week into the school year, these new staff members have already settled in and are working hard to improve student achievement here at Mesquite. It is going to be a great year!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

A Great Training Opportunity

The Oak Tree Honor Guard presented the colors for a recent ribbon cutting ceremony at David G. Millen Intermediate School. The students were proud to wear their new uniforms, and they all did an outstanding job!

The Honor Guard is directed by Mr. Jaramillo, who will soon be starting an after-school Honor Guard program. The Honor Guard program began as a way for our students to learn about duty, honor, respect, and tradition.

The Oak Tree Honor Guard Academy is dedicated to developing and elevating the ceremonial knowledge and skill level of our Honor Guard. It also reinforces a sense of pride and compassion by upholding the Guard tradition with a precise attention to detail.

Students have remarked to us that, "This is the best training I ever had!" The knowledge and pride that Mr. Jaramillo brings to the program will serve our students well, not only on the job but in the home as well.

Contest!!

Our office tortoise, Cheeseball, carved his first pumpkin. He is hidden in this publication. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put Palmdale in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by November 15, 2015. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



**Congratulations to
Erick, Edwin, and Estrella Meza
Winner of the May Word Search Contest!**

David G. Millen *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Brian Williams
Principal

New Campus

We are excited to start the year in our new campus! With our new facilities, we keeping school open late into the afternoon with our clubs and teams.

Currently, we have Cross Country, Soccer, Mock Trial, Robotics, Dance Force, Drama, Builders Club, Honors Music, and Science Olympiad.



Ocotillo *Elementary K-6*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

Response to Intervention

The Response To Intervention (RTI) program at Ocotillo Elementary School started on the first day, and it hasn't slowed down yet. The process begins with the teacher assessing each student's academic, behavioral, and attendance needs. With a large support group consisting of fellow grade-level teachers, the principal, the assistant principal, a Learning Support Teacher (LST), a Curriculum Resource Teacher (CRT), a community and family liaison, a student interventionist, and our school

psychologist, the program runs on all cylinders.

Grade-level Professional Learning Community (PLC) teams continually monitor student progress, with special focus on students who are going through the RTI process, to best meet their needs. In regards to student academics, the monitoring is fluid, and students in each grade level have their needs met through leveled clinic groups.

Ocotillo's LST, Kristy Smalley-Smith, is our team leader, and her ability to help children move through the process makes Ocotillo's RTI program a great success.



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Danny Kanga
Principal

Motivated to Succeed

The Palmdale Learning Plaza (PLP) is an International Baccalaureate World School offering both the Primary Years Program for K-6 grades and the Middle Years Program for grades 7-8.

The IB is a unique educational program. Our students are taught a challenging framework of study that is based upon the Common Core State Standards. This also includes approaches to learning (learning-to-learn skills), conceptual learning (exploration of big ideas that matter), and learning a second language (Spanish).

All of this knowledge is learned in a global context, where the relevance of what the students learn is tied to our common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet. Beyond intellectual achievement, our students are also encouraged and expected to be involved in meaningful service to the local community and the greater world.



International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional

This sense of community encourages responsible citizenship as it seeks to deepen student knowledge and understanding of the world. The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are motivated to succeed.

Palm Tree *Elementary K-6*

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



Gerald Luke
Principal

A Positive Mindset

Palm Tree Elementary School is implementing a re-focus on Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). This program is in use all over the country, and Palmdale School District has provided most of the training in years past. Continuing to utilize great tools that we already have, the Palm Tree Leadership Team decided to invigorate this focus on PBIS.

To enhance an already great school culture, Palm Tree will become proficient in implementing all PBIS strategies and tools to ensure a completely positive school culture. The goal is to have a safe and inviting school environment for students, staff, parents, and the community.



One of our new Positive Incentives.

We now have a PBIS committee, which will meet monthly to assess progress, maintain accountability, and support the overall process. We are excited about a conscious effort to focus on the positive in all situations: even the difficult ones. At Palm Tree we want you to feel more than welcome; we want you to thrive!

Quail Valley *Elementary K-6*

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



Donna Lebetsamer
Principal

Our Campus Supervisors

Quail Valley began our 2015-16 school year by providing extensive training for our school noon duty supervisors. Quail Valley believes that our campus supervisors are an integral part of our school community, as they are on the front lines of student safety at our school.

Our assistant principal, Dr. Beverley Martin, went over our school rules of "Be safe, be respectful, and be responsible" and instructed our supervisors how to implement positive expectations and create an environment where good behavior is rewarded. Our noon duty supervisors are taught to be consistent in their expectations and to guide our students through peer mediation to teach them how to interact and learn to work and play in our school community.

Quail Valley is off to a great start this year, and we are thankful to have these dedicated individuals who are the glue that holds our school together!



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Shadow Hills *Intermediate 7-8*

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



Donna Campbell
Principal

Project Lead the Way

Project Lead The Way provides a comprehensive approach to STEM Education. Through activity, project, and problem-based curriculum, PLTW gives students a chance to apply what they know, identify problems, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning. We are working on several projects this year including the design and building of an air skimmer which was tested successfully in the Multipurpose room. We are also working on the building of various gear assemblies and figuring out how they work using the Vex Robotics kits. The

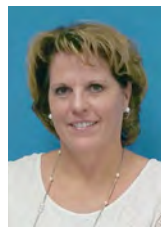


Matthew Torres and Brian Munoz practicing robots.

knowledge that the students gain from the gear assembly builds will form the foundation of knowledge and skills that they will use throughout the rest of the course as the class solves various problems through design and building.

Summerwind *Elementary K-8*

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



Linda Brandts
Principal

Behavior Fairs

Summerwind has started the year off being proactive. Every grade level is participating in behavior fairs led by campus supervisors. As teachers escort their classes to each of the designated areas, rules and expectations for that area is discussed. The areas are the cafeteria, restrooms and walkways, blacktop, playground and field. Campus Supervisors have met with the Assistant Principal to discuss expectations for student behavior and prior years' problem areas. We want all of our students to know how they should behave and the expectations for behavior. Teachers have reported the behavior fairs have been a positive experience and like how the same message is conveyed to every student. We are striving to improve safety at Summerwind and look forward to a great year!



Tamarisk *Elementary K-6*

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



Martin Herrera
Principal

Effective Learning Strategies

The teachers at Tamarisk Elementary are using effective strategies with fidelity for student learning and engagement. The use of Accountable Student Talk with sentence frames is giving students confidence to voice opinions and collaborate with peers. This is particularly helpful for our English language learners because this develops their speaking skills.

Intervention in clinic was revamped to model the intervention that transpired during summer intersession. Students will receive intervention based on data results from the universal screening (DIBELS) that was done on all students. Effective technology use to deliver instruction and elicit student collaboration and participation is

palpable at Tamarisk; teachers are building capacity in technology use in the classroom by attending professional development.

The teachers and support staff are laying a solid foundation for academic achievement by implementing strategies that have students engaged in their learning. I give kudos to the Tamarisk staff for their diligence and exemplary work ethic in serving our students.



Tumbleweed *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Victor Torres
Principal

A Scientific Future

Tumbleweed Elementary is excited to be introducing an after-school robotics class this school year.

Soon our students will be participating in creative and challenging activities that encourage a love for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at an early age. Our mission is to show students at the elementary level that science, technology, and problem-solving are not only fun and rewarding, but are also proven paths to successful careers and a bright future. Through innovative projects and robotics competitions, our students will master various concepts and learn practical STEM skills.

The students will be using the LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 kit, which will enable them to build, program, and test their solutions based on real-life robotics technology. The kit contains the EV3 Intelligent Brick, a powerful small computer that makes it possible to control motors and collect sensor feedback. The objective is for students to be able to design and build

programmable robots using motors, sensors, gears, wheels, axles, and other technical components.

They will also understand and interpret two-dimensional drawings to create three-dimensional models; build, test, troubleshoot, and revise designs to improve robot performance; gain practical hands-on experience using mathematical concepts such as estimating and measuring distance, time, and speed; and communicate effectively using scientific and technical language.



Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

A Wonderful Start!

We are off to a great start at Yellen Learning Center! At Yellen Learning Center, we were thrilled to receive a generous donation from Bob Davis. He donated a tower of games for our incentives program at Yellen Learning Center. These games will be used by our students who are maintaining the highest behavior levels at school.

In order to achieve these levels, students must reach and maintain specific percentages that represent a high level of academic, social and behavioral achievement monitored throughout the week. We are very thankful for Mr. Davis' generous donation and have already begun to use the games as incentives for our students.



We would like to thank all of our community members who support our efforts and hard work at Yellen Learning Center. Thank you!

Yucca *Elementary K-6*

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



Pamela Egbert
Principal

Another Fantastic Year

On August 7, over 400 families streamed through the gates of Yucca Elementary School for our annual Sneak-A-Peak. Students and parents were greeted at the gates by many of Yucca's staff members. Once inside, parents were able to purchase spirit wear for their children and sign up for the various parent committees and programs at the school, including the English Language Advisory Council, the School Site Council, Parenting Partners, and the Parenting Center.

Our kindergarten parents attended an orientation with all of our kindergarten teachers in the multi-purpose room. Students received bags of school essentials, including glue and crayons, to start the year.

The school was buzzing with excitement as parents and students visited their new classrooms to meet their teachers and receive information about the school year. The 2015-2016 school year is shaping up to be a fantastic one!

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Raul Maldonado

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Scores Update

After implementing a new state assessment system, Palmdale School District (PSD) was very pleased with the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Students and teachers were able to use technology successfully to access and complete testing online, with over 96-percent participation. Of our students tested, 57 percent in English language arts and 49 percent in math nearly met, met, or exceeded the standards. With the results of the first operational SBAC assessment, PSD is committed to evaluating the data in order to provide information that will help inform instruction to improve student achievement. Throughout the year, administrators, teachers, parents, and members of our community will be working collaboratively to analyze this data along with other measurement data, such as local assessments, to guide program decisions and help us to meet the Palmdale Promise.

Breakfast with the Superintendent

This school year, I am trying a new approach to interact with more parents at each school. I will be visiting all schools and inviting parents to join me for coffee and pastries. I invite you to bring your questions and comments, share ideas, and join me for a good conversation about the Palmdale Promise and the Local Control Accountability Plan. I hope you can take the time to join us. Your school will send a flier letting you know the date, time, and place of the meeting.

The Palmdale Promise requires a partnership, bringing together the efforts of our students, district personnel, parents, and community. I am confident that, as we partner together in the Palmdale Promise, we will unlock new student potential and discover even higher levels of student success.

Again, I am so excited for this new school year. I want to extend a warm welcome back to everyone! If you have any questions, please reach out to me at the district office or to your school's principal. We're all in this together, and we're going to make it great! That is the Palmdale Promise.

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



Palmdale School District
Launching a lifetime of learning

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

Closing the Attendance Gap!

Cheeseball, School News office tortoise, carved his first pumpkin.
You need this page number to enter the contest on page 7.





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