

SUPERINTENDENT



**Raul
Maldonado**

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all of our administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students! We are gearing up for a new and fantastic school year 2019–2020. I hope you have had a wonderful summer

break! I can't wait to see all the students' smiling faces roaming around in our schools.

What are the hopes for the children of Palmdale School District (PSD)?

- Dramatically improve student engagement and achievement through access to powerful learning opportunities.
- Create and sustain globally competitive learning environments of high intellectual performance cross the curriculum and in all areas needed for 21st-century success for students, including the opportunity for development of high levels of multilingual and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) competencies.
- Provide strategic direction and support to district administrators, principals, teachers, and sites focused on improving the quality of classroom instruction and interaction in every classroom in every school.
- Create and support safe, affirming, equitable, and enriched globally competitive school environments for participatory, restorative, inclusive, and culturally and linguistically responsive learning and interaction for students.
- Engage diverse families and communities in powerful learning and collaboration.

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Renaissance School Model

*Dr. Regina Tillman, Principal
Tamarisk Renaissance School*

This school year, we are excited about the new Renaissance school model at Tamarisk Elementary. The Renaissance model focuses on transformational change that focuses on creating a positive school climate and culture for the entire school community.

The ultimate goal of the Renaissance model is to create a school environment where children, families and school staff are working together to accelerate academic achievement and create meaningful learning experiences for all students.

We view parents as partners in the improvement of our school community and as an important piece of the puzzle for improving student achievement. We want parents to be involved in all the great changes that are happening at Tamarisk. Parents can get involved in this transformational change by getting involved in ELAC, AAPAC, SSC, and PTA, and by becoming a



The food and the camaraderie was great!

school volunteer. We understand the power of getting parents involved, parents supporting the school community, and parents communicating with teachers regularly as part of the road map to transforming Tamarisk into the school we all want for our community.

We had a community Meet and Greet this past month. Over 500 Tamarisk community members, parents, students and staff came out to celebrate the new beginning. We enjoyed classes and workshops, and had a community barbecue.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sharon Vega
President

We Need Your Help!

As the School Board president, it gives me great pleasure to offer our students the opportunity to eat free breakfast and lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program. We are going to need everyone's assistance in order to offer a free breakfast and lunch for all students in our district. The traditional meal application will no longer be required;

however, we still need some household data to maintain funding for many staff positions and programs. These include nurses, librarians, instructional assistants, physical education teachers, parent community liaisons, campus security, after-school programs, sports, music, art, transportation, Chromebooks, iPads, Saturday school, and many others.

This household data can be submitted through a simple online form that will be maintained with the strictest confidentiality. I am kindly asking all parents to fill out the

form in order to qualify all of our students. The Education Benefit Form is the best method to ensure the maximum number of dollars available are allocated to each and every classroom in the Palmdale School District. Only one form per household is required.

You can complete the form online at cep.palmdalesd.org. Once completed, the online form goes immediately to our office and is processed quickly and without errors. Please complete this form by September 20 to ensure maximum funding for our classrooms.

School meals are a great value and huge convenience for your family. If you pack lunch, allow us to provide the fruit, vegetable, and milk. We look forward to welcoming your children to our newly renovated cafeterias this fall. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact the Child Nutrition Department at (661) 789-6565.

I want to thank you for responding to our request. We need 100 percent of our families to respond. Please fill out the form soon. On behalf of the School Board, thank you!

Early Childhood Education

975 East Avenue P-8, Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/273-4710 • www.palmdalesd.org



Melanie Culver
Director

Setting the Stage for Lifelong Learning

Palmdale School District Early Childhood Education is excited to have children, families, and staff back in our centers for a new year of teaching and learning! Ensuring our children receive the foundational skills needed to read on grade level by 3rd grade is our continued goal and directly aligned to the Palmdale Promise. We achieve this by promoting school readiness through education and comprehensive services, which include nutrition, health, and social-emotional well-being.

We offer free home-based and center-based programs for income-eligible children ages 0-4 and pregnant women. Foster parents, caregivers, and parents who have children with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Applications are accepted year-round. Pre-apply online at www.palmdalesd.org. Click on "Schools". Then, click on "Early Childhood Education."

Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being

Diverse, Delicious Dining!

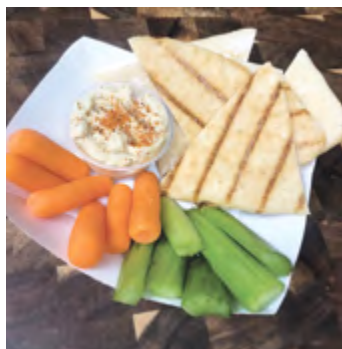
By Alecia Woods, Director

Child Nutrition, Health and Physical Well-Being

Under the Community Eligibility Provision, we are excited to announce that all enrolled students eat breakfast and lunch at no charge for the 2019–20 school year! This will ease the burdens of families to fund meal accounts and the site staff to keep track of charges. The Free and Reduced-Price Meal application is now replaced with a much simpler Education Benefit Form available at benefitform.palmdalesd.org. We hope that by reducing this financial obligation, more families will be inclined to participate in our meal programs.

We are also looking forward to new menu innovations such as a Mediterranean hummus bowl, an Asian noodle bowl, a chicken fiesta bowl and much more! Incorporating more international taste profiles was a goal for this year's menu. We are also implementing Meatless Monday with options that do not sacrifice flavor. Additionally, we have decreased the frequency of processed meats and are introducing fun new ways of consuming vegetables, such as sweet potato sticks.

Three of our magnet academies—Shadow Hills, Desert Willow and David G. Millen—received salad bars through the Chef Ann Foundation. This additional line option allows students to build their own supersalad, with a new theme each week such as Asian fusion and South of the Border. The salad bars have all of the makings for a reimbursable meal, with the exception of milk, which can be found at the front of the lines. The students have already made some delicious creations!



Also featuring new menu innovations is our food truck, The Lunch Box. The Lunch Box made its debut at our summer lunch sites and was met with enthusiasm from children and parents alike. The food truck is available to rent, with options for reimbursable student meals as well as several catering options.

With all of these wonderful new options, we will continue to nourish the future of Palmdale!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome to another school year. Superintendent Maldonado begins this issue with "the hopes for the students of the Palmdale School District. It is a perfect time to be a student and we look forward to publishing the news from the classrooms.

This is our 7th year publishing the *The Launch Pad*. Thank you for continuing to include *The Launch Pad* in your reading choices. Our next issue is December 4. Until then have a fun Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!

Counselors Corner

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

Welcome Back!

By Amanda Davis, Carol Radigan, Christina Loukatos, Diana Marlatt, Karen Alamo, Dr. Keisha Burns and Paul Stephenson-Vela

Welcome back, students and families of Palmdale School District! We are the School Counseling Team, and we take pride in serving our middle school students! We are located at each of the middle schools in your neighborhood. We are Diana Marlatt at Palmdale Learning Plaza, Paul Stephenson-Vela at David G. Millen Magnet Academy, Dr. Keisha Burns at Shadow Hills Magnet Academy, Christina Loukatos at SAGE Magnet Academy, Carol Radigan-Burkes at Cactus Magnet Academy, Amanda Davis at Desert Willow Magnet Academy, and Karen Alamo at Los Amigos and Dos Caminos dual-immersion schools. Together, we comprise the School Counseling Team, and it is with great pleasure that we help our students navigate through the wonderful and sometimes challenging years of middle school.

Our focus and role are aligned with the ASCA (American School Counseling Association) National Framework. The framework helps us support, guide, and serve our students in the following areas: academic achievement, social/emotional wellness and college/career exploration. We also thrive in the area of collaboration. We understand the importance of working with staff, students and parents to ensure that the School Counseling Program is not only comprehensible but also successful, equitable and accessible.

Some of the reasons our students contact us include but are not limited to academic skill support, school-adjustment issues, career/future planning, coping and problem solving, decision-making concerns, family dynamics, and familial changes and grief. We are excited to be part of a team of educators and professionals that have one common goal, and that is to uphold the Palmdale Promise. We are looking forward to a great school year. This is middle school, and we are happy to serve you!

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Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Welcome Back

Our Barrel Springs family is so excited to begin the 2019-2020 school year!

We would like to welcome some new staff members to the Barrel Springs Family. New to our school are kindergarten teacher Laura Pfundstein; first-grade teacher Sharon Davis; second-grade teachers Desi Perez and Maria Vallejo;

fourth-grade teacher Jennifer Creel; P.E. teacher Jamal O'Quinn; speech pathologist LaJannelle Smith-Williams; Assistant Principal Sergio Reyes-Gonzalez; and Principal Yesenia Diaz. We are all excited and honored to be part of the Barrel Springs Professional Learning Community!

As a staff, we are always committed to continuing our work in creating a professional community that is supportive, caring, and committed to building a school where everyone can feel valued and connected. We are a staff that is truly fulfilling, "The Palmdale Promise." Team Barrel Springs rocks!



Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Popsicle Social

Students and their families were invited to the school site a week before returning to school for the 2019-20 school year to come review class lists, meet prospective teachers, and get acquainted with the location of their new classrooms.

It was quite an experience observing our parents interacting with the office staff, principal and teachers. Our office staff provided parents with very important information needed, for example, the PSD Lunch Program, our uniform policy and colors, and the after-school program. The principal and the teachers answered clarifying questions about programs offered by the school and the school district. Students who accompanied their parents were excited to learn about their new teachers and classroom assignments before school started.



Additionally, the school generously provided popsicles for students and parents. Dozens of BV families came out for a relaxed and exciting day to (re)connect before the beginning of the school year. It was truly a very fun day!

Chaparral *Elementary TK-5*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

Chaparral's Temporary Campus

While Chaparral Elementary School undergoes a remodeling and modernization of its campus, the students, faculty, and staff members have been temporarily relocated to Site 18.

The enormous task of moving to the temporary location was made possible by dedicated district and site personnel who helped guarantee that we were ready for the start of the new school year. The temporary site is equipped with a completely remodeled cafeteria, office, teachers' lounge, and Makerspace, along with redecorated classrooms that have been freshly painted and carpeted.



Grounds and maintenance crews worked diligently to get the site ready. Chaparral was buzzing with activity this summer as teachers and staff prepared their classrooms. It is with tremendous gratitude that we thank the Palmdale School District's Board of Directors, Superintendent Raul Maldonado, and district personnel for their commitment to ensuring an efficient transition to our beautiful temporary campus. This is truly the work of the Palmdale Promise!

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

A Great Year Ahead

We started the new school year off on a high note at Cactus Middle School, with plenty of high-fives and smiling faces!

On the morning of August 14th our students were greeted at the school's entrance by staff members who were committed to making this first day back a welcome and memorable one for our Cactus Coyotes. As the song *Hall of Fame* played over the intercom system, staff members danced, smiled, offered up high-fives, and literally bombarded the students with a heartfelt "Good Morning!" and "Welcome Back!" and "Great to see you again!"

The pre-first day grade-level Round Ups had already given us a hint of the great year ahead, with a record number of sixth-grade students and families who showed up for the day of orientation. Here they signed up for the

Parent Portal, completed the CEP Online Survey, and received their schedules, textbooks, and P.E. clothes.

We were also excited and delighted when more than 250 sixth-graders returned two days later to attend some extra orientation activities served up by our wonderful eighth-grade WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) students.



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

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

WEB: Better Than Ever!

At its inception, Mrs. Stasia Gar launched the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program with 28 students. The program is now in its third year, and the Desert Willow Middle School community is ecstatic to report there are now 64 enrolled students and a growing waiting list.

With help from Desert Willow staff, the leader training and sixth-grade orientation days were a huge success! WEB student leaders are busy working to ensure every student, especially our

sixth-graders, feels welcome at Desert Willow. WEB leaders continue to help sixth-grade students find their classes and get to class on time.

After a very shy new student refused to enter class, one particular WEB leader was instrumental in helping the new student meet the challenge. This WEB leader and the new student remain in contact, and a new friendship is being formed.



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Chris O'Neill
Principal

Welcome Our New Assistant Principal

Cimarron would like to welcome Mr. Andrew Wiseman as our new Assistant Principal. Mr. Wiseman has been in education with the Palmdale School District for 24 years, teaching in grades 4 through 8. In his spare time, he enjoys watching college football and

basketball, reading, and spending time with his family. He has been coaching youth basketball, football, baseball and tennis. Another one of his hobbies is bass fishing at Lake Castaic.

He is very excited to be at Cimarron in his new position. In his brief time here, he has already earned the respect of students and our staff. He is getting to know the students and building relationships and trust. We're off to a great start!



Mr. Andrew Wiseman

Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

New Year, New Changes

The 2019-2020 school year is beginning with many changes at Desert Rose. We have two fantastic new teachers: Mrs. Cabitac is teaching fourth grade, and Mrs. Rodriguez is teaching kindergarten in our new dual-immersion plaza.

In August, students and their families lined up around the front of the school early to be the first to come and meet their teacher for the new school year. Our annual Sneak-a-Peek usually draws big crowds, but this year was the largest yet! Kindergarten and first-grade students were able to see their newly remodeled

flexible seating classrooms with all new carpet, furniture and paint. The new rooms look fantastic!



Here at Desert Rose, we know this: if you can believe it, you can achieve it! The administrators and entire staff are looking forward to a great new school year filled with friends, fun and learning.

Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Sarah Zepeda
Principal

Explorers Travel to Hollywood

At Dos Caminos, we take pride in providing the foundation for students to develop into strong, independent problem solvers and creative thinkers in two languages. We are very excited to announce that during this school year, our seventh- and eighth-graders are participating in the Youth Cinema Project. This program will ignite a passion for exploration, creative thinking and self-empowerment through the discovery of each student's voice and talent.

The project-based curriculum paired with our multilingual students will enable our school to create Spanish films that will premiere at our school and potentially in other venues. Having our students become filmmakers and producers of their own stories will teach students the importance of advocating for themselves and their ideas as they learn to work cooperatively with their peers to solve real-world problems through filmmaking.

Last year, our seventh-graders created Spanish films that premiered at the TCL Chinese Theater in Hollywood, giving them a great sense of accomplishment. We at Dos Caminos can't wait to see what our student Explorers create this year!



Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Hands-on Interactive Activities

Golden Poppy is off to a great start! Our staff and students are excited about the new

school year. As part of the new year challenge, staff engaged students in hands-on interactive activities the first day of school to excite our students about their new learning this year. We have been incorporating these fun and exciting lessons each day. We are proud Grizzlies and are looking forward to the best year yet!



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

Construction and Renovations

Joshua Hills has seen a busy summer filled with construction and renovations in our staff-lounge restrooms, our maker space, and our parent center.

Our Parent Center is set and ready to welcome parents. Our PCL, Mr. Ortiz, is in the process of planning parent sessions that include workshops to assist parents with homework help, computer knowledge and English language. The Parent Center will also be used for volunteers conducting our after-school Folklórico and extracurricular activities as well as holding our monthly ELAC and AAPAC meetings. The Maker Space will be finished in April. The teachers will be able to utilize the space for hands-on projects that allow students to create and build as they show their understanding of the standards.

We are very proud of what we have and what's to come. Jackrabbits Rock!



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Susan Summers
Principal

Expansion of Dual Immersion

I am excited about all of the good things that are happening at Manzanita!

Manzanita Elementary is continuing to expand our Dual Immersion program. Currently the program runs from kindergarten through the third grade, but next year the plan is to add a fourth-grade program. In the Dual Immersion program our students are taught 50 percent first language in Spanish and 50 percent first language in English. They are expected to read, write, and speak in both English and Spanish, and have high academic achievement in both languages.

Some benefits of dual language are that our students are prepared for success in a diverse and multicultural world. They also build foundation skills for success in a global society. According to research, bilingual proficiency is associated with higher levels of reading achievement (Thomas & V.P. Collier, 2001-2009).

We are committed to the Palmdale Promise by maintaining an environment of high intellectual performance. At Manzanita, we are proud to offer the Dual Immersion program.



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

Afterschool Options

Los Amigos School has started the year with a blast! Our dragon mascot was outside to greet all of our students as they started a brand-new school year. Students came to school ready and eager to learn.

Though Los Amigos is a dual-immersion school, we also have a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) emphasis. We offer Project Lead the Way (PLTW), robotics, mariachi, and afterschool sports, and this year we welcome the RISE program. This amazing afterschool program supports students of all grade levels with homework help, activities and snacks. It is free to our Los Amigos students and goes until 7 p.m. every day except Wednesdays, when the program ends at 6 p.m.

Our Los Amigos Mariachi performed at a recent JetHawks game—and did they look and sound sharp! Back to School Night was a huge success, with more than 100 families participating in all the activities and with PTA selling spirit wear and offering memberships. Chess Club was also there to get students excited about the world of chess, which is another afterschool program available to our students.

We are off to an amazing start, and we look forward to an exciting and successful year! Dragons are Number 1!

David G. Millen *Law and Government Magnet Academy*

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



Jennifer Blake
Principal

Practicing Kindness

R.J. Palacio once said, “Look with kindness and you will always find wonder,” and so we have started our year at David G. Millen with a Kindness Challenge!

Our students are working on being kind to one another, greeting one another, and practicing good manners. Our staff is also modeling these behaviors. They are working on these goals as they do random acts of kindness for one another and practice affirmations.

One way they are modeling good behavior is by greeting each student at the classroom door with a welcoming smile, a high-five, a fist bump, or a handshake. Each class period starts with sharing good news and affirmations. Every Monday our staff and students also work on a “Monday Motivation” that will give them a launch or a challenge to practice kindness throughout the week.

Some activities that you could do at home to encourage your teenagers to practice kindness are volunteering; writing a kind note to a family member or friend; reading to younger siblings, friends or family members; donating unused items to someone in need; and saying one kind word a day to someone in your family.

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Ken Young
Principal

The Fantastic Mesquite Kindergarten Team!

The Mesquite transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten (K) classes are off to an amazing beginning this school year, and it is due to our fantastic Kindergarten Team (K-Team)! Our K-Team consists of Cindy Farrow, TK teacher, and kindergarten teachers Valarie Whicker, Stephanie Bryant, Carolyn Kuhn, and Jill Johnson.

To get our TK and kindergarten students ready for the new school year, the K-Team planned and implemented two new programs called Kindergarten Assessment and the TK and Kindergarten Academy. In July, our K-Team assessed 80 percent of the incoming kindergarten students. This assessment helped them begin to build relationships with our new students and their parents, plan instructional learning, develop class rosters, and create learning supports for foundation and enrichment.

Next, the K-Team conducted our TK and Kindergarten Academy. The Academy was held on three days this past summer in early August from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We had a total of 85 students participate, which was 75 percent of our TK-K enrollment. Here we replicated a TK and K day at school by having breakfast in the classroom, learning activities, recess, and dismissal procedures.

On the first day, parents stayed in the classrooms with their children for one hour and then participated in a two-hour parent workshop facilitated by the teaching staff and administration. On the second day, parents stayed in the classrooms for only 30 minutes, and then participated in a two-hour parent workshop facilitated again by the teaching staff and administration. On the third day, parents just dropped off their students as they would on a regular school day and then departed campus to enjoy the rest of their day.

These two programs positively impacted our incoming TK and K students, as they built relationships, acclimated the students and parents to the TK and K learning environment, helped lessen student and parent anxiety, and permitted the parents to learn more about Mesquite and the PSD.

When the first day of school arrived both our students and parents were much more relaxed, and the transitions to the classrooms were smooth and calm. We have already decided to make these two programs a tradition at Mesquite. Kudos to the Mesquite K-Team!

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Two Days of Celebration

Ocotillo had a very successful Kinder Roundup! Our school was ready with snacks, drinks, and Chromebooks to receive our wonderful kindergarten and TK parents. As soon as the TK and kindergarten parents walked in, our teachers and administration were there to meet, greet, and welcome them to our school.

At this meeting our Parent Community Liaison passed out Chromebooks for the parents to complete their Education Benefit Form. They were also provided with information on how it affects our school. After the forms were completed and the parents received their confirmation number, the number was used as a raffle ticket to win some Ocotillo spirit wear. The parents were then introduced to their child’s teacher and walked to each classroom to make the first day of school less traumatic for the students.

Our Boohoo Yahoo Kinder Breakfast was also great! After walking their children to class, all TK and kindergarten parents were served breakfast in the cafeteria. The parents then had the opportunity to view a PowerPoint presentation with all of the necessary information to help their students have a successful year at Ocotillo.

The parents were also introduced to the classroom instructional aides and our Learning Support Teacher, who provided valuable information to help both the students and parents. What a fabulous way to start the new school year!



Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

Welcome Back

The Palmdale Discovery Center welcomes everyone to the new school year! I am excited to begin this school year with so many positive things happening at PDC in both our autism and First Steps preschool special education programs.

First, we are growing strong in our Capturing Kids' Hearts program. This year we trained our classified staff members during the summer so that all of them are certified and committed to the implementation of the program. We continue our great professional development in the autism program

with weekly professional development activities for all staff members. We are also happy to be located next door to Dos Caminos, and will continue to build positive relationships with their staff members, students, and parents.

We are also excited to be welcoming many new staff members to our team! Every year our autism program keeps growing, and we are always happy to welcome new staff. It is also a pleasure to welcome our new preschoolers to their first educational experience at First Steps.

With every new school year we are presented with many new and exciting opportunities. This is going to be a successful year for PDC. Welcome back!



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Kimberly Wright
Principal

Giving Back

Service learning and community projects are what it is all about here at the Palmdale Learning Plaza International Baccalaureate World School!

With the support of the Palmdale School District, our PLP students were able to learn what it takes to organize a huge media production when HGTV's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* was filmed here in just 10 short days. In the program, two new homes were built for two veterans who grew up and served together. Now they will be living next door to one another with their families!

This was a unique opportunity for our students to see how our community rallied together to build homes for two of many veterans who have served our country. In addition, our seventh- and eighth-grade students will also be participating with the show's hosts in the "Big Reveal Day" by shouting the TV show's famous line: "Move that bus!"



Palm Tree *Elementary TK-5*

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



Laura Cervantes
Principal

Engaging Students by Empowering them with Choice

Palm Tree teachers support a diversity of learners by optimizing their newly renovated classroom spaces with flexible seating. Students choose places most conducive to their learning style from the moment they walk into the classroom: one student chooses to sit at a low table, another student chooses to sit on a wobble seat and another might choose to sit on a more traditional chair.

Giving students choice impacts the entire classroom experience and more importantly how students learn and interact with others-empowering our Palm Tree Parrots to be the best learning selves they can be!



Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carol Black
Principal

A Culture of Kindness

At Quail Valley Elementary School, we are committed to being kind to one another and building lasting relationships with students, parents, teachers, and other staff members. One way we are promoting acts of kindness this year is through an interactive bulletin board located in the main hallway.

One side says, "Take What You Need," and it is filled with positive quotes and words of encouragement. Anyone can take a quote when in need. It could someone having a hard day, feeling sad, or just wanting to smile. The other side says, "Give What You Can." This section is filled with ideas for acts of kindness anyone on campus can do to brighten someone else's day.

Quail Valley is building relationship one act of kindness at a time. #QV LEADS!



SAGE *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

5Club Rush at S.A.G.E.

S.A.G.E. Academy is off to an awesome start. Last week was Club Week for students to learn about and join the many

clubs teachers provide on our campus. ASB Advisor, Corinthia Smith, coordinated with teacher advisors to establish new clubs and continue student favorites. This year we will offer students after school programs in Science, Robotics, Community Service (Club Elevate), Zumba, sports (basketball, track and field, and soccer), dance, Art, Business, and Girls Who Code. Additional clubs will be added to meet student interest as the year progresses. Students are excited to participate, and we look forward to a successful year in both academics and extracurricular activities.





Kathleen Moshier
Principal

A “Fresh” Look

The cafeteria crew at Shadow Hills has always done an amazing job of serving our students well-balanced meals. However, this year they have stepped things up!

We now have a self-serve salad bar that offers fresh greens, including spinach, fresh fruits, cheeses, beans, and even chicken! The students love both the opportunity to select exactly what they want in their salad and also the chance to eat a fresh salad every day.

Mrs. Avila and her stellar team make the salad bar and everything they offer in both the cafeteria and the A La Carte delicious and appetizing. Thank you Trisha, Linda, Cinthya, Mickala, Griselda, and Jennifer for all that you do every day to make S.H. awesome!



Misti Larrick
Principal

Celebrate What’s Right!

The Tumbleweed Team was so excited to begin the 2019–20 school year! We rolled out the red carpet, literally, to welcome back our superstars on the first day of school. We hosted a Sneak-a-Peek that allowed families an opportunity to come visit their classroom and meet their teacher. We hosted a Tears and Cheers for all kindergarten parents. The parents shared the special day with some refreshments and light snacks.

Our staff worked together prior to the start of the school year and came up with our schoolwide theme for this year. It is



“Celebrate What Is Right with Tumbleweed.” You can feel the excitement in the air here at Tumbleweed, and we are looking forward to an amazing year full of powerful learning opportunities, continuing to fulfill the Palmdale Promise, and having lots of fun with our staff families, and community along the way.



Marginese Streeter
Principal

Tailgate Celebration

On August 9, Summerwind Elementary School had a successful celebratory event: Summerwind’s Meet and Greet Celebration. At this event, students and their families were welcomed on campus to meet their new teachers, play games, and participate in various activities. The community also enjoyed the Palmdale School District’s Lunchbox Truck, which served hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, cookies and soft drinks. Over 600 students and their families attended this event and enjoyed the festivities.

Our teachers also enjoyed the event, especially having the opportunity to meet their new students. They had their classrooms ready to welcome Summerwind’s families.

Many special guests also attended the event. Antelope Valley Partners for Health had many great giveaways for the students, from colorful storybooks to fidget spinners and other treats that the students really loved.

Summerwind’s staff is really excited to start a new school year together with many great opportunities ahead!

Please see our article on the front page.



Claudette Ward-Konovalov
Principal

Capturing Kids’ Hearts

“If you have a child’s heart, you have a child’s mind.”
~ Flip Flippen, author

This summer, 32 of our classified staff members attended a training on Capturing Kids’ Hearts. We also sent seven of our teachers to Capturing Kids’ Hearts II training.

Capturing Kids’ Hearts helps our staff build meaningful, productive relationships with every student and colleague. Capturing Kids’ Hearts is a research-based process designed to strengthen students’ connectedness to school. Our Yellen staff works hard to build relationships, greet students at the bus every morning, and launch them onto the buses in the afternoon. We affirm the students daily and recognize them for their accomplishments. We start each day with celebrations and good things.

We are dedicated to “capturing our kids’ hearts.”





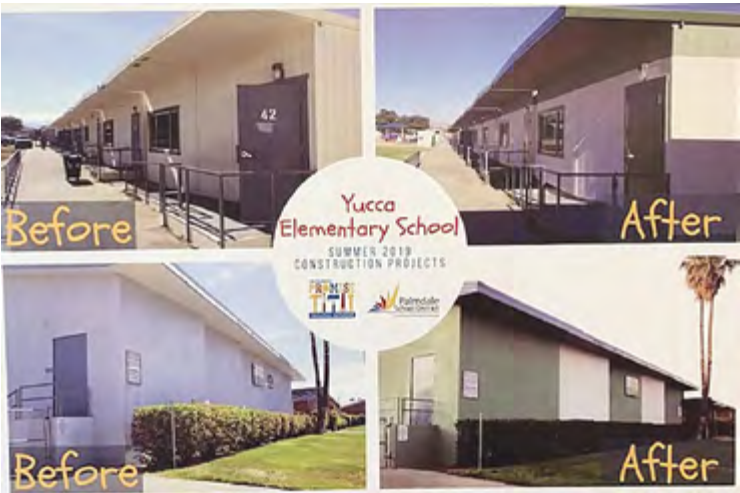
Terrie Dowling
Principal

School Beautification

When our students and families returned to Yucca this year there was a noticeable change to our buildings. Our school had been freshly painted with a combination of green, blue, cream, and rust colors!

This combination of colors has definitely given Yucca the facelift it needed. Along with the new fresh paint we also received an updated water fountain. The students are excited to not only be using the new water fountain to get a drink of water, they can also fill up their water bottles!

Although we believe that it is not the buildings that make the school but the people inside, we are excited to have these beautiful buildings to go into each day. We are thankful that our outside is now as beautiful as the teachers, families, students, and staff members inside!



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SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Raul Maldonado

If done right, Palmdale will become a district where...Every Student Leaves Ready for Success in High School and Beyond: College, Career, the Global World. We believe that every single child should have the opportunity to reach his or her potential. Supportive administrators, teachers, staff, parents and community can open up the world for all students. In Palmdale, we are building incredible educational opportunities for all students to succeed with the help of all of our stakeholders.

During the summer break, we painted several of our schools and installed new drinking fountains in some of them. According to the Facilities Master Plan, all schools have received pride funds to improve their sites. You will find a timeline, projects in progress, and a schedule of the PSD construction program at <https://www.promisefacilities.com>.

Please visit our elementary schools. Each is unique and offers outstanding instructional opportunities for your students. Our Magnet School Assistance Program infused our middle schools with outstanding pathways programs. In some schools, we have waiting lists for students from other school districts to enter—just so they can experience a solid a Palmdale PROMISE education.

I'm excited to lead our school district and to welcome all of you to a new school year.

Richard's Book Review

Finding the Right Way of Doing Things



Richard J.

Big Nate Flips Out by Lincoln Peirce

Nate is a 6th grader, known by everybody for his sarcasm and sloppiness. A lot of things happen with Nate and his friends. The main thing is that Nate and his friend Francis are participating in putting together a school yearbook, but things do not go easy. Another student Gina, also involved in this project, hates to work with Nate, because he's messy and

irresponsible. One problem after another, and Nate runs out of patience and excuses for himself. He takes a drastic step and asks a hypnotist to hypnotize him to become neat and responsible. But does it work and does he and his friends like it? You'll have to read the book to find out.

I enjoyed this book, it is funny and relatable. Half of the book has comics, which are fun to read. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.



Richard is a curious 5th grader. His favorite subjects are math and P.E. He likes to play sports with his friends, read funny books and watch nature documentaries. He likes writing book reviews, because he hopes they will interest other kids to read these books.

Christina's Book Review

We All Feel Things



Christina J.

The Art of Feeling by Laura Tims

Samantha (Sam) is in high school, on crutches and in pain everyday after her leg got injured in a car accident. Tragically, Sam's mother perished in the accident, and Sam struggles to come to terms with that. Sam meets a new student Elliot, who has a very unusual illness - he can't feel physical pain. The two somehow become friends, and little by little they start to fill the voids in each other's lives. Sam is curious how it might be to go through life without feeling the physical pain, but finds out that not all pain is physical. While all characters must deal with their problems, real and imaginary, they all discover and rediscover friendships, support and understanding in each other. Most importantly, Sam is helped to remember the driver of the other car, which caused the tragic accident. One of the highlights of the book, in my opinion, is what Sam chooses to do with this vital information.

This is a great book, which I enjoyed reading. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

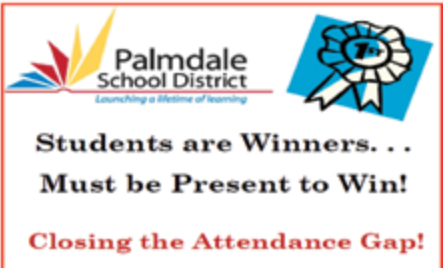


Christina is in 10th grade. She is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book on adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student, her favorite subjects are Spanish and AFJROTC. She likes to help animals and take care of them. Christina is a young author. In 5th grade she wrote a book Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now (Studenttreasures Publishing, PIN #3582798).

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