



Words of Encouragement

We are now three months into the 2020–21 school year. Last year, the words *Zoom*, *interactive Bitmoji classrooms* and *virtual breakout rooms* were not in our

Raul Maldonado

vocabulary in schools. Now, they are the norm for all of us involved in distance learning.

The one unchanging thing is our commitment to student success. I am very proud of our schools, teams, teachers, classified staff and administrators who ensure that all students receive a more rigorous distance-learning instructional program.

We are all still very concerned with the spread of COVID-19. Our custodians, maintenance teams and classified staff have been proactive, ensuring that our schools are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and well maintained. Keep following the safety orders: wash your hands, keep social distance, and wear a face mask.

I want to highlight and thank all the essential school workers who have been providing food services. Palmdale School District will continue to lead as we provide the best distance-learning plan. Students using pencil and paper, students submitting work on Google Slides, students creating short videos to present reports are all ways to demonstrate learning.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 12



Teacher Training and Technology

*By Candace Craven M.A. Ed.,
Coordinator of Extended Learning
and Community Outreach,
Educational Services*

One of the strengths of the Palmdale School District is the depth of training available to teachers. From a six-hour distance-learning training with expert Doug Fisher to weekly Tech Tuesdays, PSD teachers have the advantage of cutting-edge live and recorded professional development. This professional development covers both the method and practice of teaching and the technical aspects of distance learning. Many teachers created a Bitmoji classroom to engage students.

Distance learning requires a different approach to education. Technology must support the teacher



by making education accessible in the world of distance learning. Directors of curriculum and instruction Kelly Jensen and Dr. Jodi Radford combined efforts with Christine Jones, the coordinator of educational technology. Their collaboration ensures that PSD teachers have the best strategies to reach students, students receive the best instruction, and both have access to technology that supports distance-learning requirements.

Our First Three Months

*By Dennis Trujillo,
Board President*

Welcome to the first edition of the Launch Pad for the 2020–21 school year! As we look back over the last three months, the board is proud to see how we have pulled together: students, families and staff all working to make this school year great. Distance learning created a concern that students would be shortchanged; however, our teachers continue to provide a full-bodied, rigorous curriculum in the face of challenge, and our students are taking the ball and running with it. Education progresses no matter what is happening outside. Schools continue to serve students and their families, keeping the Palmdale Promise by helping students realize their full potential.



Josifina Tellez hands instruments to Eliza Buah

One new program I would like to highlight is the elementary music curriculum. Last year, Yucca and Palmdale Learning Plaza served as our pilot schools. The response was overwhelming, and this year, Desert Rose, Golden Poppy, Manzanita and Mesquite have added music. It will be great to have music ringing through the halls once again!

Board of Trustees



Dennis Trujillo
President



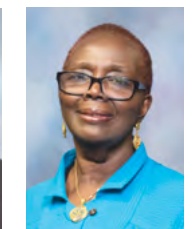
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Member

Child Nutrition, Health & Physical Well-Being

School Lunch—Always Served!

By Alecia Woods, MS, SNS, CDM, CFPP, Director of Child Nutrition

The extension of the Emergency Meals Program through summer resulted in a record number of families served. Those who participated in our free-meal program when schools closed in March remained loyal customers throughout the summer. By the end of July, we served over 1.1 million free meals to our community. In addition to nine daily meal-distribution locations, we continued to deliver meals to our most needy families.

With the continuation of distance learning, Child Nutrition is still serving our PSD families with meal distribution three times per week during the day and two times per week in the evening to accommodate families who are at work during our typical mealtimes. We still deliver to families unable to reach our meal locations through a partnership with the Transportation Department and Storer. Additionally, we have occasional Food Truck Pop-Up Sweet Treat events at various schools. Our food truck, The Lunch Box, makes a surprise appearance during service time and hands out delicious fruity treats to our students.

Rain or shine, the Child Nutrition staff serves our families without exception. The pandemic has brought forth a unique opportunity to interact with parents that would not be possible under normal operating circumstances. It has been wonderful to see our community come together, and we are so grateful to the lunch guys and gals for their selflessness and dedication.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. This is our 8th year publishing the Palmdale Launch Pad and there have been many changes throughout the years; however, I think we all agree this is the most challenging. Americans are innovative and educators are at the top of the list. Zoom has taken on a whole new meaning to this generation of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge. Here's to a successful school year!

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Early Childhood Education

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



Melanie Culver
Director

Making Connections

By Lisa Fowler and Chris Burton,
ECE Assistant Administrators

We at ECE are setting the path for virtual learning and building relationships through the use of the Learning Genie app. Learning Genie is an innovative and interactive tool that connects and engages families with their children's teachers. Participation is key for children's overall success and developing school-readiness skills.

Some of the features that Learning Genie offers include uploading educational videos, interactive lessons and activities, storybooks and songs, and classroom events. Teachers are also able to take meaningful observations, measure assessment progress, collect analytical data reports, and post important school reminders. Families are able to upload videos of their children's progress and chat with their children's teachers.

Learning Genie: The All-in-One, Data-Driven Family Engagement Tool Kit



Our passionate early-childhood teachers are working diligently to bridge remote learning from home to school and school to home and prepare students for school readiness. ECE is embracing 21st century learners!

Counselors Corner

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

Meeting the Challenge

By Paul Vela, School Counselor

Well, that summer came and went, didn't it? It felt like a blink of an eye, and now, we welcome an unprecedented school year. The PSD school counselors are rising up to meet the challenges that come with virtual learning and to be accessible to all the students at their respective sites.

Every school counselor has set up Google Classrooms, and many have set up Bitmoji virtual offices where students can receive vital information about resources, ask questions, and learn about meeting virtually with their school counselor. School counselors are also hard at work making their classroom lessons more interactive for both synchronous and asynchronous learning in an effort to teach students social-emotional skills that they will need to be successful now and in the future.



Now more than ever, it is crucial that students know whom they can go to if they feel overwhelmed, and the PSD school counselors proudly fill that niche.

Barrel Springs *Elementary TK-5*

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



Yesenia Diaz
Principal

Welcome to Distance Learning!

The Barrel Springs family is so excited to begin the 2020–21 school year! Our first day back with our students was on Thursday, Aug. 6. We realized that the start to this year was not the same as in previous years; however, our staff and teachers are working diligently to ensure that our students have

the best-possible distance-learning experience.

During the first three weeks, we handed out more than 350 Chromebooks, 100 iPads, 620 student supplies and 620 student instructional materials. Our TK and kindergarten teachers had their Meet and Greet Drive-thru, during which they connected with their new students. We even had a special guest, Barrel Springs Bulldog, who came out and greeted our TK/kindergarten students.

We also started our Virtual Fridays with Mrs. Diaz and Mr. Wiseman. Virtual Fridays is a way we are supporting training and building relationships with our parents and community. Our schoolwide theme this year is “Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts!”

This year more than any other year, we know the importance of collaborating and helping our students thrive both academically and socially. Together, our students will succeed!



Buena Vista *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Alusine Conteh
Principal

Gathering Forces

The pandemic has caused us to re-evaluate how things are going to work, especially coming back to school. Once we were told that we would be distance-learning, Buena Vista Elementary got to work!

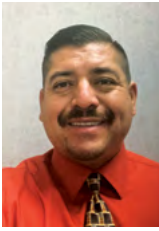
There was much to be done before school started. The staff pulled together to ensure that our students had a seamless and smooth transition into the start of the school year. Our teachers worked hard to put together the students' supplies and technology so that everyone would be ready for distance learning. On the first day of school, all hands were on deck to serve our students and provide our parents the opportunity to “drive thru” and meet the teacher as they picked up supplies.

It was great seeing our students excited and ready to go “back to school,” even though we will all be at home. We hope everyone has a successful 2020–21 school year!



Cactus *Medical Health / Technology Magnet Academy*

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



Jorge Maldonado
Principal

Eye-Popping Surprise!

Cactus Magnet Academy students and teachers, like everyone else in the Palmdale School District, started this 2020–21 school year with distance learning—logging on to their devices and filling their virtual classrooms with incredible Coyote energy and enthusiasm.

However, as families arrived days before the start of this semester to pick up their instructional materials and Chromebooks, they were greeted by the wonderful new face of the campus in the form of vibrant new shades of blue, exciting bursts of sunshine disguised as yellow paint, and a calming earth tone to balance it all out. Thanks to the Master Facilities Plan, the Cactus campus also has a fully remodeled kitchen and will be receiving a redesigned parent center and a state-of-the-art science-lab structure.

We look forward to and prepare for the day when we can give a spectacular “Welcome back!” to our entire Cactus Coyote family!



Chaparral *Elementary TK–5*

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



Roxanne Dashti
Principal

Prep Academy

Chaparral Prep Academy is here, and there are so many fabulous, modernized renovations! The school is complete with beautiful new landscaping and a running track. The main building is redesigned, as our students are learning in a new

transparent environment within learning studios, where collaboration is the name of the game!

The studios are remarkable spaces, with learning hallways and collapsible walls, to facilitate collaboration among students. The studios also have floor-to-ceiling windows and new flexible-seating furniture. In addition, the makerspace, project room, parent center, counseling and other conference rooms are located in the new beautiful main building. The school library is a huge space not only for books but also to allow students to work and showcase projects during family events.

All other classrooms on campus have been remodeled with fresh paint, flooring and new flexible-seating furniture. Bobcats are super-excited for this year to return!



Cimarron *Elementary TK-5*

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



Getting to Know You

Cimarron's staff was looking for a way to connect with our families as our new Distance Learning began. One

Chris O'Neill
Principal

of our teachers, the District Teacher of the Year, Abby Craig, was able to get grocery bags donated by Trader Joe's. We filled a bag, with basic school supplies, for every one of our students. The bags were personalized with a welcome letter from their new teacher, which included log in, classroom, contact information and "getting to know you" papers. Students with IEPs also received a welcome letter and any special supplies needed from their service providers. Our reaching out in this way helped to make the first day of Distance Learning exciting.



Desert Rose *Elementary TK-5*

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



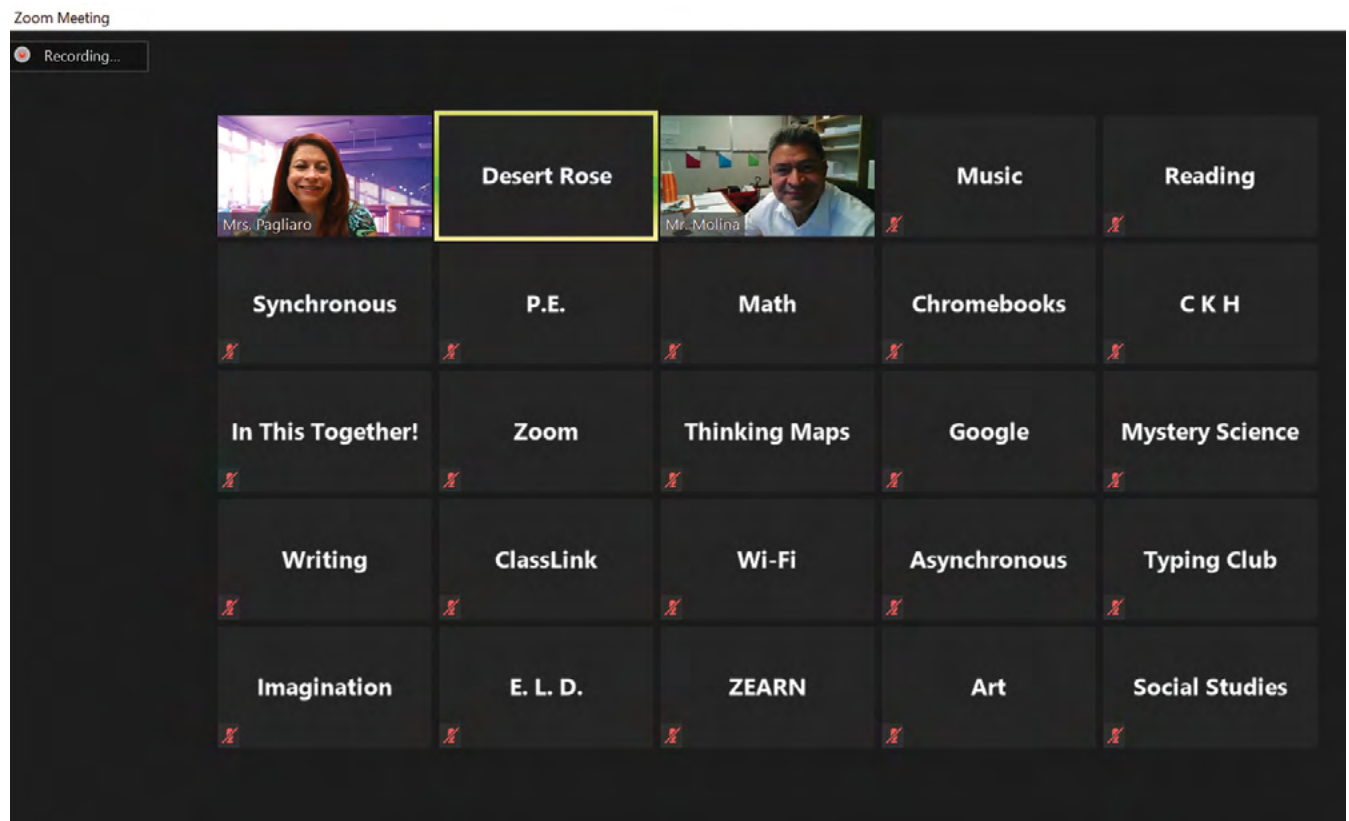
Weaving into Technology

Ask anyone who works at Desert Rose, and they will tell you we wish we were in school and everything were back to normal. We all miss the students and being part of our school community!

Melanie Pagliaro
Principal

Because we are in distance learning to start the school year, there are many technologies we are using to stay connected and help with learning. Parent Square, Zoom, Google Classroom and Zearn are just a few of the most popular. To help make sure our awesome Desert Rose students don't fall behind in their writing skills, all our teachers are using Thinking Maps just like we did in the classroom! All of our classes are using Capturing Kids' Hearts strategies like Social Contracts, Good Things and an awesome Launch to end the day with positivity.

Finally, a big thank you to all the Desert Rose families who are helping their students with technology and assignments!



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

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



Timothy Howell
Principal

Working through Change

We are so excited to begin this school year amidst the virtual challenges and changes! We are using what we learned in the spring to launch ourselves into an effective semester of distance learning.

Speaking of change, we would like to congratulate our former LST, Melissa Garcia, on her new role as assistant principal. Her previous experience with virtual learning has helped us tremendously. I would also like to welcome Cherie Hollands to the administrative team. She has been with PSD for nine years, and we are looking forward to the great energy she is going to bring to our school.

So far, through the diligent efforts of our hardworking staff, we have distributed books and materials to hundreds of students. We are rapidly addressing the questions and concerns of the parents to ensure that all students are prepared and ready to log in and learn.



Dos Caminos *Elementary K-6*

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



Dr. Sarah Zepeda
Principal

Community of Learners

Dos Caminos is very proud of our partnership with our DC families who have been working hard in collaboration with our teachers and students to ensure that our students focus on one thing that is very important to us all: distance learning!

Our parents have risen to the challenge of working as partners with our amazing teachers to make every day a learning day! We take great pride in seeing the majority of our students engaged and ready to learn in front of their devices and on Zoom with their wonderful Dos Caminos teachers. Our Dos Caminos Community receives a Morning Message every day on ParentSquare to launch a positive and productive day of learning.

We at Dos Caminos are committed to staying connected with our parents

as partners by sharing Wellness Wednesdays and the Virtual Hour with Dr. Zepeda and Mr. Tapia. Wellness Wednesdays allow us to share mental-health tips with our parents, and the Virtual Hour gives parents an opportunity to share their concerns, celebrations and success stories with their children.

We are very proud of all of our parents and students! Go Dos Caminos Explorers! ¡Adelante!



Golden Poppy *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Stacy Williamson
Principal

Welcome Back Students

Part of the Palmdale PROMISE is building relationships, and here at Golden Poppy we value the relationships we have with our students and families. When the beginning of the year was set to distance learning, our team came together to create a fun way to kick off the school year. We knew students wanted to see their teachers from last year and this year so we created a parade in front of our school to welcome back our students! It was a wonderful way to start the school year- 2020-2021 is going to be an amazing year Grizzlies!



Joshua Hills *Elementary TK-5*

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



Michelle White
Principal

No More Sand

Joshua Hills is excited to share our new playground surface! This is just one more upgrade out of many that has been completed at our site. The sand has been removed and a beautiful rubber mat has been laid down. No more sand in their eyes or in their shoes! Our students will enjoy playing on this new surface when they return to school. We can't wait!



Los Amigos *K-8*

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



Hello Los Amigos Dragons!

While our year may have started with distance learning, it doesn't mean that things aren't happening at the school site.

Sandra Salas-Rodriguez
Principal

We have two new buildings that will be going up that will support our STEAM emphasis. We also have our water filtration system being installed, so that students will be able to access cold water and fill up their water bottles. Teachers are working hard to make sure that students get the best direct instruction. Students attending Zoom sessions are provided with opportunities to collaborate, communicate, discuss and practice in both English and Spanish! Thank you to our families and our wonderful staff! Go Dragons!



Manzanita *Elementary TK-5*

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



Upgrades

At Manzanita Elementary, there have been many upgrades inside and out. Starting with a fresh coat of paint throughout the school has made it feel very inviting and a great place for students to come back to.

Also, new wiring was installed, which will provide lightning speed internet for students and staff. This project will provide the needs of today and expected needs for the next 20 years. Having this new wiring will allow for our students to succeed in the 21st century.

Susan Summers
Principal



The maker space is complete and ready for students when they return to school. It is equipped with state-of-the-art furniture and technology. Supplies that students will be able to use include building and exploring materials to promote critical thinking and exploration for our students.

We are delighted and excited to provide the best possible learning experience for all of our students at Manzanita!

Mesquite *Elementary TK-5*

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



Fantastic Meal-Distribution Team!

"Hats off"—or should we say, "Aprons off"—to our fantastic Mesquite Meal Distribution Team! They are doing a tremendous job distributing meals to ensure that Mesquite students have nutritious breakfasts and lunches.

Beginning with the implementation of distance learning in March 2020 and continuing with our current distance-learning program, the Mesquite Meal Distribution Team has completed six months of providing meals. During the month of July, they had to relocate to Cactus Middle School because of the remodeling of the Mesquite kitchen. For many days, they served over 1,000 meals! Additionally, they only had one week of vacation during the entire six months!

Members of this fabulous team include the following: cafeteria manager Honey Flores, Berta Parra, Amanda Benjamin, Diane Victoria, Nancy Nava, Angeles Mora, Jessica Alcalá, Linda Victoria, Deisy Silva-Bernal, Edis Vidana and day custodian Kevin McCormick.

So, aprons off to the phenomenal Mesquite Meal Distribution Team!



David G. Millen *Law and Government Magnet Academy*

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



Jason Deaville
Principal

WEB Launches Virtual

WEB is alive and well at DGM! WEB stands for “Where Everybody Belongs,” and the program is a school-orientation and transition program that onboards incoming sixth-graders to become successful Trailblazers.

The program is designed to give incoming sixth-graders positive experiences and connections before and during the school year. Sixth-graders are mentored by a select group of eighth-grade mentors as positive role models. Mentors plan social events, deliver mini-lessons, and create opportunities for sixth-graders to successfully transition to middle school life.



This year’s orientation event went virtual for the first time ever, and it was a huge success! Over 230 sixth-grade students tuned in to the live virtual event to learn all about DGM and what it takes to lead, on and off campus! The program is led by teacher Sarah Breithaupt and DGM counselor Paul Vela.

Palmdale Discovery Center

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



Colleen Sawyer
Principal

In This Together

We welcome the 2020–21 school year at Palmdale Discovery Center and First Steps Preschool with enthusiasm and positivity! As we work within the distance-learning model, our educational staff has worked hard to ensure that every child has individualized instruction and materials.

It is amazing to see our students participating in Zoom meetings and working with teachers and support providers. We are very proud of our parents for all of their hard work, as they also participate in their children’s Zoom meetings. Though we have been approached with a very new way of doing things, staff at Palmdale Discovery Center and First Steps have proven that they are able to take on any challenge. Our goal is to provide our students with a safe learning environment both socially and emotionally. We also aim to support our parents as much as possible to ensure that they are able to assist their children in the distance-learning model.

I am very proud of our school teams at Palmdale Discovery Center and First Steps Preschool. I believe this will be another successful year in our programs!

Oak Tree *Community Day School K-8*

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



Fredrick Gatlin
Principal

COVID-19 Parent Workshops

Oak Tree Community Day School partnered with six other schools in the district to hold our first parent workshop of the year. This was the first of many parent workshops that will be hosted by PSD school psychologists. Our very own Tayari Ferrell led the charge for the Oak Tree Wolfpack.

Our first workshop assisted parents who need information regarding the following three topics: stress relief, making time for themselves, and tips for increasing the emotional health of parents and children during COVID-19.

The great thing about these workshops, is that they do not leave anyone out. There were two workshops in September, one in English and the other in Spanish.

Ocotillo *Elementary TK-5*

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



Dr. Beverly Martin
Principal

Meet Ms. Woodard!

Ocotillo would like to introduce a new staff members for the 2020–21 school year. Teaching our fourth/fifth-grade combo is Raven Woodard.

My name is Raven Woodard, and I absolutely love my fourth/fifth-grade combo class! I am excited to be teaching alongside such a strong team at Ocotillo Elementary School.

I earned my BA at California State University, Bakersfield in liberal arts, and I am currently in my last semester of the Teacher Credential Program at California State University, Bakersfield as well. I’ve always had a passion for teaching, and I guess you could say that it started when I was a little girl, playing teacher with my dolls as the students. In my free time, I enjoy going to the beach and hanging out with family, friends and my three fur babies. I am eager to see the brilliant combination of minds and personalities I have in my class this year.



I am a teacher who values student choice and collaboration in the classroom. My goal is to work with my class all year to create a strong and positive community of learners!

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, everyday through relationship building, empowering learning opportunities and continuous, consistent, contributions of support and care.

Thanks to the organization and the attention to detail of our outstanding support personnel and the multiple communication efforts of our superhero teachers, Palm Tree distributed math and reading textbooks to over 400 families within two days, just in time for Monday's distance learning class.

WE Parrots are AMAZING!



Palmdale Learning Plaza *K-8*

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



Dr. Kimberly Wright
Principal

Staying Connected and Supportive

Now more than ever, human connection is crucial. With the help of educational technology programs, PLP staff is staying connected to our students. Remembering that interaction and human connection is what makes learning valuable and meaningful, our teachers and staff have prioritized building positive connections with our students while providing social and emotional support.

In addition to interactive boards, our middle school counselor, Mrs. Marlatt, has helped create and implement a counseling program that follows the guidelines of the American School Counselor Association National Model. Through the three domains of academics, social/emotional and colleges/careers, she meets with students through monthly classroom lessons, weekly small groups and individual meetings. Along with classroom teachers and staff, she develops working relationships with parents and other stakeholders to ensure student success and positive personal growth.



Palmdale Innovations Academy

38136 35th St. E., Palmdale, CA 93550 • 661/265-89092 • <https://www.palmdalesd.org/Page/5403>



Christine Jones
Principal

Independent Study Program

Innovations Academy is a school of choice that offers an online curriculum to students through an Independent Study program. The curriculum allows students to progress at their own pace and even accelerate their own learning. Parents and students can enjoy the versatility of the program, completing assignments at any time of the day that fits their needs. Even after COVID restrictions are lifted, Innovations Academy will continue to offer distance learning to the students of Palmdale giving parents and students a choice in their learning. The program has doubled in size since last year and continues to grow, adding three new teachers this year. Because of this growth the school is moving to a new, larger location at 37th St. East and Ave. S. We are excited about the move and look forward to moving into the new facility.



SAGE *Space and Aeronautics Gateway to Exploration*

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



Larry Lueck
Principal

SEA to the Rescue!

There are many reasons why students may not be virtually attending classes during the COVID-19 crisis. Schools are struggling to reach students who have not engaged in distance learning. During these unprecedented times, having plans in place to identify and support student needs will prepare schools to navigate new challenges as they arise.

Our student-engagement advocate (SEA), Morgan Stone, has the well-being and safety of our students in mind. She is working with our staff to address social, emotional and academic needs of our students and families. Ms. Stone has focused her communication efforts showing empathy and building trust and is prepared to address and assess the needs of students to increase attendance and participation in distance learning. Ms. Stone, along with Sage's assistant principal, Melissa Contri, have teamed together to make attendance a priority.



Whether in school classrooms or at home, students need to feel emotionally safe, known, valued and cared for. With social and emotional learning at the forefront, SAGE is focusing its efforts on strengthening relationships with every student and building community within the classroom.

Quail Valley *Elementary TK-5*

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



Carol Black
Principal

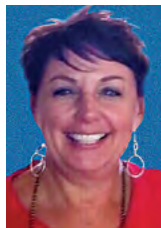
Wacky Wednesdays

Wacky Wednesdays at Quail Valley! Every Wednesday this school year students will be invited to participate in a different themed spirit day. So far this year we've already had "Share a joke day," and "Sports Jersey" day. Students, teachers, and staff join in on the fun! Jokes submitted by students were shared on the morning news program for everyone to enjoy. Students and staff members were encouraged to upload a selfie picture of themselves wearing a sports jersey. The pictures will then be put together to create an iMovie for all to enjoy. We plan to do a different Wacky Wednesday theme each week.



Shadow Hills *Engineering & Design Magnet Academy*

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



Kathleen Moshier
Principal

Facelift for 'Falcon Nest'!

This summer, PSD painters Joe Capisos and Justin Anderson from the district's Facilities and Maintenance Operations Department gave the gym at Shadow Hills Engineering and Design Magnet Academy a much-needed facelift. As Shadow Hills is over 20 years old, the gym had been showing its age. Mr. Capisos and Mr. Anderson came in and assessed what needed to be done and made it happen.

Taking advantage of the gym being student free allowed them to come in and repaint everything—ceiling, walls, doors and bleachers. They even found time to paint us a brand-new logo and name.



I wish to also recognize Mike Tocco, director of F/MO, as well as Susie Stillo, the assistant director, as they understood the need to give our teachers and students a great learning environment for when they return.

At Shadow Hills, we #ProtecttheNest! We now have something amazing to protect!

Summerwind *Elementary TK-5*

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



Marginese Streeter
Principal

What Fuels Team Success

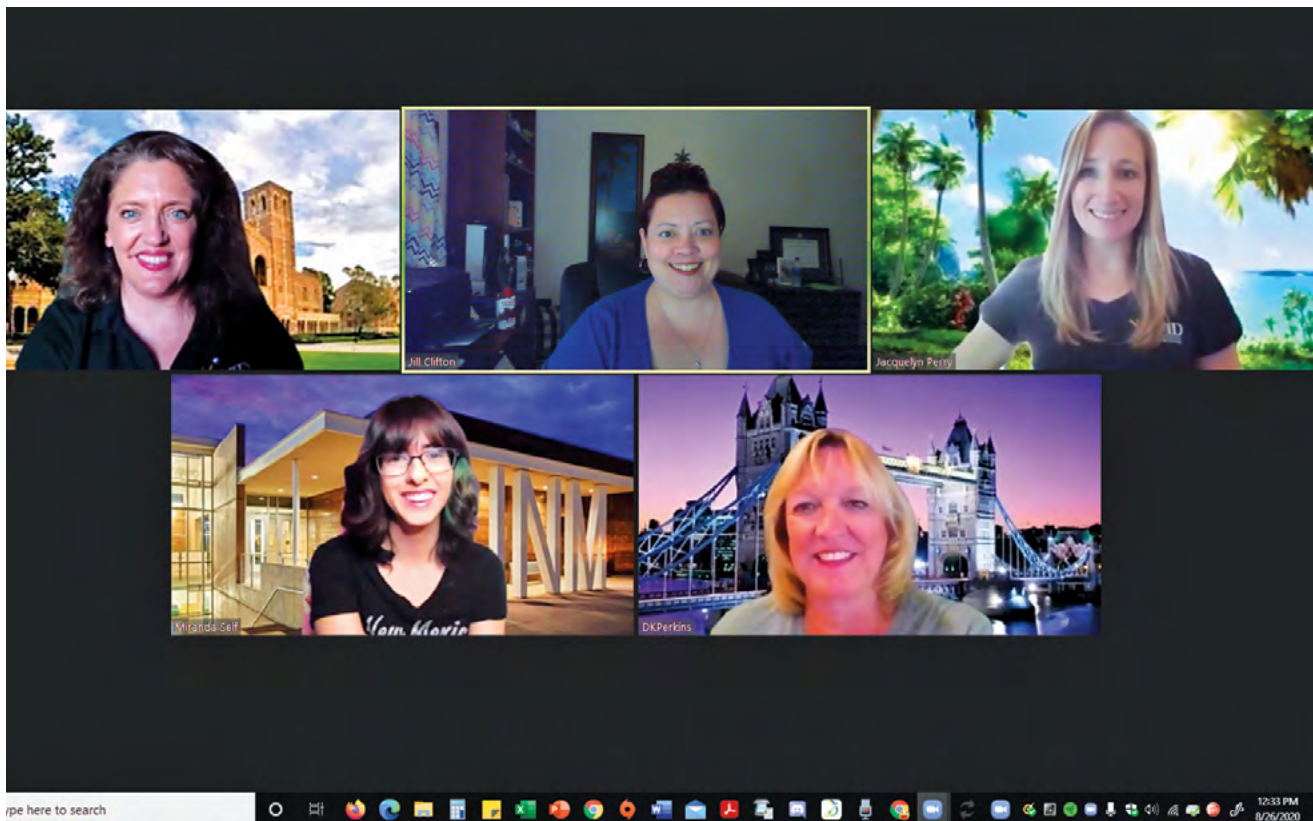
Our third-grade team brings their talents, gifts and expertise to engage students in distance learning.

“Our team approaches the distance-learning-platform obstacles as challenges to conquer rather than roadblocks to stop us,” said grade-level lead Sarah Vento.

“Most recently, we adapted phonics work into interactive lessons using Edpuzzle and Nearpod to increase student engagement in material that can be challenging, even in face-to-face instruction. We believe student and teacher engagement is the key to success.”

“I love the features in Google Classroom that allow us all to be teachers in each other’s classrooms,” said Jacquelyn Perry, another member of the team, “We can share ideas in a flash! It’s a beautiful thing when you are on a team who supports, loves, and encourages not just you but our students as well.”

This impressive team approaches challenges as opportunities to innovate creative solutions to enhance student learning.



From top left: Sarah Vento, Jill Clifton, Jacquelyn Perry, Miranda Self, and Diana Perkins.)

Tumbleweed *Elementary TK-5*

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



Misti Larrick
Principal

“Together, We Will ...”

Tumbleweed is so excited to begin the 2020–21 school year! We held a Welcome Back drive-thru event for our students and families on the first two days of school. All of our teachers, instructional

aides, support staff and administrators were there to greet everyone as they drove through and picked up a packet filled with necessary school supplies.

Our staff worked together prior to the start of the school year and came up with our schoolwide theme for this year. It is “Together We Will ...” Every staff member, student and parent is invited to add their one word to complete our theme.

Tumbleweed staff goes above and beyond, and this year is no exception. 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.



Tamarisk *Renaissance School*

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



Dr. Regina Tillman
Principal

Keeping our Campus Pristine

As construction tears and builds throughout Tamarisk, one thing is consistent and that is our dedicated classified employees who daily meet the challenges of making distance learning a possibility.

While working in a supporting role, our office staff, noon duties, custodial and kitchen staff embody a key role as Ambassadors of the Palmdale Promise and our very own First Responders. Without compromise, daily, they staff the front lines against the attack of a pandemic, sacrificing so our students can receive the information and necessary resources that allow education via distance learning.



At Tamarisk we are proud of our classified staff, and we consider them real heroes that don't wear capes.

Real superheroes who sacrifice themselves so our children will learn!
Real superheroes that are the Palmdale School District Classified Staff.
Pretend superheroes wear capes!

Yucca *Elementary TK-5*

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



Terrie Dowling
Principal

Welcome, New Staff!

As we begin the new school year, Yucca is excited and proud to announce several new additions to our Yucca family.

Jared White is our new computer-tech wizard! He has held several positions within the school district, and we were lucky to be chosen to have him join our team. From getting iPads and Chromebooks ready and distributed to families to providing support in getting our families connected to their Google Classrooms and Zoom meetings, Mr. White has had a busy month! Regardless of how busy it gets, he always serves with a smile.

We would also like to welcome third-grade teacher Loretta Loeb. Mrs. Loeb is a veteran teacher who is in her second year working in the Palmdale School District. Mrs. Loeb's team members continue to sing her praises, and she has fit nicely into our Yucca community.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome Jenny Aristo, our new PE teacher. Ms. Aristo has previous experience teaching physical education, and we are fortunate to have an experienced teacher working with our students every day. Students love going to her Zoom classes as much as she loves teaching them. Her excitement in teaching PE is contagious.

We feel extremely lucky to have these three professionals join our Yucca family, and we look forward to the year ahead.

Yellen *Learning Center K-8*

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



Gia Greaux
Principal

Two Extraordinary Staff Members!

Yellen Learning Center's successful launch of distance learning can be attributed greatly to two outstanding and hardworking members who run our school site's front office. Meet Christina Contreras and Natasha Haskins, Yellen Learning Center's school secretary and health clerk *extraordinaires!*

Ms. Contreras and Ms. Haskins are the faces you see most often and the voices you hear when you visit or call our school. Throughout the summer and into the start of the new year, Ms. Contreras and Ms. Haskins dedicated themselves to meeting the needs of Yellen's families, distributing supplies, gathering technology resources, responding to teacher and staff requests, and helping families complete necessary paperwork. They carried out COVID-19 safety precautions for all



visitors by conducting temperature checks and completing risk-assessment surveys. Their efforts contributed greatly to launching the new school year in the right direction and on the right path to guaranteeing the success and safety of Yellen's school community.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Raul Maldonado

As adults, it is a challenge to adjust to the changes, but our students do not seem to have technology issues. It is different from face-to-face instruction, but let's make the best of this opportunity for all of us to learn more about using technology. Our children adapt and accept the new challenges by being creative and having the flexibility needed with distance learning.

Distance learning, hybrid model, online academy—no matter what form school takes, teachers teach, students learn, parents work hand in hand with the district. We are all partners in education. That is the beauty of 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