

# New Principals Announced!

Desert Sands Unified School District

July 2010

*Dr. Sharon McGehee, Superintendent*

*"I am pleased to announce that the Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of ..."*

*(see following articles):*

## Franklin Elementary School

...**Ms. Kelly May** as Principal of Franklin Elementary School!

Kelly has been an integral part of the Franklin family since the inception of the school. She served as a classroom teacher and the TRAC/EL Coach, as well as, the IB and Assessment Coordinator at Franklin.

Kelly's leadership was instrumental in assisting the staff during Franklin's authorization phase to successfully become an International Baccalaureate Primary Year Programme school. She also helped establish the successful ASES after-school program and served as the Science Fair Coordinator for the past four years. Franklin School earned the distinction of **California Distinguished School** this past year based on two signature practices that were directly overseen by Kelly (EL and IB).

Kelly has exceptional interpersonal skills and believes in working collaboratively with staff. She is thrilled to be able to continue to support student achievement and the Franklin staff in this new role.

## Jackson Elementary School

...**Ms. Vicki Barber** as Principal of Jackson Elementary School!

Vicki has been an integral part of the Desert Sands Unified School District family for the past ten years. She served as an elementary assistant principal and elementary principal in the state of Washington prior to coming to DSUSD to open Amelia Earhart Elementary as its first principal.

For the past six years Vicki has been the assistant principal at Indio Middle School where she was instrumental in developing an exceptional ASES after-school program; developing an effective school-wide discipline program; overseeing student activities, community volunteer program, the Opportunity Program; and supporting and evaluating teachers.

Vicki is especially knowledgeable in the areas of special education with an emphasis on inclusion and autism; differentiated curriculum, literacy, ELD instruction, and gifted education

Vicki is excited to become a Jackson "dragon" and to work collaboratively with the staff and community to continue to provide quality education to the students.



*Continued on Page 2*

# New Principals Announced!

Desert Sands Unified School District

July 2010

Page 2



## Reagan Elementary School

...**Mr. Mark Baldwin** as Principal of Reagan Elementary School!

Mark is currently in his fourth year as an elementary principal in the Banning Unified School District where he has been selected for the past three consecutive years as the district's "Principal of the Year" and as the WRCASM (Western Riverside County Association of School Managers) "Elementary Principal of the Year" for 2009.

His elementary school API has increased 119 points school-wide and by 139 points for ELL students over the first three years under his leadership. Mark was a teacher and assistant principal in Palm Springs Unified School District prior to his promotion to principal in Banning USD.

His reference checks all ranked him a "10" on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the best!! He believes in working collaboratively with staff and is looking forward to his new assignment.

## Horizon Alternative and Summit Continuation School

...**Ms. Cara Prentiss** as Principal of Horizon/Summit!

Cara has an extensive background in "Alternative Education"! She started her educational career in 1989 teaching for Riverside County Office of Education in their Correctional Education program. She has served as an RSP and SDC teacher at the middle and high school levels, a school counselor, project facilitator and for the past seven years has been a principal of alternative education programs (5 of those years at New Horizons Alternative High/Independent Study/Adult Ed complex in Banning Unified School District.

Cara has a Masters Degree in Special Education and holds Single Subject Teaching, Special Education, and Counseling Credentials. Under her leadership her alternative education high school received a 6 year WASC accreditation and was named a Model Continuation High School.

Previous supervisors and colleagues recommend her most highly. They indicate she is calm and low key, but able to make tough decisions. Her counseling skills help her connect with students, but she is a firm and fair disciplinarian. She is always seeking new ways of working with Alternative Education students. One reference check stated "Alt Ed is her life."

Cara believes in working collaboratively with staff and is looking forward to her new assignment.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**