

PSUSD Provides Free Summer Meals for Children

The Palm Springs Unified School District announces sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for the Summer of 2018. Free meals are being provided to all children 18 years of age and younger, beginning June 10, weekdays, at the following sites:

Summer Feeding Sites 2019

Name	Meal	Meal Times	Dates of Service	Name	Meal	Meal Times	Dates of Service
Cathedral City High School 69-250 Dinah Shore Rd, Cathedral City	Brkfst Lunch	7:30-8:00 11:00-11:30	June 10 - July 23	Edward Wenzlaff Education Center 11625 West Dr., Desert Hot Springs	Lunch	11:00-11:30	June 10 - June 21
Desert Hot Springs High School 65-850 Pierson Blvd, Desert Hot Springs	Lunch	11:30-11:55	June 10 - July 5	Nellie Coffman Middle School 34-603 Plumley, Cathedral City	Lunch	11:00-11:30	July 29 -August 2
Palm Springs High School 2401 E Baristo Road, Palm Springs	Lunch	11:30-12:00	June 10 - June 28 July 8 - July 19	Painted Hills Middle School 9250 Sonora Drive, Desert Hot Springs	Lunch	11:00-11:30	July 29 -August 2
Rancho Mirage High School 31001 Rattler Road, Rancho Mirage	Lunch	11:00-11:30	June 10 - June 21 July 1 - July 23	James Workman Middle 69-300 30th Avenue, Cathedral City	Lunch	11:00-11:30	July 29 -August 2
Mount San Jacinto High 30-800 Landau Blvd., Cathedral City	Lunch	11:00-11:30	June 10 - June 21	James O' Jessie Desert Highland 480 Tramview, Palm Springs	Brkfst Lunch	9:00 - 9:30 1:00-1:30	June 10 - August 2
				City of Palm Springs Pavilion Sunrise Park BBQ	Snack Lunch	3:00 - 4:00 11:00 - 1:00	June 10 - August 1

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. For more information on the summer nutrition program, call (760) 322-4117.

Painted Hills Teacher Among Top 50 Finalists for Global Teacher Prize

Painted Hills Middle School and 2018 California State Teacher of the Year Dr. Brian McDaniel was named one of the top 50 finalists for the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019. He was just one of one of four teachers from the United States to be eligible for the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize (GTP) 2019.

The 2019 winner, who was announced at the Global Education and Skills Forum in Dubai on March 24, is Peter Tabichi, a math and physics teacher at Pwani Village, Nakuru, Kenya.

"I am grateful for the recognition to be counted among some of the top educators in the world," said McDaniel.

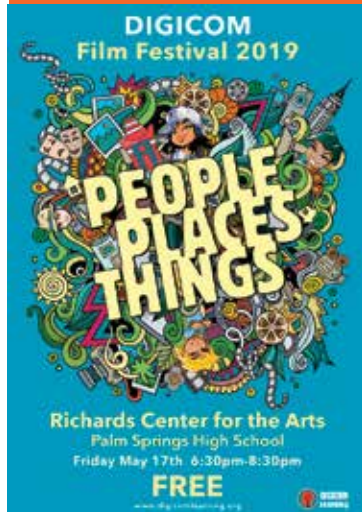
The top 50 finalists are from 39 countries and were selected from over 10,000 nominations and applications from 170 countries, narrowed down to 10 by a prize committee in February. The top 10 winners were invited to the Forum to be there for the announcement. McDaniel was at the event as well since he was invited to be a presenter at the conference. He presented a session with three other Global Teacher Prize finalists

on "fostering originality and individuality in classrooms." The session also addressed building the skills that students need to move from copying a masterpiece to creating their own work of art.

"The true prize of the competition is being connected with such passionate people who are making an impact on students around the world," McDaniel said adding that as a result of the conference he's now part of Koen Timmers and Jane Goodall's "Innovative Lab Schools Project" as an Advisor and Story Teller. "I was and still am overwhelmed with joy that from the invitation to be a part of this wonderful effort. I imagine I will be unpacking this experience for weeks to come."

For more information on the prize and program, visit www.global-teacherprize.org.

Dr. Brian McDaniel at Global Education & Skills Forum in Dubai



DIGICOM FILM FESTIVAL Set for May 17

DIGICOM will host its 11th annual film festival on Friday, May 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Richards Center for the Arts. Themed "People, Places and Things," the student and teacher film festival will include winning video submissions from all grade levels. The red-carpet event also includes awards presentations for top film submissions as well as scholarships presented to top high school senior film producers. Admission is free and open to the public.

All submissions to the festival are evaluated by the DIGICOM team using the SCALE (Story, Camera, Audio, Look, Editing) method to determine which videos will be highlighted in the show.

Three elementary schools are also hosting their own DIGICOM festivals. Two Bunch Palms Elementary School in Desert Hot Springs is hosting its second annual festival on Wednesday, May 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the theater at Desert Hot Springs High School. The event will include videos produced by students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Bubbling Wells Elementary, also in Desert Hot Springs, will host its second event on Friday, May 24 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Bubbling Wells. Della S. Lindley Elementary in Thousand Palms hosts its fourth annual festival on Wednesday, May 29, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Helene Galen Theatre at Rancho Mirage High School, featuring the works of students in kindergarten through fifth grade. All of the festivals are free and open to the public.

In February, about 450 area high school students from across the valley viewed short documentaries and discussed the films with their directors at DIGICOM Learning's third annual day-long filmmaking symposium at the Palm Springs Cultural Center. Produced in partnership with Film Independent and Artist Development, the "Fresh Takes" symposium exposed students to a wide range of emerging talent in documentary filmmaking. The symposium was led by Max Finneran, senior producer and instructional specialist with DIGICOM Learning, and Ruth Atkinson, a Los Angeles-based script consultant and story editor who works with Film Independent.

Founded in 2008 by David Vogel, retired president of the Walt Disney Motion Picture Group, DIGICOM Learning is a private/public partnership (501(c) 3) that inspires children's passion to learn by teaching them how to make short films about their school work, lives, and the world around them. DIGICOM Learning has been using its unique methodology and curriculum to engage students by working one-on-one with students, presenting in classrooms, and training more than 500 teachers in the Palm Springs Unified School District and 50 teachers in Desert Sands Unified School District. As partners of the University of California, both at Irvine and Riverside, DIGICOM is a certificated and researched program that has reached more than 50,000 students since its inception.

For more information, visit digicomlearning.com or call (760) 537-0450.

District Digest

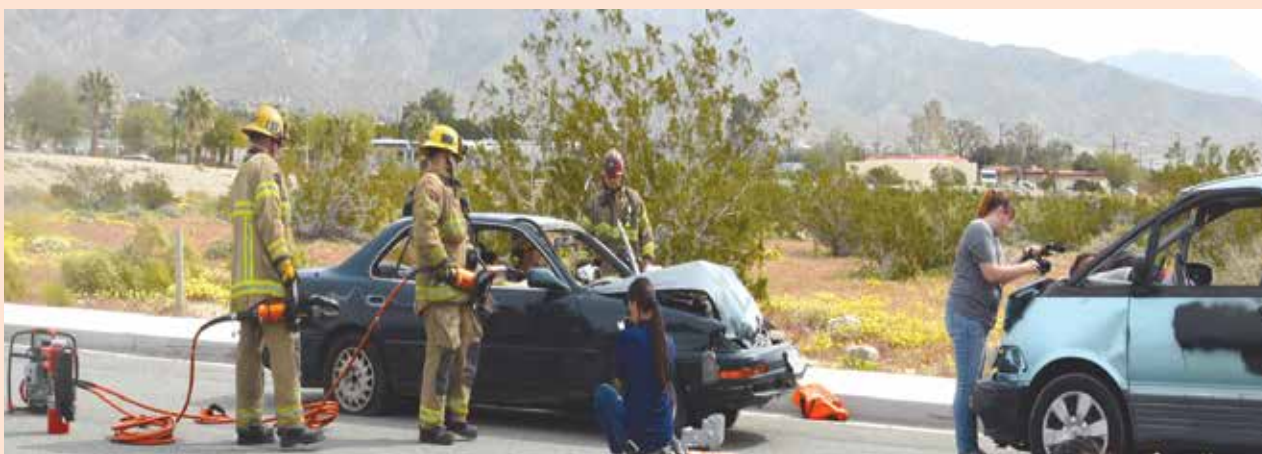


New Agua Caliente Elementary: Staff and students of Agua Caliente Elementary moved to their brand new school in February before the old building was torn down in preparation for a new playground and field areas. The 82,544-square-foot campus includes six one and two-story buildings to replace the original 1962 building. There are 32 classrooms, and construction began in June of 2017. The formal dedication will be held on May 30 at 9 a.m. Pictured above, students enter the campus for the first time following a parade from the old school to the new.



DHS Marine Corps JROTC Wins Superintendent's Trophy: Desert Hot Springs High School's Marine Corps JROTC took first place honors in the recent Superintendent's Pass In Review competition held at Desert Hot Springs High. Accepting the award from Supt. of Schools Dr. Sandra Lyon, second from left, is Company Commander Cadet First Lieutenant Jose Ramirez. Also pictured are guest speaker Major Joseph Petkus and DHSHS Principal Caroline Cota.

Steinway Society Honors Arts Coordinator: The Steinway Society of Riverside County honored Palm Springs Unified Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator with its "Excellence in Education Award" at the recent 17th Annual Doctors Concert at the S Club in Rancho Mirage. Pictured with Castrodale, center, is Steinway Society Founder and President Ruth Moir, left, and KESQ Anchor Brooke Beare, who emceed the event.



Students Experience Consequences of DUI: Desert Hot Springs High School juniors and seniors got a real-life feel for the consequences of drinking and driving at the recent "Every 15 Minutes" two-day assembly presented by the school's Public Safety Academy (PSA) and Desert Hot Springs Police Department. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) program presented at select high schools across the state each year presents a mock car crash in which a drunk driver kills causes an accident with fatal injuries. Day One is the crash and aftermath, left, and Day Two is the funeral for one of the deceased students, left.



Community Members Participate in 'Read Across America' Day: Board of Education members, District administrators, elected officials and community and business representatives participated in Cathedral City Elementary School's "Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss' Birthday" celebration by reading a Dr. Seuss book to a class on March 1.

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This Palm Springs Unified School District report to the community is published bimonthly by the Palm Springs Unified School District.
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Composer Works with PSUSD Students: Thanks to a generous donation from the Desert Winds Concert Band, James Workman Middle School's wind ensemble learned about the music writing process and had the opportunity to work with composer Randall Standridge on one of his pieces during which time he shared comments for student improvement and provided a glimpse into what it is like to be a composer. Standridge conducted similar workshops at Raymond Cree and Desert Springs Middle Schools as well as Desert Hot Springs High School prior to a public performance with the Desert Winds Band.



PSUSD Hosts First STEAM Expo: This year's District Science Fair had a new twist this year with the addition of the District's first Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Expo held in conjunction with the Science Fair project displays and awards ceremony at the Richards Center for the Arts. Pictured above, clockwise from top left, a student demonstrates his STEAM project; one of the science winners; and award congratulations from, left to right, Board of Education Clerk John Gerardi, Supt. of Schools Dr. Sandra Lyon and Science Teacher on Special Assignment Philip Hudec.



CCHS Band Judged Gold at Carnegie Hall: The Cathedral City High Symphony Band received a Gold rating for their recent performance in the 2019 "Sounds of Spring" Music Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Band was only one of four high school bands in the country selected to perform on the Isaac Stern Stage last month.

Community Guests Serve as 'Principals for a Day' at District School Sites

"Passion, connection and dedication," "Warmth and engagement," "Tone of excellence." These are just a few of the words some of the civic, community, business and media business representatives who recently spent a morning as guest "Principals for a Day" at Palm Springs Unified School District sites used to describe what they felt as they walked around campus.

Each of the District's school principals welcomed a guest for the morning last month. The event concluded with a luncheon at the District Service Center where each site principal introduced their visitor, and each "Principal for a Day" had the opportunity to share impressions and what they were taking away from the experience.

"I was able to look at most aspects of the programs at the school," said Jerry Hipps, a member of the Foundation for PSUSD's Board of Directors, who served as the guest principal at Raymond Cree Middle School. "I was awed by what an enormous responsibility it is to keep all the parts moving in a coordinated way."

It was an extra special experience for Cahuilla Elementary students and staff because they had two guest principals. Palm Springs Police Officer Marcus Litch brought along his partner, K9 Officer Boomer.

"Officer Boomer and I have spent four years working together at the (Palm Springs) Airport," Litch said. "No one knows my name, but they all know Officer Boomer. Thank you for having us. It was an especially great day for Boomer because he didn't have to work, just get all the love."

"It is clear that there is so much work, cohesiveness and coordination going on in the background," said NBC Palm Springs reporter Max Rodriguez, who was guest principal at Two Bunch Palms Elementary. "There are over 800 students, and they were all listening and captivated as we visited with them."

"You guys have a hard job that you put your heart and soul into to make a difference every day," said Rancho Mirage City Manager Isaiah Hagerman as he reflected on his morning at Rancho Mirage High. "Thank you to all of the educators in the room."

"Thank you for setting a tone of excellence," commented Cathedral City Mayor Pro-tem John Aguilar, who visited James Workman Middle School. "I was blown away with the symbiotic relationship with teachers and students. Every state and federal politician needed to have this experience. There are so many wonderful programs that are so underfunded. Seeing the programs makes you want to write a great big check!"



Nellie N. Coffman Middle School Principal Dr. Karen Dimick, left, welcomes her guest Principal for a Day, NBC Palm Springs Reporter Kitty Alvarado.

The full list of guest Principals for a Day included:

Agua Caliente	Alyssa Milward	Cathedral City Boys & Girls Club Program Director
Bella Vista	Kepheyon Sheppard	Pastor & Parent
Bubbling Wells	Noemi Gonzalez	Actress
Cahuilla	Marcus Litch & K9 Boomer	Palm Springs Police Officers
Cathedral City Elementary	Sanford Friedman	Foundation Board Member
CCHS	Mark Carnevale	Mayor of Cathedral City
Cabot Yerxa	Angela Chen	KESQ Morning Anchor
Della Lindley	Ellen Donaldson	Foundation Board Member
Edward Wenzlaff Ed Ctr	Kevin Moore	Lifestream VP of Operations
DHS High	Robert Tindall	Foundation Board Member
Desert Springs	Gary Gardner	Desert Hot Springs City Council Member
Julius Corsini	Luke Rainey	Desert Hot Springs Deputy City Manager
James Workman	John Aguilar	Cathedral City Council Member
Katherine Finchy	Dan Spencer	Foundation Board Member
Landau	Jake Ingrassia	KESQ Reporter
Mt. San Jacinto	Dr. Kim Van Guilder	General Practitioner, alum
Nellie Coffman	Kitty Alvarado	NBC Palm Springs Reporter
Palm Springs High	Joe Hong	Desert Sun Education Reporter
Desert Learning Academy	Sean Corbin	Palm Springs City Librarian
Rancho Mirage Elementary	Ron Costi	Rancho Mirage Rotary
Rancho Mirage High	Isaiah Hagerman	Rancho Mirage City Manager
Raymond Cree Middle	Jerry Hipps	Foundation Board Member
Rio Vista	Ernesto Gutierrez	Cathedral City Council Member
Sunny Sands	Rickie Taras	Tolerance Education Center Volunteer
Two Bunch Palms	Max Rodriguez	NBC Palm Springs Reporter
Vista del Monte	Timothy Wood	PSUSD Board of Education Member

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Not Everything You Read on Social Media is the Truth



It wasn't all that long ago that our key methods of receiving accurate and timely information were through mainstream media (newspapers, television or radio) or direct communication from the source of the information. With the advent of the worldwide web and then the arrival and widespread prevalence of social media platforms, this is no longer the case.

For many of us, social media has become a key source for keeping track of what is happening around us locally, nationally and internationally. A plethora of news and views come to us at the touch of a button on our mobile devices, and we literally have information at our fingertips 24/7. Great, right?

In many respects it is great, and, at the same time, this free, easy and widespread access to this "information" can be extremely dangerous. We, as consumers and role models for our children, need to be vigilant about how we handle what we see and share online. There is a perception that because you see something

on Facebook or Twitter or Instagram it is the truth. Oftentimes that is not the case, and this is where the pitfalls lie.

Case in point: you may recall a couple of months ago there was something called the "Momo" scare. A Twitter user posted a message to parents warning them that a thing called 'Momo' was instructing young children to kill themselves and that they should inform everyone of this danger. It was retweeted more than 22,000 times along with the screenshot of "Momo." It turns out this was the resurgence of a viral hoax that wasn't real when it appeared the first time, nor was it real at the end of February when it resurfaced.

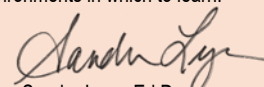
Let me bring the point much closer to home. Last month at one of our high schools half of the students stayed home because of a social media post that warned that there was a rumor there was going to be a school shooting on a particular day. This post was re-posted and forwarded to many. Law enforcement and school officials investigated as soon as it was spreading on that Sunday evening, which is the way we respond to every threat – real, perceived or rumored. It was 100 percent unfounded. In fact, there never was a real threat made

or posted anywhere. The only posts were from people who said they heard about a rumor. In a matter of a couple of hours, many parents made the decision to keep their child home from school

the next day based solely on a rumor. Despite our best efforts to clear this so-called rumor up through an Auto Dialer call home to parents, postings on our website and social media platforms and outreach through our local mainstream media, the damage was already done, and hundreds of students missed a day of education simply because of misinformation posted on social media.

So what can we do about it? Obviously we aren't going to stop this free flow of information, nor am I advocating that we start a campaign to shut down these avenues. Rather I hope that we, as responsible adults, will keep in our own minds and remind our family members and friends that not every post is the truth. Rather than forward rumors or any information that has not been confirmed, I urge everyone to take the time to verify what they have seen or heard. Additionally, please report any perceived safety threat to a school or law enforcement official if you have seen or heard something through social media or elsewhere. I assure you that every threat is taken seriously and investigated immediately and thoroughly regardless of the source of the report. If we all did that, we could then share accurate information that comes from reliable sources rather than perpetuate unnecessary feelings of fear and apprehension.

I thank you for doing your part to help us continue to provide our students with healthy and safe environments in which to learn.


Sandra Lyon, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools