

DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

2248 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

760-778-0487

-Monthly Newsletter-

In this issue :

- Monthly message from Dr. Grainger
- October 2020 Perfect Attendance
- BrainTeaser Activity
- Teacher showcase: Mrs. Dabney
- Giving Back in More Ways than one– by Lynn Yada
- Edgenuity parent portal

Greetings DLA parents and students-

As we continue with virtual learning, I wanted to take a moment to remind all students and families of the importance of regular school attendance. Attendance at DLA is determined according to work completion. It is expected that all students at DLA spend a minimum of four hours per day on the Edgenuity platform working on their assigned course work. It is important that all students work on their assigned courses and meet their weekly target completion rates. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving less than perfect attendance.



Parent Contact Information

Here at DLA we frequently send out important information using our email mass notification system. This system will send information to the email address that you provided when your child was registered. If for some reason your email has changed please let us know so we can update your contact information to make sure you do receive all messages. Please call Mariana at 760-778-0487 to update your contact information.

Desert Learning Academy Teacher Showcase: Mrs. Maude Dabney



My name is Ms. Maude Dabney and I have been working at Desert Learning Academy since the spring of 2017. I was born and raised in Banning, California, where I graduated from. After high school, I attended Point Loma Nazarene University on an academic and Track & Field scholarship. I graduated from PLNU with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. Once departing from PLNU, I returned to my hometown, starting my career as a substitute teacher and track coach. This opportunity led to me finding my niche ... working with middle school students. I later went on to attain my Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University; Master's Degree in Education: Curriculum and Instruction from University of Phoenix; and a Master's Degree in Education: Teacher Leadership from National University.

After working for Banning Unified for seven years, I wanted to experience another side of education ... charter schools. Soon thereafter, I began working with River Springs Charter. After witnessing the pros and cons of charter schools, I decided to return to the traditional setting -- finding my home with Palm Springs Unified School District. I began my teaching career with PSUSD at Painted Hills Middle School before transferring to DLA.

Transferring to DLA was one of the best career decisions I have ever made! I love my job, partner teacher, students, families, colleagues, and essentially all that DLA stands for! I really enjoy being able to establish rapport with students and families on a more intimate level; I appreciate being able to deliver small group instruction; create individualized learning support for students based on aca-



Perfect Attendance – October 2020

Congratulations to the following students who earned **Perfect Attendance** for the month of October 2020. A Perfect Attendance certificate and a free meal coupon have been mailed to the physical mailing address on file for each student:

• Elementary School students

Noah A, Luis A, Selah A, Madison B, Roman C, David C, Richard C, Steven DLG, Liam G, Sophia G, Lucy N, Mason J, Oliver L, Annalise M, Noah M, Manolo M, Josiah N, David P, Payton P, Berenice P, Joaquin P, Noah R, Kaleb R, Kristopher R, Noah T, Aizaudi V, Camilla Z.

• Middle School students

Antonio A, Karla A, Lorenzo A, Casandra A A, Amina B-U, Ayden B, Logan B, Jazmine D, Ananya E, Katelyn F, Laila G, Eric H-O, Maya H, Maia H, Brandon K, Elliot K-C, Oliver M, Aaliyah M, Carolina M G, Kristeanah M, Brianna M, Mariah P, Janett R, Hayleyauna R P, Troy S, Roselyn S, Kenneth T P, Armani W, Aaron Z, Mikaela Y, Jordan W, Elias V.

• High School students:

Mateo A, Kenneth B, Benjamin C, Emilee D, Sydney E, Roman E, Lucas F, Isabella F, Abigail G, Eileen H, Talia H, Demitra J, Liam K, Vanessa K, Yanaira M, Bibiana O, Jacob R, Jamie R, Gage R, Ambria R, Sasha S.

Holiday Recipe

Try this wonderful festive appetizer as you plan your holiday celebration meal.

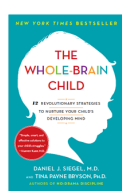
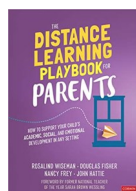
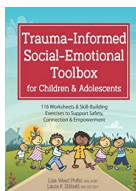


Ingredients: Wedge of Brie cheese, sweetened cranberry dressing, Pistachios

Directions: Cut the wedge of Brie in half; Spread the cranberry dressing on the lower half, and place the other half on top to make a sandwich; Microwave for 30 seconds to soften the cheese; Sprinkle pistachio nut meats on top and serve with crackers. Voila!

Principal Book Corner

Each month I would like to recommend some publications that I feel are excellent resources for parents during these tumultuous times. If you are a voracious reader like me- add them to your Amazon reading list.



November 2020– BrainTeaser

Mary has one sister and no brothers. She herself has no children, So, what relation does Mary have to her mother’s grandson?

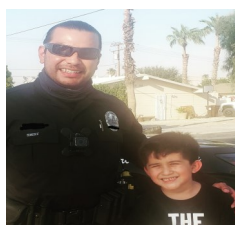
The first person to submit the correct answer to mgrainger@psusd.us will win a \$25 cash gift card.



Giving Back in More Ways than One– by Lynn Yada

When parent Maria Godinez asked me if I knew someone who could tutor her son, Aiden, I immediately knew the person I would ask. Mrs. Molly Thorpe, retired teacher from DLA, gladly accepted to tutor second grade student, Aiden. In lieu of payment, Ms. Molly asked that mom put the money she would pay her towards a charity to help give back to the community. Maria and Aiden took her suggestion and last month presented a gift card to the Cathedral City Police Department. Aiden’s next pay it forward venture is to raise funds by selling candy to benefit the Desert Cancer Foundation. Maria says, “Ms. Molly is not only a knowledgeable tutor, but a great role model to Aiden. She is the reason Aiden has started to give back to our community. We are truly thankful to Ms. Molly.” Ms. Molly considers herself a “zutor”- a person who tutors on zoom. She says, “I love being Aiden’s Zutor! His enthusiasm about learning makes my heart sing!” She is encouraging other retired teachers to become a “zutor” and pay

it forward to help students and charities in the community. Ms. Molly and Aiden are two awesome citizens that are giving back to their community in more ways than one!



Here is Aiden with a Cathedral City police officer



Aiden is raising funds for Desert Cancer Society



Two people making a difference: Aiden and his 'zutor' - Miss Molly

DLA Calendar Events– November 2020

- Friday October 30, 2020:** End of trimester 1 for elementary and middle school students.
- Wednesday November 11, 2020:** Veteran’s Day holiday. School is closed.
- Monday November 23, 2020 through Friday November 27, 2020:** Thanksgiving Holiday. School is closed.
- Monday December 20, 2020 through Friday January 8, 2021:** Winter recess– School is closed.
- Monday January 11, 2021:** Semester 2 begins

November 2020

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

High School- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Beginning on October 1 of every school year, students who plan to attend college have the option to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA allows you to get free grant money and student loans to pay for your education. This is money that the government provides to students. This is money that parents do not need to pay back. If you would like to learn more information please click on the following link:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

The FAFSA® - Simplified

About The FAFSA®

- What is The FAFSA®?** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid. It is required by the Federal Government, State Governments, and Colleges and Career Schools.
- Who Should Fill Out A FAFSA®?** Any undergraduate or current post secondary (college) student who wishes to determine their eligibility for:
 - Federal Grants
 - Federal Work-Study Programs
 - State and Institutional Student Loans
 - State Student Financial Aid
 - Some Schools' Merit Scholarships
- When To Complete Your FAFSA®** FAFSA is available January 1st, and the earlier you complete, the better. Each State and School Has Its Own FAFSA® Deadline!

Filing Your FAFSA®

- Preparing To Complete The FAFSA®** To fill out the FAFSA, you need information about you and your family. Information Needed To Complete Your Application:
 - Income Tax Returns
 - College Aid
 - Assets
 - Unemployment
 - Bank Statements
 - Records of Other Financial Resources
 - Records of Other Income
 - Records of Other Expenses
 - Records of Other Resources
- How To Submit Your FAFSA®** You have a few different submission options:
 - Electronic Form (fafsa.gov)
 - Mail Physical Form (Department of Education)
 - Electronic Submission by Your School
- Receive and Accept an Aid Offer** After you file your FAFSA you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) and you will need to accept your aid offer. Each school listed on your SAR will send you a separate offer letter. You will need to accept your aid offer by the deadline. You will need to accept your aid offer by the deadline. You will need to accept your aid offer by the deadline.

Edgenuity Parent Portal-

I wanted to remind parents that the Edgenuity parent portal provides parents with an opportunity to review student progress in their assigned courses, and monitor the time students spend on the Edgenuity learning platform. Please take a moment to visit the DLA website using the link below and watch the video tutorial on how to access the Edgenuity Parent platform. Once you have viewed the video, please contact DLA so that we may provide you with your parent access code. You will need this four digit code to access the portal.



Please use this link to access the orientation video: <https://www.psusd.us/domain/4743>