

Fall Newsletter 2020

Ms. Yada
Grades 2 and 3



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A Message From Ms. Yada:
To Parents,

Welcome to my newsletter where I will share ideas, and give you information about what's going on at school.

First of all, I want to give a shout out to all the parents out there, working, schooling, and trying their best! I look forward to seeing you all each week. Distance learning has its challenges but we are making the best of it.

There have been some changes since the beginning of school. I started out teaching grades K-5. After my caseload grew, I parted with my fourth and fifth graders to Mrs. Ligman. My caseload continued to grow larger and the district placed another elementary at DLA. Mrs. Felix took over my kindergarten and first grade students. If it's safe to go back to school in January, there will probably be more changes and some of you may choose to continue with distance learning

and teaching and others will choose to send their kids back to school on a flex schedule. There's still some time to decide, once we get through the winter months.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you have a story to share, please let me know and I will include it in the next newsletter in January/February 2021.

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the cool air, the smell of cinnamon, and wearing cozy socks. It's also a time for me to reflect around Thanksgiving to be thankful for working with all of you.

Gratefully,
Ms. Yada



Multiplication Made Fun!

Recently, the third graders learned their nine time tables with the good ol' finger and hand trick. If you have forgotten it or never learned it, check out the you tube video titled, "Nine times finger trick." You can click on the link below. I always needs a refresher every year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwYqrF-FfL8>



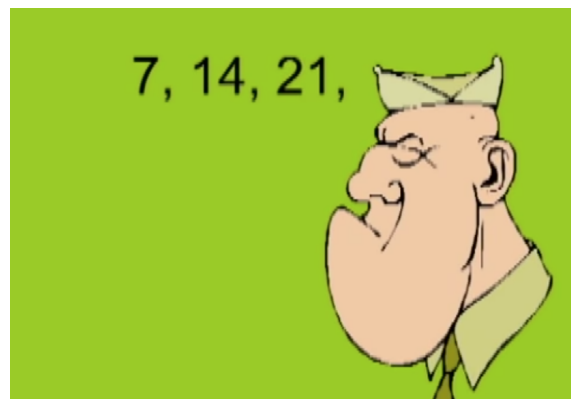
A Fun Way to Learn Your Seven Times Tables

Third graders also watched a you tube video titled, "Sargeant Seven," which has a catchy bootcamp cadence. See if you can figure out the cadence:

Counting sevens is such fun 7,14,21
Come and see what I can do 28, 35, 42
Easier than ABC 49, 56, 63
70, is next, there's more 77, 84
Sergeant Seven is my name,
Counting sevens is my game.
Sergeant Seven is my name,

Counting sevens is my game. You can click on this link to watch the video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gcX24F_U4c



Time is Running Out!

That is one title the science fair group is considering for their science fair project this year. Third graders Arthur, Audrey, and Ms. Yada learned in science that the water clock was known to have existed in Babylon and Egypt around the year 1600 B.C. Some claim that water clocks appeared in China as early as 4000 B.C. A water clock is any timepiece that uses a regulated flow of liquid into or out from a vessel to measure time. Water clocks and sundials are some of the oldest time measuring instruments. In Edgenuity, we learned to make a water clock out of plastic cups. Each week, we are testing different liquids for their viscosities to see how long it takes for liquids to pass from one cup through the other. While third graders' science projects cannot go on to the county level, we can enter our project in a group of three, that will be represented at the virtual District Science Fair in January.



Here is Arthur with his water clock. He and Audrey are doing a great job testing their hypotheses about which liquids will take the slowest to go through the water clock and analyzing the data why some liquids are going slower than others.

It's Never Too Early to Think About College and Career Readiness

At Desert Learning Academy, it is never too early to discuss students' plans for the future. In the past, students have researched different colleges and made posters and banners they shared with other students and staff. This year I would like students to research careers and make a video describing the job, its requirements, education, salary, and other interesting information. Digital Storytelling is a wonderful way for students to write a script, match their images to their audio and edit for presentation. If you are interested in having your child learn these skills, I will be starting digital storytelling classes soon.



Here is a video one of my fifth graders put together last year about a therapy dog, who wasn't just a weekly visitor, but a student in our class. Please click on this YouTube link to view:

<https://youtu.be/tgYMnfBnWu8>

This is an example of digital storytelling.



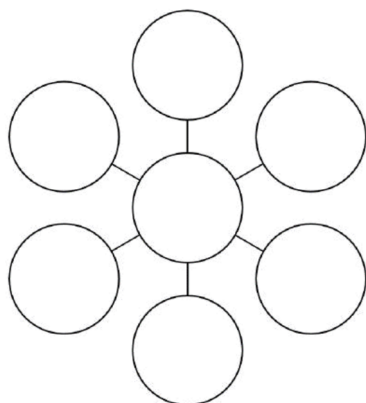
Writing Ideas

Some of you have been asking for some writing ideas for your child. I like these writing prompts for each day of the month. You can have your child choose one writing prompt a week to practice their writing.

				
What is a wonderful gift that doesn't cost any money?	What would it be like to live in a snow globe?	Write a story about a reindeer that loses its ability to fly.	Describe your December holiday traditions.	It is important to give back this time of year. How do you help others who are less fortunate?
Make a list of all the good things you have done this year.	December is the month of gift-giving. What was the best gift you have ever received?	Write a letter to someone in your family that you admire.	Write the steps to make the best cup of hot chocolate.	What does your family do to celebrate New Year's Eve?
Write a story called, "The Gingerbread Man that got Away."	The first day of Winter is in December. What is your favorite winter activity?	What is your favorite holiday song and why?	If you could invent the next best selling toy, what would it be and why would it be so popular?	Write a story called, "The Silly Penguin."
My favorite thing about the month of December is . . .	Imagine that you could apply for a job at the North Pole. What job would you choose and why?	If you could have one famous person over your house for the holidays who would it be and why?	What would it be like to have a reindeer as a pet?	What will life be like 100 years from now?

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Bubble Map Graphic Organizer



Many of you are having great success using a Bubble Map or Web to have your child brainstorm his/her ideas. This is a great way to generate ideas and thoughts with your child.

Soon, I will be using My Access with the third grade students. It is an online writing program that scores student writing using a rubric. It gives students feedback to edit and improve their writing.

Project I Love to Read!

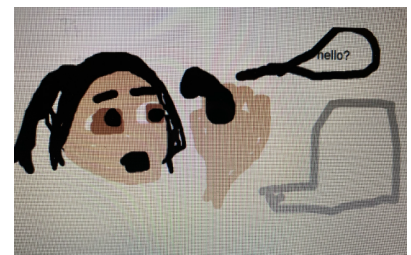
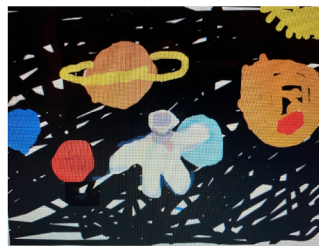
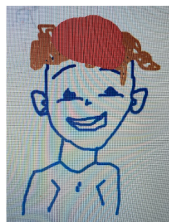
As some of you may know, my ninety year old father has been in an independent home for a year now. The pandemic has been very difficult on the seniors living there, as they have had to stay in their rooms for many months. Some of you have been generous enough to video your child reading books and sharing it with me. I have shared these videos with my father and he gets a kick listening to your child read. My goal is to share these videos with more residents where he lives in Anaheim. If you are interested in having your child participate, please let me know.

This is an incredible gift that is a win-win for all! Students can practice their reading skills and seniors feel connected to the outside world.



A Talented Artist

We have amazing artists here at Desert Learning Academy! Third grader, Noah, drew these pictures in Draw It!, an activity in Nearpod, which is an interactive program the students love to create during their zoom class meetings. Students are asked to draw how they're feeling that day, or what they did over the weekend, or in one of the pictures below, for science, what it would look like if there was no gravity.



If you missed this story in the DLA newsletter, it's worth reading over and over again for inspiration!

Giving Back More Ways Than One

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's Aiden with a Cathedral City Police Officer. Aiden is selling candy to raise funds for Desert Cancer Society.



Two people making a difference: Aiden and his "zutor," Ms. Molly.

A Wonderful Asset to Desert Learning Academy: Mrs. Maria de la Fuente



If you have had the pleasure of meeting paraprofessional, Mrs. Maria de la Fuente, you will agree that she is a ray of positivity.

Mrs. de la Fuente has been a paraprofessional since Desert Learning Academy opened six years ago. We have worked together for many years prior to opening a virtual school. I recently asked Mrs. de la Fuente to tell me what she likes about working at Desert Learning Academy and she said she likes the opportunity to work directly with all the wonderful students and their families, with the dedicated and talented staff, and with its online learning platform-Edgenuity. She said this job is different from other jobs she's had because it allows her to learn from, and grow with the students she works with on a daily basis, which makes it a highly rewarding experience for her. Mrs. de la Fuente says that students at DLA are very special and when they are committed to their educational success, they become highly independent, motivated, and avid learners. She added that she believes that this winning combination is a direct reflection on their parental support.

Her suggestion for students and parents to be successful at DLA is to communicate regularly with teachers to establish a partnership that will focus on addressing the individual needs of their students. Her last motivating comment is for parents to celebrate their students' efforts: even the seemingly smallest of victories deserves recognition, and will encourage your student(s) to keep trying.

Thank you, Mrs. de la Fuente for your encouraging thoughts and dedicated service to our students at DLA. You are truly one of a kind and I hope someday everyone will be able to meet you one day.

Here are some books and stories you can download or read to your child to discuss COVID-19.



My Hero is You

how kids can fight COVID-19!



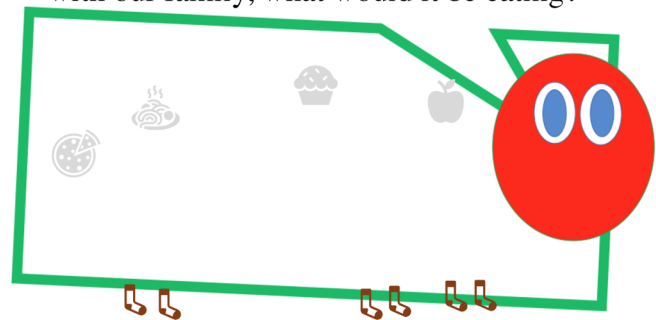
IASC
Inter-Agency Standing Committee

Georgie
and the
Giant Germ

a coloring book



If a Hungry Caterpillar were staying home with our family, what would it be eating?



Here is the link to the PSUSD Mental Health Services page where you can find services and support for your child during this pandemic. You can download the books and stories shown above.

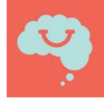
<https://www.psusd.us/Page/6841>

Here are some mental health apps to check out to help your child with mindfulness during this pandemic.

Mental Health Apps Resources



Sanvello



Smiling Mind



Woebot



Clear Fear



Calm Harm



Aura



Gratitude



Stop, Breathe, Think



Moodflow



Breathe, Think Do



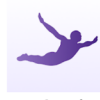
Antistress



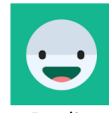
Fluid



Insight Timer
Meditation



Dare Anxiety



Daylio



Calm



The Grouchies



Big Dreamers



Belly Biofeedback



Mindshift



PTSD Coach



Presently



The Mighty



The Rainbow
Feeling Bear



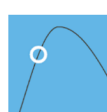
What's Up



Simple Habit



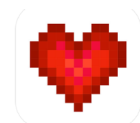
Guided Mind



Breathe



Pocket Parent.



Sandbox



Mindful gnats



Mindful Powers



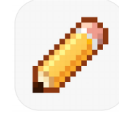
T2Moodtracker



Feel Electric



Triangle of Life



Colorbox

Thanksgiving Break is Coming Up!

Thanksgiving break is November 23-27, 2020.



Winter break is from December 21, 2020-January 8, 2021.



Some of you have been asking me for the school calendar for the year:



Palm Springs Unified School District District Calendar August 2020 - June 2021

