



# DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

2248 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

760-778-0487

## -Monthly Newsletter

### In this issue :

- Monthly message from Dr. Grainger
- Edgenuity parent portal
- Teen Talk presentations for Middle and High School parents
- ELPAC testing
- Senior Information Letters
- DLA Teacher Spotlight

Greetings parents, students, and community members-



First, my apologies for the late production of this month's newsletter. Traditionally, February is a very busy month for several reasons. This month English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) are underway. All students identified as English Learners must be assessed in the speaking, writing, reading, and listening domains. DLA staff members will be reaching out to schedule these virtual tests in the next few days. We are also currently organizing Teen Talk parent evenings for our elementary, middle, and high school parents. Teen Talk lessons are part of the California Health Youth Act (CAHYA) legislation that is implemented each year at this time. You will all be receiving emails and mailings from DLA providing you with all the information you need regarding these lessons. We are also in the final stages of preparing for our next Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation visit which will take place on Monday May 3, 2021. As you can see a very busy month all in all here at DLA. Please stay safe this month and take some time to celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday February 14, 2021 with a family and loved ones.

## 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– Spotlight Teacher

Hello, my name is Jazmin Rosario. I am one of the paraprofessionals for Technology Support at Desert Learning Academy. I was born and raised here, in the Valley. I graduated from Desert Hot Springs High School where I was involved in several extracurriculars like student government - United Student Body (USB). I participated in seasonal sports which include but are not limited to Cross-country, Track & Field, Soccer, and Softball.



After, I attended UC Santa Barbara as a Promise Scholar. While attending UCSB, I participated in several film projects, created art pieces, and joined organizations such as the Latino Business Association. I received my BA in both Film and Media Studies and Art. In addition, I obtained my minors in Applied Psychology and Education.

## High School Seniors– Parent Notification Letter Update

Last week, all high school seniors were mailed the first iteration of their graduation status letter. This letter outlined the following information for each student



- The number of credits each student has currently earned
- The number of credits each student is currently working on
- The number of credits needed to graduate
- Current course completion rates
- A-G eligibility
- Palm Springs Unified School District graduation requirements

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this year's graduation ceremony is currently scheduled as a 'drive through' event on Thursday May 27, 2021. As more information is available I will of course pass it on.

Please remember that to be eligible for graduation this year all senior MUST have their current classes completed by Friday May 14, 2021 so that credits may be posted to transcripts and the necessary arrangements made. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your lead teacher.

## College of the Desert Application Meetings



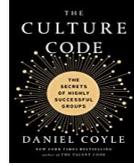
Mrs. Mendoza our amazing DLA counselor will be reaching out to all our current High School seniors to schedule a meeting to review application requirements and opportunities with College of the Desert. Please expect this call and be ready to schedule some time to meet with Mrs. Mendoza.



I am delighted to announce that beginning in January 2021, Mrs. Brenda Gunderson (former retired DLA counselor) will be returning to provide small group support services for students and their families attending DLA.

The plan is to offer a small counseling cohort on campus and a second group online. If you are interested in your child participating in these counseling groups, please contact Rosalia Mendoza or your child's teacher at 760-778-0487 and the necessary referral forms will be provided to you so that services may be provided.

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.



**February 2021 Brainteaser Challenge**

**Congratulations to Theresa Madrigal who was the winner of January's Brainteaser challenge. Try your luck at this month's puzzle.**



**Please send your answer via email to [mgrainger@psusd.us](mailto:mgrainger@psusd.us)**

*Unscramble the letters to get a famous quote by a famous poet and satirist of the English Augustan period*

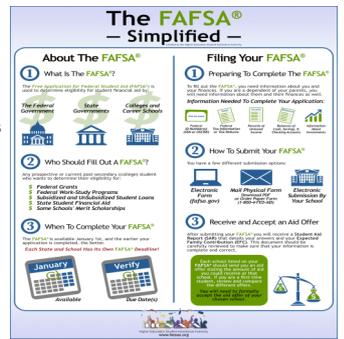
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**High School- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

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>

**Pleaser remember that the submission deadline for the 2020/21 school year is June 30, 2021.**



**ELPAC Testing Schedule and Information**

As noted in the welcome message., **English Learner Proficiency Assessments will begin this month on Monday February 22, 2021. The following DLA staff members will be contacting families to schedule virtual ELPAC assessments via Zoom stating with the speaking part of the assessment:**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Mrs. Stacy Brennan– <a href="mailto:sbrennan@psusd.us">sbrennan@psusd.us</a></b>            | <b>Elementary students</b>         |
| <b>Mrs. Maria de la Fuente– <a href="mailto:mdelafuente@psusd.us">mdelafuente@psusd.us</a></b> | <b>Middle school students.</b>     |
| <b>Michael Grainger– <a href="mailto:mgrainger@psusd.us">mgrainger@psusd.us</a></b>            | <b>High school students</b>        |
| <b>Ms. Christina Moore– <a href="mailto:cmoore2@psusd.us">cmoore2@psusd.us</a></b>             | <b>Supporting all three levels</b> |

**DLA Calendar Events for February 2021 and March 2021**

- **Friday February 12, 2021:** School closed for President's Day Holiday
- **Monday March 1, 2021-Friday March 5, 2021:** High School Teen Talk lessons online
- **Sunday February 14, 2021:** Valentine's Day
- **Wednesday March 3, 2021:** Middle School parent meeting via Zoom
- **Monday February 15, 2021:** School closed for President's Day holiday.
- **Thursday March 11, 2021:** Middle school Teen Talk lessons begin.
- **Tuesday February 22, 2021:** Virtual ELPAC testing begins for elementary and middle school students in the speaking domain
- **Monday March 29, 2021:** Spring Break recess begins for two weeks
- **Wednesday February 24, 2021:** High school Teen Talk Parent meeting via Zoom:
- **Friday February 26, 2021:** Trimester 2 ends for elementary and middle school parents.



**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>