



DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

2248 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

760-778-0487

-Monthly Newsletter-

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Best Wishes during the Holiday Season

As we enter the holiday period, I want to take a moment to wish all of you a very happy holiday season. It is my hope that despite the difficult circumstances that we find ourselves in with the current COVID –19 pandemic, that you will spend some time with family during the holiday period and take the time to relax, and recharge. With good news on the horizon regarding vaccines, let’s hope that in early 2021 we can transition back to a more normal school learning experience. Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out.



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. Maria De La Fuente



Hello, my name is Maria De La Fuente and I have worked as a paraprofessional at Desert Learning Academy for six years, since the program opened.

During this time I have had the distinct opportunity of working with outstanding colleagues. These highly talented, skilled professionals demonstrate daily a tremendous degree of dedication to the educational success of their students. They provide a continuous source of inspiration and encouragement to our community, and create that unique family feel at our school.

The most rewarding part of my job has been learning from, and growing with, the students I work directly with on a daily basis. Desert Learning Academy students are very special. When they are committed to their educational success, they become highly independent, motivated, and avid learners. We embark on this educational journey together and, in a sense, they become my Teachers. This is an experience for which I am most grateful, for it has influenced me in countless positive ways.

Semester 1-Course Extension Opportunity for all DLA High School Students



As you all know, the first semester of the 2020/21 school year is scheduled to end on **Friday December 18, 2020** -which is the last day of school before winter recess.

Here at Desert Learning Academy, we want to provide as many opportunities as possible for our students to be successful in the attainment of high school credits. To this end, we are providing all current high school students with an additional time period to complete their semester one courses according to the following conditions:

- Current courses must be at least 50% complete by Friday December 11, 2020 to qualify for this extension.
- Students will have access to their courses until **Tuesday January 5, 2021 at 4:00pm** to complete all remaining work in their courses.
- On **Wednesday January 6, 2021**, course work will be graded by teachers and grades posted for Semester 1. These grades will then be transferred to each student’s official high school transcript.
- On **Friday January 8, 2021**, semester courses will be added to the student database and students will have access to content on **Monday January 11, 2021** –day one of semester 2.

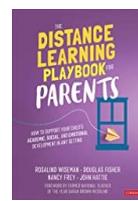
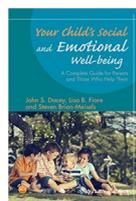
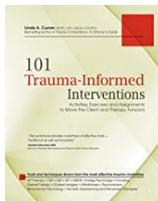
If you have any questions, please reach out to your lead teacher here at DLA .



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.



December 2020– BrainTeaser

The following two meanings refer to words that have their first and last letters reversed: (1) “guide someone” and (2) “a bargain.”

What are the two words?

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

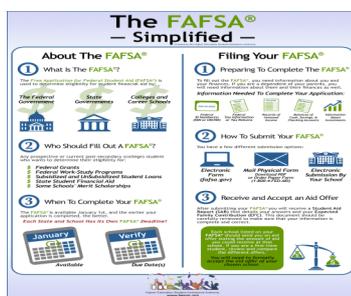


High School- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

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.



Holiday Recipe: Roasted garlic, Stilton and Port Marinated Grape Bruschetta

Ingredients: Elephant garlic, French bread, stilton cheese, red grapes, ruby port, fresh rosemary

Method: (1) Wash red grapes, slice in half, and place in small bowl to poach overnight in port; (2) Peel garlic, and place garlic cloves in foil pouch in oven (400 degrees) for 30 minutes until soft. Mash garlic with small amount of olive oil to make a spreadable paste. (3) Slice French bread into rounds and toast on broil setting for 2 minutes until golden brown; (4) Spread garlic paste onto toasted rounds, place a small slice of stilton on each round, top with half a poached grape, and sprinkle with fresh chopped rosemary. Voila– a festive appetizer fit for a king or queen!



DLA Calendar Events for December 2020, and January 2021

- **Friday December 18, 2020:** Last day of semester 1 and last day of school before winter recess
- **Monday January 11, 2021:** Semester 2 begins
- **Monday December 20, 2020 through Friday January 8, 2021:** Winter recess– School is closed.
- **Monday January 18, 2021:** School closed in observance of Martin Luther King Holiday.
- **Saturday December 19, 2020 through Tuesday January 5, 2021:** DLA high school students who have completed 50% of their course work have additional time to work on semester 1 courses.



Desert Learning Academy Parent Teacher Organization

Consistent, and robust parent involvement is one of the key ingredients for success at any school. As the new instructional leader here at DLA, the creation of a site PTA/PTO is one of my priorities.

If you are interested in learning about the many functions of PTA/PTOs, please send me an email to mgrainger@psusd.us as I am in the process of generating an interest list. The plan is to begin the chartering process in January 2021 and it is my hope that as many DLA parents as possible will participate. If you know someone in your local community who might be interested in participating please forward my email address and contact information to them. Once the organization is established, fund raising can begin to support the students and families attending DLA. Any questions, please let me know.



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>