

DESERT LEARNING ACADEMY

2248 E. Ramon Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262

760-778-0487

-Monthly Newsletter-

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- September 2020 Perfect Attendance
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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.



Coffee with the Principal



This month I am inviting parents to join me for a virtual 'Coffee with the Principal' meeting via Zoom. This is an opportunity to engage in informal conversation about all things DLA. The date for our first meeting will be **Wednesday October 21, 2020 at 11:00am**. The Zoom link is provide here to access the meeting:

<https://psusd-us.zoom.us/j/9026043210?pwd=WTg4OElmYmtMU1INWmZmbUdYeUJidz09>

If you plan on attending the meeting and have some suggestions for conversation topics please contact me ahead of time and I will prepare content for our discussion.

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 your do receive all messages. Please call Mariana at 760-778-0487 to update your contact information.

Desert Learning Academy Teacher Showcase: Mr. Roberto Wheaton



My name is Roberto Wheaton and I have been working at Desert Learning Academy since its inception in 2015. I was born in Wisconsin and grew up in LA's South Bay and North Idaho where I graduated from High School and attended the University of Idaho Moscow graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Earth and Social Science. Following graduation, I began my teaching career with the Seattle Public Schools where I taught Science and History at a K-12 School for 17 years. Leaving the Northwest for Southern California in 2002 I accepted a position at Cathedral City High School teaching science, HEAL, Earth Science, and coaching Boy's tennis.

In 2012 I transferred to Ramon Academy to teach history for two years while Desert Learning Academy was in the planning stages and volunteered to pilot Edgenuity. I choose to teach at DLA because of its K-12 configuration, commitment to developing modeling growth mindsets, technology-Learning Management System, and most importantly, the opportunity to work in a student-centered program where content teachers support and coach students to become successful independent learners.



Perfect Attendance – September 2020

Congratulations to the following students who earned **Perfect Attendance** for the month of September 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**

- Luis A. Amina B. Richard C. Sophia G. Arthur K. Noah M. Noah R. Aizaudi V.
- Casandra A. Madison B. Steven D. Lucy N. Gabriel L. Josiah N. Kaleb R. Camilla Z.
- Deanna A. Jonathan C. Abigail E. Mason J. Oliver L. David P. Kristopher R.
- Selah A. David C. Colin F. Reid K. Annalise M. Berenice P. Noah T.

• **Middle School students**

- Antonio A Logan B. Carlos L. Naim M. Nehemiah T. Aaron Z.
- Karla A. Jazmine D. Jared M. Oscar N. Elias V.
- Lorenzo A. Ananya E. Oliver M. Troy S. Jordan W.
- David B. Mariano G. Carolina M. Roselyn S. Armani W.
- Ayden B. Elliott K. Kristeanah M. Kenneth T. Mikaela Y.

• **High School students:**

- Mateo A. Kamiya F. Aliyah L. Elizabeth M. Ambria R. Miranda T.
- Janessa C. Lucas F. Anayee L. Kayla R. Liliona S. Ariel W.
- Dakota C. Abigail G. Thomas L. Jocelyne R. Chloe S. Andrea Y.
- Benjamin C. Chynna G. Teresa M. Gage R. Kendal S.
- Jarod D. Eileen H. Yanaira M. Janett R. Sasha S.
- Sydney E. Talia H. Keilah M. Hannah R. Seth S.
- Roman E. Demitra J. Valeria M. Kimberly R. Lesai S.

Brain Teaser Winner—September 2020

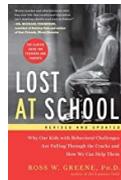
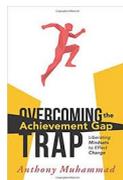
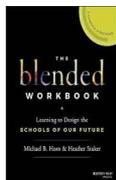
Congratulations to Theresa M. who was the first student last month to submit the correct answer to our September BrainTeaser. Theresa received \$30 in cash

The answer is posted below to last month's BrainTeaser:

The number 8,549,176,320 is a unique number. What is so special about it? Answer: The said number has all the numbers from 0-9 exactly once and what is special is they are in lexicographical order of their English words.

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.



October 2020– BrainTeaser

You are offered a job as a food delivery person, working on Saturday and Sunday only. Your boss gives you a choice of the following two salary options: (a) \$4000 for your first year of work, and a raise of \$800 for each year after the first; or (b) \$2000 for your first six months of work, and a raise of \$200 every six months thereafter. Which is the better offer and why?



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

PSUSD Mental Health Services and Resources



Meet Dr. Galeano –



Dr. Galeano has worked in the field of psychology since 1996 serving different communities, particularly underserved populations and migrant families in the state of Minnesota. Other experiences included the correctional system in LA County working with persistent mentally ill adults and the homeless community. Dr. Galeano worked for Riverside County as a clinical supervisor for the county and clinical psychologist for juvenile hall (Indio, CA), and has done extensive clinical work with children and families. Dr. Galeano has worked as a clinical psychologist at PSUSD since 2012.

Dr. Galeano is an integral member of the DLA team and works diligently with teachers to provide a wide variety of services for DLA students and their families. He works at different school sites across the district.

Call 911 or a Crisis Hotline that is open 24 hours per day: Riverside County Mental Health, 24-hour hotline: 760.863.8455
Desert Regional Medical Center: 760.323.6511
Suicide Hotline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
National Crisis Line: 1.800.784.2433

TEXT:
HELLO to 741-741 to text with a crisis counselor
SHHELP HI to 274-637 for anonymous support

Safe House of the Desert 760-343-3211

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-422-4918

Salud Mental del Condado de Riverside,
Linea directa de 24 horas: 760.863.8455
Desert Regional Medical Center: 760.323.6511
Linea Directa Suicidio: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Linea de Crisis Nacional: 1.800.784.2433
Casa Segura de Desierto: 760-343-3211
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4918

To access a complete list of resources please use the link below:

<https://www.psusd.us/Page/253>

DLA Calendar Events– October 2020

- **Friday October 2, 2020:** End of first quarter for all high school students.
- **Wednesday October 7, and Thursday October 8, 2020:** Middle School Parent Teacher Conferences (by appointment)
- **Monday October 12, 2020:** Inservice day for all teachers. Students do not attend
- **Wednesday October 21, 2020:** Coffee with the Principal

at

OCTOBER 2020											
DATE	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SA	SU	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
10/1											
10/2	3:00pm-4:00pm										
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11:00am via Zoom.

- **Monday October 26, 2020:** School Site Council meeting at 3PM via Zoom.
- **Friday October 30, 2020:** End of trimester 1 for elementary and middle school students.

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>

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>