An additional 2,200+ adults will be entering the world over the next several weeks. They are the 2015 graduating class of Desert Sands Unified School District. Many will be heading off to universities throughout the state, some will go further afield as they attend college in other parts of the country or join the military, and others will stay close to home attending the community college and university in our own backyard. Another group of our graduates will be going into the workplace, some directly, others into specialized training classes. Whatever they do, these young men and women will make us proud.

Here is a look at the class leaders.

**Amistad High School**

*Graduation Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 pm*

A non-traditional high school, Amistad does not have a valedictorian or salutatorian. Instead, they designate three senior scholars who provide motivational graduation speeches.

- **Briana Silva** has balanced her life as a full-time student, a part-time worker, and, most importantly, as a teenage mother. She leaves Amistad prepared to follow her dream of becoming a registered nurse and will attend College of the Desert to earn her degree.

- **Dimitri Villarreal** will be the first in his family to attend college. He plans on relocating to the San Francisco area to go to school and play rugby. Dimitri works for Certified Entertainment Services and is considering a career in that field.

- **Darrel Wilson** grew up in a number of states, especially Oklahoma. She believes that this life-experience made her the determined woman she is today. Darrell completed high school in just two-and-a-half years and is already attending College of the Desert with a goal toward a career as a physical therapist. Earlier this year she was recognized as the ACSA Region XIX (Riverside County) *Every Student Succeeding Award* recipient. (continued page 2)
Horizon School
Graduation Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 pm (at Shadow Hills High School)

Marina Valdez serves as valedictorian at Horizon School. A non-traditional school based on independent study, she represents the best of the best from Horizon. Her teachers say that she is self-motivated, disciplined, inquisitive, and has a thirst for knowledge—the perfect example of an independent studies student. She serves as the student liaison with the DSUSD Board of Education as a representative of her school. Marina will be attending College of the Desert.

Indio High School
Graduation Friday, May 29, 7:00 pm

Valedictorian Jose Cebreros will be attending UCLA. He is one of five children raised by a single immigrant mother. He was motivated by his mother’s efforts to provide a better future to commit himself to his education. Jose will be double majoring in mathematics and computer science. His message to future generations is that nothing can stop you from achieving our dreams.

Cynthia Navarrete is the IHS salutatorian. She, too, sees her family as her inspiration. Cynthia will be attending the University of California, San Diego. She will major in human biology and plans to enter the medical field.

Indio High School will recognize the Top Ten students at graduation. They are:
Ana Acosta, Cal State San Bernardino
Annjanette Aguilar Barreras, UCLA
Karla Badilla, UC San Diego
Alicia Beltran-Beltran, UC Riverside
Jose Cuevas, UC Irvine
Julissa Diaz-Reyes, UC Santa Barbara
Josue Fraga, UCLA
William O. Guzman, UCLA
Francisco Jaurtegui, USC
Dominic Lopez, UC Berkeley

La Quinta High School
Graduation Thursday, June 4, 7:00 pm

Dallin Frank, valedictorian, is a scholar/musician who is focused and determined to excel at his life’s passions. As an International Baccalaureate full diploma candidate, Dallin has pursued both music and science at the collegiate level. He will be attending Brigham Young University, Provo to double major in music composition and computer science.

Gloria Issa is a passionate learner who thrived in the International Baccalaureate Program. She was named one of the top ten students in Riverside County. Gloria will major in mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Lebanon and understand the struggle to make a better life for their children. Gloria says that this is what inspires her as she has learned first-hand the value of hard-work and commitment.

Paul Stober, salutatorian, is a scholar/theatrical who understands the inherent connections between seemingly disparate fields of study. He understands the value of critical thinking and analysis in every field. Paul is a full International Baccalaureate Diploma student who will pursue a degree in Civil Engineering at Cal Poly, Pomona.

LQHS would also like to recognize ASB President Britteny Siordia who will be attending Point Loma Nazarene (left) and Senior Class President Jacy Prahl who will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (right).

(continued page 3)
Palm Desert High School
Graduation Saturday, May 30, 8:00 am

Atharv Worlikar, valedictorian, is described by his teachers as bright, highly motivated, competitive, inquisitive, goal oriented, and focused. Atharv has challenged himself by taking the most rigorous courses offered at Palm Desert High School. He is a leader in both school and community. Atharv will be attending the University of California, San Diego, majoring in bioengineering. Ultimately, Atharv’s goal is to solve world hunger.

Salutatorian Kaylie Chen is a first-generation immigrant to the United States. Her parents instilled in her a strong work ethic leading to her academic-self-challenge. Kaylie has been active in numerous school activities and clubs and is a member of the National Society of High Scholars. Kaylie was named one of the top ten students in Riverside County. She will be attending Yale University where she will study biology with an emphasis on molecular biology to someday pursue a career in health.

Salutatorian Rachel Hjerpe will be attending Stevens Institute of Technology in the fall, majoring in biology with a minor in French. She plans on then pursuing a medical degree in pediatrics with an emphasis on behavioral and developmental concerns.

Courtney Kantowski, salutatorian, will be attending UC Berkeley where she will study law. Her favorite extracurricular activity is being on Mock Trial where she serves as a role model to other students. When not in the courtroom defending fictional characters, Courtney plays soccer.

Salutatorian Jessica Kozlacz comes to school each day with a renewed passion for learning. She will be attending UCLA in the fall to pursue the sciences with the goal of dental school. Her love of travel and her devotion to community service may lead to a combination of interests.

Shadow Hills High School
Graduation Saturday, May 30, 8:30 am

Valedictorian Allison Rose Coulson is a hardworking, dedicated, motivated, and humble young lady. According to her teachers, she truly exemplifies how “Knights Do It Right” and is a leader and team player who leads by example. In addition to her Advanced Placement classes, Allison is involved in both band and choir. She will be attending Arizona State University and plans on majoring in law with a goal toward becoming a prosecuting attorney.

Silvia Ruelas is a dedicated student in the classroom. She is also a vital part of the Shadow Hills High School Band and drum line, playing saxophone, clarinet, and trumpet. A leader among her peers, she is both Drum Major and Clarinet Captain of the “Regiment of the Realm.” Silvia will be attending UCLA as a political science and criminal justice major and hopes to serve in public office.

Summit High School
Graduation Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 pm (at Shadow Hills High School)

Student speaker at Summit High School’s graduation will be Andreah Legarreta. Her teachers say that Andreah is an extraordinarily bright and kind-hearted young woman with unlimited potential and a drive to succeed. Although starting at Summit in the 10th grade, credit deficient and in far from ideal circumstances, she overcame sizeable obstacles with perseverance and dedication and serves as a role model to her peers.
Dates To Note


May 26: Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School Honors Dessert at 6:30 pm at Palm Valley Country Club.

May 29-June 5: Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary School *Under the Sea Book Fair* including *Family Fun Night*.

May 29: Carrillo Ranch Visual and Performing Arts Spring Show. Tickets are $3 each.

May 29: 8th Annual John Glenn Middle School Dance Concert at 6:00 pm (not at 8:15 as previously listed). Tickets will be sold at the door—$6 for adults and $3 for students 6-10.

June 1: Indio Police Department invites students to attend a Youth Relationship Forum titled *Maintaining Open Lines of Dialogue* at the Indio Teen Center from 6:00-7:30 pm. See page 12 for more information.

June 3: Carrillo Ranch Elementary School *Red Carpet Awards Night* at 6:00 pm.

June 5: Informal Evening with the Circle Theatre. Final performance in the old Indio High School theatre. Student performances and awards at 7:00 pm.

June 15: Summer School begins

June 25: Desert Sands Education Foundation Summer Fling. See flyer on page 17.

Graduation Dates & Times

May 29: Indio High School Graduation 7:00 pm
May 30: Palm Desert High School Graduation 8:00 am
May 30: Shadow Hills High School Graduation 8:30 am
June 3: Amistad High School Graduation 7:00 pm
June 4: La Quinta High School Graduation 7:00 pm
June 9: Summit High School Graduation 4:00 pm
June 9: Horizon School Graduation 7:00 pm

Tentative Blackhawk Showdown Schedule

June 11: Executive Sous Chef Joey Domingo, Roy's in Rancho Mirage vs Executive Chef Daniel, Balisage
June 25: Executive Chef Kris Mitchum, Indian Wells Hyatt vs Executive Chef Herve Gline, The Parker
July 16: Chef de Cuisine Denis Sebie, Twenty6 at the La Quinta Resort vs Chef TBA
July 30: Winner of 5/21 vs winner of 6/11
August 13: Winner of 6/25 vs winner of 7/16
August 27: Finals! Winner of 7/30 vs winner 8/13

http://blackhawkshowdownmay21.eventbrite.com for tickets

Notes from CVEP

Below are a number of articles from CVEP (Coachella Valley Economic Partnership).

● Students Gain Bright Ideas
More than 140 high school sophomores from the Coachella Valley's three school districts explored healthcare careers at CVEP's *3rd annual Emerging Health Professionals Career Showcase* at UCR Palm Desert Campus. Professionals in the fields of physical therapy, pharmacy, dental, nursing, and nutrition led workshops for students. The event was planned and coordinated by 22 health career academy students to raise awareness of health occupations. CVEP thanks its community partners for contributing to the event's success: Eisenhower Medical Center, Avid Physical Therapy, Love Dentistry, Loma Linda School of Dentistry, and the Cathedral City Fire Department. Sponsors were the Office of Statewide Health, Planning and Development (OSHPD), California Healthcare Foundation, and the UCR Palm Desert Campus.

● Sponsors Needed for Student Leadership
CVEP needs sponsors for its *2nd Annual Student Leadership Conference*, where 315 scholarship recipients gain essential skills and establish a foundation for success in college and career. Sponsors help underwrite the cost of food, refreshments, and supplies for the June 24-25 event at the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus. During the program, more than 60 business and community partners will lead workshops, serve on panels, and participate in mentoring sessions. For information or to become a sponsor, contact Cristina Gregorio at 760-632-0102 or Cristina.Gregorio@cvep.com.

● Scholarships Offered in Human Resources
The Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA) Coachella Valley will award two $1,000 scholarships to Coachella Valley students pursuing a certificate or higher education degree in the human resources field. Students must apply by May 31. pihra18@gmail.com with "2015 PIHRA Coachella Valley Scholarship" as the text's subject. Questions concerning the application process may be directed to the same email address.
Graduate of Note
Special congratulations to James Rubacava, an Amistad Graduate. He was awarded over $25,000 in scholarships and grants in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) field at the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Awards banquet at College of the Desert. He is transferring to the University of California Riverside. He will be working on a Transportation Grant Internship at UCR this summer to help prepare him for joint graduate level studies while at the university. While at COD he completed several intern grants with NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Dancing With The Stars
The 7th Annual DSUSD/ASES Red Hot Ball Room Dance Competition was recently held at Shadow Hills High School. The event brought over 200 students from 15 schools, their families, and the Coachella Valley dance community together to enjoy the show.

Five dance styles were performed and winners were presented medals and trophies from Indio City Council member Glenn Miller and Indio Police Chief Richard Twiss. Each participant received a medallion during the “Parade of Dancers” at the conclusion of the program.

Tango: Andrew Jackson Elementary School
Cha Cha: James Madison Elementary School
Waltz: Andrew Jackson Elementary School
Salsa: Carrillo Ranch Elementary School
Swing: John Kennedy Elementary School

Enjoy this newsletter? Share it! Subscribe at: mary.perry@desertsands.us.
Stories and photos always welcome!
Board Meeting Notes
Throughout the school year, the seven DSUSD high schools are each invited to a dinner with the members of the board of education prior to a Tuesday evening meeting. The final dinner of the year was held on May 19 with students from Summit High School. At the beginning of the board meeting, student representatives present information about their schools. Jazmin Acosta, student representative to the DSUSD Board of Education, reminded those in attendance of the important role that a non-traditional high school like Summit plays in the community. Jazmin’s mother proudly sat in the audience as her well-spoken daughter introduced her school.

Mural Dedicated
Students, teachers, DSUSD board members, and representatives from Senator Jeff Stone and Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, applauded the creative efforts of artist Keith Blum at the dedication of his mural Education is Your Stairway to the Stars. Several of the Dr. Carreon Academy students present at the dedication were depicted in the mural. Special thanks were given to kindergarten teachers Lynn Salandro and Sonia Lemus for leading the charge to create the mural. Principal Regina Heredia also thanked Home Depot, JR Cement Construction, and the PTO for their assistance with the project. Also thanked were Monica Rodriguez, assistant principal, Indio High School, and the students who took part in the making of a video on the mural’s creation. Senator Stone sent a certificate of thanks to Blum. Assemblyman’s Garcia’s new offices will soon be decorated with images of Indio murals including this one.

Photos—bottom left: School Board President Wendy Jonathan points to the skies as she concurs with the idea that DSUSD students aim for the stars; above: artist Keith Blum is presented with a certificate of appreciation sent from Senator Jeff Stone; bottom right: Dr. Carreon Academy students, including mural models and the student council, share a photo op with their principal, teachers, and the artist.
The Highest of Education

Congratulations to Melissa Pizano-Grunnet, Ed.D., principal of Martin Van Buren Elementary School, as she receives her Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University.

K is for Kindness

As Amelia Earhart Elementary School students continue the ABC countdown to the last day of school, a very special young lady really took K is for Kindness to heart. Isabella Moreno donated 12 inches of her hair to Wigs for Kids. She and her mother both had their long hair cut off for the program.

PDHS Recognizes Community Partners

In a bit of twist when it comes to end-of-school-year recognition, Palm Desert High School CommuniCare Clun took time to honor the community partners who help support the school. Interim president of CommuniCare, Tori Jacobsson (photo at right) presided over the awards ceremony.

Honorees included:

- Boys and Girls Club of Coachella Valley and their $4,500 donation to fund the Diplomas 2 Degrees program that supports high school students who are the first in their families to go to college. (Photo below left features student Courtney Alacano with Carolina Vazquez of Boys and Girls Club.)

- Assistance League of Greater Palm Springs and their $4,000 donation to fund school clothing and hygiene kits for elementary age students. (Center photo is of student Brittany Crane and Assistance League representative Jill Beighley.)

- Palm Desert High School Theater and their $500 to support school theater productions and promote theater arts in the community.

- Palm Desert High School Arts Program and the donation of $500 to provide supplies and support students as they seed to participate in art shows and competitions in the Coachella Valley.

Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services Named

In unanimous action, the Board of Education approved the appointment of Tonatiuh "Tony" Signoret, Ed.D. as assistant superintendent of personnel services, effective July 1, 2015.

Signoret has served as the director of certificated human resources in Palm Springs Unified since 2011. Prior to that time, he enjoyed a track record of success as a bilingual teacher leader and site administrator at both elementary and secondary levels in PSUSD.

In addition to his extensive résumé and experience, PSUSD Assistant Superintendent Mauricio Arrellano shares, "Dr. Signoret is very ethical, hardworking, extremely intelligent, well versed in his field, easy to work with, and focused on students. He brings twelve years of bargaining experience on both the certificated and classified sides, he is an expert at managing collective bargaining agreements, a strong instructional leader, and has excellent employee evaluation skills."

Tony and his wife, Sylvia, make their home in Palm Springs where they are raising their seven children.

Scholarships Awarded to Future Healthcare Providers

JFK Memorial Hospital’s volunteer auxiliary this year raised $12,000 for scholarships. The scholarship committee selected 12 high school seniors for these awards. Recipients included Blanca Maria Quijada, Cynthia Navarette, Josue Fraga, and Martel Castillo of Indio High School; Donegal Chin, Jazmin Carbajal, and Blanca Valdez of Shadow Hills High School; Eliza Foote-Alizu and Joselyn Cendejas of Palm Desert High School. Students from the Coachella Valley Unified School District were also honored.
Band Results Are In
Eight district schools participated in the May 16 SCSBOA Regional Festival held at Palm Desert High School. Only top-rated bands were invited to participate.

Unanimous Superior
Palm Desert High School Wind Ensemble
Shadow Hills High School Wind Ensemble

Superior
Shadow Hills High School Concert Band
Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School Patriot Band
Palm Desert Charter Middle School Panther Band

Excellent
Palm Desert High School Concert Band
Indio High School Wind Ensemble

Comments Only
La Quinta High School Wind Symphony (school choice as performers included a professional harpist)

Photo Show a Success
From May 19 through May 23 an exhibition of La Quinta High School student photographs was on display at the La Quinta Museum. From portraits to landscapes; from realism to abstract...the exhibition was a powerful one and well received by the community.

Camp Runamok
Students from the district’s visual and performing arts elementary school, Carrillo Ranch Elementary School, entertained family and friends with their production of Camp Runamok, not the summer camp you might select for your child. Acting, singing, dancing, stage direction, set design, lighting, and sound were all courtesy of the student cast and crew.

Mighty Madison Ukesters Present Concert
The group of 27 students known as the Mighty Madison Ukesters have had ukulele lessons all year long. In some cases, two years, if they started in fourth grade.

The Steinway Society sponsors the group, and provides the ukuleles. Teachers Mary Gorfine, Judy Priebe, Barb Fowler, and Jeanne Cunningham volunteer their time, three hours per week to bring music to the school.

If the students practice diligently and pass a final test, they get to keep their instruments.
PDHS Scholarship Night: A Joyful Celebration
(Thanks to Lynette Wolhmuth for this article and photograph)

Eighty-five Palm Desert High School seniors were recognized at the May 18 Senior Scholarship Awards Night by over 27 community organizations, that provided over $80,000 of scholarship funds. The total amount of scholarships awarded, including those from colleges and universities, topped $600,000!

The mood was one of heartfelt gratitude for the support our students received! Three memorial scholarships gave family members a chance to honor beloved Aztecs – Matthew Lingle, Christian Morales, and Jill C. Thomas (former PDHS teacher), and groups like the National Charity League, California Desert Association of REALTORS, the Engineer’s Council, Trojan League of the Desert, Luisa and Oscar Armijo, and many more were on-hand to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2015.

Sallie Fraser, principal of PDCMS, presented the final Vern Fraser Memorial Scholarship to baseball player, Steven Schuknecht. Steven will receive $2,500 a year for 4 years; 16 of these awards have been provided by Sallie and her late husband. Sallie was honored by former recipients and staff for her dedication to supporting Aztec scholar-athletes. Katelyn Gilbert received several awards including the California Women in Agriculture scholarship; one that PDHS has not received in a very long time! Katelyn will receive $3,000 per year over four years.

Kodiak Ravicz and Noah Feldman both received National Merit Scholarships, covering half of the tuition at USC each year. PDHS is proud of all of our seniors and wish them the best as they set off to new adventures!

The Palm Desert Rotary President, Meegan Sullivan and Scholarship Coordinator, Neal Dewing, provided 25 scholarships totaling $21,000.

AVID Shout Out

It was reported in last week’s Beacon that three Indio High School students won an essay contest held by the City of Indio. It would be remiss to not point out that all of the three students, Guadalupe Torres 2014-2015 Interact Club president), Maria Talamantes, and Saul Leira are all in the IHS AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

In other AVID news, the Indio High School students assisted at Indio’s 85th Anniversary Party.

Officers for next year were recently elected.

President: Saul Lira
Vice President: Maria Talamantes
Treasurer: Edgar Ortiz
Secretary: Marissa Ramirez
Publicity: Alizia Zepeda

PDHS Student Photo at PSAM

Kyleigh Roberts, a student at Palm Desert High School, had a photograph on display at the Palm Springs Art Museum. The Fine Arts Creativity Awards: Making History exhibition closed on May 17.
Special Student Recognition Award
Marcela Coronado, Desert Ridge Academy
Zoe Gregory, Palm Desert High School
Shelby Helfand, Palm Desert High School
Connor Holmlund, Palm Desert High School
Amanda Smith, Palm Desert High School
Roger Devulder, Shadow Hills High School
Vanessa Shelly, Shadow Hills High School

Assistive Technology Awards
Stan Purden

Bus Driver Awards
Melinda Aguayo
Sandra Garcia
Engracia Miranda
Sherrie Williams

Counselor Award
Ralph Reyes

Nurse Awards
Kathy Kochel
Norma Rojo

Therapist Awards
Michael Greiner
Dana Webster

Assistant Principal Award
Oron Jackson, Summit High School

Para Educator Award
Pamela Brady, John Adams Elementary School
Thelma Garcia, Harry S. Truman Elementary School
Jannell Johnson, Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School
Judith Lino, Palm Desert High School
Sonia Ramos, John Glenn Middle School
Martha Sanchez, Shadow Hills High School

Teacher Awards
Laura Alcorn, Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School
Laura Cramer, Dwight Eisenhower Elementary School
Judith Hopkins, James Monroe Elementary School
Kerstin Jones, Lyndon Johnson Elementary School
Esmeralda Long, Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School
Cara Moon, Harry S. Truman Elementary School
Jacqueline Ortiz, Desert Ridge Academy
Elizabeth Ramirez, James Monroe Elementary School
Gabriel Rocha, James Carter Elementary School
Julie Schwab, Indio Middle School
Lisa Sobrero, George Washington Charter Elementary School
Kimberly Tingle, John Glenn Middle School
Jennifer Yanaga, Shadow Hills High School

Special Mention Nominations
Kimberly Albert, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School
Terri Anderson, John Adams Elementary School
Yesenia Araiza, James Carter Elementary School
Randall Carter, Harry S. Truman Elementary School
Guadalupe Hernandez, Indio High School
Patricia Rezin-Samuelson, La Quinta High School
Michele Van Halem, James Madison Elementary School
Peggy Yost, John Glenn Middle School
Donald Dorum, John Glenn Middle School

Riverside County SELPA CAC Awards
Paul Gilbert, Teacher, Colonel Mitchell Paige Middle School
Ana Mercado, School Psychologist
Kathleen Short, Teacher, Ronald Reagan Elementary School
Janet Weberling, Speech & Language Pathologist
Verne Wuertz, Program Specialist
**SUCCESS Foundation: A Life Compass**

SUCCESS for teens points students toward a better future
(Reprinted courtesy of Success.com)

*Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill, *The Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peale, *The Magic of Thinking Big* by David Schwartz. These books inspired a young Ossil Macavinta so much that he believes they helped him achieve his former world ranking in the Association of Tennis Professionals, his doctorate in education, his thriving family and more.

Then four years ago, when the accounting and webpage design teacher was searching for free personal-development content to supplement his high school courses in Palm Desert, CA, he wanted something akin to the works that motivated him. “I was looking for something of substance,” he says. “I found this in SUCCESS for Teens.”

After requesting and receiving about 100 free copies of *Success for Teens: Real Teens Talk About Using the Slight Edge*, the book at the core of the SUCCESS for Teens program, Macavinta began implementing its lessons in his classes, which are primarily made up of juniors and seniors who have struggled with mathematics. (The SUCCESS Foundation donates hard copies of the book to qualifying public schools, churches and nonprofit youth-development groups; SUCCESSFoundation.org offers free downloads of the book and facilitator’s guide to everyone.) The kids “are pretty broken down as far as their confidence level,” Macavinta says. “I needed something to build up their confidence by feeding their minds.”

To help them process the information in SUCCESS for Teens, which teaches skills such as goal-setting and developing a positive attitude, Macavinta has students read the book, contribute to a class discussion board, and make poster-board and video presentations. The book really resonates with students who are ready for change and are “ready to grow up,” he says, becoming “a compass to help them with their future.”

Macavinta says the last chapter of the book, *Make Your Dreams Come True*, is often challenging. When prompted to outline their dreams for the future, most of the students are stumped. “Discussing their dreams is not something they are used to [doing]. To ask them to put a specific date on a goal—that is tough! But I push and try to get them to place a date” as a motivation, something that makes the goal seem real as well as achievable.

Asia Neudauer, a junior, took the lessons to heart. “I tried the advice myself,” she says, adding that it turned out to be true.

Over the years, more than 200 of Macavinta’s students have been exposed to SUCCESS for Teens through his class. “I am confident that if students apply these concepts, they will be successful in their academic, professional and personal lives after high school,” he says.

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**Tale as Old as Time**

John Glenn Middle School thespians recently presented *Beauty and the Beast*, a classic Broadway musical. Directed by teacher Lynn Schwimmer, with a fabulous set designed and constructed by Juanita Noble and Francisco Camacho, students invited the audience to *Be Our Guest* as they sang and danced their way through the gala production. The cast featured: villagers and servants Elena Cocione, Alyssa Carrillo, Rachel Bond, Amanda Sutton, Julian Perez, Ashley Brundy, Jordan Menne, Jordan Souza, Izabella Jimenez, Logan Ibarra, Zach Nunez, Alaina Nunez, Julieta Villasenor, Dani Gonzalez, Seth Williams, Louis Basto, Julia Castro, Brenna Williams, Zoe Hammons, and Brandon Peterson. The “silly girls” were played by Faith DeMeulenaere, Taylor Menne, and Sophia Zahn.

Narrator: Julianna Gaytan
Prince: John Helmkamp
Enchantress: Erin Morden
Belle: Celeste Cruz
Gaston: Dallen Stevens
Lefou: Tai Garcia
Maurice: Sergio Rojas
Cogsworth: Marina Dell
Lumiere: Trinity Johnson
Babette: Nyomi Hunt
Mrs. Potts: Roxana Nuno
Chip: Giselle Maldonado
Beast: Diego Jimenez
Madame de la Grande Bouche: Adelynn Bailey
Indio Police Department Invites You To Attend
A Youth Relationship Forum
MAINTAINING OPEN LINES OF DIALOGUE

Monday, June 1, 2015
6:00PM-7:30 PM
Indio Teen Center
Multipurpose Room
81778 Avenue 46
Indio, CA 92201

This youth initiated forum will include a panel of youth, police officers, and community members

“Our Community, Our Commitment”
From the RCOE Information Office

California Common Core State Standards (CCSS) English Language Arts/English Language Development (ELA/ELD) Framework Launch Event
San Joaquin County Office of Education—using guidance, examples, and instructional models from the CA ELA/ELD Framework, the sessions help support teachers, schools, and districts implement the CCSS for ELA/ELD Standards. The day begins with an introduction to the framework from the primary writers, highlighting the wealth of resources and research for all educators. Breakout sessions are centered around the framework chapters and themes and tailored for a TK–5 or 6–12 audience. For more information, visit the ELA/ELD Framework Launch Events Web page.

Next Generation Science Standards State Rollout Symposium II: Awareness to Transition Rollout Training
Join science leaders at the second of a series of statewide professional learning symposia exploring the philosophy, design, and initial implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Registration fee is $250 per participant. All fees must be paid prior to attending the two day symposium. There are NO refunds for participant cancellations. Please limit your district teams to 4-6 people to allow for additional districts to participate, as space is limited. Registration and information at www.regonline.com/NGSS2015Training.

- May 26-27, 2015: Riverside County and San Bernardino County, Chaffey College, Chino Campus.
- September 15-16, 2015: Alameda County, CA State University, East Bay.
- October 15-16, 2015: Fresno County, Fresno Pacific University.
- October 22-23, 2015: San Diego County, CA State University, San Marcos.
- November 2-3, 2015: Siskiyou County, Tehama County Dept. of Education.
- November 9-10, 2015: Santa Clara County, Santa Clara County Office of Education.
- December 8-9, 2015: Ventura County and San Luis Obispo County, Ventura County Office of Ed.

2015–16 Schools To Watch™—Taking Center Stage Program
The CDE is pleased to announce the California Schools to Watch™—Taking Center Stage (STW™—TCS) application process for 2015–16 is now open. STW™—TCS identifies model middle grades schools that are academically excellent, developmentally responsive, socially equitable, and have a culture of strong collaborative leadership while substantially increasing student academic achievement. For more information and to apply, visit the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) STW™—TCS Web page at http://www.clms.net/stw/. Questions: David Militzer, 916-323-5146 or dmilitzer@cde.ca.gov. October 5, 2015 is the deadline to apply.

Third annual STEM Symposium: Anaheim Convention Center
The California STEM Symposium brings together 3,000 teachers, administrators, students, higher education representatives, program providers, philanthropic representatives, and industry representatives to engage them in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education by providing strategies and resources for program implementation. The symposium has a special focus on increasing and supporting the participation of women and girls—as well as other underrepresented groups—in STEM fields. It also highlights leaders in classroom innovation from across the state and attract student teams to showcase critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork. October 28–30, 2015: call for presentations; registration coming soon; vendor registration coming soon.

Great American Shakeout
The CDE has partnered with the Earthquake Country Alliance to encourage you to meet your school or district earthquake drill requirements by participating in this year’s Great California ShakeOut on October 15, 2015 at 10:15 am. The first step is to renew or register your school or district today on the Great California ShakeOut Web site. The ShakeOut is designed to provide a sense of urgency about earthquakes and to encourage people, organizations, schools, and communities to get prepared, practice what to do to be safe, and to learn what plans need to be improved. Registered participants will be given detailed information for their drills. The CDE has worked with many partners to create age-appropriate resources for planning drills, promoting participation, teaching about earthquakes and preparedness, and educating families. (Drills can be held on another day if necessary.) Find resources on the ShakeOut “How Schools Can Participate” web page at http://www.shakeout.org/california/schools.
FUNDRAISERS AND

LIVE FROM THE DUNES
AMELIA EARNHART ELEMENTARY PRESENTS:
A GRAND AFFAIR
DEULING PIANO DINNER SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION
SPONSORED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICES OF DR. SAM LIN

CELEBRITY GUESTS
PAST GUESTS HAVE INCLUDED: GABRIELLE CARMEN
WESLEY EARNHART "THE HAMMER" WILLIAMSON,
JIGER CAMPAH, TREVOR BROWN, JOHN CALAHANE,
JADY CHAPIN, CARY MILLER, AND MORE.

THREE COURSE ITALIAN DINNER BUFFET

Saturday, September 26 @ 5:30
Historic Bermuda Dunes Country Club
*$55-SINGLE OR $100 COUPLE PRIOR TO AUGUST 31ST
$65 - SINGLE OR $120 COUPLE AFTER AUGUST 31ST
*Package ticket with ticket purchased prior to 9/15

Tickets on sale beginning May 1st in the
Office or from a Classroom Teacher.
Payment plan available.

Have something to share?
...A couple of important details when submitting flyers/ads:

- Articles/story ideas or information must be in no later
  then two weeks in advance.
- Ads/flyers must be in the Wednesday before the date of
delivery
- Please send your ad/flyer as a jpg. PDFs work but are
converted before use.
- Already created flyers are acceptable but note that they
  are reduced in size to a quarter page of this newsletter.
  An “ad” created specifically for the quarter page format
  works best.

Questions? Email Mary at mary.perry@desertsands.us.

Staff members are reminded that site
mailboxes are for district/school business.

Wall of Honor

The district education center proudly salutes the family members
of our staff who serve in the United States military. It has been
some time since photos have been updated on our "Wall of
Honor". Kindly provide us with a photo (it will be returned
immediately after being scanned), the name of your family
member, your relationship, and where he or she is currently
serving. Photos will remain on display for one year.

Thanks to your family members for serving, thank you for
supporting them, and thank you for sharing their service with us.

Jane Yoshimura & Mary Perry
Jane.Yoshimura@desertsands.us
Mary.Perry@desertsands.us
Desert Sands Educational Foundation
“Summer Fling” Mixer and
Silent Auction

Please Join Us!!
Great Auction Items, Good Food, and Friends that support our “KIDS” and classrooms

June 25, 2015
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Bermuda Dunes Country Club
Main Clubhouse Dining Room
42-360 Adams Street,
Bermuda Dunes, CA

$25.00 Donation per person
Hot and Cold Hors D’oeuvres
Desserts – Cash Bar

Please RSVP to Theresa Kachiroubas by June 1, 2015
Info@DesertSandsEF.org or Phone 760.609.4633

Please mail checks payable to:
Desert Sands Educational Foundation
P.O. Box 6584
La Quinta, CA 92248

Online RSVP and payment can be made at www.DesertSandsEF.org
La Quinta Public Library
SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2015 PREVIEW
“Reading to the Rhythm” June 16 to July 31, 2015

The La Quinta Public Library proudly presents a preview of their annual summer reading program. It is a two-part reading program, focused on reading and individual involvement. This program is sponsored by our Friends of the La Quinta Library and local La Quinta community partners. Without them, we could not bring all this entertainment and fun to YOU! So take a look at what we have to offer this summer and hop on the Music Train! Let’s take a long ride into READING!!

Children’s Reading Program:
How It Works
For ages 0-9
1. Read 5 books per week
2. Turn in reading log to get a weekly prize
3. Enter to get a Grand Prize
Weekly Prizes include:
Bubbles
Tattoos
Stickers
Rock & Roll Ducks
Egg Shakers
Grand Prize:
Basket filled with coupons, gift cards, books and more!

Teen Reading Program:
How It Works
For ages 13-18
1. Read 300 pages
2. Write a review
3. Turn in the review to get entered to win 1 of 3 weekly prizes
4. Get entered into the Grand Prize
Weekly Prizes include:
Buttons
Tattoos
Ear buds
Beat Glow Wristbands
Grand Prizes include:
Amazon Kindle
$50 Best Buy gift card
and much more!

Our summer reading programs focus on reading and critical thinking. All rules and regulations are subject to change.

 Tween Reading Program:
How It Works
For ages 9-12
1. Read 5 books per week
2. Turn in reading log to get a weekly prize
3. Enter to get a Grand Prize
Weekly Prizes include:
Flutes
Whistles
Hand Cymbals
Whizzers
Grand Prize:
Basket filled with coupons, gift cards, books, and more!

Adult Reading Program:
How It Works
For ages 18+
1. Read a book
2. Write a review
3. Turn in the review to get entered into the monthly drawing and Grand Prize drawing
4. For every seven (7) books you read, get one of two prizes and another chance at the Grand Prize
5. Complete your reading challenge and get five (5) entries into the Grand Prize Drawing!
Prizes include:
Tumblers
Bags
Grand Prizes include:
Amazon Kindle
$50 Barnes & Noble gift card
$50 Hobby Lobby gift card
and much more!

Weekly Program Sample:
All programs are FREE and not in any particular order. Please refer to final schedule in May.

Tuesdays at 11 am:
“Kidz Rock with Ms. Sarah!”
Ages 2 to 12
Story times
Crafts
Music
Games
Performers

Wednesdays at 2 pm:
“Teen Pulse”
Ages 9 -18
Michael Rayner
DJ Basics with Craig Micheals
Teen Movie
Lip Sync Battle
Poetry Workshop
Cassette Lamp Craft

Thursdays at 3 pm:
“Reading to the Rhythm”
All Ages
CHAZZ
Marcus Miller
Arty Loon
Team LQ Dance Party
Family Luau Party
Door Prizes
Games

Saturdays at 4:30 pm:
“Don’t Stop Readin’!”
Ages 18 +
Music Bingo
Abbot the Average
Art, Music & Mocktails
Movies for Grown-ups

Weekly entertainment and educational programs supplement our literacy efforts, and are subject to change.
Hungry for great Mexican food? 
Want to support the performing arts? 
Then visit Pueblo Viejo, Palm Desert off Hwy 111 May 24th thru May 30th 
72620 El Pasco Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260  (760) 674-2171

Support the Blackhawk Brigade!

Thanks for your Support!

Visit all week 
Sunday May 24th 
 thru Saturday May 30th

Please Bring this Flyer!

DEC SQUAT CHALLENGE!
MAY 2015

SQUAT TECHNIQUE

1. Begin in a standing position. Look straight ahead. Chest out, shoulders back, lower back is slightly arched.
2. Slightly bend your knees and keep your feet firmly on the ground. Place heel shoulder-width apart or wider.
3. During the downward phase, keep your body tight and do back and down like you're sitting in an imaginary chair. Keep your elbows over your ankles. Knees should not protrude over the toes.
4. Push through your heels back to starting position. You should feel the pressure of the squat in your heels, not your toes.

Note: You can either do these squats all at once or do them in sets throughout your day.

For example, if you had 50 squats, you could do 10 sets of 5 squats.

REMEMBER:

1. Stay hydrated.
2. Eat regular healthy meals.
3. Get 6-8 hours of sleep.
4. HAVE FUN! 

WEEKENDS ARE REST DAYS!

This challenge is FUN, FREE & OPEN to all DEC Employees to participate as a group or on their own!

**You can feel sore tomorrow or you can feel sorry tomorrow. You choose!**

This activity is completely voluntary, and the District assumes no liability for injury or damages.