

DESERT SANDS IS ACCREDITED

WASCTEAM CAME, SAW, CONQUERED!

The event of April and springtime found Desert Sands with a delightful group of visitors from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) on our two campuses from March 30, through April 2, 2008. The team of ladies was composed of four experienced charter school administrators, so we were blessed in having the company of Dr. Giner Hovenic and her colleagues; Dr. Myranda March, Mrs. Eileen Poole and Ms. Susan Garland.

On Sunday the 30th, the team was fêted at a lovely opening reception, replete with hors d'oeuvres, held at the Palmdale Campus. Dr. Guy, his administrative team and many of the teachers and operational staff were present to welcome the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Group.

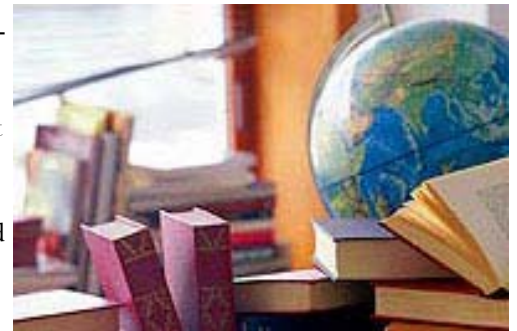
Desert Sands is taking an important step forward in presenting their case for accreditation. It is vital to the life and reputation of the school to advance from candidacy and acquire the coveted accreditation at this point in time.

A WASC accreditation greatly benefits our students. First, a student who graduates with a diploma from a WASC accredited school has more choices when it comes to applying to a college or university. Secondly, it is easier for a student to enter the military with a WASC diploma. Lastly, a student who transfers from a WASC accredited high school will find his/her earned credits are more widely accepted at other high schools.

During the precious time they had with us, the WASC Team met with all of the focus groups from the WASC Report, and also with parents, students, and the school's Board. They toured the campuses and asked many insightful questions.

At noon on Wednesday the 2nd, they made their final presentation to all stakeholders at the Palmdale Campus. This included both commendations and recommendations for us to consider. The WASC Team presented their report to the WASC commission in June.

In conclusion, we are happy to report that Desert Sands received accreditation for three years. We thank everyone involved in this process, including staff, parents and students.



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MOVIE REVIEW: "10,000 B.C." "Critics Review" by: Tamara Willis

From director Roland Emmerich comes a prehistoric epic that follows a young hunter's journey through uncharted territory where spirits rule the land and mighty mammoths shake the earth. In a remote mountain tribe, D'Leh has found his heart's passion, the beautiful Evolet. When a band of mysterious warlords raids his village and kidnaps Evolet, D'Leh is forced to lead a small group to pursue them to the ends of the world to rescue her. Driven by destiny, this unlikely band of warriors must battle saber-tooth tigers and prehistoric predators, and, at their journey's end, they discover a Lost Civilization. Their ultimate fate lies in an empire beyond imagination where great pyramids reach into the skies. Here they will take their stand against a powerful god who has brutally enslaved their people. If you go for CGI and other special effects, you will love this action adventure film. Historically accurate? Perhaps not, but interesting to think about mammoths being used perhaps to build the pyramids.



WORK EXPERIENCE EDUCATION

Got a Job? Get Elective Credits! Join Work Experience Education NOW!

Working students can earn 5 elective credits over an 18 week period of time, up to a 40 credit maximum while attending high school. Students that are **minors** can **work up to 48 hours per week**, and **work 8 hours a day** when participating in the Work Experience Education (WEE) program.

Work Experience Education or WEE, is designed to help students that already have a "paying job" learn professional business skills and research career opportunities.

Students are referred to their Supervising Teacher so they may determine if they are eligible to participate in the Work Experience Education (WEE) program. Eligibility requirements are the same as work permits; students must attend school regularly, earn acceptable grades, demonstrate satisfactory citizenship, complete and are turn weekly assignments, and have completed required Scantron tests. Prequalifying students' eligibility for the WEE program will help minors during job interviews.

Career Technical Education Specialists, Ms. Jodi Mills at the Palmdale site, and Mr. Larry Copeland at the Lancaster site are available to assist students and teachers with the Work Experience Education program and may be contacted for more information.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 4th: Independence Day
- 7th: School Open
- 29th: CAHSEE Testing English/Language Arts
- 30th: CAHSEE Testing Math



JULY 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|--|---|-----|---|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  | 5 |
| 6 | 7  | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29  | 30  | 31 | 30 | 31 |

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 11-15: School Closed, Teacher In-Service Week
- 25: First day, Fall Semester



AUGUST 2008



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
|  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| SCHOOL CLOSED | | | | | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

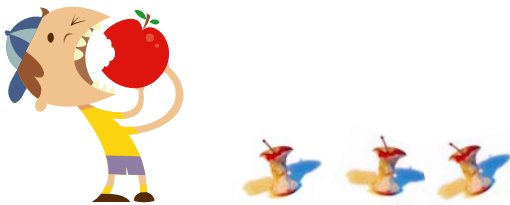
APPLE FACTS;

The old saying, “ an apple a day, keeps the doctor away ”. This saying comes from an old English adage, “ To eat an apple before going to bed, will make the doctor beg his bread.”

Don't peel your apple. Two-thirds of the fiber and lots of antioxidants are found in the peel. Antioxidants help to reduce damage to cells, which can trigger some diseases.

The most popular variety in the United States is the Red Delicious.

Fresh apples float because 25 percent of their volume is air.



Here is some important information about the next California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

Who: Desert Sands seniors will take the July CAHSEE (by arrangement with supervising teacher)

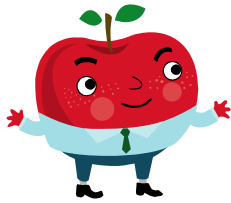
When: Tuesday, July 29—English/Language Arts
Wednesday, July 30—Math Exam
Check in: 8:30AM, tests begin at 9:00AM

Where: Palmdale Campus for Palmdale students (Math Annex, Suite A)
Lancaster Campus for Lancaster students (English Lab, Suite 115)

Tutors are available at both campuses to provide extra help to prepare for the exams.

Please see your supervising teacher for more information

REMINDERS



GRADUATION

Desert Sands class of 2008 graduates participated in their graduation ceremony on June 19, 2008. There were 96 graduates, 68 students walked in the ceremony. Out of our 96 graduates, 14 students were awarded Honor Roll certificates.

Desert Sands next graduation ceremony is scheduled for January 15, 2009

STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

All interested in voicing an opinion are welcome!
This is a once a month meeting to discuss issues important to our student body.

Tuesday, July 29, 2008
Palmdale Math Annex
4PM



SPANISH CLASS



Fall Spanish class will start Thursday, August 30.

Classes will last for 11 weeks. Students will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students will earn 10 credits.

Palmdale Hours: 11:00—12:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Lancaster Hours: 1:30—3:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

