

Volume 2, Issue 4

SUMMER 2009



DESERT SANDS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

DESERT SANDS QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES !**

*It is with great pride that Desert Sands presents to you the graduating class of June 2009. Help us in congratulating all of our graduates!*

Allen, Shane  
 Alvarenga, Francisco  
 Amado, Debhora  
 Andreasian, Kyle  
 Aaragon, James  
 Asplund, Yolanda  
 Basquez, Daniel  
 Blackwell, Brittany  
 Boggs, Cirsten  
 Borjon, Robert  
 Cano, Janet  
 Cardenas, Susana  
 Carpio, Jesus  
 Carrillo, Lilibeth  
 Castillo, Carlos  
 Cleveland, Kayla  
 Colera, Jared  
 Cumigad, Chaslyn  
 Davis, Riley  
 Delgado, Anthony  
 Diaz, Magali  
 Dodd, Gary  
 Dominguez, Bianca  
 Dorantes, Michelle  
 Ekimoto, David  
 Ellison, Katherine  
 Engleton, John  
 Enriquez, Jennifer  
 Esparza, Nataly  
 Fisher, Susan  
 Flores, Luis A  
 Foster, Ebony  
 Francisco, Ricardo  
 Francombe, Any  
 Freeman, Daniel  
 Fritz, Marissa  
 Gallardo, Cynthia  
 Garcia, Jennifer S.  
 Garcia, Manuel O.  
 Gomez, Jesus  
 Gonzalez, Jonathan

Gonzalez, Martha  
 Graciano, Mayra  
 Guzman, Lynn  
 Hadley, Keyheria  
 Harris, Johnny  
 Hatcher, Heath  
 Hayden, Allison  
 Holznecht, Rebecca  
 Hoskins, Paul  
 Jones, Amanda  
 Kalbaugh, Erin  
 Leadbetter, Jawaun  
 Leech, Nolan  
 Maddox, Daveyon  
 Magallanes, Elizabeth  
 Marquez, Erika  
 Martin, Angelo  
 Martinez, Chelsea  
 Matias, Eduardo  
 McLaughlin, Michael  
 Medina, Allen  
 Mendoza, Analy  
 Musselman, Misty  
 Navarrete, Alma  
 Nguyen, Heidi  
 Olmos, Gloria  
 Ortiz, Karen  
 Ortiz, Stephanie  
 Palencia, Esmerlda  
 Phillips, Dakota  
 Pleytez, Jose  
 Pomfret, Tessa  
 Ramirez, Nestor  
 Rangel, Karla  
 Rapko, Sara  
 Reyes, Yuridia  
 Richardson, Kylie  
 Salazar, Tonee  
 Sallmeron, Michelle  
 Santiago, Guadalupe  
 Serrmeno, Jacqueline

Sloas, Matthew  
 Stahlke, Lance  
 Stanbro, Jeffrey  
 Sullivan, Marcell  
 Torres, Ashley N  
 Torres, Karen  
 Tovaas, Sydney  
 Trueblood, Kris  
 Tucker, Christopher  
 Urina, Christopher  
 Vasquez, Anayeli  
 Vasquez, Elmer  
 Vastbinder, Robert  
 Velasquez, Senia  
 Victory, Edward  
 Wade, Jacob  
 Webbs, Danielle  
 Weems, Keela  
 White, Jacob  
 Wichmann, David  
 Williams, Faith  
 Williams, Ronald  
 Wilson, Danny  
 Wright, Tawnee  
 Wynne, Deborah  
 Zelaya, Jennifer  
 Zell, Aaron



**Inside this issue:**

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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Cindy Tanner—Manager of Career Technical Education

## “Learn the Business Skills of Professionals” at Desert Sands Charter High School!

### Who Should Attend?

Students who want to learn business skills that will make them **more marketable** in today’s competitive job place.

Students that want to develop their professional skills in order to be considered for possible **higher paying jobs**.

Students that want to **earn an Award of Completion**.

Students who want to **build up their resume**.

Students that want to **earn “Elective” school credits**.

### What Students Will Learn

How to Dress Professionally and make a Good Impression  
Professional Communication Skills  
Resume Writing  
Key Elements of Outstanding  
Customer Service  
Customer Interaction/Handling  
Customer Complaints  
What Employers want when Hiring  
Interview Skills  
Goal Setting Techniques



### Class Information

Classes are held **1 day each week**, for a **5 week period of time**.

Each class session is **3 hours long** and packed full of student discussions, participation activities and fun!

Students may earn **3 Elective School Credits** by attending **all** classes, completing **all** coursework and receiving the “**Award of Completion**” certificate to earn any school credits.



### Student Comments on the Customer Service Courses:

*“I liked all the business skills that were taught. It was a very cool class, I learned so many things I didn’t know that will really help me to become a business professional.”*

*“I was having trouble getting hired for a job so I took these courses. I used what I learned in the classes and by the fourth week of the class, I beat out over 70 other job applicants and got hired at Magic Mountain!”*

*“This class taught me how to present myself in a more positive, approachable way. I didn’t realize because I’m a big guy, how the way I sat, my facial expressions and even my handshake may send the message of intimidation. It taught me how an interviewer forms impressions of applicants and what I need to do to make a good impression so I can be the one hired for the job, it was great!”*

*“I want you to know I’m the kind of person that never finishes any class that I start. But I showed up to this class every week because it was so interesting and I had a lot of fun learning the topics. I also wanted to get a job and now I have two job interviews scheduled for next week! I learned so much in this class, it was awesome!”*

## CAHSEE TESTING

**What is it?** The CAHSEE is the exit exam for all high school students in California. There is a math portion and an English portion. **Passing the CAHSEE** is a requirement, along with completing all 230 high school credits, to receive a diploma.

**Why?** The purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement and to ensure that all graduates have BASIC reading, writing, and mathematics skills.

**Who?** All high school students are required to pass the CAHSEE. Students first have an opportunity to take the exam when they are in 10th grade. If necessary, students will have two more opportunities when they are in 11th grade. If necessary, they will have three more opportunities when they are in 12th grade.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

JULY 28, 2009  
OCTOBER 6, 2009  
NOVEMBER 3, 2009  
DECEMBER 5, 2009  
FEBRUARY 2, 2010  
MARCH 16, 2010  
MAY 11, 2010



### MATHEMATICS

JULY 29, 2009  
OCTOBER 7, 2009  
NOVEMBER 4, 2009  
DECEMBER 12, 2009  
FEBRUARY 3, 2010  
MARCH 17, 2010  
MAY 12, 2010

**How?** Intensive CAHSEE Prep courses are available from your supervising teacher. Free tutoring covering the CAHSEE is also available.

**To find out if you have already passed the CAHSEE, please contact your supervising teacher.**

# MOVIE REVIEW: “Critics review” by Tamarah Willis

## “17 Again”

The plot line is that a middle-aged dude (Matthew Perry of “Friends”), his marriage shattered, his job dead-ended, his children complete strangers, suddenly finds himself literally “17 Again” with a chance for a major do-over, as portrayed by Zac Efron. Will he choose a brand-new future or pursue the path that’s led to failure and disappointment?

So far Perry has not had great success with his film roles, but perhaps this will be his “Big”, which made Tom Hanks a household name. Burt Steers directed this reverse coming-of-age comedy. I think you will find the premise interesting and not cute or sappy. Worth a look-see for young and older folks.

WHO SAYS YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG ONCE?



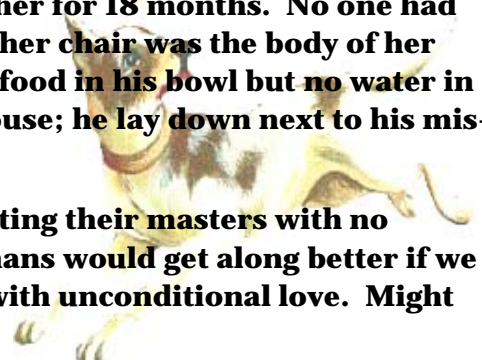
## “HAVE YOU EVER” by Booth McKeown - The following article is an editorial and does not necessarily express the views of Desert Sands Charter High School.

**Have you ever wondered why dogs make such great pets? Cats are cleaner and they eat less. Fish are quieter and hardly eat at all. Dogs bark, sometimes at very inconvenient times. They roll in the grass; if there is something smelly and sticky to roll in all the better.**

**Cats tolerate us; fish are unaware of us. However, our dogs love us. We are the center of their existence. It doesn't matter whether we've been gone ten minutes or ten days, they still greet us with the same unbounded enthusiasm when we get home.**

**We can ignore them, starve them, freeze them, and they come back wanting nothing more than to please us. I read an article a couple of weeks ago about a lady who died in South Carolina. She was a widow and childless. She lived in a rural area. This lady died, sitting in her recliner in front of the TV, and no one found her for 18 months. No one had checked on her until her house was foreclosed on. Next to her chair was the body of her dog. This dog had apparently died of thirst; there was still food in his bowl but no water in the house. He didn't die fighting, trying to get out of the house; he lay down next to his mistress and died.**





**We hear how dogs will fight and even die protecting their masters with no thought to their own safety. I wonder if we humans would get along better if we started treating people like our dogs treat us...with unconditional love. Might be worth a try.**



*Schedule of Events*

- ◆ JUNE 10: GRAD NIGHT
- JUNE 14: FLAG DAY
- JUNE 16: GRADUATION
- JUNE 21: FATHERS DAY
- JUNE 21: FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
- JUNE 29—JULY 2: STAFF DEVELOPMENT



# JUNE 2009

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	29	30		

*Schedule of Events*

- JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY
- JULY 3—10 SUMMER BREAK

# JULY 2009

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

## Schedule of Events

- 8/10—8/14; STAFF DEVELOPMENT

# AUGUST 2009

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

## STUDENT ADVISORY

The Student Advisory Committee is just about to complete its first year at Desert Sands! As many of our current members are seniors and graduation is just around the corner, we are looking for others interested in carrying on the amazing progress this dedicated bunch has started!



Grad Night at Disneyland (June 10, 2009) is approaching rapidly. The park belongs to the graduates from 11 pm to 6 am!!! Any student who is within 60 units of high school completion needs to see their teacher ASAP for the appropriate forms to purchase a ticket at the front desk (both campuses)!

Coming events for the 2009-2010 school year include (but are not limited to) student honors, possible summer carnival (with dunking tank for teacher and principal volunteers) fall festival, (fear factor theme)...some community service with the Grace Resource Center...fundraisers in conjunction with Jamba Juice, a car wash, etc. Bring your ideas and join us Mondays in Lancaster and Tuesdays in Palmdale.



## ELECTIVE CLASSES

Desert Sands offers so many elective classes, it's hard to decide which ones to take!

Online Driver's Education



Art I & II



Child Development



Spanish



Customer Service



Work Experience Education

Music





## TEACHER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Plett is our teacher in the spotlight. What can be said about Andrew Plett that is neither boring nor inappropriate for the readers of this newsletter? Well, Mr. Plett has been teaching with Desert Sands for the better part of two years, has written some of the math curriculum that is currently being used, and has played on the DSCHS softball team for a few seasons.

What may be surprising to hear, is that he commutes from Boyle Heights (East L.A.) in order to work at this wonderful school. In addition to making a long commute and teaching, Mr. Plett is finishing coursework for his second master's degree in Education Administration. The first was in Secondary Education.

On a personal note, Mr. Plett enjoys playing a variety of instruments including; drums, bass, keyboard, and trumpet. He is currently playing with a hip-hop group that is scheduled to perform shows starting in the fall of 2009. On the golf course, Mr. Plett can send the ball flying 300+ yards and sometimes they even land in the fairway. Although, he has been seen at multiple Dodgers' games, he is a Cubs fan and hopes that they can make it to the playoffs again this year.

When asked what he wants to do when he grows up, Mr. Plett's usual response is, "Since I'm not good looking enough to be a rock star, I guess I'll find something else."



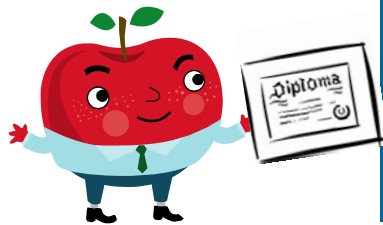
## NEW MUSIC CLASS OFFERED AT DESERT SANDS

Desert Sands now has a general music class! The ten-week course, taught by Mr. Carbonara, offers Desert Sands students the opportunity to learn how to read and write music. In addition, students are studying the piano and learning about the basic elements of music. During a part of each class, students bring in samples of their favorite music for classroom discussion. Additional topics are covered in the class, which are based on the students' interests.

The current session will run until the week of May 25. A ten-week summer session will begin the week of July 13 (one week after the summer break). The class is currently only offered at the Lancaster Campus, but a course at the Palmdale Campus is being considered.



## REMINDERS



### GRADUATION

DSCHS Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center on June 16, 2009.

### TUTORING

Tutoring is always available at DSCHS. Both the Palmdale and Lancaster campus have tutors ready to provide students with extra help from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Please pick up a schedule at the front desk.

JOIN THE FUN—DESERT SANDS HAS STUDENT CLUBS!

#### PALMDALE CAMPUS

PHOTO CLUB; TUESDAYS FROM 12—1 IN THE COMPUTER LAB - MR. ROBERTS

GAMING CLUB; TUESDAYS FROM 5:00PM—6:00PM IN THE ENGLISH LAB—MR. LEE

#### LANCASTER CAMPUS

PHOTO CLUB; THURSDAYS FROM 12—1 IN THE MATH LAB—MR. VAILE

GAMING CLUB; TUESDAYS FROM 5:00PM—6:00PM IN THE MATH LAB—MR. GIFFORD