

# DVD Senior Family Newsletter

October 2018

## Grade Level Announcement!

### *Upcoming DTLA Urban Hike Field Trip*

On Thursday, November 15 our students will go on an adventure, participating in our annual DTLA Urban Hike! Students will discover downtown Los Angeles through a scavenger hunt. They will learn about the diverse culture, art, architecture and people that make up the heart of our metropolis. Please anticipate a field trip slip in the coming weeks. We would also like to kindly solicit an optional donation to cover transportation costs. Of course, this is not required. If you would like to donate \$5-10 to help with transportation costs, please send either a check (written to Da Vinci Schools-include donation indication in notes area) or cash with your student. Frank Solis, our government and economics teacher, is in charge of receiving these donations.

## Course Blurbs:

### *English 12: Russell Stoll* *([rstoll@davincischools.org](mailto:rstoll@davincischools.org))*

For their Exhibition Project, seniors will be writing and producing digital media content that speaks to a niche audience that they connect with. Whether the seniors love sports, true crime, politics, comedy, or just love to tell stories, there are a ton of people out there who love it too. And, thanks to modern technology, it is easier than ever to connect with those people. Seniors will be researching a selection of blogs, vlogs and podcasts - and then will be creating their own leading up to Exhibition. Seniors will be sharing the intention of their digital media deliverables in an "elevator pitch" style speech that will help them explain their work to potential investors.

If you did not receive this newsletter in your e-mail, you can request to be added to the e-mail list by e-mailing Frank Solis at [fsolis@davincischools.org](mailto:fsolis@davincischools.org). We can also provide physical copies of the monthly newsletter upon request.



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## Senior All-Star

*Ashley Ayala*



Ashley has been selected as this month's Senior All-Star for her dedication to learning. Ashley does a great job at engaging thoughtfully in class discussions and elevating the academic discourse. She exemplifies true curiosity for learning and genuinely pursues new knowledge.

## Course Blurbs cont...

*College Writing: Carmen Haas*

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In the CW class, students have begun their unit 2 project called Life After High School. For this project, students will work on the pathway that they have chosen in the previous unit and create action steps for themselves to get items done. Some of the action steps seniors are working on is personal essay draft #2, applications for various colleges, financial aid in the form of FAFSA and or scholarships, and various other components needed for post high school preparation. The goal is to have seniors structure a plan of what they intend to do after they graduate and communicate that plan to their counselors.

*Math Explorations: Austin Anderson*

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Math Explorations is nearing the final phase for their physical product design project. After final project presentations on Oct. 29 and 30, we will begin our second major project cycle, this one relating to the theme of sound and music. We have also recently finished a mini-project relating to digital photo compression, where we manipulated an image to make it simpler, then converted it into list of numbers. Then students were then tasked with creating a mathematical rule to make the list shorter.

*Government: Frank Solis*

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In government class, students are developing oral arguments to present in front of the "U.S. Supreme Court". In their legal teams, students take a side on a constitutional question and present their case in a moot court. This month we are learning the liberties and rights afforded in the U.S. Constitution and the judicial branch's role in the interpretation and evolution of these rights.

*Pre-Calculus/Calculus: Austin Anderson*

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Calculus has recently been studying Riemann sums for approximating the area under a curve and will soon be learning about the essential foundation of all calculus, which is the concept of limit. Precalculus has recently been studying the properties of functions, including function transformations as well as even and odd functions. We will soon begin studying the sine and cosine functions in great detail. Both Calculus and Precalculus have recently completed a mini-project in which we cropped and simplified an image down to a row of 12 pixels and then used sine and cosine waves to approximate the red-green-blue (RGB) values of those individual pixels. This is a simplified version of the methodology behind the JPEG photo compression format!

## *Psychology: Erin Naymark*

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We are well into studying the brain in psychology class! We have learned about the main parts of the brain, the function of each area and what makes us uniquely human. We have started on an art collage project called "The Story of My Brain" in which students connect their understanding about the function of major brain regions to their own lives. They will be displaying their 2D and 3D brains at the end of the month. Drop in to see some of the amazing collage brains they are working on. Towards the end of the month we will be learning about neurons. Students will start on their next project which is a collaborative project to model neurons and their function. Through all of this exploration into the brain, mind and self, students will gain a greater understanding into how they operate.



## *Advanced Architecture: Katherine Simon*

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Over the last few weeks students have researched careers they might be interested in and all the requirements of how to become a professional in that particular field. Some chose careers related to Architecture and Design, but I gave students the opportunity to explore any career they might be interested in. Students had to complete a career project that consisted of them creating a video using windows movie maker explaining their chosen career and presented it to the class.

Students will begin their residential design project this month. They will be designing a Habitat for Humanity house using the complete architectural design process. During this process they will learn computer aided drafting. This month they will complete the planning phase and create sketches of their ideas. They also will research and analyze building codes/safety requirements and the Habitat for Humanity guidelines.

## *Advanced Graphic Design: Ralph Villalobos*

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In Advanced Graphic Design we are focusing on Photography and digital collage. Students are tasked with finding a passion project for their exhibition. This passion they are pursuing will be visually expressed through a series of photos. This collection of photos will be displayed inside their very own silhouette, which depicts a pose referencing said passion. (this makes a lot of sense visually) Students will also be drafting their Artist statements to go along with the collage silhouette project in order to post them together in the senior quad for exhibition.

