

# DaVTA Newsletter

## Additional Security

Da Vinci Tree Academy has long-term security upgrade plans that we have been executing on in stages. This past week the school installed an additional six security cameras and repositioned four cameras to have a better point of view. We now have around 50 cameras on our campus. That is a lot when you consider that we only have 9 classes.

In the coming weeks we will continue our security upgrades by testing our emergency loudspeaker systems. We wanted to inform our community that we will be running tests of the new systems both on weekends and during school hours. If you live nearby and hear a loud voice coming from the school on a Saturday afternoon, don't worry. Please also let your children know that we will be having practice drills, but that there is no reason to be anxious or upset. Classroom teams will also be telling our students about the drills and that there is no cause for alarm. Drills will begin the first week in March.



## Trophy Challenge Change for Kinder and 1st

**This is important!** During our staff meeting last Friday, administration and the kindergarten and first grade teams spent a lot of time discussing issues we are seeing in our youngest grades. In short, our students understand the academic content. The thing they are struggling with that is taking an unreasonable amount of time is understanding the user interface on the website.

After consideration, and effective immediately, we will be multiplying the Kindergarteners' and First Graders' trophies. Kinder kids will have a x3 multiplier and First Graders will have a x2 multiplier. The updated trophy goals are below. Please stop the subject when you hit the gift card number!

	Kinder Trophies	1st Trophies
"A" Grade (100% for 1st Graders, 90% for Kindergarteners)	3	5
110% Extra Credit in the Subject	4	6
Target Gift Card (\$5 for first two, \$20 for the final subject)	7	11

# Trophy Challenge Gift Cards Going Out

Does your hardworking kiddo have a mysterious Target gift card that you didn't know about? Well, it may have come from the Trophy Challenge! As promised, we are giving out Target gift cards for kids who go above and beyond to help prepare themselves for the Arizona state tests coming up in April.

Last week we gave away \$85 in gift cards. This morning we gave away another \$240! Please remind your child to complete their trophies both for the grades and for the money! The Trophy Challenge Round One ends on March 1st.

## Important Upcoming Dates

Please keep the following dates in mind.

Event	For	Date(s)	Notes
<b>NO SCHOOL - Rodeo Break</b>	All Students	2/22/24-2/23/24	Four day weekend for Rodeo Break
<b>Fun Friday - Skate Country (this is also the end of the Trophy Challenge)</b>	All Students	3/01/24	Skate Country Day for kids who are caught up with their homework, in-class work, and got an A on their three Trophy Challenge subjects.
<b>Belated Valentine's Day Dance</b>	6th-8th Grades	3/08/24	STUCO's Belated Valentine's Day Dance for Middle School. Location and time TBD.
<b>Picture Day Part 1</b>	Kindergarten through 3rd Grade	3/11/24	We will be taking individual and group photos for the Kindergarten, first, second, and third grades on this day.
<b>Picture Day Part 2</b>	4th through 8th Grades	3/12/24	We will be taking individual and group photos for the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades on this day.
<b>Picture Day Part 3</b>	All Students	3/15/24	Friday of picture week is our retake day for any students who missed their picture day.
<b>Zoo Field Trip</b>	Kindergarten and 2nd Grades	3/22/24	Students in Kindergarten and 2nd Grade will be going to the zoo and Reid Park.
<b>State Testing</b>	3rd through 8th Grades	Early April	In early April, grades 3-8 will have their annual tests. Exact dates TBD.
<b>Spring Break</b>	All Students	4/22/24-4/26/24	Off-Peak Spring Break! Have a great vacay!
<b>Catalina Island Marine Institute</b>	6th-8th Grades	4/28/24-5/02/24	Our capstone field trip for 6th-8th grades! Marine Biology and Oceanography camp at the Catalina Island Marine Institute led by Principal Roll is something kids look forward to every year.

# Catalina Island Marine Institute

Middle school parents and guardians, we only have around 25 students signed up for the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) field trip in late April / early May. This year we were able to convince CIMI to allocate us 48 spots instead of the usual 32. If you are interested in having your student attend (even if you don't have the money readily available), please sign up immediately!

CIMI is a very busy science camp. Space is limited and demand is extremely high. If we have a legitimate demand for more kids to go to the camp, Principal Roll wants us to be able to take advantage of it. We may not get another chance to increase our numbers for a few years if we don't do it this year.

## Give a Free Donation to Da Vinci Tree

Instead of paying part of your state taxes, Arizona allows you to donate to our school! An individual may claim a nonrefundable tax credit for making contributions or paying fees directly to a public school (like Da Vinci Tree). The public school tax credit is claimed by the individual taxpayer on Form 322.

The maximum credit allowed is \$400 for married filing joint filers and \$200 for single, heads of household and married filing separate filers.

Again, **your donation will be directly refunded on your Arizona State taxes, dollar for dollar.** For instance, if you owe the state \$50 and you donate \$35 to our school, you will now only owe Arizona \$15. If you owe the state \$50 and you donate \$100 to us, you'll now receive a \$50 return on your taxes! It is basically a donation that gets fully refunded to you!

There are two ways to donate:

1. To use cash or a check, make your donation in the front office. Our staff will write you a receipt on the spot. You will receive your tax credit letter in the mail within the week.
2. To use a credit or debit card, visit our SquareUp payment site at <https://davincitree.square.site/>. This site allows you to donate \$200, \$400, or a custom amount.

Thank you in advance to everyone who donates! We are trying to create a savings fund in order to afford more amazing field trips for our students.

## Acknowledging Alumni Accomplishments

We would like to congratulate our alumni Autumn for taking third place in the Pima County writing contest. Autumn graduated top of her class at Da Vinci Tree last year and is a Freshman at University High School. We are so proud of her!

