

RITE NOW @ ROP



Desert Lily Academy celebrated the histories, contributions, and heritage of Hispanic and Latino Americans during Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Americans make up the largest minority group in Arizona today, and generations of Hispanic Americans have consistently helped make our state successful and prosperous. Throughout the month, the students at Desert Lily Academy participated in lessons focused on:

- Learning the difference between Spanish, Latino, and Hispanic cultures
- The establishment of the Southwest and the injustice of Native Americans and the Latino populations in the area
- Spanish being the first European language spoken in the United States
- Accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino Americans of past and present

The girls' favorite lesson was on vejigante masks, originating in Puerto Rico. The vejigante is a demon figure from medieval Spanish folklore that has become a staple of Puerto Rican Carnival culture. During Carnival festivals, the vejigante dress in a horned mask called a careta, and flowing costume to join the crowds in singing and dancing. The girls used Paper Mache to artfully create their own version of the more than 300-year-old tradition.

The girls walked away with a better understanding of the Hispanic traditions and gained an increased respect for the culture.