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Back to School Means Palmdale City Library to the Rescue with Free Online Services!
PALMDALE – As thousands of Antelope Valley students head back to school for another year of learning, the Palmdale City Library is reminding residents of its free online resources to help make the school year more productive and rewarding.

One of the most popular online features is HelpNow, an online “real time” homework assistance tool that covers subjects for all school grades, and even for adult learners. Created by Brainfuse, Inc., this free service is available at www.cityofpalmdale.org/library and is available in English and Spanish.

“HelpNow provides students with online access to live tutors from 1 pm to 10 pm seven days a week, offering homework help, skills building, writing assistance and more,” said Palmdale Librarian Debbie Petersen.

“The beauty of HelpNow is that it is much more than just a service where students can submit a question and get an answer,” explained Peterson. “Students often have issues that require more attention and detail. HelpNow provides targeted exercises to help students master a specific academic skill, and the option for students to submit a writing assignment for review by a tutor,” she said.

HelpNow is available free to anyone who has a Palmdale City Library card. Library cards are available free of charge by either stopping by the Library or registering online at www.cityofpalmdale.org/library.

Students may also use the Library's free online research tool called eLibrary. eLibrary allows students to find the answers they need from more than 2,500 magazines, newspapers, books, transcripts, maps, pictures, multimedia and educator approved Web sites.

"Free search engines like Google are great for finding simple answers to simple questions, but sometimes answers require a more authoritative source and that's what you get with eLibrary," said Peterson. "When you search the Internet you have no idea whether you're getting accurate information or not. With eLibrary, you can trust that the information you get is accurate."

Students can access eLibrary through the Palmdale City Library's Web site from school, at home, or at any other Internet-enabled computer. A Palmdale City Library card is required to use eLibrary.

"Once they are logged on, students can find information that can help with assignments and homework at any grade level, and access a wealth of resources such as magazines, videos, pictures, maps and more," said Melin. "These are the kinds of resources that teachers want and expect students to be using for assignments. There are also short tutorials available on the Web site if you want some guidance."

All information accessed on eLibrary can be translated into 10 other languages including Spanish.

Other online services that may be of interest to students include:

Mango, a language learning system that provides users with the opportunity to take foreign language or English as a Second Language (ESL) courses free of charge. It teaches actual conversation skills for a wide variety of languages, including Spanish, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian and even Mandarin Chinese—all for free!

America's Newspapers, a digital newspaper collection covering papers across the country.

GotResumeBuilder.com, a free online resource that helps you build professionally designed resumes with ease.

For more information about the Palmdale City Library, please call 661/267-5600 or visit their Web site, www.cityofpalmdale.org/library.

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