

# Monthly Newsletter

DIGRIGOLI SCHOOL  
OF COSMETOLOGY



FEB 2, 2026



12/24/25 DEMO WITH MRS. D

## Happy February! Welcome New Students!

We are so excited to formally welcome all of our new students!

Thank you for choosing DiGrigoli School, and thank you to the students who are supporting and leading the new members of the DiGrigoli Team!

February will be an exciting month with a Valentine's Day event, preparations for the field trip to the International Beauty Show in March, and the last month before the official start of Spring!

This month we will also be celebrating "Random Acts of Kindness Day" on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

One can never go wrong with kindness, and there can never be too much of it. The idea behind National Acts of Kindness day is to cultivate a positive environment and to brighten someone's day!

It may not seem significant, but just like the domino effect, one act of kindness can lead to more positive outcomes.

Here is a small list of acts to inspire you:

- Compliment at least 5 people.
- Hold the door open for someone.
- Leave a positive sticky note on a mirror or desk
- Pay for the person behind you at a coffee shop or drive-thru.
- Leave a nice card or snack for your mail carrier or delivery person.
- Call a friend you haven't spoken to in a while.

Thank you for patiently learning with us and being kind during the management transition.

Have a great month!

*The DiGrigoli Staff*

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Happy February!

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School Updates  
& News

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Student Events

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Birthday  
Spotlight

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Student  
Highlights

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President's  
Message





## School Updates and News

February is Black History Month! This month, we will dive into the history and techniques behind protective styles. We would love for you all to write a short message saying why inclusive cosmetology matters to you. It will be pinned on the bulletin board next to the clock-in. Every morning we can reflect and remind ourselves to be understanding and inclusive. ❤️

There will also be some history right here in the newsletter! Madam C.J. Walker was America's first self-made female millionaire. In the late 1880s through the early 1900s, she built a business empire selling hair care products for black women. She went on to use her fortune to fund scholarships for women, the NAACP, and other charities.

**Read more on P.4**

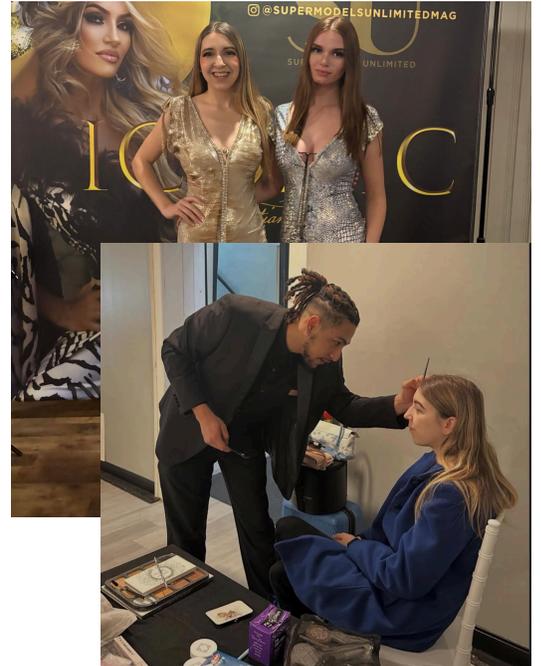
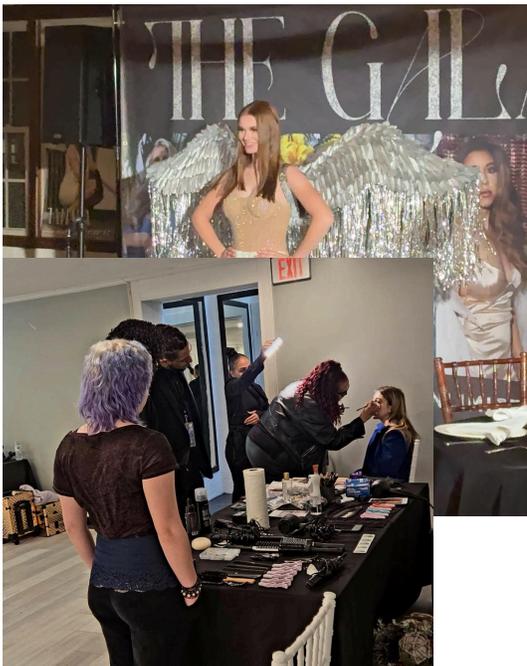
We will be doing a Valentine's Day event on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>!

Theory will still be held.

*At the end of the month we will award 4 student highlights, to be announced in the newsletter.*

**Don't forget, we have a suggestion box!**

Pen and paper are stationed at the front desk, and suggestions can be anonymous. Thank you!



## Student Events

A huge thank-you to the students who signed up to do hair and makeup at the Supermodels Unlimited Magazine Gala!

Please give a round of applause to Javaun, Joel, Nya, Toni, and Jahina!

They worked with Shar Turner and Justin Haynes to make this show a success and it couldn't have been done without them!

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## Student Highlights



**Nya Wilson**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Nya has graduated and we will miss her dearly! Thank you so much for everything you do and will go on to do.

We are so proud!



**Alyssa Desso**

Alyssa has the highest amount of infection control signatures for January!

She has also recently hit the hours to take clients, and hit the ground running from day 1!

Thank you Alyssa!



**Carissa Carpenter**

Carissa consistently demonstrates professionalism, skill, and a true respect for skin health! She is constantly setting a standard that reflects the integrity of the industry, and is always dressed to the nines!

Thank you Carissa!



**Ilana Bourke**

Ilana has gone above and beyond in her services as well as helping other students. She is always the first to volunteer, and clients left plenty of kind comments and bell rings for her!

Thank you Ilana!



### Birthday Spotlight

Happy Birthday!

Audrey Messina 2/8

Celine Jean-Denis 2/10

Summer Tetreault 2/14

Reese Granholm 2/21

Gisselle Hernandez 2/22

Make sure to tell these students and staff happy birthday!



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# Madam C.J. Walker

## HOW MADAM C.J. WALKER BECAME A SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE DESPITE JIM CROW OPPRESSION, WALKER FOUNDED HER OWN HAIRCARE COMPANY THAT HELPED THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN GAIN FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.

Madam C.J. Walker was born Sarah Breedlove on December 23, 1867. Her parents, Owen and Minerva, were Louisiana sharecroppers who had been born into slavery. Sarah, their fifth child, was the first in her family to be born free after the Emancipation Proclamation. Her early life was marked by hardship; she was orphaned at seven, married at 14 (to Moses McWilliams, with whom she had a daughter, A'Lelia, in 1885) and became a widow at 20.

Walker and 2-year-old A'Lelia moved to St. Louis, where Walker balanced working as a laundress with night school. She sang in the choir of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church and became active in the National Association of Colored Women. It was in St. Louis that she first met Charles J. Walker, the man who would become her second husband—and inspire the name of her eventual empire.

### The Walker System

Walker was inspired to create hair care products for Black women after a scalp disorder caused her to lose much of her own hair. She came up with a treatment that would completely change the Black hair care industry.

Walker's method, known as the "Walker system," involved scalp preparation, lotions and iron combs. Her custom pomade was a wild success. While other products for Black hair—largely manufactured by white businesses—were on the market, she differentiated hers by emphasizing its attention to the health of the women who would use it. She sold her homemade products directly to Black women, using a personal approach that won her loyal customers. She went on to employ a fleet of saleswomen to sell the product whom she called "beauty culturalists."

### Madam C.J. Walker Company

Walker moved to Denver in 1905, with just \$1.05 in savings in her pocket. Her products like Wonderful Hair Grower, Glossine and Vegetable Shampoo began to gain a loyal following, changing her fortunes. Charles J. Walker moved to Denver in 1906 and they were married soon after. At first, her husband helped her with marketing, advertising and mail orders, but as the business grew, they grew apart and the two divorced.

In 1908, Walker opened a beauty school and factory in Pittsburgh named after her daughter. In 1910, she moved her business headquarters to Indianapolis, a city with access to railroads for distribution and a large population of African American customers. She left the management of the Pittsburgh branch to A'Lelia. By the time of her death, the Madame C.J. Walker Company had employed some 40,000 people, largely Black women who sold Walker's products.

Walker's reputation as an entrepreneur was matched only by her reputation for philanthropy. She established clubs for her employees, encouraging them to give back to their communities and rewarding them with bonuses when they did. At a time when jobs for Black women were fairly limited, she promoted female talent, even stipulating in her company's charter that only a woman could serve as president. She donated generously to educational causes and Black charities, funding scholarships for women at Tuskegee Institute and donating to the NAACP, the Black YMCA and dozens of other organizations that helped shape Black history.

### Madame C.J. Walker's Death And Legacy

Madam Walker died at her country home in Irvington-on-Hudson on May 25, 1919, at the age of 51, of hypertension. Her plans for her Indianapolis headquarters, the Walker Building, were carried out after her death and completed in 1927. Today, she is remembered as a pioneering Black female entrepreneur who inspired many with her financial independence, business acumen and philanthropy.

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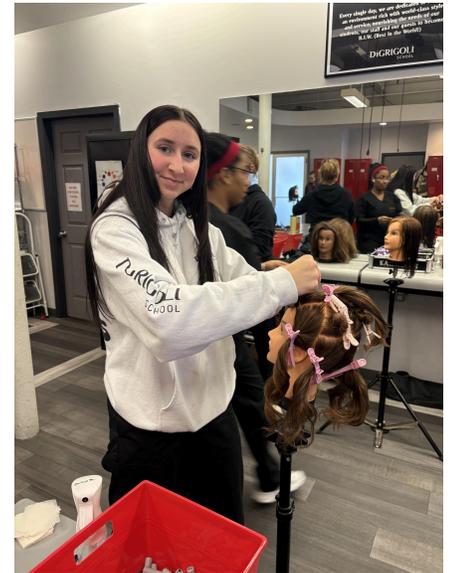


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## Basic Room Highlights

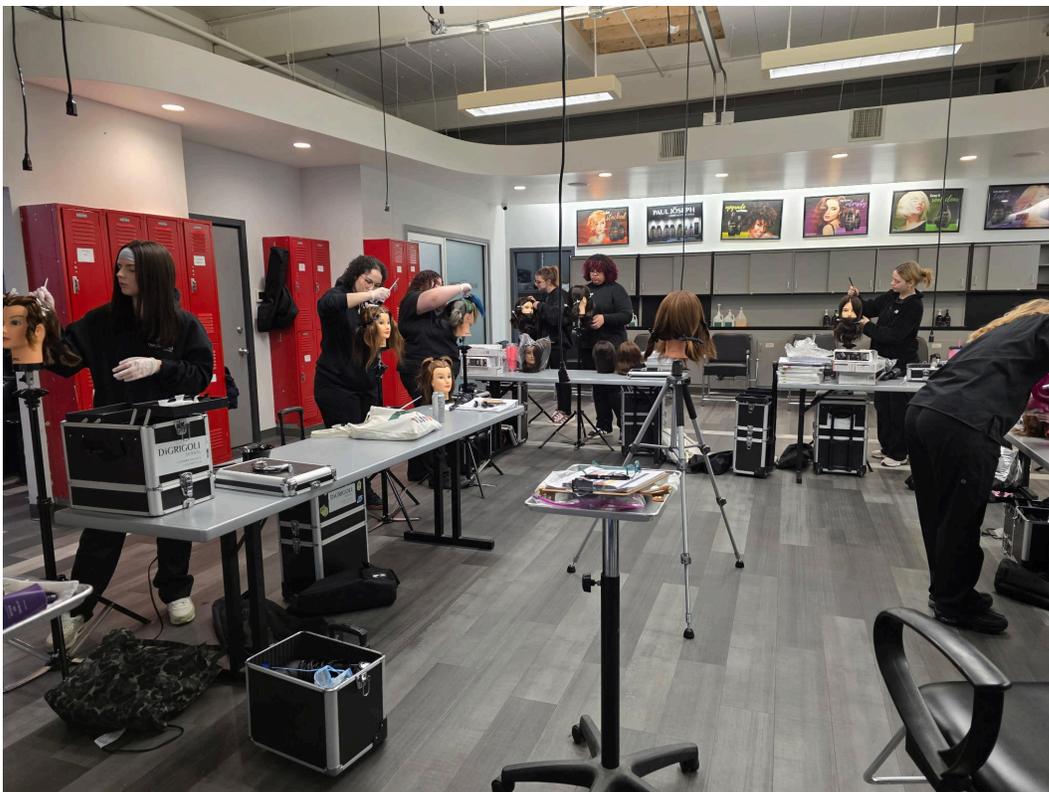


Welcome new students! We see you working hard alongside your new classmates!



The Basic Room is working hard every day!

Here's Rachel practicing a nine-part-section on her mannequin!



**PRACTICING A WASH IN THE SHAMPOO BOWL!**

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## President's Message

Dear DiGrigoli Family and clients,

As we step into 2026, I want to take a moment to reflect, celebrate, and look forward with excitement and pride. At DiGrigoli School of Cosmetology and Esthetics, change is not just welcomed—it is embraced as part of our growth, our passion, and our commitment to excellence.

2025 brought meaningful transformation, and I am proud to say that 2026 will be even stronger.

From the moment you walk through our doors, you will feel the difference. Our Front Desk Leader, Paris, is here to support you from the beginning of your visit to the very end, ensuring every experience starts and finishes with care and professionalism.

Our talented instructors—Tina, Laurie, and Andrew—continue to shape the next generation of beauty professionals with dedication, creativity, and heart. Their commitment to education and mentorship is the foundation of our school.

We are honored to have welcomed our Director of Cosmetology, Mrs. D, whose extensive background as a salon owner and industry professional brings a wealth of real-world experience to our classrooms and clinic floor.

Our Director of Esthetics, Mrs. Stephanie, alongside Instructor Yasmine, exemplify excellence.

With over 25 years of spa ownership, Mrs. Stephanie brings not only deep knowledge, but passion, leadership, and inspiration to every student she mentors.

Behind the scenes, our Admissions Director, Denise, leads with expertise and understanding as a licensed cosmetologist herself, guiding future students as they begin their journeys.

Kate, our Operations Director plays a vital role in keeping DiGrigoli running at its best—combining strong leadership, operational excellence, and a student-first mindset. Her focus ensures our students are supported, educated, and positioned to graduate with confidence, while our team continues to grow through ongoing education and professional development.

To our valued clients, thank you. Your trust and support mean everything to us. While services are performed by students, they are always guided by experienced, passionate instructors who ensure quality, care, and professionalism. Education and service go hand in hand here—and we have fun while doing it. As President of DiGrigoli School, I am incredibly proud of our team, our students, and our community. We are building something special together, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish in the year ahead.

Here's to growth, passion, education, and excellence—and to an unforgettable 2026.

Warmest regards,

*Paul DiGrigoli*

*President*

*DiGrigoli School of Cosmetology & Esthetics*

*Thank you for being a part of the DiGrigoli Team!*

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