

**Preschool Questions List  
February, 2006**

- **Will fulltime/full-day students and part-time/half-day students be in the same class or will there be separate classes, separate schedules, and/or separate curriculum?**  
This question depends on our enrollment numbers, and who signs up for which programs. There is a standard curriculum that will be used, but it is flexible and teachers will differentiate depending upon the needs of their students.
- **Will the preschool children/teachers have access to any of the elementary school classrooms/equipment/library/labs?** Yes, there is a definite possibility that the preschool programs will be able to use the school facilities. The school administration will work closely with the preschool program and childcare staff to involve them in the school.
- **Will the preschool encourage involvement from older children from the DC school?**  
There are many ways that we can involve the older children with the preschool. The teachers will have to work together to determine appropriate, educational activities (for all of the students). There are some great possibilities here that we will explore!
- **Who will be in charge of the preschool on campus? Will there be an accessible, on site director or head teacher?** There will be a head teacher or site director on campus. We will have a specialist assigned to the school and all of the programs. This person has not yet been determined.
- **Who will oversee the extended care program for the K-8 school?** There is a family child education specialist responsible for overseeing this program.
- **Will Debi Bodenheimer be involved in hiring the teachers in order to keep a consistent philosophy between the K-8 and Preschool?** Yes, Debi will work with Family Child Education staff in the hiring of the teachers.
- **When will the hiring of the teachers begin?** We will first determine the exact programs we will offer once we do enrollment. Then, we will determine staffing needs and hire close to the opening date for the program. We anticipate that we will begin hiring no later than mid-August.
- **What level of education/experience will the District be looking for when hiring teachers?** We will look for teachers with an AA degree, and 24 units of ECE. This is the minimum qualification. Obviously, we will look for the most qualified teachers we can find.
- **Can parents have input into teacher selection?** We would be happy to gain input from parents on the qualities they are looking for in our teachers.
- **What certification will the preschool hold? Will the preschool be certified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)?** We will aim for NAEYC accreditation. This can only happen after the program has been in existence for a few years. We will also work to implement the "Desired Results Comprehensive Assessment" process, recommended by the California Department of Education.

- **What is the District's approach to discipline/behavior management?** We believe that all discipline/behavior management should be approached from a learning standpoint. Children are dealt with gently and respectfully. We involve parents if there are extreme situations, and we communicate with parents on a regular basis.
- **What will be the child to teacher ratio?** For preschool it will be from 1 to 8 to 1 to 12 depending on teacher qualifications. For school aged children the ratio is 1 to 14 (although usually it is less than that.)
- **How will special food allergies / nutritional needs be taken care of when dealing with snacks and lunches? Will it be possible to have a 'nut free' school?** All special situations need to be communicated with the staff. At that time, depending on the situation, a plan will be created to address the issue.
- **Will it be possible to coordinate lunch/snack with the possible organic/food-from-scratch initiatives being discussed for the DC School?** Yes, we would be happy to work this initiative, as long as it is cost effective. The preschool program serves nutritious snacks already.
- **Will it be possible to incorporate a foreign language program into the curriculum?** Yes, it is our priority to hire staff who speak another language. This would be addressed most effectively as a pull out program. We will encourage parents to share their different language backgrounds within the classroom.
- **Will it be possible to incorporate dance and/or music into the curriculum?** Yes, we already incorporate dance and music into the curriculum. We can also work with outside agencies to add other programs, but we would need to determine cost and space.
- **How will the academic part of the routine/curriculum be geared to engage advanced students?** We will hire skilled teachers who will be able to gear the curriculum to meet the needs of all of the students.
- **What is the plan for early (before Sept 2006) opening of the preschool? Will it be possible to begin an early registration now in order to get an idea of enrollment numbers?** We will start registration in April. Due to construction issues we will not be able to open the preschool early.
- **What type of physical security will there be around the preschool? Will there be a key-pad entry for parents? How will the sign in/identification process work?** The preschool area is fenced off. Children are not released to anyone other than those on their emergency form. Identification is checked. Children are signed in and out (by persons over 18).
- **Do the Don Callejon school enrollment boundaries apply to the preschool?** There is open enrollment for the preschool. However, priority will be given to those families who live within the school boundaries.

- **What PR/promotion will be done to communicate information about the preschool (open house, newsletter, etc)?** We will communicate through our school and district websites. There will also be newsletters and fliers from the different programs that will be available for parents.
- **What is the Parent Advisory Board?** Some programs in the district have a parent advisory board. In keeping with the law they post agendas and minutes. The role of the advisory board is to advise the program on issues such as fundraising, field trips, special programs, etc. If a program does not have a parent advisory board then they work with the school's existing board (such as the school site council).
- **What would the District like to see in the new school in addition to the existing District programs?** The district would like to serve the needs of the entire Don Callejon School Community.