



Don Callejon School Weekly News

Principal Hans Barber's Newsletter for Don Callejon Families • February 3, 2010

Si usted necesita esto traducido al Español, por favor comuníquese con la oficina de la escuela.

Dear Don Callejon Families,

We have great news to share! Our application for The California Distinguished Schools Program has been reviewed and has qualified us for a visit to verify the practices in the application. This verification visit will take place next Monday, February 8. This is the next step in the exciting process to becoming a California Distinguished School. We will not hear final word until late April, but are excited to have made it this far in the process!

We have some great events happening this week and next. Our first home boys basketball game was yesterday, and our second game will be on Thursday in the MPR. We will have our annual Talent Show next Tuesday night from 6- 7:30PM. This show promises to be fun and entertaining for all.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for our school, and encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Hans Barber
hbarber@scusd.net, 423-3300

Open Enrollment 2010-2011

The Open Enrollment program for the 2010-11 school year will be conducted from January 7 to February 5, 2010. Parents of students wishing to attend a school other than their school of residence must first provide proof of residency to their school of residence, receive a permanent student number and then complete the Open Enrollment application on the District website @ www.santaclarausd.org. The link to the application form, school visitation dates and requirements, as well as other important information concerning this process is posted on the District website.

A Message for 5th Grade Parents:

5th grade parents that didn't make the "parent orientation" tour for Peterson School (required for Open Enrollment applications, acceptance will "false" for open enrollment regardless of your lottery number, employee status, etc.), Peterson will be doing a **"THIS IS IT" tour on Thursday, February 4th at 10am**. No exceptions.

Any questions, please Mrs. Morales, and/or RSVP for the event at 423-2810.

Students Currently Attending a District School through an Intradistrict Transfer must apply for continued enrollment at that school by completing an on-line application for Open Enrollment between January 7- February 5, 2010 if they wish to continue at that school for the 2010-11 school year.

Kindergarten Registration Update:

As you probably know, Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2010-11 school year. So far, we have registered 158 total Kindergarteners, including 51 siblings of current students. If your registration status should change, and you do not plan to attend DCS in the fall, please contact the school office ASAP. The enrollment status of each family will be communicated after February 5th.

Spirit Days/Spirit Wear

Don't forget to show your DCS spirit by dressing up for spirit days every Friday. This Friday is Callejon Day. Wear your school gear or blue/orange.

After School Science Fair Workshops with Ms. Boozer & Mrs. Thorp:

Science Fair Workshops will be held from 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm in Room B5

Tue, Feb 9: The Project Report

Tue, Feb 23: The Display

Tue, Mar 2: Presentation & Evaluation

Thur, Mar 11: Projects Due

Friday, March 12: Don Callejon Science Fair

Parent Education:

Please check out what's going on in our community and the surrounding area related to Parent Education.

www.santaclarausd.org/parents.cfm

“CAAPE (Concerned African American Parents for Education):

“CAAPE (Concerned African American Parents for Education) is kicking off its *Young Readers campaign* with a trip to the *Santa Clara City Library* during Black History Month.

When: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 (Winter Break)

Time: 10:45 - 12:00 p.m.

Where: Santa Clara City Library (meet there)

Cost: Free!

We have a *great* day planned, including a scavenger hunt!

Please RSVP by 2/12/2010 to Ron Martin at (408) 439-2621 or e-mail at ronaldm@gmail.com.”

Important Dates and Details

- **Open Enrollment:**
January 7th – February 5th
- **Talent Show:**
February 9th
- **Winter Break (No School):**
February 15th – February 19th
- **School Site Council Meeting:**
February 24th – 5:00 pm

Kindergarten Registration:

Priority enrollment for kindergarten for 2010-2011 will be given to students who have siblings attending Callejon. To take advantage of sibling priority, the kindergartener must enroll before 4:00 PM on February 5th, 2010. Kindergarteners who have siblings at Callejon and enroll after February 5th will be placed in classes or overloaded to other district schools on a first-come, first-served basis.

Class Size Reduction:

No one can effectively argue against the value of maintaining small class sizes in our primary grades. At virtually every elementary school, 20:1 in the first four grades contributed to improved test scores, better social adjustment for students, and the job satisfaction of staff. The Reading Intervention Specialist Program, instruction targeted at grade level standards, and other after and during school interventions are among the efforts that have benefited from staff commitment, parental support, student engagement, and yes, smaller class sizes.

With a minimum of an \$8.5 million in cuts to be made from Santa Clara Unified's General Fund for the next school year, and the State's authorizing flexibility in class size incentives, we simply cannot afford to staff at a 20:1 ratio.

For the next two years, the State will provide 70% funding, or \$750 per student, for the first twenty students in any K-3 class. Up until last year, the funding for exceeding 20:1 was zero. Reduced property tax income for the district, the inability to pass a parcel tax, and the continued enrollment increases have all contributed to the Board's decision to provide this flexibility. By this spring, ways in which we may mitigate the impact of increasing class size and how we may ensure equity will be discussed and implemented.

Steve Stavis, Superintendent

Library Link

February --- a month for love and our DCS community has made it plain that they LOVE books. It is terrific to see our students and their families enthusiastically checking out books each week. I appreciate the promptness with which most students return their books. If you have received an overdue book notice and believe you have returned the book, please come see me.

Thanks to Hicklebees book store, our 4th and 5th graders will meet Dr. Cuthbert Soup, author of [A Whole Nother Story](#) on Thursday Feb 4. This Lemony Snicket style author will be a literary treat for our students.

Our Springtime Hicklebees Book Fair is coming soon --- sales will begin March 1st and run through March 5. Watch for more info to follow and please stop by to see me if you are interested in helping with this event.

All DCS students are voting for their choice for the 2010 California Young Reader Medal. The winning books will be announced the first week of May.

Several of you have asked if I have a list of books that I would like to add to our library. I do have an elementary list and a middle school list, which will also appear in this newsletter. All of these books are among the newest highly recommended fiction and would be terrific additions to our library.

Fairy tales have always been one of my favorite genres and I recently came across this quote from Albert Einstein:

“If you want your children to be intelligent read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.”

I wish you and your children of all ages some warm cozy days reading fairy tales together!

Michele Taylor
Librarian

DCS Middle School Fiction Wish List
Fall 2009

The following books are among the newest very highly recommended books for middle school students. I would love to add these books to our collection for our students, teachers and families. Perhaps your family would like to donate a hard cover copy of one of these books to our library to enrich the reading worlds of our students.

Independent Dames: What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution/Laurie Halse Anderson

Peeled/Joan Bauer

When the school paper begins reporting strange sightings at a local haunted house, school journalist Hildy and her friends search for the truth.

The Compound/ S. A. Bodeen

Creepy suspense about family living underground after a supposed nuclear attack – but was there ever an attack?

Climbing the Stairs/Padma Venkatraman

15 year old Vidya does not want to conform to the traditional expected behavior of Indian women during WW II and she will not give up her dreams. A Cinderella type story.

Airhead/ Meg Cabot

Disaster strikes and Emerson Watts finds herself trapped in the body of a superstar

Mexican Whiteboy/ Matt De La Pena

Fastball pitcher Danny spends the summer with his father's family trying to figure out how to be both white and Hispanic.

Bewitching Season/ Marissa Doyle

Mystery, romance and adventure abound in the story of twin sisters with magical powers in 1837 London.

Beanball/ Gene Fehler

High School sports superstar is critically injured by a fastball and his story is told in free verse from the points of view of his coach, his parents, friends and fans.

Pandora Gets Jealous, Pandora Gets Vain/ Carolyn Hennesy

Contemporary setting for a modern day Pandora in stories that feel like Greek mythology.

Go Big or Go Home/Will Hobbs

A meteorite infects Brady with microbes from Mars in this fast paced adventure

Steele Trapp: The Challenge/Ridley Pearson

Fast paced adventure traps 14 year old Steel in terrorist activity

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A Curse as Dark as Gold/Elizabeth Bunce

Adventure story by a new author, loosely based on the fairy tale Rumpelstiltskin

The Gollywhomper Games/ Jody Feldman

Gil competes in a toy contest to win money for his family. Lots of codes and puzzles

Heck: Where the Bad Kids Go/Dale Basye

After a marshmallow explosion, 2 friends go straight to Heck, an other worldly reform school.

DCS Elementary Fiction Wish List
Fall 2009

The following books are among the newest very highly recommended fiction books for elementary school students. I would love to add these books to our collection for our students, teachers and families. Perhaps your family would like to donate a hard cover copy of one of these books to our library to enrich the reading worlds of our students.

14 Cows for America/Carmen Agra Deedy

Following the events of 9-11, a Maasi tribe blesses 14 cows, revered in their culture, and symbolically offers them to the American people. (gr 1- 5)

Billy Twitters and his Blue Whale Problem/ Marc Barnett

Billy's parents tell him that if he does not clean his room, they will buy him a blue whale. He doesn't and they do, and Billy learns that whales make terrible pets. (Gr 1- 3)

If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States/Kids Can Press

Using the metaphor of a village of 100 people, the diversity of America is explored and explained (gr. 2-5)

The Jungle Grapevine/ Alex Beard

The African Savannah and its animals are used as the setting for book about misunderstandings (gr. K-2)

Leaving the Bellweathers/Kristin Venuti

The butler for the curious Bellweather family plans on writing a tell all book about comic art heists, albino alligators and good intentions gone wrong (gr. 3-5)

The Storm in the Barn/Matt Phelan

Tall tale of a boy in the American Dust Bowl, told in graphic novel form. (gr. 3-5)

Zero is the Leaves in the Tree/Betsy Franco

It's easy to count to three, but how do we count to zero? This book will inspire readers to search for zeros in every day life (gr. K – 2)

The School of Fear/Gitty Daneshvari

Droll dialog and chaotic situations follow 4 siblings through the school of fear, where they have been sent to defeat their phobias (gr. 4 – 6)

The Doghouse/Jan Thomas

The animals know they must be brave to enter the doghouse, but none of them is that courageous. (gr. K – 2)

I'm Bad/ Kate McMullan

This young T-Rex is tough talking, but cannot catch a meal. Mom to the rescue! (gr. K – 2)

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The Facttracker/ Jason Eaton

A town bases its economy on selling facts, but finds it is more lucrative to sell lies (gr. 4 – 6)

Fairy Godsister/ Phillipa Fisher

When given the chance to make 3 wishes, making the right wish is not easy (gr. 4 – 6)

The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great/Gerald Morris (The Knight Tales series) (gr. 2 – 4)

Sir Lancelot loves to keep his armor shiny, but still defeats his challengers

Roscoe Riley Rules series/Katherine Applegate (gr. 2 – 4)

Never Glue Your Friends to Chairs

Don't Swap Your Sweater for a Dog

Never Swipe a Bully's Bear

Never Swim in Applesauce

The Nina, the Pinta and the Vanishing Treasure/ Jill Santopolo (gr. 2 – 4)

4th grade sleuths search to find out what happened to the vanished Christopher Columbus exhibit at the museum (2 – 4)

Louise: The Adventures of a Chicken/ Kate DiCamillo (gr. K – 2)

Funny tales about a chicken who refuses to stay on the farm

Wild Boars Cook/Meg Rosoff

Boris, Morris, Horace and Doris concoct a Massive Pudding and it isn't pretty (gr. K – 2)

John Patrick Norman Hennessy – The Boy Who Was Always Late/John Burningham
(gr. K – 4).

The Key to Rondo/Emily Rodda

Leo and Mimi find themselves in a world populated by fairy tale characters (gr. 3 – 5)

.A Beginning, A Muddle and an End/Avi (gr. 3 – 5)

Avon the snail learns that writing is difficult when he tries to describe his adventure

The Magic Horse of Han Gan/ Chen Jiang Hong (gr. K – 5)

The artist always paints his realistic horses tied up, but one escapes.

Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words/ Jane O'Connor (gr. K – 4)

From A – Z, fancy words and their definitions are given, as well as the word in a sentence

The Race of the Century/ Barry Downard (gr. 3 – 5)

A newspaper reporter reports on an updated race of the tortoise and the hare

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Never Take a Shark to the Dentist and Other Things Not To Do/Judi Barnett (gr. 2 – 4)
Animal experiences that are best avoided

Well Witched/Frances Harding (gr. 3 –5)
After stealing coins from a wishing well, children must fulfill the wishes made by the people who tossed them

Cool Zone with Pain and the Great One/Judy Blume (gr. 2 – 4)
Rivalry and affection between siblings

Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island/Laurence Yep (gr. 4 – 6)
How the author's father came to America

Don't Worry Bear/ Greg Foley (gr. K – 2)
Bear is uneasy when his friend caterpillar disappears into a cocoon.

Farmer George Plants a Nation/Peggy Thomas (gr. 3 – 5)
The story of the farmer side of the first President of the United States

Volunteer Training

Last Chance

Don Callejon School

February 24, 2010

8:30 a.m.

For questions contact:
Mary Rodriguez
Vice Principal
Don Callejon School
408-423-3303
mkrodriguez@scusd.net

Who: Anyone who is currently volunteering at Don Callejon School and has not attended a volunteer training in this school year.

When: Wednesday, February 24, 2010;
8:30 a.m.

Where: Don Callejon School, Room B5

Why: To learn about the volunteer guidelines, policies and procedures of Don Callejon School and SCUSD

