



Don Callejon School Weekly News

Principal Hans Barber's Newsletter for Don Callejon Families • January 27, 2010

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

Dear Don Callejon Families,

Can you believe that January is almost over? We have had a very exciting month of learning and activities at DCS. Yesterday, we had an outstanding musical theater concert for grades K-5, and an author visit for our middle school students! We have some more great events happening this week and next. This Thursday, we will have our first boys basketball game versus Peterson, at Peterson, and will host our first home game of the year next Tuesday versus Crittenden Middle School. This Friday we will have our Megaskills Assembly and Student of the Month Luncheon. Next Friday morning, we will be having our quarterly middle school honor roll breakfast. We look forward to seeing you out there supporting our Don Callejon Cubs!

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:

Fifth grade Students that live in the Peterson Attendance and wish to apply for Peterson + must go to Peterson Middle School to apply by February 5, 2010. Parents must come prepared to verify residency at the time of application.

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 153 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 Black and White Day! Wear all or mostly black and white.

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

Thur, Jan 28: Project Research
 Tue, Feb 2: See a Sample Project
 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

School Site Council Meeting:

Our next School Site Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27. These meetings are open to the public, and take place in the main office staff room from 5:00- 6:00PM. If you have any further questions regarding this meeting, please contact me directly (hbarber@scusd.net).

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

Important Dates and Details

- **Open Enrollment:**
January 7th – February 5th
- **School Site Council Meeting:**
January 27th, 5 – 6 pm, Staff Room
- **Talent Show:**
February 9th (**Date Change**)
- **Winter Break (No School):**
February 15th – February 19th

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