

Don Callejon School Weekly News

Principal Hans Barber's Newsletter for Don Callejon Families • March 31, 2010

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

Dear Don Callejon Families,

We are just one and one-half weeks from Spring Break. Typically, this is a very busy time in the office at schools. Kids begin to smell the spring and teachers are beginning to get fatigued. Please talk with your students and encourage them to stay on track these next couple of weeks. We are certainly all looking forward to a much deserved Spring Break!

We have also entered the home stretch to STAR testing preparations. Teachers have been working with students over the past several months to prepare for the test in class. STAR testing for elementary students in grades 2-5 (students in Kindergarten and 1st grade do not test) will begin on Monday, April 26. Middle School students begin testing on Tuesday, April 27. Please look for more STAR related news in the newsletter next week and on our website!

Please remember- we will **not** have school this Friday, April 2, for a teacher inservice. As always, please let us know if we can help in any way.

Hans Barber
hbarber@scusd.net, 423-3300

Spirit Days/Spirit Wear:

There is no Spirit Day on Friday this week, there is no school on Friday.

A New Northside Library:

The City of Santa Clara is planning a new library to serve the Northside area. A community meeting about the new library will take place on Wednesday, March 31. All Northside residents are invited. Kathy Page, library planner, will facilitate the discussion.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 31, 2010,
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

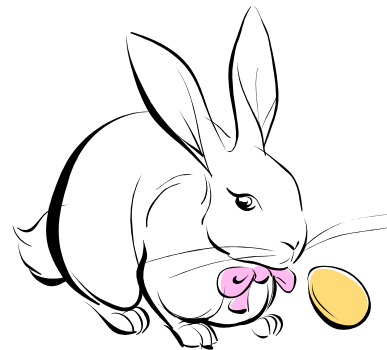
WHERE: Lick Mill Park Recreation Center
4750 Lick Mill Blvd

Staff Development Day:

Friday, April 2nd is a District Wide Staff Development Day. There is no school that day.

Spring Break:

Spring Break is the week of April 12 – April 16. There is no school during that week.



Budget Cuts Affecting Summer Offerings for SCUSD Students:

Due to the large amounts of budget cuts that are impacting programs throughout all areas of Santa Clara Unified School District, students in SCUSD will have fewer options during the summer of 2010. Currently, the GATE (Gifted And Talented Education) and all elementary level summer schools have been cancelled. Additionally, the middle school enrollment for summer school has been greatly reduced and high school summer school will be providing remediation courses only. There will be no courses for "getting ahead" in graduation requirements or simple enrichment. Unfortunately there are not adequate funds for these purposes. If you would like to be more informed on the budget picture in SCUSD, please come to the local budget sessions scheduled throughout March. More information on the locations, dates, and times of these sessions please go to the front page of the SCUSD website: www.santaclarausd.org.

ALEKS Challenge:

Every student in 4th- 8th grade has a subscription to ALEKS, an online math program differentiated for each student. Every student has their login and password information. We will have our final ALEKS challenge over the upcoming Spring Break (April 10-18). The students that use ALEKS the most during that time period will receive gift cards to a local retailer. Please encourage your students to use this program as much as possible as we get ready for STAR testing.

Our computer lab will also be open during the break for ALEKS use on the following days and times:

April 13: 10:00AM- 12:00PM and 1:00- 3:00PM
(unsupervised break for lunch)

April 14: 10:00AM- 12:00PM and 1:00- 3:00PM
(unsupervised break for lunch)

April 15: 10:00AM- 12:00PM and 1:00- 3:00PM
(unsupervised break for lunch)

Wilcox High School Cheerleading:

Attention 8th Graders, Are you going to Wilcox next year? Interested in Cheerleading? Come to one of their free workshops in April and learn cheer motions and jumps. Get a head start for tryouts! 1st Workshop is Thursday, April 8th from 6pm to 8pm in the Black Box located in the back of the theater on the Wilcox campus. Any questions, contact Coach Bunny at Wilcox.



Important Dates and Details:

- **Staff Development Day (No School):**
April 2nd
- **Spring Break:**
April 12th – April 16th
- **School Site Council Meeting:**
April 28th 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- **8th Grade Panoramic Picture:**
May 14th
- **Spring Fling:**
May 15th, 11am – 5pm
- **Open House:**
May 20th
- **Spring Concert:**
May 25th
- **School Site Council Meeting:**
May 26th 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- **Minimum Day:**
May 28th
- **Memorial Day Holiday (No School):**
May 31st
- **8th Grade Great America Trip:**
June 7th
- **Field Day:**
June 8th
- **Kindergarten Promotion:**
June 10th
- **5th Grade Promotion:**
June 10th
- **8th Grade Promotion:**
June 11th
- **Last Day of School (Early Dismissal):**
June 11th

Library Link

Spring has sprung and with all the wonderful warm sunny weather comes a terrific chance to enjoy some family time and increase our awareness of the amount of time we all spend in front of TV screens, computer screens, game screens ----

Each year, the National Center for Screen Time Awareness promotes a “Turn Off the TV Week. This year that week is April 19 – 25 and I would like to encourage our DCS families to give this a try. The purpose of this week is to rethink the role of television and other screen based activities in our lives – how and why we use these activities. Screen awareness is about having more fun turning “on” our lives and rediscovering a wide range of activities that exist. By spending time away from our screens, we can learn a lot about our viewing habits and even choose to make permanent decisions about future screen use.

Why is screen awareness important? Here are some interesting facts about TV and our families:

- * # of minutes per week that the average child watches television – 1,680
- * # of minutes per week that parents spend talking with their children - 38
- * Hours per year the average student spends in school – 900
- * Hours per year the average student spends watching television – 1500

Turn Off the TV week is meant to be voluntary and fun and to build family spirit. I will be sending home with our students a family participation contract. While the full week is ideal, even if your family chooses to try this for a few days, there will be benefit. During this week, I would like participating families to keep track of the things they are doing while away from their screens. When this activity was first introduced to my family when my now 22 year old daughter was 8 years old, we skeptically took on the challenge and were so surprised at how much fun we had during that week. I encourage you to give it a try!

What are some alternative activities??

- *jigsaw puzzles
- *checking out books from the library
- *listening to the radio or music from your ipod
- * paint a picture, a mural, a room, a fence
- *attend a neighborhood sporting event
- *read aloud as a family
- *plan a picnic – even an indoor one!
- *go bird watching
- *write a letter
- *plant a garden
- *sing!
- *start a diary or a journal
- *tell jokes or riddles
- *ask an older family member to tell about their childhood
- *write a story

There are so many things to do – when we are not distracted by the many screens in our lives. Through the years I have participated in and encouraged this screen free week, there is always at least one child who will come to me with the statement “That was so much fun, we should do it again next year!” What better testament to the value of some terrific non screen family time!

“I must say television is very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to another room and read a book!” Groucho Marx

Happy reading
Michele Taylor
Librarian