

Don Callejon

Weekly News



Principal Hans Barber's Newsletter for Don Callejon Families · Wednesday, October 28, 2009
Si usted necesita esto traducido al Español, por favor comuníquese con la oficina de la escuela.

Dear Don Callejon Families,

What a great week we had at Don Callejon School last week! We want to thank you for your enthusiastic support and participation in our annual walkathon and in Red Ribbon Week. A special thank you goes out to event coordinator Rebecca Ferguson and all the DCSCO volunteers that helped with the Walkathon. The event simply wouldn't have been possible without all of your contributions. We are also extremely proud of our middle school leadership class and our 7th and 8th graders for taking on a leadership role during the walkathon.

This Friday we will be celebrating Halloween with our annual Halloween parade beginning at 10:15AM. Just prior to that, we will be having our K-5 Megaskills assembly from 9-9:30AM. During middle school lunch, middle school students can participate in a costume contest, and we will have our first middle school dance later that night!

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we will do our very best to tackle them in a timely manner. This is a crucial time in the lives of all of our students.

Hans Barber
hbarber@scusd.net, 423-3300

Spirit Days/Spirit Wear:

Don't forget to show your DCS spirit by dressing up for spirit days every Friday. This Friday is Halloween Costume Day. Wear your Costume to school.

Classroom Interruptions:

Please try to make every effort to have your child bring their instruments, lunches, homework, etc. to school with them. After school begins, it is an interruption to call the class for them to pick it up from the office.

District and Don Callejon School Planning Update:

As you may or may not know, the District is in the process of assessing facility needs for the near and distant future. The Board will receive the first report from the facilities committee on November 12th and then decide upon a process for addressing those needs. Classroom needs at Don Callejon School are critical for next and subsequent years, and will be high on the list for resolution. The Board will be looking at the various options for Callejon, which include adding portables, re-configuring the grade levels, and establishing new boundaries.

Steve Stavis, Superintendent

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 residence 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 will appear on the District website home page in mid December 2009.

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.

Make up Pictures:

October 29th is make up picture day for students. If your child was absent, or enrolled after September 18th, they will be photographed on October 29st. If your child needs to have retakes, please have them bring their original picture package back to the photographer on that day. If you did not purchase pictures in September, but want to have them taken now for purchase, please be sure to send in the completed order form with payment on that day.

"How to Promote Optimal Emotional Health in Gifted Children" by Ms. Melody Matthews Lowman, M.A.:

The first of our Open Houses and Professional Lecture Series for this school year, this presentation and discussion centers on helping parents become their child's best resource. Research suggests that giftedness alone does not lead to emotional problems but rather that gifted children need help to cope with their own characteristics. Parents are the best people to equip them to resist depression, manage anxiety and overcome perfectionism. We have invited Ms. Melody Matthews Lowman, M.A., a psychotherapist and educational consultant with 45 years of experience working with gifted children and their families, to address this topic. She also happens to be a member of the Lyceum Professional Advisory Board.

When: Saturday, November 7, 2009
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Where: San Jose West Valley Library
Community Room 1243 San Tomas
Aquino Road, San Jose 95117

Spirit Wear Orders:

If you ordered a small shirt and the shirts are too small, please email Araceli at aarreola@scusd.net and give her your child's name and room number with the information regarding the sizes that you need to replace.

We will also be placing an additional order for Spirit Wear if you would like to place an order at this time. All orders and exchanges need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday, November 4th. Order forms and sample sizes are available in the office.

Halloween Parade:

This year's Halloween parade for Kindergarten through 5th graders will take place on Friday, October 30th from 10:15AM-10:45AM. Parents are welcome to attend this event. Students may come to school in costume or change during recess. Middle school students will be involved in a lunchtime activity put on by our leadership class. Please make sure that your student's costume is school appropriate by following the school dress code and the short guidelines below. If you have a question regarding the appropriateness of your student's costume, please call the school and we will help you with that.

1. No violent or overly gory costumes, masks or shirts.
2. No imitation weapons or sharp instruments.
3. No fake blood.

Students with inappropriate costumes will have their parents called and will be asked to change.

ELAC Meeting:

We will have our first ELAC (English Learners Advisory Committee) Meeting on Thursday, November 5th from 5:30- 6:15PM. The meeting is open to all parents of English Learners. At the meeting we will elect officers and discuss the needs of our Don Callejon EL students. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Middle School Parent Education Night:

Wilcox and Santa Clara High School are hosting a Parent Education Night "Keeping the Bond Strong" How parents can stay connected and influential in the lives of their teens. Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 pm at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts (Adjacent to Wilcox High School) 3250 Monroe Street. This event is free and all middle school parents are invited. Refreshments will be served.

Important Dates and Details:

- **Make-Up Pictures:**
October 29th
- **Veteran's Day Holiday:**
November 11th
- **End of Trimester (Elementary):**
November 20th
- **Thanksgiving Holiday:**
November 25th – 27th

Santa Clara Unified School District: Facility Update

Santa Clara Unified School District is in the process of assessing facility needs for the near and distant future. The Board of Trustees will receive the first report from the Facilities Committee on November 12th and then decide upon a process for addressing those needs. Classroom needs at Don Callejon School are critical for the next and subsequent years, and will be high on the list for resolution. The Board will be looking at the various options for Callejon, which include adding portables, re-configuring the grade levels, and establishing new boundaries.

Districtwide, enrollment has increased by about five hundred students this year, and it is anticipated that a similar increase will occur in each of the next few years as well. Until now, we have been able to accommodate the additional students in existing classrooms, but many of our schools are at or over capacity.

Intelligent and well-intentioned people will continue to look at enrollment trends and projections and at facilities to house our students. Various perspectives will be expressed and points of views exchanged. Hopefully, people will listen as well as speak. Unfortunately, some inaccurate information has been distributed such as information regarding a prior legal action placing certain properties into the Don Callejon attendance area. No previous agreements exist.

Decisions regarding schools of assignment for the next school year must be made by early spring, at the latest, and the Board of Trustees has the difficult task of listening to concerns and recommendations, and then providing direction to the administration.

No decisions have yet been made, nor have definitive recommendations been presented. Information continues to be gathered, and options continue to be explored.

The Board meeting of November 12th will be held in the Don Callejon School multipurpose room, with the work session on Future Facility Needs beginning at 5:00 PM. A report from the Facilities Committee will be presented first. The Board may comment and ask questions, and then members of the community may speak within the guidelines established at the meeting. No decisions regarding school facilities will be made at the November 12th meeting. This important topic will continue to be studied and discussed at future Board meetings and we welcome your participation in this discussion. All Board meetings are open to the public and all agendas are posted on our district's website, www.santaclarausd.org. Please continue to check our website and attend these important meetings

Steve Stavis
Superintendent