



# Don Callejon School Weekly News

Principal Hans Barber's Newsletter for Don Callejon Families • April 6, 2011

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

Dear Don Callejon Families,

As you know, next week is Spring Break. Please enjoy this time off with your students before we hit the home stretch to the end of the year.

STAR testing for Middle School students will begin on Tuesday, April 19. Elementary students in grades 2-5 (students in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade do not test) will begin with practice tests on Monday, April 25. Please look for more specific information regarding the STAR Schedule on our website ([www.doncallejon.org](http://www.doncallejon.org)).

Please encourage your student(s) to do their absolute best work on these tests. We are confident that our scores will rise again this year, but we can't do it without your support. As always, please make sure that your student(s) eat breakfast and are on time for school during the entire testing window.

Please read the blurb below on the ALEKS challenge for all 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders during Spring Break. This is an excellent way for your student(s) to get some final preparation for STAR.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy your Spring Break!

Hans Barber  
[hbarber@scusd.net](mailto:hbarber@scusd.net), 423-3300

## ALEKS Challenge:

Every student in 4<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9- 17). The students that use ALEKS the most during that time period will receive prizes for their hard work. 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 12: 10:00AM- 12:00PM and 1:00- 3:00PM (unsupervised break for lunch)

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)

## Donations Requested:

Please help our eighth graders celebrate their academic success! DCSCO and faculty will be hosting a promotion party for the eighth graders on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be playing games and holding raffles, and we need your support providing prizes. The best prizes seem to be gift cards: Cold Stone Creamery, iTunes, Jamba Juice, McDonalds, etc. Your donations in any amount are gratefully appreciated. Thank you.

## International Night:

Please join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual International Night on April 8th 6:30-8:30pm in the MPR. DCSCO will be sponsoring the event. See the many tables representing different countries and culture, sample delicious ethnic food, and enjoy our show! Please bring finger foods, desserts, or snacks to share. Admission is free!

## Technology Career Exploration Camp:

**When:** June 6-10, 2011, Mon-Wed 8:00am – 1:15pm, Thu 8:00am – 4pm, Fri 8:00am – 3pm (Tentative Schedule)

**Where:** Central County Occupational Center, Ohlone College and Santa Clara Adult Education Industry Visit (High Tech)

**Who:** Middle School Students from Cabrillo, Buchser, Peterson, Don Callejon

**What:** Create projects in 4 interesting careers, Tour an Industry Site, Visit one College & Adult Education Center

*Explore careers, make new friends, and have fun!*

**Total Cost:** \$10.00 (Includes daily snacks)

**To Sign Up:** Turn in Registration form, \$10 fee, and Permission packet (Cash or Check made out to SCUSD) to the school office by May 20<sup>th</sup>  
For more information contact Tabitha at 408-423-2109

## New Law Regarding Tdap Pertussis Booster Shots:

Pertussis (also known as whooping cough) is widespread in California. There is a new law which requires all students who will be entering 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade next fall to show proof of having received a Tdap Pertussis booster shot given after their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. Without this proof, those students will be excluded from starting school in the fall. If your child is 10 years or older and has not yet received the Tdap pertussis booster shot, please contact your doctor or health department at **408-885-3980** for clinic dates and locations. When your child receives the Tdap booster shot, please be sure to bring in the immunization record to the school office as soon as possible.

## Important Dates and Details:

- **Minimum Day (K-8):**  
April 8<sup>th</sup>
- **International Night:**  
April 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Spring Break:**  
April 11<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>
- **School Site Council Meeting:**  
April 20<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm
- **½ Price Book Fair:**  
April 29<sup>th</sup>
- **Staff Appreciation Week:**  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Spring Concert:**  
May 9<sup>th</sup>

## Library Link:

What wildly successful Hicklebees Book Fair! Thank you all for your support of our library by purchasing books. There are about 50 new books in our library today from the fair and more to come. Hicklebees is generously sending several authors our way before the end of the school year. This Wednesday, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will meet John Stephens, author of the new series EMERALD ATLAS. On April 21, Marc Brown, author of the ARTHUR books will be meeting all of our K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, with his newest book, ARTHUR TURNS GREEN. More authors planned for May - I will keep the info coming your way.

In addition to Hicklebees, I often receive information about local authors who are anxious to get into schools to talk about their books with students. This Friday, April 8, Brad Blake will meet with our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to discuss his series, BLUE THIRD, a funny science fiction series.

I would again like to encourage our families to participate in Turn Off the TV Week sponsored by the Center for Screen Awareness. Join in the fun between April 18 – 24. These days, we all have SO many screens we spend time with: television, computer, game consoles, smart phones etc, that the focus of the week has been expanded. I will be sending home contracts and more information to each of our families at the end of this week. 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 23 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!

Happy Reading! Mrs. Taylor