

Denair Charter Academy Newsletter

February 2011

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CHOOSE CIVILITY

In light of the emotionally charged issues facing our state and nation, the Stanislaus County Office of Education is promoting a "Choose Civility" Initiative to encourage civility within our schools, communities and homes.

Beginning this month, the "Choose Civility" Initiative will highlight one of the 12 Principles from Dr. Forni's book, *Choosing Civility*, each month -February's focus is:

"RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE'S TIME"

"We respect other people's time when we learn to value it as much as our own. Even better, we can get to a point where we won't distinguish between our time and the time of others." - Dr. P.M. Forni, author of *Choose Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct*"

Do you have that one friend that is always late no matter where and when you meet them? While many in this world value money, there is something to be said about the importance of time. Given enough of it, you can accomplish great things. It can also be taken away from you by those who lack manners and do not grasp the concept of keeping their word, and respecting your time. By showing up on time you reveal to others that you value them and their time. Unfortunately the opposite is also true - arrive late and you'll confirm to others that you do not value and respect them or their time. Schools teach students early on the importance of being on time. Students who are late are marked tardy. Too many tardies can interfere with learning and affect a student's grade. Teaching students the importance of being punctual is an important lesson that they will need to carry over with them when they enter the workforce. In his book, *Choose Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct*, Dr. Forni says, "Punctuality is nonnegotiable. Arriving on time is a basic rule of considerate behavior." *Adapted from: Classy and Fabulous, Karla M. Davis*

Here are a few ideas from Dr. Forni on respecting other people's time:

- *Be punctual. Arrange your schedule so that you are at least 5-10 minutes early to take into account unforeseen circumstances.*
- *If you are going to be more than 5 minutes late, call.*
- *Cancel plans only in case of emergency. If you know several days ahead of time that an appointment is not going to be convenient, call to reschedule.*
- *When you call someone on the phone, check to make sure it is a good time for the other person to talk. If not, suggest some other times that may work for you.*
- *Keep both phone and in person conversations short. Others appreciate brevity.*
- *Answer your phone when you are able. Use voice mail/answering machines only if you are already engaged with someone else or not home.*
- *Be fully present for the person you are with. Minimize interruptions, and don't take call waiting or cell phone calls unless it is absolutely necessary.*
- *Wait for your turn in line. Look at your waiting time as a brief vacation from the hustle and bustle of your day.*
- *Answer e-mails and return phone calls. Don't waste others' time by having to contact you a second or third time to get a response.*
- *Meet deadlines and turn things in early or on time.*
- *Don't cut short a scheduled meeting unless all of the business at hand has been completed. Let people know that you are available for them as planned.*

February is College Financial Aid Awareness Month

February 2011 Calendar:

Fri. 4th - 3rd qtr. Progress Report

Wed. 16th - 2nd Trimester End

Thurs. 17th - K-12 Non-Attendance

Fri. 18th / Mon. 20th No school
(Presidents' Day)



Get out your balloons, hang your streamers and don your party hats! It's time to celebrate, because February is Financial Aid Awareness Month!

What's that? You don't usually celebrate Financial Aid Awareness Month!? Well you should. For many college students, financial aid (and hard work in high school) is what makes dreams of higher education a reality.

Learn as much as you can about the various types of financial aid, including scholarships, grants, loans and work study. **Most importantly, get started on your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by logging onto FAFSA.ed.gov.** You will first apply for a PIN number, and then proceed to complete an application.

Mrs. Baker in Room 43 can help. Contact her by phone at 634-0917 ext. 5243 or stop by her room.

Parts of this article were written by Natalie Hikel and found at the following website: wisechoice.com/blog

Thought for the Day...

I have about concluded that wealth is a state of mind, and that anyone can acquire a wealthy state of mind by thinking rich thoughts
-Andrew Young-



CAHSEE

California High School Exit Exam

Students must pass the CAHSEE to receive their high school diploma. A minimum score of 350 on English Language Arts and Mathematics is required. Denair Charter Academy provides supplemental courses and tutoring to support student success. Courses include Support Math and English. Please check with your teacher regarding participation in the support courses offered on Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00am. We are also offering a Math tutorial. Please contact your teacher with any questions regarding the CAHSEE or other support available to you. The next CAHSEE testing will take place in March for those 10th grade students that were absent in February.

UTI Field Trip

DCA high school students received an invitation from UTI (Universal Technical Institute) in Sacramento, to tour their facility and view the Grave Digger Monster Truck which was on display in their showroom. It was a thrill for students to get an autograph from the car's driver and to get a Polaroid picture of them in front of Grave Digger.

Mariah King, DCA 11th grader, had this to say about the experience, "We saw the motor and different parts of diesels...and the different car makes...the instructor said if you learn everything you need to about a Ford car, any other car you work on will seem easy. We were also given information on how long the programs take and what to do if you need financial help."



A tricked-out Toyota Camry