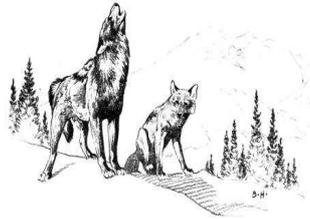


Denair Charter Academy Newsletter

March / April 2011

Karla Paul, Principal
Ed Parraz, Superintendent



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. The "Choose Civility" Initiative will highlight one of the 12 Principles from Dr. Forni's book, *Choosing Civility*". The focus for March is:

"DON'T SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY AND BLAME"

One of the primary purposes of blaming is to shift responsibility away from ourselves and onto others. As such we are all guilty of exclaiming "Don't blame me!" "Don't blame me" just rolls off the tongue like "It's his fault." While "don't blame me" is defensive, many blames are actually delivered with intent to do harm. We usually don't end there; instead, we quickly follow up with a statement of specifically who to blame. We blame family, friends, co-workers, spouses and strangers. We blame inanimate objects, God, nature and government. Parents blame educators. Educators blame parents. As long as we can adequately shift responsibility we can avoid being accountable. However, shifting blame hinders relationships, focuses our lives on negativity and stunts our personal growth. In the book "The Blame Game," Dr. Neil Farber says, "When you can stop placing blame on others you will be on your way to improved psychological, physical and emotional health and well-being." He says the first step is to take personal responsibility for your life and your decisions and appreciate the fact that you are in control of your destiny. You are accountable for your actions and your responses to other people's action. When you fully appreciate that you will stop blaming others.

Adapted from "The Blame Game" Sincerely, Communications Department Staff Stanislaus County Office of Education

"DON'T SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY AND BLAME"

CHOOSE CIVILITY

March 2011 Calendar:

- March 8th ELA CAHSEE / 8:45
11th grade and 10th make-up
- March 9th Math CAHSEE / 8:45
11th grade and 10th make-up
- March 18th Non-attendance Day
- March 23rd - April 15th STAR
- April 18th - April 29th Spring Break

GEARING UP FOR GRADUATION



To all 2011 D.C.A. graduates. We are entering the 4th and final quarter of this school year. Continue to work hard and finish at your very best.

We will be sending additional information to you and your families regarding the ceremony held on Wednesday, May 24, 2011. All caps and gowns have been ordered. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to your education. We look forward to celebrating your success.

Thought for the Day...

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass...it's about learning how to dance in the rain.



S.T.A.R.

(Standardized Testing and Reporting)

We will begin testing Wednesday, March 23rd and will work to complete all assessments prior to spring break. We know that these exams can be challenging but will do what we can to ease any anxiety. Please make sure that your student participates and supports not only Denair Charter Academy but ultimately their success in school. We work hard to provide opportunities for our students and ask that they give us their best. Be sure to get enough rest and eat well prior to testing. We want our students to shine and to actively participate in their education. Please check with your teacher regarding your S.T.A.R. schedule.

Counselor's Corner...

Financial Aid for College!



Missed the March 2nd Cal Grant Deadline? Students who missed the March 2nd Cal Grant filing deadline should submit it as soon as possible. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to complete your application.

After filing the FAFSA, students should establish a WebGrants for Students (WGS) account.

Using WGS, students can see their Cal Grant application status, confirm and update their postal and e-mail addresses, and provide the required high school graduation confirmation once they graduate.

To establish a WGS account, students should go to www.webgrants4students.org and follow the instructions.

Tobacco Education: “Through With Chew”

DCA students raised awareness about the dangers of using smokeless tobacco on “Through With Chew” Day. DCA is taking part in the Tobacco User Prevention Education (TUPE) through Stanislaus County, for the first time this year. As part of the TUPE program, our school has provided drug and alcohol information on designated days throughout the school year. Students enrolled in Health are also completing a six-week course designed for alcohol and drug use prevention as part of TUPE education.

Cigarettes and smokeless tobacco remain some of the most common drugs available to young people. These student volunteers handed out brochures on the dangers of smokeless tobacco, asked students tobacco trivia questions, and demonstrated with a “Mr. Gross Mouth” model, the effects of smokeless tobacco on a person’s mouth and gums.

Students interested in becoming a student volunteer of anti-tobacco education at DCA, should contact Mrs. Baker at 634-0917 ext. 5243.



Pictured from left to right: Marisol Valdovinos (9th), Nick Troveo (9th), Glenda Carrillo (9th), Linette Azizpor (8th), Irma Manriquez (11th), Alfredo Manriquez (11th)

Students Sharing

Below is a sample of some heart-felt writing by DCA students.

“My Love for Her”

When I'm with you I get butterflies.
I love to gaze into your eyes.
The touch of your hands sends a chill.
I can't explain the way I feel.
These feelings are new.
The world goes away when I'm with you.
I dread the moment we say our good-byes.
Then I see you and heart starts to heal.
I love you so much and I always will.
I think about you all the time.
You're always in my head.
I reread every text that you send.
And remember what you said.
I'm always here for you.
Every hour of the day.
I'll never let you down.
Or hurt you in any way...

Luis Hernandez

“We the People Belong”

Racial jokes, humiliating drawings, words that hurt like bullets, those are some of the horrible things that have happened to innocent people. Even though times have changed, the blood in our veins has not. Neither has racism. People say mean things to others just so they can get a laugh but they don't know the pain and the hurt they feel, even me. ...All we want is to be treated fairly. All we ever wanted was to be more than the terms. What did we ever do to deserve such hurtful words? All of you are strong, full of understanding and most of all equal. Don't ever doubt yourself or say you're not good enough because I believe in you. We were all made for a reason. We just need to find that reason either with each other or by ourselves. Never stop aiming for the stars and never lose your pride....

Linette Azizpor