The Barking Dog

Denair Middle School

"Failure Is Not An Option"

Newsletter: September 2011

Aaron Delworth, Principal
Office Hours: M – F 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m
Phone: 635-2510
After School Program Hours: M – F 2:30 – 6:00
Phone: 664-5816

Principal's Notes

Thank to all of my staff, to the parents and to the students for a very positive beginning to the new school year. I am very excited about this year. We have implemented several new things. I would like to take a minute to ask parents that drop off or pick up students to follow our drop off and pick up rules. The safest and quickest way to drop off/pick up your child is to follow the designated (right side of the cones) area. Dropping your students off in the parking lot areas makes for a very dangerous situation. The parking lot is intended for just that parking. It is not intended for dropping off/picking up. We want to keep our students and parents safe and I thank you for your help in this matter.

Mr. Delworth

CST Results

Unfortunately I must report that we dropped eleven points in our state testing for 2010-2011. Our API was 746. This means that we are still in program improvement. Please read the letter that is being sent home with the progress reports in regards to program improvement and school choice.

NEW – Whooping Cough Immunization Requirement

I would like to thank our parents for their diligence is getting our 7th and 8th grade students up to date with the new immunization requirement. We are currently at roughly 95% completed. Governor Brown has allowed schools to extend the Tdap immunization requirement for an additional 30 days after the start of school. This would mean that if your child has not had the immunization completed and documented in the office by September 16. If a child is not immunized by the 16th they will not be allowed to attend school until it is completed.

Upcoming Events

Check our web site for more calendar information.

- 9/5 – Labor Day Holiday
- 9/8 – Board Meeting @ 7:30
- 9/9 - 1st Quarter Progress
- 9/16 – Spirit Assembly
- 9/17 – Farm to Family, Main Street 9 a.m – 6 p.m
- 9/20 – School Site Council, 3-5 p.m. in the MS library
- 9/22 – Picture retakes

Athletics

Soccer and Volleyball seasons are underway. The silver and purple teams have been chosen. Please visit our website for schedules, forms, and details. Please remember that if you are driving any students that you must have signed up with Mrs. Noz at the bus barn prior to driving.

School Site Council

I would like to thank all of our parents that signed up to run for school site council. Parent members for this year will be Janet Fant, Cindy Citti, Chelsea Wilson, Jennifer Vann, Judy Agnew, and Melissa Clark. Meetings will begin this month. SSC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month. See the website for more details.

Communication Home

We are continually trying to improve our communication with parents. Please remember to notify the office anytime your contact information changes. We need to have the most up to date information available to our staff. This year we will be utilizing the AlertNow automated message system, the reader board at the front of the school, and the website (http://dusd.k12.ca.us/ to give you as much information as possible.
****Please take a moment to complete and return the attached parent survey. We want to hear from you about what is working and what we need to improve.**

Dress Code

I would like to thank our parents and students for adhering to the dress code. We are experiencing a new trend this year, torn pantlegs. Mrs. Oei will be discussing with students that this attire breaks dress code policy, "No torn or ripped clothing" and students will be asked to change. Please visit the website to view our student handbook. The dress code policy can be found on pages 16-17. The dress code will be strictly enforced.

Box Tops Collection

SUPPORT DENAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL!
Collect Box Tops (bright pink, small coupon on product boxes) from products you use at home (such as Ziploc bags and many General Mills products). Cut them out and send them to school. Every classroom has a pink collection bag. Classes and students can win prizes for bringing in the most. There is also a raffle twice a year for students who bring in 50 at a time with their name and homeroom on a baggie. Denair Middle School earned over $200 last year just for handing in Box Tops! Our goal is to double that this year. This money is used for needed items at our school. The more money we can raise, the more items (such as sports equipment and school supplies) we can get! Begin all your online shopping at BTFE.com (Box Tops For Education) and easily earn money for our school at NO EXTRA COST to you! Make a summer goal to bring in a huge amount of Box Tops when school begins! Please register on BTFE.com and support our wonderful school! ATTENTION PARENTS; BOX TOPS NOW HAS ANOTHER NEW WAY TO EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL IF YOU SHOP AT SAFEWAY!
REGISTER YOUR SAFEWAY CARD AND DENAIR MIDDLE SCHOOL (SCHOOL ID= 955074) ONLINE AT 2WaysToEarn.com AND WHEN YOU PURCHASE ITEMS WITH A BOX TOP LABEL, DMS WILL AUTOMATICALLY GET EXTRA "EBOX TOP POINTS!

New District Policy re: Registration

Board policy 5021 was adopted regarding noncustodial parents.
School officials shall presume that both parents/guardians have equal rights regarding their child, including, but not limited to, picking the student up after school or otherwise removing the student from school, accessing student records, participating in school activities, or visiting the school. When a court order restricts access to the child or to his/her student information, a parent/guardian shall provide a copy of the certified court order to the principal or designee upon enrollment or upon a change in circumstances.

ZAP

Zap will be returning in a modified format. Zap will be utilized for our "at risk" students primarily. If your student is not an "at risk" student you may sign up for the Zap service in the office. Please stop by and complete the ZAP packet and to meet with Mr. Delworth.

Tutoring

Huntington Learning Center will again have a location on our campus. School provided tutoring is for those students that are at the below basic and far below basic levels on the CST's (state test). Parents that wish to pay for tutoring for their child may contact Huntington and arrange times to meet on our campus. Letters will be sent out to those students that qualify for services.

Learning Opportunities

The First Presbyterian Church of Turlock is offering free tutoring for students in 6th grade. Dates and times can be found on the attached flyer.

Club News

I am working on selecting a night to have an informational meeting for parents regarding establishing a parent service club and/or a sports boosters club for the middle school. An automated phone call will be going out in the next week to inform parents of the date, time, and location.

Yearbook: Yearbook is now accepting baby pictures, for 8th grade students only, to be placed in the yearbook free of charge. We will accept pictures until our slots run out so hurry and bring Mrs. Watts your baby picture! No parent message included with the picture please.

Supplemental Education Services

Students that scored below basic or far below basic will have the opportunity to sign up for free tutoring services through Huntington Learning Center or any other approved service provider. Due to our program improvement status the district is obligated to pay for up to $1,400 per qualifying student. Letters will be mailed home with the progress reports. If you have any questions please call the office during business hours.