

Denair Charter Academy Newsletter

December 2010

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Denair Charter Academy Go Coyotes!

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Holiday Greetings!

Dear Denair Charter Academy Families,

It's hard to believe the school year is nearly half over! We have enjoyed working with your children, and appreciate all you do to help them achieve academic success.

These past months at Denair Charter Academy have seen an increase in enrollment of students and the hiring of three new teachers to meet our growing population. We recognize the important role education makes in the future success of these young people. Our focus continues to be on the individual needs of students. Our doors are open to answer questions and address concerns regarding the needs of students.

As fall semester dwindles to its end, please make sure your children turn in all school work by December 18, the last day of fall semester.

The school will be closed from December 18 through January 2. Students should plan to return to their regularly scheduled appointment time and day, the first week in January.

As we reflect on the events of 2010, we hope to do so with optimism. May we see each passing day as a chance to learn and grow, to help others, and to improve conditions in our lives, homes and communities.

We wish your family and friends a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in 2011.



Red Ribbon Poster Winner!

Red Ribbon Week's activities included an all day anti-drug event for middle-school students, an information table with a game and prizes, and a poster contest with the theme, **Dream, Believe, Achieve, Succeed: Be Drug Free**. The winner of the poster contest was senior, Celena Desaire. She received a \$20.00 gift card to Target.

Celena was quick to explain that she did not enter the contest for the prize, but

because "I don't like drugs one bit." She says friends have coaxed her to "come on just try this", but she has consistently resisted the temptation. Celena says "I can't stand any kind of drugs and I don't know why people do them. I have better things to do in my life than drugs."

Congratulations, Celena. With your healthy, positive attitude, you are sure to go far!



Celena Desaire shows off her winning poster.



DCA students took a pledge to be drug free.

Field Trips to MJC and the Gallo Center



Mary Creedon, shows DCA students the Art Building at MJC

On November 18, DCA high school students took a tour of the Modesto Junior College campuses, led by the DCA counselor, Sally Baker and MJC Outreach Coordinator, Mary Creedon. Besides a general tour, students were able to tour areas of particular interest to them, including Welding, Culinary, Nursing, Radio and Recording, and Art and Photography.

Students were impressed by the high-tech equipment on the campus and the access students have to hands-on learning opportunities. Ms. Creedon

emphasized that finances should never be the deciding factor in whether to attend college, since there are so many resources available to students. She assured that students who take the initiative to learn what is available to them will be well rewarded.

Earlier in the month, 6-12th grade students attended a live performance at the Gallo Center for the Arts, called *Wired*, a production to raise awareness about the problem of Cyber Bullying. About thirty students attended this field trip, led by teacher Jerrie Verschelden.

December Grads

Students planning to graduate in December should check with the office to take care of any last-minute business.



PHAST CLUB

As Denair Charter School grows, so do the opportunities for student involvement. This year, our school has become involved in anti-tobacco and anti-drug education. Student clubs are a part of this, **PHAST Club** (9-12) and **PHAST JV Club** (6-8).

What does PHAST stand for? **Protecting Health and Slamming Tobacco**. The clubs do more than discourage tobacco use, however. In September, middle-school students participated in a whole day leadership training, learning about public speaking, community involvement and being a positive role model.

Anyone interested in joining the **PHAST Club** should contact the counselor, Mrs. Baker.



HELP WANTED!

Greenhouse Club is looking for high school student volunteers to help with their Celebrate the Season Event on Wednesday, December 15th. Volunteers are needed from 11:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to supervise elementary aged students for a morning of fun, garden harvesting, art projects, stories and refreshments. Students interested in helping with this holiday activity, should sign up in the office or talk to Donna Williams.

The **Greenhouse Club** meets weekly to learn gardening skills, to beautify our campus and performs other community service. For example, earlier this fall, the club planted a tree on campus, in remembrance of the wife of a district employee, who recently passed away.

Thought for the Day...

To solve any **problem**, here are three questions to ask yourself:

First: **What can I do?**

Second: **What can I read?**

And third: **Who can I ask?**



A healthier
tomorrow
starts today!

A Healthy Child is a Better Learner

Does your child have health insurance? The **Healthy Families Program** is a low cost insurance providing health, dental and vision coverage to children who do not have insurance and do not qualify for Medi-Cal. Working families do qualify, depending on income.

Enrolling your children in Healthy Families, will provide health, dental, and vision insurance for your children. The insurance covers most of the costs for visits to doctors, dentists, eye doctors, and specialists. You will also have access to pharmacies, laboratories, clinics and hospitals for your children's health care.

To learn more about the **Healthy Families Program**, call toll-free 1-800-880-5305, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8 p.m. or Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You can also visit their website at: www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov Information regarding the **Healthy Families Program** is also available in the Denair Charter Academy office.

Counselor's Corner

Scholarships and Financial Aid

A few **local scholarships** are listed below. To learn about additional **local scholarships**, contact Mrs. Baker at ext. 5243.

Modesto Elks Lodge #1282

Eligibility: Any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen. 500 awards available nationally. Scholarship is based on leadership and financial need. Apply at www.elks.org/enf/findalodge.cfm
Deadline: **December 1, 2010**

AXA Achievement Scholarship

Eligibility: For students who have been active in their community, led a project that benefits others or have overcome personal challenges. Apply at www.axa-achievement.com
Deadline: **December 15, 2010**

California Association of Collectors, Inc.

Eligibility: For students of any accredited college, university or vocational school. Scholarship is based on a 700-1,000 word essay on the "Importance of Establishing and Maintaining Good Credit during Your College Years". First, second and third prize winners - \$2,500, \$2,000 and \$1,500. See Mrs. Baker for an application.
Deadline: **January 31, 2011**

Ronald McDonald House Charities

For students who are exemplary role models in their communities and have the initiative to fulfill their educational goals.

Apply at www.rmhc.org

Deadline: **January 28, 2011**

You can apply for **national scholarships** through search engines online:

www.fastweb.com

www.schoolsoup.com

www.icanaffordcollege.com

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Financial Aid \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

January 2nd - March 2nd is the priority filing period for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This application is the key to receiving state grant money, if you qualify, so make sure you apply. [Apply at fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)