

Denair Charter Academy Newsletter

January 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.

Beginning this month, the “Choose Civility” Initiative will highlight one of the 12 Principles from Dr. Forni’s book, *Choosing Civility*,” each month - January’s focus is:

“LISTEN”

Dr. Forni says that “good listening is hard work,” and that the “quality of our listening is as good a measure of our humanity as any.”

While *hearing* is a physical ability, *listening* is a skill. Listening skills allow us to understand and make sense of what others are saying. According to the Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS), listening skills are among the three foundational skills essential for those entering the workforce.

How to Listen Well:

*maintain eye contact; *don’t interrupt the speaker; *sit still; *nod your head; *lean toward the speaker; *repeat instructions and ask appropriate questions when the speaker has finished.

A good listener knows that being attentive to what the speaker doesn’t say is as important as being attentive to what he does say. Look for non-verbal cues such as facial expressions and posture to get the full gist of what the speaker is telling you.

Barriers to Listening:

*bias or prejudice; *language differences or accents; *noise; *worry, fear, or anger; and *lack of attention span.

Paying attention to what the speaker *doesn’t* say is as important as paying attention to what he does say. Look for non-verbal cues such as facial expressions and posture to get the full gist of what the speaker is telling you.

Listening Starts Early:

Children have an uncanny ability to appear to be listening to you while actually paying no attention at all. It’s important to help children develop good listening skills early. They will do better in school, and as the SCANS report points out, good listening skills will prepare children to eventually succeed in the workforce.

*When you tell your child to do something, ask him to repeat your instructions; *Teach your child to maintain eye contact when talking to or listening to someone; *Read out loud to your child and then engage her in conversation about what you have read; *Engage your child in age-appropriate activities that promote good listening skills. (Adapted from: *Here’s Why You Need Good Listening Skills* by Dawn McKay and Infoplease.com)

Every good
conversation
starts with
good listening.

January 2011 Calendar:

Sat. Jan 1st - New Years DayMon. Jan. 3rd - class resumeMon. Jan. 17th - no school
(Martin Luther King, Jr.)Tues. / Wed. Jan. 25th-26th
CAHSEE Math Prep. 4-6pm

Thought for the Day...

"You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you."

**Sam Rutigliano,
NFL Coach**



Students Share Their Artwork

In December, Career Class and Art Class students visited residents of the Turlock Residential Center. As a conversation starter, students brought along some of the artwork they had completed during the semester and explained how and why they had drawn or painted what they had. It seemed to be a very positive experience for all involved.

One of the students, Jonathan Hermosillo had this to say. *"...I was taken by surprise at the number of friends I made there and the life experiences I heard from these folks...these elderly people have been around for a lot longer than us teenagers, and the experiences they have gone through makes them wise and interesting. They have so much knowledge about life and can help us see things from a different perspective."*

Another student, Joyce Perez, said, *"being with the old folks helped me realize a couple things. I know now that I would like to work at an old folk's home. I also learned you shouldn't be scared to give them affection. They don't get too many hugs...so when you do hug or just hold their hand, they love it!"*



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 CAHSEE Math and English. Please check with your teacher regarding participation in the CAHSEE support courses offered on Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00am. We are also offering a CAHSEE Math two day tutorial on Tuesday, January 25th and Wednesday, January 26th from 4:00-6:00pm in room 41. Please contact your teacher with any questions regarding the CAHSEE or other support available to you.

Counselor's Corner...

Financial Aid for College!

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 any available grant money, so make sure you apply.

By the end of January, many scholarship applications become due. You can apply for national scholarships through search engines online:

www.fastweb.com

www.schoolsoup.com

www.icanaffordcollege.com

Mrs. Baker has information on other national and local scholarships. See her for more information, in room 43.

