Some of the 3,000 fourth-grade students visiting Cabrillo College Friday hear about the school's dental hygiene program.

Ahead of the Curve

Fourth-graders sample college life during field trip

By DONNA JONES
djones@sanmariatimes.com

APTOS — If the students strolling around Cabrillo College on Friday looked a little younger than usual, they were.

More than 3,000 fourth-graders, parents and teachers were touring the campus and taking part in educational activities designed to get them thinking about continuing their education beyond high school.

The Samper Fourth Grade Experience, named in honor of Cabrillo's largest donor, is an initiative of Santa Cruz County College Commitment.

The 2-year-old group, also known as S4C, is a partnership of county school districts, Cabrillo, CSU Monterey Bay, San Jose State and UC Santa Cruz. Its goal is to encourage students to enroll in college and to help them succeed once there.

Organizers say students entering college too frequently are not ready for college-level English and math courses. By intervening early in children's educational careers, they hope to welcome better prepared students in the future.

Follow Sentinel reporter Donna Jones at Twitter.com/Donnakonesscs