

Cokato Elementary

www.dc.k12.mn.us

April 2010



Paragraphs from the principal...

Mrs. Force

This is the time of year when students and teachers are working hard at accomplishing everything they have set out to do this school

year. Conversations begin to emerge about next year! The school calendar has been set, kindergarten round-up has taken place, and decisions are being made about the number of sections we will have at each grade level next year.

The school board and administration have kept a watchful eye on the district budget and enrollment projections before making decisions about the number of sections that will be in place at Cokato Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year. We will be able to offer six sections of kindergarten next year as has been the case this year. In first grade, we will have five sections, which is one less than this year. A first grade teacher will be moving with her class, looping as it's called, to second grade, where we will again be able to have five classes. Third grade students will be divided into four sections, with one section of approximately 36 students being taught by an experienced team of two teachers. In fourth grade, we will again be able to offer four sections. The numbers we project will average out to about 22 students per classroom, with slightly lower numbers in kindergarten and slightly higher numbers at fourth grade.

As I look into the month of April, we see changes in our schedule brought about by statewide testing. Please take time to read an article in this newsletter that is of importance to parents of third and fourth graders who are most directly affected by the testing. Everyone

in the school helps out by creating a quiet testing environment for our hard working students in the south wing of the building during the four mornings of testing.

On April 21, second grade students will all benefit from a generous learning grant given by the Dassel-Cokato PTA! The new Minnesota science standards greatly emphasize early engineering experiences. We were able to contract with "The Works", which is a science-based museum in Edina, to do a site visit and bring **Magnet Mania** to our school. The students will explore what magnets really attract (not every metal!), investigate magnetic poles, pull "buried treasure" from sand and find out where magnets are used. Each child makes a magnet game to take home. Without the contribution of the PTA, this event would not be possible. Thank you!

On the following day, April 22, we will celebrate the 40th commemoration of Earth Day! What a perfect way to wrap up our yearlong learning theme of "Working Together to Make A World of Difference." Plans are underway to make use of Peterson Park to have groups of students in multi-aged groups travel from station to station learning about nature, the importance of recycling, and caring for our beautiful planet Earth. Each child will receive a tree sapling to take home that day thanks to Wright-Hennepin Electric. We look forward to celebrating Earth Day at Cokato Elementary!

Spring break is right around the corner. I want to thank all of you for the time you took to come to parent/teacher conferences. The teachers reported exceptional attendance and are extremely grateful for the support we feel from you, our Cokato families.

Phy Ed *Fundamentals*



Mrs. Sorgatz



Mr. Berggren

March is National Nutrition Month!

Most of you have heard of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) *MyPyramid* resources. You may want to re-visit this site at www.mypyramid.gov to refresh yourself on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, My Pyramid, and create a personalized activity and menu plan for you and your family. Visit *MyPyramid for Kids* at <http://mypyramid.gov/kids/> for healthy recipes, games and activities, printable personal eating and activity logs and tips for encouraging children to make better food choices.

Have you considered ways to promote healthy eating when eating out? In our hectic day-to-day schedules, we often have to "eat on the run." Portion sizes have increased over the past 20 years, and when eating out, they seem to all be "supersized!" A *portion* is the amount of food we choose to eat for a meal or snack. These portion sizes do not necessarily reflect the recommended serving size. A *serving* represents the measured amount of food recommended from each food group, like a slice of bread or 1-cup (8 ounces) of milk. To *Keep an Eye on Portion Size* and check out portion distortion, visit the National Institutes of Health website at <http://hp2010.nhlbihin.net/portion/keep.htm>.

Maintaining energy balance is a popular phrase today. It simply means *calories in = calories out!* The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) recommends 60 minutes of activity every day for children.

Did you know adults need at least 30 minutes of activity every day?

When eating out, maintaining the energy balance is often more difficult due to increased portion sizes. To make healthy choices when eating out, consider looking at the way food is prepared. Steamed, broiled, baked, roasted, poached, lightly sautéed or stir-fried are always healthy choices. If it is garden fresh, you know it is a healthy choice.

Another healthy idea is to ask the server how the food is prepared and/or ask to make healthy substitutions. Some suggestions include asking for margarine instead of butter, fat-free or low-fat milk rather than whole milk or cream, food without butter, gravy, or sauces, salad dressing "on the side," and ask for less cooking oil in preparing your order. Additional healthy eating out ideas are available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/wecan/live-it/balance.htm>.

The most important thing to remember is to encourage and model for your child a healthy, active lifestyle. Maintaining energy balance is as easy as eating well (calories in) and moving more (calories out)!

- **Wow!**
- **Way to go!**
- **Very impressive!**
- **Give yourself a pat on the back!**

These are the words to be shared with the students at Cokato Elementary. The aluminum cans have been brought to the recycling place and our school received \$100.00 for the people in Haiti. With \$100.00, we can provide Haiti with 375 pounds of goods. Be proud and feel good today. You made a huge difference in many lives!



everychild.onevoice.®

The mission of the Dassel-Cokato PTA is to foster communication

between schools and families as well as supporting children in their work of learning. The Dassel-Cokato PTA hopes to create a collaborative effort with the schools, community, and parents/guardians to ensure a quality, well-rounded education for the children in the D-C area.

Upcoming meeting:

Jane Ryan will attend the April meeting to discuss the Dassel-Cokato Early Childhood Programs: how the programs look now, the transition to kindergarten, and the future of the Dassel-Cokato programs funding and space issues. Come with questions and find out what is happening with our youngest community members.

Please note the date change of our meeting due to Spring Break. We will meet in the HS Media Center on Thursday, April 8th 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Remember, you can still order Charger apparel. We have t-shirt and D-C baseball caps perfect for the nicer weather. T-shirts and sweatshirts are available in these designs:



Est. CHARGERS 1972

Items are available in both adult and youth sizes.

- Baseball adjustable caps - \$12
- T-Shirts - \$12 - available in navy, white, gray and red
- Zip Sweatshirt - \$22 - available in navy, white, gray and red
- Hooded Sweatshirt - \$22 - available in navy, white, gray and red
- Long Sleeve T-Shirts - \$15 - available in navy, white, gray and red
- Sweatpants - \$13 - available in navy, gray and red
- Skull caps - \$10 - one size fits most

To order please call Krista Cates 320-221-4011 or email chargerpta@yahoo.com.

If you have any question about the upcoming meetings or would like to simply talk to someone about PTA, please contact our Membership Committee Chair, Tonia Olsen at 275-3275 or chargerpta@yahoo.com.

Volunteering....



Krista Cates

Happy National Volunteer Week! National Volunteer Week is celebrated across the country during the month of

April. This week was started in 1974 by President Nixon to promote volunteerism by inspiring and encouraging people to seek out ways to volunteer and to recognize those that already are volunteering. I want to thank all of the parents, grandparents, siblings and other community members that have chosen to volunteer this year at Cokato Elementary. We thank you for all that you have done for our students! We will be hosting an appreciation lunch for you in May. Please watch for details in the next newsletter.

There will be many volunteer opportunities through the end of the school year. What a busy time! The first big event that we will need many volunteers for is Grandparent's Day on Friday, May 7th. We will need a volunteer for every classroom to help serve the students and grandparents lemonade and cookies, plus a few floaters to keep things filled. Please let me know if you are available to help for Grandparent's Day or any of the other fun events listed in the Dates at a Glance in this article!

AND THE WINNER IS . . . Amanda Schmieg

Amanda is the sister of Adam Schmieg in 4th grade. She has been a regular volunteer helping in the computer lab with kindergarten, in the 4th grade classroom, and working on many, many projects. Thank you Amanda for giving the gift of so much of your time to our students!

A reminder to all volunteers - you are welcome to enter your name in the volunteer drawing each time you volunteer for a chance to win a small prize. The basket is by the sign-in tags in the office. If you volunteer at home I will enter your name for you. This is one small way to show you our appreciation and have some fun, too.

DQ KIDS NIGHT



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Every Wednesday is Kids Night at the Cokato Dairy Queen. Art made

by one of the elementary classes will be on display at the restaurant for the community to enjoy. DQ donates 15% of all sales from 5:00-8:00 that night to our elementary schools. What a fun and tasty way to contribute to our school! The upcoming Cokato classes that will be on display are:

- Wednesday, April 14 - Ms. McCormick
- Wednesday, April 28 - Ms. Melquist
- Wednesday, May 12th - Ms. Zaske
- Wednesday, May 26th - Mrs. Kielty

DATES at a GLANCE:

- Thursday, April 8th 6:30-8:00 high school media center - PTA Meeting
- Wednesday, April 14th, 5:00-8:00 - Ms. McCormick's class displays art at DQ
- Wednesday, April 28th, 5:00-8:00 - Ms. Melquist's class displays art at DQ
- Thursday, April 29th - April Birthday Table
- Thursday, May 6th - Spring Program
- Friday, May 7th - Grandparent's Day - 1 volunteer needed for every class!
- 3rd grade t-shirt tie dying - 5 volunteers are needed for each 3rd grade class
- Wednesday, May 12th, 5:00-8:00 - Ms. Zaske's class displays art at DQ
- Wednesday, May 19th - Activity Day - MANY volunteers needed!
- Tuesday, May 25th - May Birthday Table
- Wednesday, May 26th, 5:00-8:00 - Mrs. Kielty's class displays art at DQ
- Thursday, May 27th, Olympic Day - MANY volunteers needed



MY COKE REWARDS for SCHOOLS

My Coke Rewards for Schools is a way for parents, friends, and others in the community to support Cokato Elementary by donating My Coke Rewards points. Our school can turn donated points into a variety of rewards that support students. You can donate your points by choosing donate to your school at www.mycoke.com or simply sending the caps/codes to school with your child. We will enter them for you.

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING CONTEST LET'S ALL LIVE AS "GREEN" AS WE

CAN! National Environmental Education Week is April 11-17. In recognition of EE week and Earth Day, Mattson Marketing, our ink cartridge and cell phone recycler, is holding a contest for schools that started February 1st and runs through April 30th to encourage families to recycle their ink cartridges. If Cokato Elementary has an ink cartridge recycling pick up during the 90 day period totaling over \$100 we will receive a \$25 Target gift card in addition to the recycling payment. If it is over \$150 we will receive a \$50 Target gift card and an extra \$50 for any orders over \$200. Tell your family members, friends, and employers, and do something good for the environment and our school!



BOX TOPS

The Box Tops drawing winners for March are:

Emma Schut, Kristina Niska, Gehrig Helget, Oren Niemela, Eric Niska, Haley Siltala.
Congratulations and Thank You for collecting Box Tops!

If your child would like to participate in the Box Tops drawing:

- Clip Box Tops from participating products,
- Have your child write his/her first and last name on the back of the Box Top,
- Bring them to school and put them in the marked box at the end of the 2nd grade hall.

The drawing takes place the end of every month and winners are announced on the morning announcements.

Charger Kids Club Corner:

Charger Kids Club (school age childcare K-6) is now taking registrations for our summer program. We are open Monday-Friday, June 7-August 27 from 6:00 am-6:00 pm. Charger Kids Club is staffed by qualified and caring adults. All lead staff is trained in CPR, First Aid and FUN! For more information on our summer program please contact Jennifer Todnem at 286-4100 ext. 1334 or Jennfer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us.

Charger Kids Club (school age childcare K-6) is gearing up for summer, and it's always nice to add new things for the kids to play with each year. So as you begin your spring cleaning keep us in mind if you come across anything that is gently used and you would like to donate - we would love it! Donated items can be dropped off at either Cokato Elementary or Community Education.

Popular items include:

- Hula Hoops
- Jump Ropes
- Tennis Balls
- Outside Games
- Baseball/Softball Gloves
- Board Games
- Knex
- Legos
- Books
- Puzzles
- Craft/Scrap Booking Supplies
- Hot Wheels (cars/tracks)
- Sand Toys
- Barbies
- Dolls and Accessories
- Bean Bags/Moon Chairs

COMMUNITY EDUCATION YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mark Your Calendars:

Summer Community Ed. Brochures to be mailed first week of May.

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production, "Tom Sawyer", August 2-7

Jewelry Time, Gr. 1-4, \$15

Craft handmade matching bracelets and necklaces! All supplies provided.

Wednesday, April 7

3:15-4:45 - Dassel Elem. Rm. #145

Registration Deadline: March 26

Magic & More, Gr. 3-4, \$42

Amaze your family and friends when you share with them illusionary secrets and much more!

3 Thursdays, - April 8, 15, 22

3:15-4:45 - Cokato Elem. Room #139

Clay Camp-"Images", Gr. 1 & up, \$27

A gift for Mom, or something to hang on the wall in your room - a mirror! Parents may register also!

Thursday, April 22

3:15-4:45 pm - Dassel Elem. Room #145

Mother's Day Surprise, Gr. K-4, \$15

Make something for your mom that is as special as she is!

Cokato Elem. - May 5, 3:15-4:45 pm,
Room #139

Dassel Elem. - May 6, 3:15-4:45 pm,
Room #145

Soccer, Ages 5 - Gr. 4, \$19

Introduction to the basic skills of soccer taught by Brett Olson. (Must be 5 by start of class.)

5 Saturdays, April 24 - May 22

HS/MS Field on corner of Hwy. 12 & Reardon Ave.

Age 5 - 9:00-9:45 am

Grades K-1 - 10:00-11:00 am

Grades 2-4 - 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

Tae Kwon Do, Ages 4-Adult, \$60/mo.

Tae Kwon Do is the world's most widely practiced martial art!

Little Ninjas (Ages 4-6) -

Mondays & Thursdays, 4:45-5:15 pm

Youth Beginner (Ages 6-14) -

Mon., Tues. & Thurs., 5:20-6:20 pm

Adult (Ages 14 & up) -

Mon., Tues. & Thurs., 7:40-8:40 pm

Spring Break Pool Party, Gr. 1-6, \$11

A fun activity during Spring Break! Swim, play games eat lunch and watch the movie, "Hotel for Dogs." Transportation, pizza and beverages provided.

Wednesday, March 31, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Departures:

Dassel Elem., Main Door, 9:30 am

Cokato Elem., Main Door, 9:45 am

Return Times:

Cokato Elem., Main Door, 2:10 pm

Dassel Elem., Main Door, 2:20 pm

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADULT ACTIVITIES

Herbs & Natural Healing - \$29

Thursday, May 20

7:00-8:30 pm-

HS Team Planning Room #501, Door C

Pottery - \$110

4 Saturdays: April 17, May 1, 15 & 29

10:00 am - 12:30 pm -

HS Art Room #30, Door C

Minnesota Starwatch Party (Ages 6-Adult)

Friday, April 16

8:00-10:00 pm, Cokato Township Hall

Fees: \$20-Adult and \$8-Students

Registration Deadline: April 9

Straw Bale Gardening - \$37

Tuesday, April 27

6:30-9:30 pm,

HS Art Room, #31, Door C

Monday Aquacise-

7 Mondays, April 12 - May 24

7:30-8:30 pm, HS Pool , Door A

Saturday Aqua Fitness- \$27

6 Sat., April 10 - May 15

8:30-9:30 am, HS Pool , Door A

Lap Swim Times

Mondays - 6:30-7:30 pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays - 6:00-7:00 am

NEW TIME: Wednesdays - 6:30-7:30 pm

Saturdays, March 6 - May 1 - 7:30-8:30 am

Open Swim Schedule

Open Swim Times: Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm -

NOTE NEW TIME!

Fees: \$3 for children/students, \$5 for adults and \$12 for families

To register or for more information visit www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed or call us at 286-4120.

UPCOMING DASSEL-COKATO ARTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

"Bridge Over Troubled Water"

Simon & Garfunkle's classic album performed by Collective Unconscious & 17 talented musicians

Saturday, April 10 - 7:00 pm

Tickets: Adults - \$20, Youth \$10

Tickets on sale now.

Cirko Cabaret

Great family entertainment! Show contains aerialists, acrobatics, juggling, the revolving hoop & more!

Saturday, April 24 - 7:00 pm

Tickets: Adults - \$15, Youth \$5

Reserved Seating at the PAC

Tickets on sale now.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat

The Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre Summer Musical Production.

Performance Dates & Times:

Thursday, July 22, 7:00 pm

Friday, July 23, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 24, 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 25, 2:00 pm

Tickets sold through Community Education. Call 286-4120. For more information visit www.dc.k12.mn.us/pac

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING

CLASS LISTS FOR 2010-2011

From: Lorene Force, Principal

It seems hard to believe that we are starting to think about next school year, but that time will come soon. This spring, one of the biggest jobs our staff will be faced with is preparing the class lists for next year. A great deal of thought goes into this lengthy process. Classroom teachers meet several times with the special education teacher, the social worker, the physical education teacher, music teacher, and myself to discuss the placement of students for the following year. Things we feel are very important to consider as we construct class lists include, but are not limited to:

- A balance of boys and girls
- A blend of all ability levels
- Careful consideration of student personalities and behaviors
- A mixture of students from all classrooms
- Placing students together who work well academically but aren't necessarily friends.

We realize that parents/guardians know their child's personality better than anyone, and we respect the fact that some parents may want to contribute their thoughts to the process. In the past, several parent requests for a specific teacher were not able to be granted due to a variety of reasons. Most parents do not put in any teacher request. This spring, if you choose, I am asking that you follow the steps below if you want to give input into your child's placement for next year.

Stop by the Cokato Elementary Office to pick up a form to complete. This form is short and will ask you to describe your child and the type of learning style your child has. We carefully consider children's learning styles as we place them in classes for the following year. **No teacher name should be put on the request.**

Deadline to return the form to the Cokato Elementary Office is April 9, 2010.

Please complete a separate form for each child. Only these forms will be accepted. Do not replace these forms with written notes or letters. These forms are good for one year.

The class lists will be posted on the window by the front doors in August of 2010. Once posted, the lists are not subject to change.

As you can tell, a great deal of time, thought, and effort goes into the formation of class lists each year. We want you to know that all Cokato Elementary teachers are highly qualified and exceptional teachers with whom you can put your trust. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please call me or stop by if you have a specific concern regarding the placement of your child for the next school year. My number is 286-4100 x 1304.



WE DELIVER!

Inside Dining • Delivery • Take Out

320-275-9344

Enjoy some great food while supporting DC Schools. Mention this ad when you order on any Tuesday from now through April 27th and we'll donate 20% of your full price order to DC Schools. Thank you for supporting Jimmy's and

Thank you for helping our schools.

(No other coupons or specials are allowed with this promotion.)

Hours: 4-9 pm
Sunday through Thursday
4-10 pm
Friday and Saturday

Coming Events:

April

- 7 Kindergarten "Doughnuts for Dads" Red Group
- 8 Kindergarten "Doughnuts for Dads" Blue Group
- 9 Lyceum- "Kid Davie" fitness and food combined with juggling
- 13 & 14 MCA-II testing for Third and Fourth Grade (Reading)
- 20 & 21 MCA-II testing for Third and Fourth Grade (Math)

May

- 4 Kindergarten "Muffins for Moms" Red Group
- 5 Kindergarten "Muffins for Moms" Blue Group
- 6 Spring Program Grades 3 & 4
1:15 Matinee at PAC
7:00 PM Evening Concert—PAC
- 7 Grandparent's Day- 12:45
Cookies/Lemonade following
- 19 Activity Day on playground and Peterson Park
- 27 Cokato Olympic Day
At High School Track
- 31 No School- Memorial Day

June

- 3 Fourth Grade Send-Off at lunch
- 4 Last day of school,
Variety Show/Awards Program in AM

Cokato Elementary April 2010 Breakfast Menu



April				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice	6 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	7 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fresh Fruit	8 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slice Fruit Juice	9 Cereal Muffin Fruit
12 Pancakes / Syrup Sausage Link Juice	13 Cereal Cinnamon Sticks Fruit Sauce	14 Breakfast Pizza Juice	15 Cereal Yogurt Fresh Fruit	16 Fruit Stick Cheese Stick Juice
19 Cereal Muffin Juice	20 Omelet Toast Juice	21 Cereal Cheese Slice Fresh Fruit	22 Breakfast on a stick Fruit Sauce	23 Cereal Granola Bar Juice
26 Cereal Granola Bar Juice	27 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	28 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit	29 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Juice	30 Cereal Muffin Fruit
1/2 pint of milk will be served with each meal				

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age or disability (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, please contact: Tina Palmer, 4852 SW Reardon Ave, Cokato, MN 55321

Cokato Elementary Lunch Menu April 2010



April				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	6 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Seasoned Carrots Tea Biscuit Fresh Fruit	7 Chow Mein Rice/Noodles Cole Slaw Pineapple/ Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	8 Pizza Sticks Lettuce Salad Bread Choice	9 Chili Cinnamon Roll Fresh Veggies/Dip Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit
12 <i>Twins Opener</i> Dome Dog/Bun Nachos/Cheese Baked Beans Fruit Sauce Twins Treat	13 Hamburger/fixings Sweet Potato Fries Seasoned Vegetable Fresh Fruit	14 Taco in a Bag/Fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	15 Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Spaghetios or Tomato Soup/Crackers Vegetable Relishes Sauce	16 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes /Gravy Mixed Vegetables Dinner Roll Fruit Sauce
19 Chicken Nuggets Scalloped Potatoes Seasoned Peas Fruit Sauce	20 Mini Corn Dogs Oven Fries Broccoli/Cheese Fresh Fruit	21 Spaghetti / Sauce Cole Slaw/ French Bread Fresh Fruit/ Cookie	22 Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	23 Sub Sandwich Potato Rounds Vegetable Relishes Fresh fruit
26 Mini Pancakes Sausage Links Tri Taters Orange Slices Juice Choice	27 Hot Ham & Cheese/bun Potato Smiles Seasoned Vegetable Fresh Fruit	28 Chicken Fajita Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Bread choice Fruit Sauce	29 Chicken Patty Batter Bites Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit Pudding	30 Sloppy Joes/Bun Oven French Fries Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit Gelatin