



Cokato Elementary News

May 2011

Paragraphs from the Principal...



Mrs. Force

We're heading for the merry month of May! Now that spring is here, the busiest of all times at our school are quickly approaching.

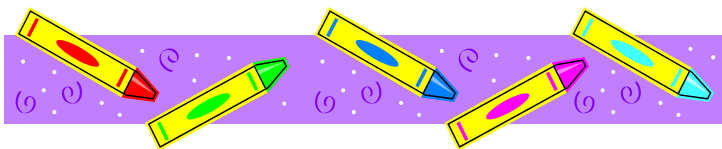
Here's what we accomplished in April:

- Third and Fourth grade students worked their hardest on the MCA's!
 - Third grade students enjoyed a real ballet performance of "Peter and the Wolf" in St. Cloud. The Cokato Public Library received a Legacy Grant, which covered the cost of tickets for our students/chaperones and transportation expenses. It was exciting to be given an opportunity to attend this once-in-a-lifetime performance!
 - Kindergarten students created colorful neckties for their dads to wear when the dads came to enjoy "Doughnuts for Dads". Yum!!
 - The entire school benefited from a week-long artist-in-residence when we had Greg Olson here with his wonderful "Critters and Company" animals making visits to all of our classrooms. Mrs. Terpstra, one of our school social workers, received a \$5,000 grant from the Minnesota Arts Board to have him teach our students about the art of storytelling!
 - We had a snow day! Imagine that—it was the only total day school was called off during this very snowy winter. Yes, it does mean that we will have one more day of school on June 6. (See below for how this affects end-of-year events.)
 - All students attended a CLIMB Theater play to celebrate Earth Day on April 21!
 - They also brought home free tree seedlings, compliments of Wright Hennepin Electric. This fit our schoolwide theme perfectly because in April we "focused on caring for the Earth"!
- Now, here's what's ahead in May and June. Hold onto your hats!
- Third and Fourth students will proudly present their spring concert to the community and family members on May 5 at the Performing Arts Center at D-C High School. Please invite people and feel welcome to attend either the 1:15 PM matinee on May 5 or the 7:00 PM performance that evening.
 - We will all welcome our favorite "sensational seniors" to Grandparent's Day on May 6. All classes will perform that afternoon at Cokato Elementary. Please remember that space in our auditorium does not allow for parents to attend this program. We need to limit attendance to Grandparents only. We greatly appreciate having parents help serve cookies and lemonade to our visitors following the program.
 - Fourth grade student council members meet with the school board on Monday, May 9 to tell about life at Cokato Elementary! What a grown-up event for them!
 - Kindergarten moms will be visiting soon to enjoy "Muffins for Moms" on May 9 and 10. It's great to have those special ladies visit our school!
 - Third graders get to visit one of our local treasures, the Cokato Museum, during the week of May 11, 12, and 13 to learn more about Cokato history.
 - Thanks to Wright County Deputies, our school patrol gets to spend a day at Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America on May 17. Our hard-working patrol members under the direction of Ms. Starla Powers, deserve this reward!
 - Children in grade 1 through 4 will try their hand at all kinds of skill games at our annual Activity Day on May 18. Come one; come all to watch the kids fill their bingo cards by completing all the events!
 - Kindergarten goes to Como Zoo on May 20! What's more fun than a day at the zoo with excited 5-and 6-year olds?
 - Maybe it's a trip to the Minnesota Zoo with 2nd graders on May 25! What a great experience after their study of animal habitats!
 - Then it's off to the high school track for our yearly "Olympic Day"! Come and watch the future track stars run, jump, and throw on Thursday, May 26!
-

- 3rd graders are excitedly looking forward to their tour of Target Field on June 1st, thanks to a generous grant from Target Corporation.
- On Friday, June 3, the fourth graders are honored at a special luncheon served in The Cokato Café, a.k.a. our lunchroom! Their May 13 visit to the middle school will give them a glimpse of their upcoming status as 5th graders!
- Then, it's time to close down another school year with the year-end Variety Show and Awards program on Monday, June 6. This will be followed by a school-wide picnic in our "back yard" complete with hot dogs and chips!

What a sensational way to end another rich year of learning and fun at Cokato Elementary!

We hope to see you at many of these events! Enjoy the final month of school!



Dear Third Graders,

I was so delighted to have you attend Peter and Wolf presented by the Stroia ballet. I do hope you enjoyed the performance and learned something new about ballet.

Thank you all for being such a wonderful audience. You all sat so well throughout the show - nice and quiet; perfect. Your manners spoke volumes! I was so proud of you! Even on the bus you all were so well behaved; I'd take you anywhere! I think you've proven that you're ready to lead the elementary school next fall as fourth graders.

With appreciation,

Sheila T. Rieke
Great River Regional Library
Cokato Branch Manager
(320) 286-5760



Musical Notes.....

Amanda Spires

The spring concert and Grandparent's day are coming soon! We are excited to share the program with family and friends! Here is a schedule of the concert times and locations:

Program	Location	Time	Date
Matinee (Grades 3 and 4)	Performing Arts Center-High School	1:15 p.m.	Thursday, May 5th
3 rd and 4 th grade Evening Performance	Performing Arts Center-High School 3 rd grade meets in the community room 4 th grade meets in the band room Those of you involved in the "Welcome Performance" meet in the green room	Arrive at 6:45, Concert starts at 7:00 p.m.	Thursday, May 5th
Grandparent's day (Grades K-4)	Cokato Elementary Auditorium	12:45 p.m.	Friday, May 6th

Safety Patrol News...

Starla Powers



Safety Patrol Coordinator

We had our final patrol meeting of the year and the enthusiasm and excitement are running high! Everyone is very excited about the field trip to Nickelodeon Universe. They have worked hard all year and deserve this reward. We

have a Total of 73 students attending. WOW! Thanks to all who showed an interest in chaperoning. I had more parents than needed (great problem!) So names were drawn from all who were interested. Notes were sent home with students if your name was drawn. More information will follow as the date draws near.

I had a great first year as patrol advisor, and look forward to next year. Thank you to the students and parents who made it all possible. You are the reason we have a successful program. Until next year.....

Patrol of the Month

Megan Aho



Megan has been a great asset to our Safe-Patrol Program. She is an awesome example both in and out of the classroom. Megan ways has a friendly hello and her smile is a great day brightener for myself and others.

Thanks

Megan for you dedication and hard work!



Volunteering

MaryKay Morris

Mark your calendars

- Wed., May 4– Mrs. Kusler’s class displays at the DQ.
- Thurs., May 5– 3 & 4th Grade Spring Program
- Fri., May 6– Grandparent’s Day
- Thurs., May 12– May Birthday Table
- Wed., May 18– Activity Day
- Wed., May 18– Mr. Barton’s class displays at the DQ
- Wed., May 25– Mrs. Nelson’s class displays at the DQ
- Thurs., May 26th– Olympic Day
- Mon. June 6 Variety show

If you would like to volunteer at either Activity Day or out at the High School track for Olympic Day please let me know. Grandparents and college students are very welcome to volunteer for any of these events. We need MANY volunteers the last 2 weeks in May with Activity Day and Olympic Day. We welcome everyone. Please spread the word to anyone you think may want to give the gift of their time to help with these events. Thank You!

Coming Events:

May

- | | |
|----|---|
| 5 | Spring Program for Grades 3 & 4
1:15 PM Matinee at PAC
7:00 PM Concert– PAC |
| 6 | Grandparent’s Day
12:45 PM program
lemonade/cookies following |
| 9 | Kindergarten “Muffins for Mom”
(Red Group) |
| 10 | Kindergarten “Muffins for Mom”
(Blue Group) |
| 18 | Activity Day on Playground
and Peterson Park |
| 26 | Cokato Olympics Day @ HS Track |
| 30 | No School-Memorial Day |

June

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6 | Last Day of School
Variety Show and
Awards Program AM |
|---|---|

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Volunteers you are Invited!
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 One person can make a difference! Thank You!
 * * * * *
 Volunteer Appreciation
 * * * * *
 Salad Luncheon
 * * * * *
 Tuesday, May 24
 * * * * *
 11:00-12:45.
 * * * * *
 Cokato Elementary Parent Waiting Area
 * * * * *
 We look forward to showing your our thanks
 * * * * *
 Please RSVP to MaryKay Morris
 * * * * *
 320-286-4100 X 1327 or
 * * * * *
 marykay.morris@dc.k12.mn.us
 * * * * *
 * * * * *

Hey dads and kids
Join us for the
Cokato Elementary



All Pro Dad

Dad's Day

Tuesday, May 3rd

7:00-7:45 A.M.

Cafeteria/Media Center

Please RSVP to

www.allprodad.com/dd/2356

Team up with other Cokato Elementary dads and kids for a quick, before-school breakfast and a 45 minute program of fatherhood and family topics. You'll take away some great tips and resources to help you be the best Dad you can be, and you'll strengthen your relationship with your kids at the same time.

It's fun, and it's free. See you there.

Your Cokato Elementary Leader

Joel Hillmann



From the Health Office

Kelly Krueger

MEDICATION PICKUP

Attention parents: Please make arrangements to pick up any medication that has been stored in the Health Office this year. For the safety of all students, medication will not be sent home with students unless we have received written consent from a parent/guardian. A consent form will

be mailed to you by the end of May.

Medication that has not been picked up by 3:30 pm on Monday, June 6th will be destroyed. Please call the Health Office at if you have any questions.

320-286-4100 X 1305

Thank you and have a great summer!

Kelly Krueger, LSN

The 2010-2011 Cokato Elementary School Yearbook has been distributed to students that ordered one. If your child did not order one and you would like to purchase a yearbook, there are a few left in the office.

Cost of the yearbook is \$10.00.

Checks can be made payable to Cokato Elementary.

DC Saints Reading Challenge

"Take me out to the ballgame..." Baseball season is in full swing and it has provided Dassel-Cokato Elementary with a great opportunity to read and enjoy America's favorite pastime.



On April 29th, your child was introduced to the Saints Reading Challenge. The DC Saints are presenting a 4-week spring reading program that will start on Monday, May 2nd and will go through Monday, May 30th. This incentive based program challenges students to read a set number of minutes per week. At the end of the 4 weeks, students who reached their reading goal and turn in their calendars for all 4 weeks will earn a free FAMILY PASS and treat coupon for the June 3rd DC Saints home game against Maple Plain at 7:30! This game will be designated as the "DC Saints Reading Challenge" night. Students who reach their weekly goal and turn in their calendar each Monday will qualify for a weekly drawing for a DC Saints prize. Game tickets and treat vouchers will come home the week of June 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Hopefully we will see you at the ball park!

Activity Day:

Activity Day is on Wednesday, May 18! Students in grades 1-4 will have the opportunity to show the skills they have learned and refined throughout the year. The students will have about 2 hours to complete the 24 different outdoor stations while traveling independently with a partner. After finishing each station, students will be awarded either a blue, red, or yellow score which is determined by their performance when compared to the set of standards developed for each station. Students will be rewarded with additional prizes throughout the day as they complete the stations.

The students within each grade level will also be competing for a class sportsmanship award that will be awarded to one class per grade. This award will go to the class that demonstrates the MOST positive choices. Some example of positive choices would include: being happy for others that do well, having a positive attitude when a station is difficult, cheering others on, demonstrating responsibility with the equipment, following safety rules, having self control while waiting in line, cleaning up their equipment, etc.

The 3rd and 4th graders will participate in the event from 9:00-11:00 AM and the 1st and 2nd graders will participate from 12:45-2:45 PM. We hope that you can join us for one or both sessions! In the event of inclement weather, Activity Day will be rescheduled for Thursday, May 19th, if needed.

We need many parent, grandparent, college-ages siblings, etc to volunteers that day. At a minimum, 20 volunteers are needed for each session to help the day run smoothly. Contact Mary Kay Morris, the volunteer coordinator ASAP by phone (286-4100 X 1327), email (marykay.morris@dc.k12.mn.us), or send the volunteer form (below) to school with your student to sign up to help. **Please specify when you are available to help (AM, PM, both) and if you would also be available for the back-up day (May 19).** Volunteers do not need to chase/run to retrieve equipment, nor do they have to measure out distances. Basically you'll monitor a station and mark the student's score cards when they complete the station. It is a simple, and very fun and rewarding experience! **Notice below that the volunteers should arrive to the big gym about 30 minutes early to receive materials and details about the stations.**

Cut here-----

Help Wanted for Cokato Elementary Activity Day '11

Name(s) _____

Daytime phone # _____ Home phone # _____ .

Yes! I can help with Activity Day on Wednesday, May 18th!

_____ I can help in the AM with 3rd and 4th graders (arrive to big gym by 8:30 AM and help until about 11:15AM)

_____ I can help in the PM with 1st and 2nd graders (arrive to big gym by 12:30 and help until about 3:00 PM)

_____ I can help with both the AM and PM times

Yes! If the day needs to be rescheduled due to weather, I can help on Thurs. May 19!

_____ Thurs. May 19-AM only (for grades 3-4)

_____ Thurs. May 19-PM only (for grades 1-2)

_____ Thurs. May 19-both AM and PM

****Return this form to Margaret in the office****

Upcoming Community Education Activities

To register or get more information visit us online at www.dc.k12.mn.us or call us at 286-4120.

SUMMER BROCHURE COMING SOON!

The summer Community Education brochures will be mailed the first week of May. There are a variety of fun summer activities planned, including: T-ball/kinderball, swim lessons, softball, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf, football, wrestling, on land hockey, strength and conditioning, cross country, LEGOS, Spanish, clay camp, music lessons, Prairie Fire Children's Theater production of "Peter Pan" (August 1-6), trips to Summerland, Pump It Up and Cosmic Bowling, a Sprint Triathlon and MORE!!

Watch for your brochure in the mail!

UPCOMING ARTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

Rhythmic Circus Production:

Feet Don't Fail Me Now

A talented quartet of tap dancers team up with seven musicians/vocalists: drums, trumpet, guitars, keyboard, saxophone, and human beatbox, for an evening of non-stop percussion madness!

Visit www.robinklingerentertainment.com for a sampling of this amazing show.

Saturday, May 21, 7:30 pm

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

Location: D-C Performing Arts Center

Reserved Seating at the PAC

Tickets on sale now!

Information and Ticket Purchases: D-C Community Education, 286-4120

Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre Summer Musical

Sound of Music

Directed by: Randy Wilson

Thursday, July 21, 7:00 pm

Friday, July 22, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 30, 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 31, 2:00 pm

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

Location: D-C Performing Arts Center

Reserved Seating at the PAC

Ticket sales begin June 1

Information and Ticket Purchases:

D-C Community Education, 286-4120

Sound of Music Auditions!

Sunday, May 22, 1:00 pm OR Monday, May 23, 6:30 pm
High School Choir Room

Cast Requirements:

7 women, 8 men, 7 children ages 6-16, a chorus of 20 nuns, 16 German soldiers, neighbors, and festival contestants

Auditions Preparation:

Bring a vocal range song. An accompanist will be available.

Everyone: Bring your conflict schedule (vacations, weddings, etc.)

Rehearsals begin after Memorial Day.

Questions:

Production Assistance: Deborah Moen: 612-236-5137

Director: Randy Wilson: 320-296-4274

Producer: Colleen Compton, Community Education: 320-286-4120

Coming in fall of 2011: New Harmonies

What do blues, country, gospel, rhythm & blues, folk and rock 'n' roll have in common? All are musical styles that emerged from America's rich immigrant cultural traditions. "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music," an exciting exhibition from Museum on Main Street, takes a look back at this music and how it served as the foundation for many musical genres appreciated worldwide today. Museum on Main Street is a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Next fall, The Dassel Area Historical Society (ERGOT) has the exciting opportunity of hosting this fun and interactive traveling exhibit.

We are hoping to allow all students in our district to visit the exhibit in October. Also, we will be hosting Soli Hughes and the Thunderbirds, surprise musical guests. We will also theme our entire fall around the traveling exhibit and local exhibit "We'll Walk Hand in Hand," focusing on the many different cultures and ethnicities in our communities. We are very excited about the upcoming events!

If you are interested in helping out with the exhibit (at the museum or with the schools), please contact Jessica Luebker (286-4100 ext. 1634) or Carolyn Holje (275-3077). Thank you!



Student Variety Show



Coming... Monday, June 6th

Children who are interested in being part of the "Variety Show" are asked to read and review the following information with their parents.

Needed:

- Students to perform various talents such as:
- Singing, reciting poetry/dramatic reading, dance, gymnastics (Be creative)
- Acts should be no longer than 3- 4 minutes
- Parent permission required
- Try-outs will take place during the school day in mid May. Participants will be notified at a

later date whether they are in the talent show or not. Please come prepared to the try-out with any sheet music or tape of song that you need. If singing a song you will need to either have a CD without the words or sheet music or sing without music. If you need someone to play piano, you will need to bring the sheet music prior to try outs and ask Mrs. Spires if she can play or have someone come and play for you.

*** Please fill out the following form and return it to Mrs. Spires by Friday, May 13th, 2011**

Name: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Kind of Act: _____

Props/Material Needed: _____

Parent Assistance Needed at Performance (Please circle one) yes no

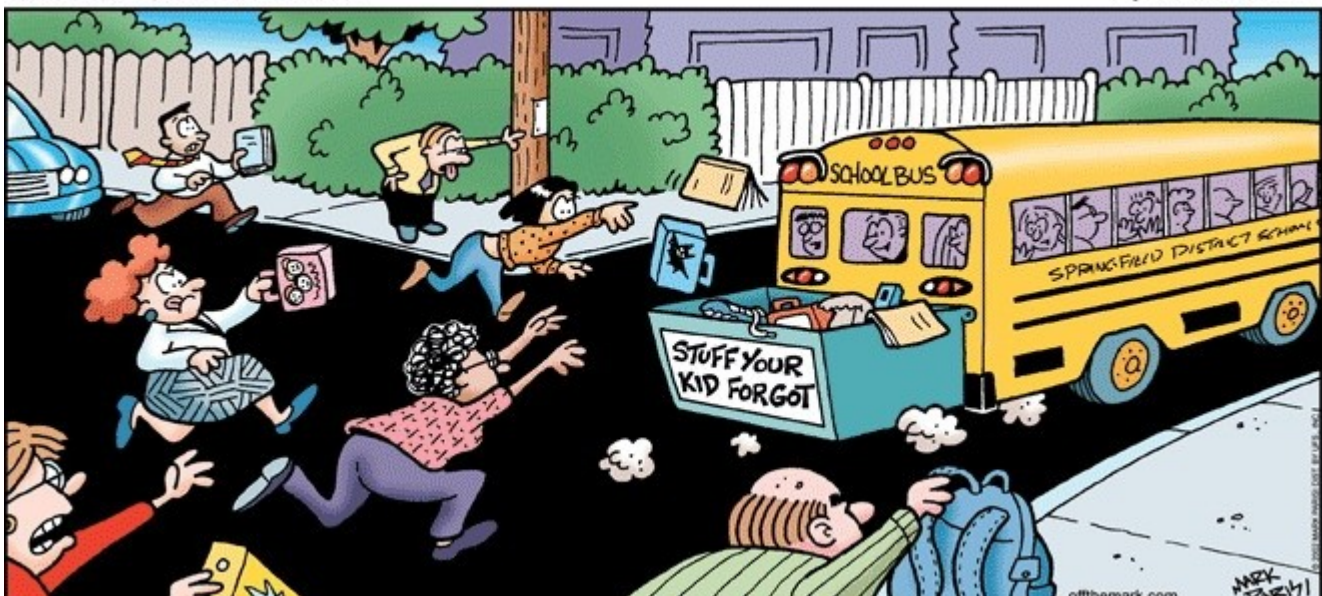
My child has my permission to try out for the 2009 "Variety Show". I have reviewed his/her act and feel they are prepared to try out.

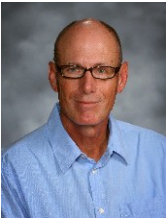
(Parent's Signature)

(Date)

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi





**Mr. Mark Dolan Retires After Teaching
33 Years at D-C**

The end of May will prove to be a significant time in Mark Dolan's teaching career both at the beginning and end of his run at Dassel-Cokato. It was during this time in 1978 that he interviewed with Principal Jerry Weber for a position at Cokato Elementary, and 33 years later, the Dassel-Cokato staff will take time to celebrate his illustrious career by honoring him with a retirement party on the 31st of May.

Mr. Dolan began his career teaching third grade at Cokato Elementary with Gail Ganser and Wendie Anderson. He taught 5th grade for one year before the middle school was built, and then moved to the new building to begin teaching with Jeff Olson, Arliss Tensen, Tim Morgan, Beth Young, and Frank Johnson. One of his favorite stories from the middle school years was an event that took place around 10:30 at night at the school dumpsters! He and fellow teacher Nancy Nielsen had set up their science/health lab for the following day where they would be dissecting pig, goat, and cow lungs. Unknown to the night custodian, who thought they were to be thrown out, he cleaned up their room, resulting in the lungs being thrown into the dumpster! That's when Mr. Dolan and Mrs. Nielsen found themselves rescuing the lungs from the dumpster at 10:30 PM and re-setting up the experiment for the following day. Talk about dedication!!

His return to teaching third grade at Cokato Elementary came after teaching 10 years at the middle school, and we are grateful that he came back! His current third grade team includes Mike Barton, Lori Stangland, Kristin Glur and Carissa Chap. Next year, upon his retirement, Mrs. Laura Bussler, who was Mr. Dolan's student teacher two years ago, will take over his room. Mrs. Bussler credits Mr. Dolan's strong influence and excellent guidance for her strong start in education as do several other student teachers Mr. Dolan has mentored through the years.

Around Cokato Elementary, Mr. Dolan is known for his positive outlook, his sense of humor, and his willingness to serve on any committee for the betterment of his profession, whether it is performing in a homecoming skit or being an active member of the Dassel-Cokato Education Association. In his personal life, his name is synonymous with golf and his lifelong enjoyment of reading.

Following retirement, Mr. Dolan will spend time with his wife Julie, their two married children, Sean and Keeley, along with their spouses, Melanie and Dan. A twinkle in his eye can be detected when he talks about his 3 beautiful grandchildren; Ryan, Kira, and Emma. He plans on working and golfing at Albion Ridges Golf Course until winter, when he and Julie will spend more time with their grandchildren in Colorado and Florida.

In Mr. Dolan's words, he wants "to thank everyone who has made my 33 years at D-C so rewarding. I am a teacher. My goal has been to help every student become a better person academically, socially, emotionally, and responsible. I hope I have accomplished that." Yes, Mr. Dolan, you have accomplished all of the above and have left an indelible impression on the lives of hundreds of students and faculty members who have had the privilege of knowing you. We will miss you and we wish you well in your retirement! Congratulations on dedicating 33 years to the children of Dassel-Cokato!

Spring Music Concert
3rd and 4th Grade
May 5, 2011
1:15 Matinee at the PAC
7:00 PM Concert at the PAC

June 6th is the last day of school for students.

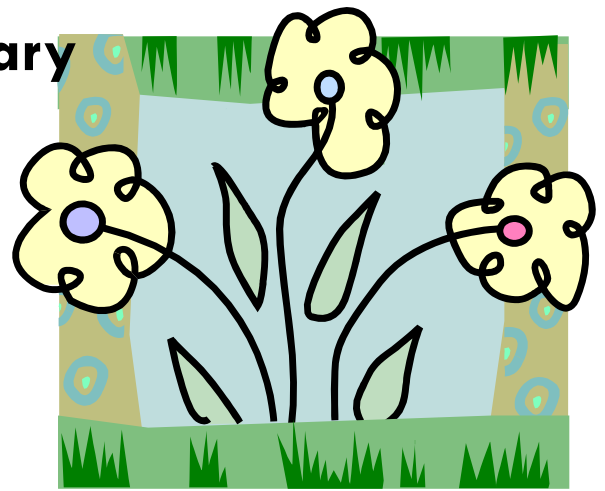
Grandparent's Day
May 6, 2011
12:30 PM - 3:00 PM



DC Elementary School Lunch Menu 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Lunch Around Pizza Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	3 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Carrots Biscuits Fresh Fruit	4 Chicken Chow Mein Rice Cole Slaw Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	5 Chicken Patty/Bun Oven Fries Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Choice	6 Pulled Pork Sandwich Potato Rounds Veg. Relishes Fruit Choice
9 French Toast Sticks Smokies Tri Tater Orange Smiles Fruit Juice	10 Hamburger on a Bun French Fries Vegetable Choice Fresh Fruit	11 Hard or Soft Shell Taco W/Fixings Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tuna Salad Sandwich Tomato Soup Fresh Veggies/Dip Fruit Sauce Choice	13 Meat and Gravy Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetable Fresh Dinner Roll Fruit Sauce
16 Chicken Nuggets Scalloped Potatoes Seasoned Peas Fresh Fruit Bread Choice	17 Lasagna Lettuce Salad Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice	18 Mini Corn Dogs French Fries Broccoli and Cheese Fruit Sauce Choice Bread Choice	19 Turkey Wrap /fixings Potato Rounds Fresh Veggies/Dip Fresh Fruit	20 Riblet/Bun Bag of Sun Chips Seasoned Carrots Fruit choice
23 Whole Grain Pizza Seasoned Veg. Fruit Sauce Choice	24 Hot Ham and Cheese Batter Bites Fresh Fruit Choice	25 Chicken Fajita/Fixings Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Fruit Sauce Choice	26 Sub Sandwich w/Fixings Potato Rounds Fresh Veggies/Dip Fresh Fruit	27 Sloppy Joe on a Bun French Fries Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice
30 No School Memorial Day	31 Pizza Choice Vegetable Choice Bread Choice	1 Chicken Choice Potato Choice Veg. Choice Bread Fresh Fruit		In The operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against write immediately to Dept. of Agriculture, Wash. DC 20250

DC Elementary Breakfast May 2011



In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against write immediately to Dept. of Agriculture, Wash. DC 20250

1/2 pint of milk is served with each meal

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Cereal Granola Fruit Choice Milk	3 Pancakes/Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Choice Milk	4 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice Milk	5 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Fruit Choice Milk	6 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice Milk
9 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice Milk	10 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Choice Milk	11 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Choice Milk	12 Breakfast Bites Fruit Choice Milk	13 Cereal Yogurt Fruit choice Milk
16 Cereal Honey Graham Sticks Fruit Choice Milk	17 Breakfast Omelet Toast Fruit Choice Milk	18 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice Milk	19 Breakfast On A Stick Fruit Choice Milk	20 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice Milk
23 Apple Strudel Sticks Cheese Stick Fruit Choice Milk	24 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice Milk	25 French Toast Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Choice Milk	26 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit choice Milk	27 Frudel Bar Yogurt Fruit Choice Milk
30 NO SCHOOL MEMORIAL DAY	31 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit choice Milk	1 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit choice Milk	2 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Fruit Choice Milk	3 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice Milk