



Cokato Elementary News

September 24, 2010



**Paragraphs
from the
Principal**
Mrs. Force

On your mark, get set, go! That's the way the beginning of September has felt here at school. I'm guessing that your family has said, "Where did the summer go?" a few times as the end of August approached. Now we're three weeks into the school year, and it's time to reflect on the start to the school year.

Our students were greeted with the theme of being "**focused on learning**", and that's exactly what we've been doing. So much learning takes place in the first few days; it's mind boggling. Did the students learn all of their multiplication tables that first week or how to do long division? No, they were learning how to interact with a new teacher and several new classmates.

Teachers know that the routines and behavior expectations that are set forth in the first few days are hugely important and can make or break the school year. They address such topics as the right time to sharpen a pencil so as not to disrupt the class with the grinding motor on the electric sharpener. They also

learn the guidelines for what is acceptable while walking in the hallway, or turning in their work, or standing in the lunch line.

You may or may not be aware that as parents, you are doing the same thing. I'm guessing you made "new year's resolutions" whether consciously or unconsciously about such things as bedtime routines, packing the backpacks the night before, keeping library books in an easily found location, and getting homework done before winding down for the evening. Let's support each other in keeping both the home and school routines throughout the year. It will make for a smoother year for our children!

As the students begin to bring library books home, parents may wonder why their child chose a certain book that was "way over their heads". Remember how cool you felt when you said you were reading a chapter book? We do continue to see that occasionally when a child isn't ready for a chapter book, but for the most part, our media center people and the teachers strive to help children pick books that are at their "independent" level. I recently read an article that emphasized some important points that

can help you as parents assist children in choosing the right books. According to an article in the September 2010 Minnesota Reading Association newsletter, "reading one hour a day, five times a week, all year, at the student's independent reading level, will give students a gain of at least **two grade levels** a year." The article goes on to say that by finding the child's independent reading level, the words go by the brain faster, which leads to increased comprehension. How do you find a child's independent reading level? For K-2 students: Count out 50 words in a book, place a Post-It Note there, and have the child read to the note. Count their mistakes. If they have only two, that's their independent level. For students who are in 3rd grade and above—Do the same thing, but this time count out 100 words and count the mistakes. If they have only three, that's the right level.

I'm not implying that a child should choose only easy books. There's a difference between too easy and independent. We can put it into our lives as well. If we want to read something and gain from reading it, we want it to be understandable and enjoyable in a short time, or we

will cast it aside.

Children are taught at their "instructional" level throughout the day by their teachers. That's the level where they are being stretched in vocabulary and in such literary elements are "reading between the lines" and other high end techniques. For enjoyment and pleasure, help them find books—and don't forget magazines—that they enjoy and just can't put down! What a good problem to have!

I look forward to making myself available to talk to you about any questions you may have about your child's education at Cokato Elementary. To assure you, the staff at Cokato Elementary is **focused** on helping your child become the best they can be as a student and as a person, which aligns perfectly with your hopes and dreams for them as well. Please contact me if you have any concerns at lorene.force@dc.k12.mn.us or 320-286-4100 x 1304.



Media Messages
Pam Osterberg

Each classroom has a weekly scheduled check-out time.

During this time students are introduced to various types of children’s literature and learn how to access materials for pleasure and information. The weekly visit to the Media Center is much more enjoyable for students if they return their books on time as they are not allowed to check out books until books are returned. Students K-2nd grade are allowed two books, 3rd and 4th grade students are allowed 3 books. When students are working on a project they are welcome to check out additional books. Students are invited to stop in and exchange books throughout the week.

Cokato Elementary School

200 5th St. SW

Cokato, MN 55321

Phone: 320-286-4100 Ext. 1300

Fax: 320-286-4131

www. dc.k12.mn.us

3rd and 4th Grade Book Club



Attention all third and fourth graders!!! We’d like to invite you to join us for book celebrations that will be held throughout this school year. We again want to include as many students as possible. The first books will be announced the first week in October.

Following are some details for this year’s book clubs:

- In order to allow for many students to join us, students will need to read and return the book in one week. Then we will pass the books on to other kids.
- You are welcome to borrow or purchase the books somewhere else.
- Students must pass a Reading Counts test by the required due date as proof that the book has been read.
- Celebrations for the books read will be held approximately one week after the book is due. This helps us plan how many students will be attending.
- Celebrations usually include discussions, fun activities, and a treat!
- Celebrations will be held over the recess/lunch hour.
- Mrs. Osterberg will explain more about book clubs during the regularly scheduled media center times. We are looking forward to celebrating good books with all who are interested!

Hope to see you there!

October:

- 8: Vision and Hearing Screening–Grades 1 and 3
Hearing Screening– Grades K and 2
- 15 Picture Retakes for Grades 1-4 and kdgn Blue Group. Red Group students come in with parents if retake is needed.
Vision and Hearing Rescreening
- 21 & 22 No School—Education Convention (Thurs. and Friday)

Musical Notes...

Amanda Spires



It’s been a great start to the year in music class! All of the classes have been very successful and we have been busy reviewing concepts from last year. A year ago about this time I attended a music workshop with renowned early childhood music educator John Feierabend. He talked about how research shows that one of the most important times to make meaningful musical experiences is when children are young as their mind is developing. If children are exposed to music at a young age they become more tuneful, have an increased awareness of beat, and



become more artful and musical adults. As the school year begins we look forward to creating many of these meaningful experiences! Remember that a child’s earliest musical experiences are with YOU the parent! Singing to your child or purchasing a recording of lullabies, folk songs, or other quality music for them to listen to on their own can be invaluable for developing their musical ear and competency at an early age. When children have positive joyful musical experiences at a young age, they develop the listening skills to appreciate and participate in music throughout their lives. We are off to a great start and are looking forward to all of the fun and enriching learning experiences we will have in music class this year!

Charger Kids Club – Join us TODAY!!

Charger Kids Club is a school age childcare and enrichment program, designed to meet the year-round needs of working parents of students in grades K-6. The goal of our program is to provide a FUN, safe, recreational, and enriching program.

Hours
Before school: Monday-Friday – 6:00-8:00 AM
After-school: Monday-Friday - 3:00-6:00 PM
Non –school days: 6:00 am – 6:00pm

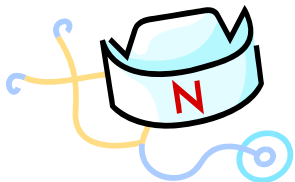
Location
Cokato Elementary – Cafeteria (Small Gym)

Dassel and Middle School students welcome, transportation is available before and after-school, to and from Cokato Elem.

Contact Info: Jennifer Todnem
 320-286-4100 ext. 1334
 Jennifer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us

2010-2011 School Year Fees	First Child	Second Child
Registration Fee (June 10-May 11)	\$35 Family	\$45 Family
Before School		
Daily	\$4.50	\$4.00
Full Time child (5 days a week)	\$20	\$17.50
After School		
Daily	\$8	\$7.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	\$36	\$32.50
After School until 4:30 PM	\$5	\$4.50
Non-school days		
Full Day	\$25	\$24
Half Day (5 hours or less)	\$20	\$19
Drop In Rate – Before School	\$6.50	\$6.50
Drop In Rate – After School	\$10.00	\$10.00

Up Coming
Non-School Days
MEA Break
 Thurs. & Fri.
 Oct. 21 , 22
No School-Elementary Only
 Fri., Nov. 19
Teacher Workshop
 Friday, Dec. 3



Headlines in School Health
 Kelly Krueger

Vision and hearing screening will take place on October 8th. Screening guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are followed. MDH recommends screening kindergarten and 2nd grade students for hearing, and 1st and 3rd graders for both vision and hearing. We will also include children in which a vision or hearing concern is brought to our attention by parents, teachers or students.

I, along with our wonderful, trained volunteers, will conduct the screenings. A re-screening will be held on October 15th for

those students who do not pass the initial screening. If, at this point your child does not pass, you will receive a referral letter recommending your child be seen by his/her health care provider. If you do not receive a letter by the end of November, your child has passed and no follow up is necessary.

Good vision and hearing is an essential key to learning. It is very important to conduct screening so that any problems can be detected at an early age.

The screening is not diagnostic; only an indication to whether a possible problem may be present. Further evaluation by your health care provider will be needed to determine if a problem exists. If you have specific concerns regarding your child, please call me at x1804.

We are always in need of volunteers to help with this process! If you would like to help out in the future, please call me and I will add you to the volunteer list. Thank you in advance!

Volunteering

The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. ~ DeAnn Hollis

When you become involved in our school, at home or in the building, your children will thrive and our school truly does become a better school because of you!



There are many ways to volunteer at Cokato Elementary. Volunteers can come in regularly to help in the classroom, work with a small

group, help in the media center or computer lab, or work on projects, like copying, laminating, cutting etc.... You can also volunteer to help with one of the many special days throughout the year, like Picture Day, programs, special research projects, Jump Rope for Heart, Activity Day and Olympic Day. We also value the volunteers that cannot make it into the building to volunteer but volunteer by doing projects that can be worked on at home. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the opportunities, please contact me:

Mary Kay Morris
320-286-4100 ext.
marykay.morris@dc.k12.mn.us

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Making copies for the teachers – ongoing!
- Doing projects for teachers at school – ongoing!
- Scholastic Book Fair- Evenings November 16 and 18 Afternoon November 19

DQ KIDS NIGHT

Every Wednesday again this year 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. The DQ will donate 15% of sales from 5:00-8:00 that night to

our elementary schools. What a fun and tasty way to contribute to our school! Cokato Dairy Queen Kids Night has been a tremendous success! Thank you Cokato Dairy Queen! The upcoming Cokato classes that will display are:
Wednesday Sept. 22 - Heinonen
Wednesday Oct 6 – Berggren
Wednesday Oct 20 – Ardoff

(Dassel Elementary classes will display art on the alternate Wednesdays)

START COLLECTING

BOX TOPS – Clip Box Tops from participating products, each worth ten cents, have your student write their name on the back of the Box Top and put them in the Box Tops drop box at school. A drawing will be held for the Box Tops each month for small prizes. Winners will be announced during morning announcements.



KEMPS and LAND O'LAKES

MILK LIDS – Save the specially marked lids from Kemps and Land O'Lakes products. Each lid is worth five cents. Please RINSE the milk caps and have your child put them in the milk lid collection box at school.



CAMPBELL'S LABELS

Clip the UPC code from the participating Campbell's products and have your child bring them to school. Each label is worth 1 or 5 points. These points are collected and then use to purchase products



from the Campbell's school catalogue. The play ground staff is able to order play ground balls, jump ropes and other things for the students to use during recess.

INK CARTRIDGES AND CELL

PHONES – Recycle your old printer ink cartridges and cell phones at school. This is a great way to help the environment by recycling and turning your trash into cash for our school!

BIRTHDAY TABLE

We will be continuing the Birthday Table again this year for grades 1 – 4. Each student with a birthday during the month will receive an invitation to the Birthday Table about one week prior to the date (summer birthdays will be celebrated ½ birthday month). The birthday student is invited to bring a guest to the table. The guest can be any number of parents, grandparents, younger siblings, or other special person, OR the birthday student can invite ONE school friend. Please talk about this choice with your child so that they understand they can bring one or the other. Students will go to lunch during their regular lunchtime but can sit at the Birthday Table with guests. All guests will enjoy a birthday treat .

Guests that come for lunch will need to sign in at the office and can then go down to the lunch room to meet the birthday student. Please bring exact change of \$3.05 for each adult lunch, \$1.50 for pre-schoolers. Exact change is important since the kitchen staff does not have change. Please contact Mary Kay Morris if you have any questions.

September Birthday Table – Thursday Sept 30

October Birthday Table – Tuesday Oct 2

Lunch Times:

1st grade – 11:35

3rd grade – 12:05

4th grade – 12:20

2nd grade – 12:30



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.

Start the new school year off right by becoming a Dassel Cokato PTA member! The PTA is a group of community members that work together to contribute to the betterment of our schools and community.

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Safety Patrol News...

Starla Powers Patrol Advisor

I would like to extend a huge Thank You to the patrol members and their parents for the awesome start to our year! We've had all corners covered and have had numerous compliments on a job well done. Way to go!

Deputy Sherber joined us on Sept. 9 for training, and again on Sept. 10 for the installation of all members. I met again with everyone on Sept. 16 to answer questions, review duties, and hand out Safety Patrol pins. We will be meeting once a

Being a PTA member will allow you to:

- Be connected and informed about our schools through PTA involvement and advocacy.
- Influence decisions that affect your child's learning.
- Become more informed about topics that affect our children and their school.
- Get to know school administration and some school board members. Receive emailed copies of school board minutes and agendas
- Meet other community members. New this year, the PTA will be meeting bi-monthly. Our meetings will be held October 7th, December 2nd, February 3rd, and April 7th. Each of these meetings will

month during Team Time to take care of business and celebrate our accomplishments. Being a patrol member is not an easy job and these kids deserve a pat on the back. Again, thanks for a job well done!



be held in the high school media center from 6:30-8:00 PM.

Thursday, October 7th will be an interesting and informative meeting. Superintendent Jeff Powers will be discussing the ISD 466 closing and late start decision process. As always, you need not be a PTA member to attend a meeting. We welcome all community members to join us!

The Dassel-Cokato PTA is now on Facebook! Check out our page to keep updated and to find Charger apparel ordering information.

Patrol Member of the Month
Bryan Snook

Bryan not only fulfilled his own scheduled dates but took on an extra week as a substitute. We appreciate your dedication, Bryan!



Salutations from the Social Workers:



Sarah Terpstra
320-286-4100
ext. 1349



Heidi Sickmann
320-286-4100
ext. 1336

Welcome to another school year at Cokato Elementary. School Social Workers are available to students and parents at Cokato Elementary every day. Heidi Sickmann is here on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Sarah Terpstra is here on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please feel free to contact one of us if you have questions regarding the school progress of your son or daughter in the areas of social, emotional or behavioral issues. We meet with students in friendship groups, family change groups, and social skills groups. We can also meet individually with students to problem solve any social issues that might arise. We want to be a resource for you as parents as well. Sometimes parents just need another person to talk to and brainstorm ideas for how to solve issues that arise at home. We can be that person. Please feel free to contact one of us.

Cokato Elementary News

September 24, 2010



Welcome Back Issue

Cokato Elementary Students Receive Daily PE class

Contact Info:

Stacy Sorgatz

Ph: 286-4100 X 1355

stacy.sorgatz@dc.k12.mn.us

Brice Berggren

Ph: 286-4100 X 1332

brice.berggren@dc.k12.mn.us

Vinne Pokornowski

Ph: 286-4100 X 1654

vincent.pokornowski@dc.k12.mn.us



Please feel free to contact your child's PE teacher at any point through out the school year.

Did you know...

Did you know that experiences in physical education class have significant implications for students' education, exercise adherence, health, and future well being by promoting lifelong activity? This is an important time in your child's life to develop healthy and safe lifestyle choices! We are excited to have the opportunity to provide quality physical education instruction to your child using current best practice

teaching/exercising methods as recommended by national physical education organizations.

Meet the teachers

There are 3 PE teachers at Cokato Elementary this year. Stacy Sorgatz is starting her 9th year in the D-C schools, Brice Berggren is starting his 5th year, and Vinne Pokornowski is starting his 2nd year.

Teachers have their own gym, their own set of students, and see their students daily for 30 minutes for the entire year. We want to invite you to visit our physical education classes where you will see your child participating in a quality physical education program, the cornerstone for developing an active lifestyle.

Student Safety

It is extremely important that your child comes



EVERY DAY to class with tight fitting athletic shoes versus casual street shoe.

We understand that tight fitting athletic shoes may not be your child's first choice of shoe for style or comfort. However it is a requirement of PE class. Most shoes that zip up, slip on, or the skateboard type lack the tight fit or support that we request. Absolutely no roller shoes allowed. If your child is unable to tie their shoes independently, please practice and encourage this life-long skills at home.

Curriculum

Our elementary physical education program consists of developmentally appropriate activities that create maximum opportunities for development of motor and social skills, knowledge, health-related fitness, and ultimately, the confidence to enjoy an active, healthy lifestyle. A copy of the physical education scope and sequence can be downloaded from the district website.



Student

Participation

Students are expected to participate in PE class daily. If an injury prevents participation in PE class, it is required that a written note signed by the parent is sent to school. This note will be honored for one day. If a longer time is needed, we must have a written statement from the doctor and should include the date, injury details/restrictions for class, and when the child may resume full activity.

Support

As with any other academic subject, we encourage you to assist in helping your child develop healthy fitness and movement habits at home and in school. Children need a minimum of a least 60 minutes of physically active play. This is the type of moving that gets the heart pumping fast and makes kids sweat.

We look forward to getting to know your student throughout the school year!



OCTOBER BREAKFAST MENU

Cokato Elementary School

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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, Washington, DC 20250				1 Cereal Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk
4 Pancakes/syrup Sausage Link Fruit Sauce Milk	5 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	6 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slice Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	7 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Choice Milk	8 Frudel Stick Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk
11 Cereal Muffin Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	12 Omelet Toast Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	13 Cereal Cheese Slices Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	14 Breakfast on a Stick Toast Fruit Sauce Milk	15 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice Milk
18 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice, Assorted Milk	19 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce Milk	20 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Sauce Milk	21 No School	22 No School
25 Pancakes Sausage Link Fruit Juice, Assorted Milk	26 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	27 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slice Fruit Sauce Milk	28 Cereal Yogurt Fresh Fruit Milk	29 Frudel Stick Cheese Stick Fruit Juice Milk



OCTOBER LUNCH MENU COKATO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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, Washington, DC 20250				1 "Homecoming" Sloppy Joe on a Bun *new-Roasted Potatoes Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit Choice Cookie Milk
4 Lunch Around Pizza Seasoned Corn Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	5 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Potato Seasoned Carrots Fresh Fruit Milk	6 Hamburger Pasta Hotdish Bread Stick Seasoned Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Milk	7 Chicken Patty/Bun Potato Smiles Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit Milk	8 Dassel Grandparent's Day Turkey & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Dressing/Veg./Cranberries Fresh Dinner Roll Ice Cream Cup/ Milk
11 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetable Biscuit Fruit Sauce Milk	12 Spaghetti W/Meat Sauce Garden Salad French Bread Fresh Fruit Milk	13 Corn Dog Sweet Potato Fries Broccoli W/Cheese Bread Choice Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	14 Chicken Fajita Wrap W/Fixings California Blend Veg. WW Roll Fresh Fruit Milk	15 Whole Grain Pizza Vegetable Choice Fruit Sauce Choice Dessert Milk
18 French Toast Sticks Smokies Tri Tator Orange Smiles Fruit Juice Milk	19 Taco in a Bag W/fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Fruit Milk	20 Turkey Sandwich Potato Rounds Fresh Veggies/Dip Trix Yogurt Milk	21 NO SCHOOL MEA	22 NO SCHOOL MEA
25 Hot Dog W/Bun French Fries Sauerkraut Baked Beans Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	26 Hot Ham and Cheese Batter Bites Carrot Coins Fresh Fruit Milk	27 Chicken Strips Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	28 Cheese Bread W/Pizza Sauce Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit Cake Milk	29 Sloppy Joe on a Bun French Fries Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice Milk