

# Cokato Elementary

www.dc.k12.mn.us

March 2009



## Paragraphs from the Principal... Mrs. Force

### Did You Know?

- We celebrated the birth of a baby boy, Landon Barry Glur, to Kristin Glur and her husband Darren on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Laura Zaske, former student teacher with Mark Dolan, will team-teach with Carissa Chap at third grade for the remainder of the year.
- Our celebration this winter has included a successful heart and kidney transplant for paraprofessional Arlyce Terning's husband Dave. What a miracle!
- Our students have turned in 1000 "Read for Treats" calendars this year. Our goal is 3000. Will we make it by the end of the year?
- We have two student teachers/interns in our building. Bev Moye has Carmen Mickolichuk learning about teaching in her first grade classroom. Jean Abrahamson has Rachel Illstrup working with her in the area of speech/language.
- We have 6 male teachers in our building now. Can you name

them? There is one at first grade, one at second grade, two at third grade, one at fourth grade, and one teaching phy. ed. Okay, here's the answer: Sam Weber, Ryan Weinandt, Mark Dolan, Mike Barton, Todd Heinonen, and Brice Berggren.

- There are several husband and wife teams working at Dassel-Cokato. The ones with connections to Cokato Elementary are: Julie and Chad Ardoff (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and district technology specialist), Rachel and Brian Franklin (1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher and middle school dean of students), Lynda and Randy Johnson (Reading Recovery teacher and middle school industrial technology teacher), Lee and Jon Nelson (2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher and ALC director), Lorene and Brad Force (Cokato Elementary principal and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Dassel Elementary), Kristie and John Martinson (paraprofessional and district head custodian), Liz and Ross Anderson (District Office administrative staff and Cokato Elementary custodian). We are a family friendly school!
- Can you name the teacher at Cokato Elementary who teaches at the same grade level as her son-in-law and sends her kids to phy. ed. to be taught by her son? Yes, it's Gail

Berggren, second grade teacher. Ryan Weinandt is her son-in-law and Brice Berggren is her son!

- We have a new health assistant in our office. Mary Vol-len joined us this month. To keep up the family connection, she is high school media specialist Paul Beckermann's sister.
- As of this printing, we have 535 students. We are growing!
- Students at our school get 90 minutes of music, 150 minutes of physical education, 20 minutes of media center time, and approximately 40 minutes of computer lab time each week. We are grateful that the district provides such tremendous specialists in these areas.
- Teachers are busy selecting new social studies textbooks, maps, and globes in committee work with me this year in my role as district curriculum director. What wonderful resources we will have for students when they start school next fall!

That's enough trivia for now! I hope you have had a peaceful winter season. Our Cokato Elementary family encompasses all of our special children and their families. Please let us know if economic stresses have impacted your family in such a way that we can be of help to you. Until next month...

*Mrs. Force*



### **Media Messages**

Pam Osterberg

February has been a busy month in the Media Center. Students have been celebrating "I Love to Read" month. The month has focused around the Scholastic Reading Counts program. Students have had the opportunity to earn prizes by participating in the following activities:

The top girl and boy in our school to earn the most Reading Counts points during the month of February will receive the board game Caranium and a hardcover book.

The top boy and girl in grades 2 - 4 to earn the most Reading Counts points at the end of each week during February had their choice of a variety of prizes such as books, puzzles, games, and more.

The classrooms to earn the most Reading Counts points during the month earn a party in the Media Center.

### **Bookmark Contest**

The Media Center held the third annual bookmark design contest. Children voted for their favorite bookmark during their weekly media time. The winner will be announced on March 2, Read Across America Day. The Media Center will print the winning bookmark and give one to all students. There were many creative bookmarks submitted this year. Thank you to all of the students who participated.

### **Book Club**

Third grade students who read *Moose Tracks* by Mary Casanova celebrated a book discussion and lunch in the Media Center on Friday, February 20.

Jeff Lucas from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



stopped in and talked about what his job as a Refuge Law Enforcement officer entails, he even brought a golden eagle for the kids to look at.

Fourth grade students who read *Far North* by Will Hobbs celebrated in the Media Center on Friday, February 13. Students enjoyed discussing the book, learning about winter survival, and cooking their lunch outside.





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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.**

At the February meeting, Becky Litzau, elementary music teacher, gave a hands on demonstration of the Smart Board and how it is used in music education. It was a very fun, and informative presentation and easily explained why our children are excited out the Smart Board. Thank you Becky for showing us this wonderful teaching tool!

Our next meeting is **THURSDAY, MARCH 5th at 6:30** in the high school media center. We will have three guest speakers for the March meeting.

1. Jeff Powers: The governors proposal and how it relates to education and our school.
2. Mari Pokornowski: PTA's advocacy platform.
3. Jane Ryan: Trends in early childhood education.

The PTA will also be presenting a \$500 gift to ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) for their literacy program. This program put books into the hands of our communities toddlers and preschoolers. The PTA is very pleased to be able to present this gift.

#### **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Gary Johnson will be the guest speaker. Gary will be talking about middle school activity days and how students earn the opportunity to participate, how the middle school day is laid out, how the middle school plans to implement "Project Lead the Way", and much more.

#### **Thursday, May 7th**

The Physical Education Instructors from the elementary, middle, and high schools will be joining us to talk about the PE program, how it has changed, the importance of physical education for our students, and the academic benefits of PE. They will also be sharing great ideas for keeping active with children/families in the summer and much more.

The PTA regularly meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the high school media center. The March meeting will be Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

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. You may also write or email at:

Dassel-Cokato PTA

P. O. Box 632

Dassel, MN 55325

chargerpta@yahoo.com



Mrs. Sorgatz Mr. Berggren

### Phy Ed Fundamentals



What another great Jump Rope For Heart event! Students in grades 1-4 participated in the event on February 13<sup>th</sup> in

the big gym rotating around to various jumping stations. A special "thank you" goes out to all the parent volunteers and visitors that came to help at the stations and/or cheered on the jumpers! I think many teachers and parents will agree that the students definitely got a good aerobic workout that day! Our school raised \$7,224.93, which all goes

directly to the American Heart Association! We know that students are eager to receive their prizes earned for collecting donations, but they will have to wait 3-4 more weeks before they'll arrive!

We look forward to having the chance to connect with parents during our upcoming conferences. The PE grades are now part of the classroom report card. If you desire however, the PE teachers will be in the main hallway (by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms) and will be available to conference with parents and student. Hope to see you then!

### Title One Parent

#### Involvement Council TOPIC

The Dassel/Cokato TOPIC is looking for parents to share their thoughts and ideas regarding to the Title One Program. There will be 2-3 meetings per year at 5:30 PM. If you are willing to be part of this important group, please contact Mr. Nudell at [rob.nudell@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:rob.nudell@dc.k12.mn.us) or by phone at (320)-286-4100 ext: 1504. Our first meeting will be Tuesday, May 5th at Dassel Elementary Media Center.

### From the Recess Supervisors

We want to remind parents and students that it is still cold outside and that the children should be wearing snow pants and boots (as well as hats and mittens) for recess until all the snow and ice is gone. As it is right now, there is too much ice in Peterson Park for the kids to be able to play out in the field, the children are required to stay up on the tarred areas of the playground. This does not leave much room to play, we still believe the children should have all of their snow gear on when outside.

We have been allowing third and fourth graders to play on the tar if they do not have the proper attire, we will advise first and second grade to wear everything they have brought to school. If you could help us by talking with your child(ren) about proper attire for recess, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You.



## Musical Notes Amanda Spires

With report cards coming up, the students have been

tested on various things in music class. We are constantly assessing how things are going, and as we get closer to grades we like to recheck certain skills. You may be unaware of all of the things that we do during music class. We have fun, but we also work really hard and the students are expected to know certain things, just like in any other subject area. For those of you who are interested, here are some things that the students were assessed on this trimester.

### Grade 1:

- An ability to individually echo a melodic pattern and sing it in tune.
- An ability to identify extreme high and low sounds on the piano
- Instrument playing-Can the students perform a basic steady beat on a drum while a song is sung?

### Grade 2:

- An ability to individually echo a melodic pattern and sing it in tune
- An ability to read, write, and sing do, mi, so, and la on the staff
- An ability to read, write, and perform the rhythm patterns of ta titi rest and ta-a (these sounds are later transferred to more sophisticated ways of counting)

Xylophone playing assessment-playing a steady beat using a "solid bordun" (chord)

### Grade 3:

- An ability to individually echo a melodic pattern and sing it in tune
- An ability to read, write, and sing do, re, mi, so, la and high do on the staff
- An ability to read, write, and perform the rhythm patterns of ta titi rest, ta-a, tikatika, titika, and tikati (these sounds are later transferred to more sophisticated ways of counting)

Xylophone playing assessment-playing a beat using a "solid bordun" that changes rhythm

### Grade 4:

- An ability to individually echo a melodic pattern and sing it in tune
- An ability to read, write, and sing do, re, mi, so, la and high do on the staff (review)
- An ability to read, write, and perform the rhythm patterns of ta titi rest, ta-a, tikatika, titika, and tikati (these sounds are later transferred to more sophisticated ways of counting)
- Written recorder quiz

Recorder playing test (each student played a song on the recorder for me individually and were assessed using various criteria)

The students continue to show some nice improvements and growth in their musical skills. After spring break, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will begin to practice for the program that is on May 7<sup>th</sup> and Grandparent's day that is on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please stop by the music/physical table in the hallway during conferences if you have any questions about your child's music grade. I'd be happy to give you more information on that!



## **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.**

### **Upcoming Non-school Days:**

March 6<sup>th</sup>

March 13<sup>th</sup>

March 22-27

Hours: 6 am - 6 pm

Fee: \$25 First child

\$24 Second child

Contact Info: Jennifer Todnem

320-286-4100 ext. 1334

Jennifer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us

<b>2008-2009 School Year Fees</b>	<b>First Child</b>	<b>Second Child</b>
<b>Registration Fee (June 08-May 09)</b>	\$25 Family	\$25 Family
<b>Before School</b>		
Daily	\$5.00	\$4.50
Full Time child (5 days a week)	\$22	\$19.50
<b>After School</b>		
Daily	\$8	\$7.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	\$36	\$32.50
<b>After School until 4:30 PM</b>	\$5	\$4.50
<b>Non-school days</b>		
Full Day	\$25	\$23
Half Day (5 hours or less)	\$20	\$18
<b>Drop In Rate - Before School</b>	\$7.00	\$7.00
<b>Drop In Rate - After School</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00

## Spring Swimming Lessons Start Soon!



Red Cross Swimming Lessons start the week of March 7. Some sections are already full but there are still many openings. Please call

Community Education at 320-286-4120 for course availability and to register by phone. To register online visit: [www.dc.k12.mn.us](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us) and click on Community Education. At the time of this printing, the following classes are still available. (All classes are \$33, unless noted; scholarships are available.)

### Tuesday Evening Lessons:

March 10-April 28

(no class March 24)

Level A/B (parent and child class)

Private Lessons (Fee: \$71)

Saturday Lessons: March 7-April 25

(no class March 21 or April 11)

Little Swimmers (ages 4-5) and Levels 1-6

Community Education

## WINTER ACTIVITIES

To find out more about the classes listed below or to register:

Call by phone: 320-286-4120

Go online: click on Community Education

### Friday Night Out (Grades 1-6)

*A night just for kids and their friends!*

FIRDAY NIGHT OUT is a special night for kids. Children will spend their evening swimming in the pool, doing a project or playing games and relaxing at an evenings end with a movie and a snack. Parents will have time to catch up on shopping, cleaning, playing or simply relaxing. **Maximum 50.**

**Gr. 1-6: Activity #3008E - Friday, March 6**

6:30-10:00 PM - Movie to be shown: *WALL-E*

Fee: \$8 per session - Pre-registration required.

Location: MS Commons, Door I

**Registration deadline: 1 week prior to each event**

### tubing at Powder Ridge (Ages 4 and up)

Join us on this non-school day for hours of fun on the tubing hill at Powder Ridge. The trip fee includes transportation and tubing.



All participants will need to bring along a bag lunch. Children ages 4 & 5, not in Kindergarten yet will need to attend with an adult. Make it a family event or go with friends - either way it will be LOTS of FUN!

Activity #3014

Friday, March 6 -

10:00 am -1:00 pm @ Powder Ridge

Departure: CE - 9:15 AM

DE - 9:30 AM

Return: DE - 1:45 PM

CE - 2:00 PM

Fee: \$13

### Girls SPA Night (Gr. 4-6)



Hey girls, enjoy the night- spa style. Learn how to make all of the essentials at the most popular spas, and then take them home with you. You will make lip balm, candles, and more. Spa-like snacks included. Feel free to come in your slippers and robe!

Activity #2106

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00-8:00 PM - MS FACS Room #B-20, Door I

Fee: \$9

## Youth Softball Clinic (Grades 1-6)

D-C Coaching Staff and varsity players



This clinic will provide the basics of hitting, proper fielding techniques, aggressive base running, and the technique of throwing and catching a softball.

Charger softball coaches and members of the Dassel-Cokato

Charger varsity girl's softball team will assist in teaching these skills. The 4-6<sup>th</sup> graders will spend their extra half hour learning about and working on pitching and catching skills.

Activity #5005A - Gr. 1-3

Saturday, March 14 - 8:30-10:00 AM

MS Gym, Door I

Fee: \$9

## Spring Break Pool Party! (Gr. 1-6)

Nothing to do over spring break? Come meet some new friends, swim in the pool, play some games, and watch a movie in the PAC, our own movie theater! Pizza and beverages will be provided. Transportation available from both elementary schools.



Activity #3003

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00-2:00 PM - Meet in the MS Commons

Departure: Dassel Elementary - 9:30 am

Cokato Elementary - 9:45 am

Cokato: Cokato Elementary - 2:10 pm

Dassel Elementary - 2:20 pm

Fee: \$9

## 4-H Express Specialty -EnviroKids (Gr. K-4)



### *4-H Extension*

Do you wonder how YOU can make a difference? Learn how to use the 5 R's by Reusing old items for projects, Reducing the amount of garbage at your school, Recycling old crayons, Re-

specting the earth by making your own products, and the Responsibility of building your own terrarium. This club has lots of science, a ton of creativity, and a bit of elbow grease. Get ready, get set, THINK!

Activity #2100

6 Mondays March 16<sup>th</sup>- April 27<sup>th</sup> (no class on March 23)

3:15-4:45 PM - Dassel Elementary - Rm. #145

Fee: \$2

### Volunteering...



Krista Cates

"One of the things I keep learning is that the secret of being happy is doing things for other people." Dick Gregory - American comedian and civil rights activist

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped to make Jump Rope for Heart 2009 a huge success! The students had a blast going from station to station and everything ran smoothly with your help. Thank you!

Cokato Elementary was recently able to order new floor hockey equipment and swing-n-hop jump ropes for the playground using points earned from the Campbell's Labels for Education UPCs that have been collected. Thank you! Please keep trimming Campbell's Labels for Education UPCs, rinsing and collecting Kemps and Land O' Lakes milk caps, and trimming Box Tops!

## Parent Advisory Council Survey Results

### Box Tops Drawing January Winners

The 6 January Box Tops drawing winners were Anna Peterson, Caleb Christopherson, Kaedee Kay Bergquist, Logan Benson, and Jake Tesch. To participate in the drawing, clip Box Tops from participating products, write the student's name on the back of each, and drop the Box Tops in the collection bin at school. Winners will be drawn the last Wednesday of each month and announced during morning announcements on Thursday.

### Volunteer Drawing Winner

Suzanne Bourque is the volunteer drawing winner for February. Suzanne has been volunteering weekly this year helping Mrs. Franklin's class. Thank you, Suzanne, for making a difference for students at Cokato Elementary!

### March Dates to Remember:

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** - Ms. Moye's class will be displaying art at the Cokato Dairy Queen for Kid's Night from 5:00-8:00.

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** - D-C PTA meeting 6:30 in the high school media center.

**Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Conferences. Childcare is available during conferences in the lunchroom/small gym from 5:00-8:00.

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Conferences. Childcare is available during conferences in the lunchroom/small gym from 5:00-8:00.

**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** - Conferences. Childcare is available during conferences in the lunchroom/small gym from 12:30-3:30.

**Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** - Kindergarten Roundup.

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** - Ms. McCormick's class will be displaying art at the Cokato Dairy Queen for Kid's Night from 5:00-8:00.

**Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** - Box Tops Drawing. Winners announced during Thursday's morning announcements.

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** - March Birthday Table

This past December a Parent Advisory Council parent survey was sent home asking questions to find out how our school is doing sharing information from school with home. THANK YOU very much to everyone that participated in this survey! The information that you contributed is very valuable to us. We are pleased to hear that the communication between school and home is going well.

The results of the survey showed us that overall most parents are feeling comfortable contacting their child's teacher and principal with any concerns they may have. They also feel they are getting necessary school information from their child, teacher, and the school newsletter. Another result is that evening is the most available time for school meetings. Because of this, we are looking at joining our parent group meeting with the D-C PTA, which meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the high school media center. Periodically throughout the school year, the PTA will have the elementary principals at the meetings to discuss elementary issues. All parents are invited to these meetings, regardless if they are a PTA member or not.

The survey results indicated that email would be a great means for communication for many parents. Beginning soon, the school will start asking for email addresses for those that would like to share them. Using this email list, the school will be able to send out the newsletter link and other communication notes. We are looking forward to this and think it will be a great communication tool and save on paper, too!

A few surveys had specific concerns written on them. We welcome these parents, or any others, to contact us to discuss these concerns or any others that you may have. We strive to keep communication open!

Thanks, again, for your participation and input!

# Cokato Elementary

## Breakfast Menu

### March 2009



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Cereal Fruit Juice	3 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	4 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	5 Doughnut Yogurt Fruit Juice	6 NO SCHOOL
9 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Sauce	10 Cereal Toast W/ Cinnamon and Sugar Fruit Sauce	11 Pancakes Sausage Link Fruit Juice	12 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Sauce	13 NO SCHOOL
16 Cereal Mini Muffin Fruit Juice	17 Omelet Toast Fruit Juice	18 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Slice Fresh Fruit	19 Breakfast on a Stick Fruit Sauce	20 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice
23	24	25	26	27
<b>NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</b>				
30 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice	31 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link FruHOW DO it Sauce	<i>½ pint milk will be served with each meal</i>		

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

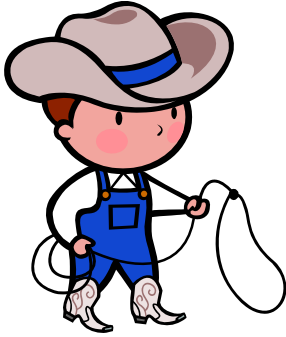
### March 2009



<i>½ pint milk will be served with each meal</i>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Individual Pizza Seasoned Corn Fresh Fruit	3 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Seasoned Carrots Biscuits Fruit Sauce Choice	4 Goulash French Bread Vegetable Choice Fresh Fruit Gelatin	5 Chicken Patty/Bun Potato Smiles Green beans Fruit Sauce Choice	6 NO SCHOOL Staff Duty Day
9 French Toast Sticks Sausage Links Tri Tater Fresh Fruit	10 Hamburger/Bun W/Fixings Oven Fries Vegetable Choice Fresh Fruit	11 Hard or Soft Shell Taco W/Fixings Corn Bread Choice Fruit Choice	12 Meat/Gravy Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Dinner Roll Fruit Sauce Choice	13 NO SCHOOL Elementary Only
16 Chicken Nuggets Au Gratin Potatoes Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	17 Mini Corn Dogs Oven Fries/Bread Broccoli/Cheese Fresh Fruit	18 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce French Bread Lettuce Salad Green Beans Fresh Fruit	19 BAG LUNCH Turkey Sandwich Bag of Baked Chips Vegetable Relish Yogurt Fresh Fruit Choice	20 Cheese Pizza Corn Bread Choice Applesauce
23	24	25	26	27
<b>NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK</b>				
30 Individual Pizza Seasoned Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	31 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Seasoned Carrots Biscuits /Fresh Fruit			

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

## Kindergarten Round-up



**WHEN:** March 17, 2009

**TIME:** 3:45-5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Cokato Elementary School

If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten next fall and you did not receive an enrollment packet in the mail, call the Cokato Elementary School Office @ 320-286-4100 x 1300.

### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

<b>March 5</b>	<b>Kindergarten Conferences</b> <b>No Kindergarten</b>
<b>March 9 &amp; 12</b>	Elementary Conferences 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
<b>March 13</b>	<b>No School</b> Elementary Only AM Teacher Planning/ 12:30-3:30 Elementary Conferences

### Coming Events:

#### March:

- 2 Read Across America Day
- 5 Kindergarten Conferences  
No School- Kindergarten Only
- 6 NO SCHOOL—  
Staff Development/Teacher Planning
- 9 Elementary Conferences 5:00-8:00 PM
- 12 Elementary Conferences 5:00-8:00 PM
- 13 No School- Elementary Only  
AM Teacher Planning/  
12:30-3:30 Elementary Conferences
- 17 Kindergarten Round-Up
- 23-27 NO SCHOOL- Spring Break

### Lost and Found

When you are at the school- check out the new system for displaying lost and found articles. Mr. Hoyhtya has made clothes racks to hang the articles on.

These racks are located in the hallway going down to the cafeteria. Please encourage your children to look over the articles each day. As soon as we have room we add different items to the rack. Hopefully we will be able to find a home for all the lost and found items.

**2008-09 Grandparent's Day**

**May 8th 12:45PM**