

Cokato Elementary

www.dc.k12.mn.us

January 2010



Paragraphs From

The Principal...

Mrs. Force

Holiday greetings to all of our special Cokato Elementary families! As I look back on the start of the year, several thoughts come to mind:

1. We weathered the first outbreak of H1N1 right away in September/October. Let's hope that our students and staff do not get sick with it this winter.
2. Parent/Teacher conferences were highly successful, at least from our point of view. Please let me know if you would like further clarification. As a school we need to be mindful of not talking "school talk" too much and confusing the parents!
3. Our school wide theme of "Working Together to Make a World of Difference" has remained a real focal point as evidenced by the food shelf and clothing donations that were given at Christmas. Each Monday we listen for "Make a Difference Monday" on the announcements which help all people who learn and work at our school concentrate on doing a kind action throughout the week for a specific person or group of people. For example, one week we helped our custodians keep the hallways clean by picking up scraps from the floor. What a difference a small matter such as this makes in a school of 525 students!
4. We humbly accepted a bequest from the estate of Robert Krech. We have plans to purchase new media center books and equipment for wheelchair-bound students to help enjoy noon recess with their peers. Thank you, Mr. Krech, for thinking of us.
5. We welcomed 21 new students to our school throughout the fall!
6. We have also added a feature to the district website where parents can pay for several school fees with their VISA or MasterCard. This can be so convenient when you are reluctant to send cash or a check with your children. Go to www.dc.k12.mn.us and check out the types of services you can take care of with a click of the mouse! You can keep money in lunch accounts, buy our school yearbook, pay for community education classes, and buy Charger gear!
7. Our annual Christmas concert for students in grades K-2 was a huge success! Once again we had standing room only! Thank you for all the nice comments that were passed on to Mrs. Spires regarding her meaningful seasonal concert. We look forward to hearing our 3rd and 4th grades on May 6, followed by Grandparents Day on May 7.

One should always set goals for the beginning of 2010 whether it's in our personal or professional lives! I am no exception! I have thought of a few resolutions to set for the new year:

1. Communicate, communicate, and communicate! I always want to be available to answer your questions or listen to your concerns! Please do not hesitate to contact me.
2. Safety—In addition to educating the children, this is our number one concern. You have been wonderful at helping us adjust to the new bus loading and unloading zones. Let's make it a shared goal to always put student safety at the forefront!
3. Attendance at PTA meetings—Occasionally I have double commitments on the first Thursday of the month so I have only attended two PTA meetings this school year. I know I can improve on that! They go from 6:30-8:00 PM once a month! Maybe I'll see you there!
4. I want to continue to make myself approachable to students. Sometimes I see a surprised look on your face when you see a young child give me a warm hug in the grocery store. See, a principal is not all that scary! I enjoy getting to know them and seeing them outside of school!

I'm looking forward to spending some time with my husband, daughter, family members, and friends during our winter break. I wish you safe travel and a holiday filled with memory-making ventures! We'll see everyone back here on January 4!



Phy Ed *Fundamentals*



Mrs. Sorgatz



Mr. Berggren

We wish a healthy, safe, relaxing, and physically active holiday season to you and your families.

At the time this letter was written, we were without snow, but hopefully by the break we can take advantage of having snow to play in!

Here are some ideas to keep your holidays active...

- If traveling long distances, try to take some 5-10 minute breaks from the car. It doesn't take any equipment to play a little 5 minute tag game with the family at a rest stop or gas station!
- Start or continue a holiday tradition that involves physical activity with your entire family. Going for a nature walk, sledding, skiing, snowboarding, ice fishing, skating, building a snowman or snow castle are all great physical activities that the entire family can enjoy!
- Put those new toys to use! Hopefully you received some gifts with active play in mind instead of sedentary play. Maybe you could set a timer for games/toys that involves a lot of sitting to remind yourself or the kids to take time to get up and move. Better yet, make a sitting game into a moving game. For example, if playing Chutes and Ladders or CandyLand, you could have the spinner or the card pile across the room so you would have to do some type of movement to get it. Be creative...jump like a frog, slither like a snake, log roll, skip, crawl under bridge, etc.

Have a healthy and happy holiday season!



Volunteering....

Krista Cates

During the holidays the phrase "Tis the Season for Giving" is often heard. Cokato Elementary is lucky that our volunteers give all year long. The gift of your time helping in the classroom, working on projects at school and at home, and helping with special events is a precious gift that we treasure and appreciate. By volunteering you are also giving a gift to your own children because children of involved parents do better in school and life. We are thankful for you!

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

Mary Kay Morris!

Mary Kay is this month's volunteer drawing winner. Mary Kay has been a regular volunteer for years. This year she has been coming in weekly to volunteer in Mrs. Kusler's classroom. We are also lucky to have Mary Kay working at our school this year as a para, too!

Reminder to all volunteers - you are welcome to enter your name in the volunteer drawing each time you volunteer. 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.

The Box Tops drawing winners for November were:

- Sally Hendrickson
- Alex Stahl
- Addison Pettit
- Daniel Schmitz
- Heather Fisher



If your child would like to participate in the Box Tops drawing, clip Box Tops from participating products, have your child write their first and last name on the back of the Box Top, and then 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.

DATES AT A GLANCE:

Wed., January 13th - Mr. Weber's class displays art for DQ Kid's Night at Dairy Queen 15% of all sales from 5:00-8:00 are donated to our elementary schools!

Thurs., January 21st - Birthday table for July birthdays.

Wed., January 27th - Mrs. Stangland's class displays art for DQ Kid's Night at Dairy Queen 15% of all sales from 5:00-8:00 are donated to our elementary schools!

Thurs. January 28th - Birthday table for January birthdays.

Wed., February 10th - Mrs. Franklin's class displays art for DQ Kid's Night at Dairy Queen 15% of all sales from 5:00-8:00 are donated to our elementary schools!

Friday, February 12th - JUMP ROPE FOR HEART - MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

Thurs., February 18th - Birthday table for August birthdays.

Wed., February 24th - Mrs. Searles' class displays art for DQ Kid's Night at Dairy Queen 15% of all sales from 5:00-8:00 are donated to our elementary schools!

Thurs., February 25th - Birthday table for February birthdays.

BEST BUY REWARD ZONE

Best Buy Reward Zone program for Schools will give Reward Zone Members the opportunity to donate their Reward Zone Points to Cokato Elementary School.



The donated points will accumulate in the account that has been set up for our school. The

Reward Certificates can be used to purchase technology products for our school at Best Buy. All a customer has to do is tell the cashier they would like to donate their points to Cokato Elementary. It's that simple!



MY COKE REWARDS for SCHOOLS
MY COKE REWARDS WILL DONATE AN ADDITIONAL 100 POINTS FOR EVERY 5 PEOPLE THAT LOG ONTO www.mycokerewards.com AND DONATE POINTS TO COKATO ELEMENTARY. 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.mycokerewards.com or simply send the caps/codes to school with your child and we will enter them for you.



Recipe for Dressing

1 pair of mittens

1 warm coat

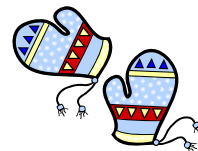
1 pair of snow pants

1 scarf

1 hat

1 pair of boots

Mix together, label thoroughly, and apply to one child with love before he/she starts out to school.



K-6 Chess Tournament

Saturday, January 30, 2010

Discovery Community School, 700 S 7th Street, Waite Park

Regional Chess Tournament is a competition for students in grades K-6.



All participants must be pre-registered. Registration forms will be available in schools the week of December 10 or download registration forms from the Resource website: www.resourcetraining.com



Check in begins at 8:30 a.m.
 Event begins at 9:00 a.m.

Registration deadline is January 18, 2010

There will be four divisions based on level of experience:
 Beginner (1yr.) Intermediate (2-3 yrs.) Advanced (4-5yrs.) Pro (6+yrs.)
Trophies and certificates will be awarded.

Questions?

(320) 255-3236 or (888) 447-7032

This tournament is co-sponsored by Resource Training & Solutions and Dist. 742 Academic Achievement and Community Education.



YES! I would like to register for the K-6 Chess Tournament.

Name _____
 Home Address _____
 Phone _____
 Grade _____
 School _____
 Contact person: _____
 please return to: Resource Training & Solutions
 PO Box 1576
 St Cloud MN 56302
 Attn: Joyce Rife

Level of experience:
 ___ Beg. ___ Intm.
 ___ Adv. ___ Pro.
 Registration Fee: \$14.00

Statement of Release - I agree to release Resource Training & Solutions, District 742 Community Schools, and its employees of all liability related to accidents or injuries which myself or my family might incur while participating in the above named activity.

Signature of Student's Parent or Guardian _____



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

cation 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.

Why should you become a PTA member? Being a PTA member will allow you to:

- Be connected and informed about school through PTA involvement & advocacy
- Influence decisions that affect your child's learning
- Become more informed about topics that affect our children and their schools
- Receive personal copies of school board minutes and agendas
- Meet other great community members

Being a member of the PTA **DOES NOT** mean:

- You do not have to attend every meeting
- You will not be made to volunteer many hours
- You will not be doing constant fundraising

Upcoming Meeting:

Note - Our regular meetings take place in the high school media center on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Thursday, January 7th 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center. The topic for this meeting will be a school board update. We will hear about any topics that the school board has been working on and will be open for questions.

If you have a topic that you would like the PTA to address at a meeting, please let us know!

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



Musical Notes....

Amanda Spires



Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the concert! All of the students did a wonderful job!

Thank you to all of the people who helped to make the concert a success. We hope that you will continue to support your child and provide opportunities to experience music outside of school. Attending concerts, purchasing quality recordings for your children to listen to, or providing them with the opportunity to participate in piano lessons are all ways to do this. Have a merry Christmas and enjoy the beautiful music that this season brings us!



Media Messages

Pam Osterberg

December has been a busy month in the media center. Third and fourth grade students have been learning how to use the Destiny on-line catalog to locate books. They practice searching by author, by title and by subject. Students have also learned how to search for a book using their Lexile level.

As they search for books, it reinforces their alphabet skills, their math skills and their general subject knowledge. The Destiny on-line catalog is available to students at home through the school website.

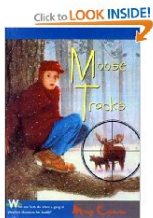
Third grade students have been coming to the media center during their social studies and health classes. They have been learning how to use various reference tools to locate information.

Fourth grade students have learned how to use the almanac and encyclopedia to find information about the states. Students are also discussing the various literary genres. They are learning how to use Microsoft Publisher to create a brochure about a book of their choice.

Students in grades K - 2 have been learning about how to care for books and how books are arranged in the media center. We have enjoyed reading many old and new stories.

Book Club Begins In January

Attention third and fourth graders! We'd like to invite you to participate in our Book Club.



The 3rd grade book pick is *Moose Tracks* by Mary Casanova. In this book twelve-year-old Seth, the son of a game warden, tries to save an orphaned moose calf from poachers.



The 4th grade book pick is *The Boy Who Spoke Dog* by Clay Morgan. This book is an adventure story about a boy name Jack. After being marooned on an island near New Zealand, Jack becomes allied with a group of dogs **who** protect the local sheep from wild dogs.

In order to allow for many students to join us, students will need to read and return the book in one week. Multiple copies of each book are available through the media center.



Salutations from the Social Worker



Sarah Terpstra

When students are asked what they did for fun at night or over the weekend, many of the students will say that they played video games or watched movies that are appropriate for adults or older children. During this winter break, take time to go for a walk and see nature, spend time with family, play a game together, make a snowman, or anything else that allows you to make memories together. Be creative. You may think that what you are playing is silly, but your children will remember it for a lifetime. We cannot wait to see the students in January and hear all about the creative and fun things they did over break.



Charger Kids Club - Join us TODAY!!

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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 - 6:00 pm

Location

Cokato Elementary - Cafeteria (Small Gym)

Dassel and Middle School students are welcome.

Transportation is available before and afterschool, to and from Cokato Elem.

2009-2010 School Year Fees First Child Second Child

Registration Fee

June 09-May 09 \$25.00 Family \$25.00 Family

Before School: Daily \$5.00 \$4.50

Full time child (5 days a week) \$22.00 \$19.50

After School: Daily \$8.00 \$7.50

Full Time (5 days a week) \$36.00 \$32.50

After school until 4:30 PM \$5.00 \$4.50

Non-School Days Full day \$25.00 \$23.00

Half day (5 hours or less) \$20.00 \$18.00

Drop In Rate- Before School \$7.00 \$7.00

Drop In Rate- After School \$10.00 \$10.00

Up Coming Non-School Days

Winter Break Dec. 28th-31st

Martin Luther King Day Jan. 18th

Presidents Day Feb. 15th

Teacher Workshop March 8th

No Elementary Only March 19th

Spring Break March 29th-April 1st

Contact Information: Jennifer Todnem

320-286-4100 ext. 1334

Jennifer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us

Memory Books

Memory book order envelopes will be sent home with the students on January 15th. Orders will be taken until February 5th. Cost of a memory book is \$7.75. Watch your child's backpack for the envelopes. If you do not receive one and wish to order a memory book call the Elementary School Office @ 320-286-4100 X 1300. You may also pay online for these books.

Kindergarten Round-Up

WHEN:

March 23, 2010

TIME:

3:45-5:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Cokato Elementary School

Kindergarten Round-Up packets will be mailed out February 22, 2010. If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten next fall and you do not receive a packet in February, call:

Cokato Elementary School Office:

320-286-4100 x 1300.

Community Education Corner.....

Upcoming Youth Activities

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

Basketball K-3



All boys and girls in K-3 are encouraged to come and have fun in this recreational basketball program. This program will give participants the opportunity to play and learn the basic skills of basketball in a fun, safe, and encouraging

environment. These young ball players will also have the opportunity this season to perform during the half-time of a home varsity basketball game. *Returning ball players remember to bring your blue/white basketball to every practice, new players will receive a ball at the first practice.*

Activity #5129 Gr. K-18:00-8:50 am
Fee: \$40

Activity #5130 Gr. 2 9:00-9:50 am
Fee: \$40

Activity #5131 Gr. 3 10:00-10:50 am
Fee: \$40

6 Saturdays Jan. 9-Feb. 13

Location: Dassel Elementary Large Gym

Basketball Gr. 4



In this program boys and girls will focus on the fundamentals of basketball for the first 4 sessions and do inter-league play (3 on 3 or 5 on 5) for the last 3 sessions. There will also be

possible tournament opportunities in January/February for these players (extra cost TBD). These young ball players will also have the opportunity this season to perform during the half-time of a home varsity basketball game.

Activity #5132D Gr. 4 Boys
11:00-12:00 noon Fee: \$40

Activity #5132C Gr. 4 Girls
11:00-12:00 noon Fee: \$40

7 Saturdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 20

Location: Dassel Elementary Large Gym

Gymnastics (Gr. 2-6)

Instructor: Lindsey Bessingpas



Jump, twist, turn and tumble in the D-C Charger Gymnastics gym this winter. Gymnasts will have the opportunity to develop skills on the balance beam, uneven bars, and on the floor exercise.

Class size is limited to 6 per session- so sign up early!

Activity #5162-Gr. 2-3

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Feb. 2-18

6:10-7:00 pm - MS Gym, Door I

Fee: \$42

Activity #5163-Gr. 4-6

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Feb. 2-18

7:00-8:00 pm - MS Gym, Door I

Fee: \$49

Imagination Station (Gr. K-2)

Homeward Bound Theatre



Do you like acting and pre-tending to be someone else by changing your voice, facial expression or the way you walk? Join us for some fun theatre exercises and games. Have fun using your imagination while expanding your favorite story.

Activity #2250A

Thursdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11 - Dassel Elem.

3:15-4:45 PM - DE Lunch Room

Fee: \$39

Activity #2250B

3 Thursdays, Feb. 25, March 4, 11 - Cokato Elem.

3:15-4:45 PM - Lg. Gymnasium

Fee: \$39

Friday Night Out (Gr. 1-6)

A night just for kids and their friends!



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

Activity #3008D

Friday, January 22 - 6:30-10:00 PM - Movie to be shown: **Shark Tale**

Location: Meet in the MS Commons, Door I

Fee: \$9 per session - Pre-registration is required.

Registration Deadline: 1 week prior to each event

Coming Events:

January

4 Classes Resume

18 No School-Staff Development

February

12 Valentine's Day

Celebrations

Jump Rope for Heart

15 No School- President's Day

March

2 Read Across America Day

5 End of Grading Period

8 No School- Staff Development

12 Kindergarten Conferences-

No School -Kindergarten Only

15 & 18 Elementary Conferences
5:00-8:00 PM

19 No School- Elementary Only

AM Teacher Planning/
12:30-3:30 Conferences

23 Kindergarten Roundup

at Cokato Elem.

27- Apr. 4 No School- Spring Break



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Cokato Elementary January, 2010 Breakfast Menu



<i>½ pint milk will be served with each meal</i>				
January				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice	5 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	6 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fresh Fruit	7 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Juice	8 Cereal Muffin Fresh Fruit
11 Apple Sticks Cheese Stick Fruit Juice	12 Cereal Cinnamon Stick Fruit Sauce	13 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slice Fruit Sauce	14 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Choice	15 Omelet Toast Fruit Juice
18 NO SCHOOL Staff Development	19 Cereal Cinnamon Stick Fruit Sauce	20 Pancakes/Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Juice	21 Breakfast on a Stick Toast Fruit Sauce	22 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice
25 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice	26 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Sauce	27 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	28 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Juice	29 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice

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 January 2010



January				
<i>½ pint milk will be served with each meal</i>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Pizza Seasoned Corn Fruit Sauce	5 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Seasoned Carrots Tea Biscuit Fresh Fruit	6 Chow Mein W/Rice Noodles Cole Slaw Pineapple/Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	7 Chicken patty/bun Potato Smiles Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit	8 Chili Cheese Stick Cinnamon Roll Veggie Sticks Fruit Sauce
11 French Toast Sticks Sausage links Tri Tater Orange Slices Juice Choice	12 Hamburger w/Fixings Oven Fries Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	13 Super Nachos w/Fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	14 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Calif. Blend Vegetables Dinner Roll Fruit	15 Grilled Cheese /Tuna Sandwich Tomato Soup Crackers Veg. Relish Fresh Fruit
18 NO SCHOOL Staff Development	19 Chicken Nuggets Au Gratin Potatoes Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	20 Corn Dogs Oven Fries Broccoli/Cheese Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	21 Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Fruit Cake	22 Sub Sandwich Potato Rounds Vegetable Relish Fresh Fruit
25 Hot Dog/Bun Potato Choice Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce	26 Hot Ham/Cheese on bun Bag of baked chips Carrot sticks Fresh Fruit	27 Chicken Strips Mac & Cheese Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	28 Pizza Sticks Lettuce Salad Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	29 Sloppy Joes/Bun Oven Fries Green Beans Bread Choice Gelatin Fruit sauce