

Cokato Elementary

www.dc.k12.mn.us

May 2010

Paragraphs from the principal...



Mrs. Force

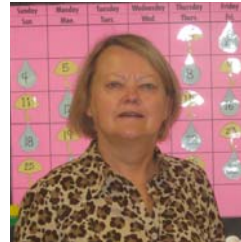
May has become a time of celebrations in our building by the looks of the calendar! We will be celebrating the careers of several teachers who will be retiring at the end of the year. This month I'd like to focus on the careers of these talented educators.

Second grade teacher

Janie Kielty will be wrapping up a 32-year career in the Dassel-Cokato Schools. Janie's students have greatly benefited from her vast collection of paperback books through the years. She has been selling them in the staff room to other teachers for the past few weeks at bargain prices. Many of our young teachers have eagerly purchased the books to add to their collections. It's our form of recycling! We will miss the original songs she has written to go along with the school wide themes we've celebrated in the past few years. We wish Janie and her husband Jim a wonderful retirement.



We will also wish bon voyage to Shari Barberg, who has taught special education at the Cokato building for one year. She has the distinction of being able to say that she has taught in three of the district's buildings since arriving at D-C in 1978. Shari will have a chance to spend more time with her husband, two sons, and her grandchildren when she retires. It's been fun getting to know Shari this past year.



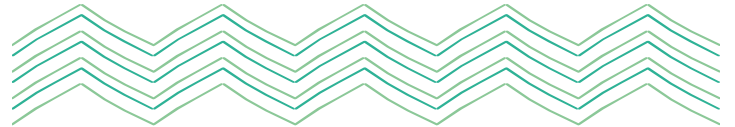
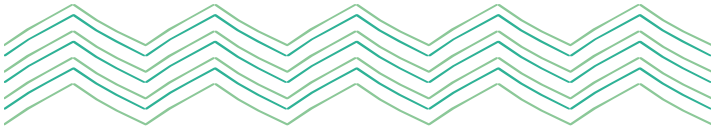
Our final Cokato Elementary retiree is Mary Davison. Mary does win the award for being a teacher who has taught in all of the district buildings because she has been our English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher since 1989. Mary has helped numerous children adapt to the English language in her years of teaching. She has also seen her classroom move more often than most other staff members when the buildings have become crowded. She can say she hasn't taught out of a broom closet, but at times, she has worked in some rather creative spaces. Good luck to you, Mary and Steve, as you travel to keep up with your kids and grandkids! We will miss your kind, gentle ways!

Another elementary educator who will be retiring is Pam Dille, media specialist at Dassel Elementary. She has worked with our Odyssey students in the gifted and talented program along with Mrs. Osterberg for a number of years. I believe that Mrs. Dille has many, many books set aside that she will want to read. Her husband, State Senator Steve Dille, will also be retiring. Their plans include lots of family time as well!

On a personal note, our family will be celebrating the retirement of my husband Brad, who teaches second grade at Dassel Elementary. He often gets teased about having a "honey-do list" to complete next year. The plans I'm hearing will most likely find him on the golf course or in a fishing boat next year. He has the distinction of teaching for 36 years always as a second grade teacher. Hats off to all of you and to the other district retirees for their many years of service to children. We hope your retirement is enjoyable! Come back and visit us often!

Memory books

The 2009-2010 memory books have arrived and been distributed to the students that ordered them. If you ordered one and your child did not receive one, please call the office. We have a few extra memory books if anyone wants to purchase one. Send \$7.75 with your child to the office. Checks can be made payable to Cokato Elementary School.



Musical Notes



Amanda Spires

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

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

We look forward to seeing you there!



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.

Please join us for the PTA meeting on Thursday, May 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center. Mari Pokornowski, state PTA president and past president of Dassel-Cokato PTA, will join us to talk about how PTA can make schools stronger. Parent involvement, communication and current issues are all important aspects of all PTA. Come with questions and any discussion topics you may have encountered throughout the year. Hope to see you there!



Volunteering.....

Krista Cates

Volunteers, are you ready!! The month of May brings many fun events for the students, which means we will need

MANY volunteers to help these events run. We invite parents, grandparents and college students that are home now to take a look at the list below and see if you can volunteer. You can call me at 286-4100 ext. 1327 if you have any questions or to sign up.

Wednesday, May 5th - The 3rd and 4th graders will be using many, many instruments for the Spring Program. Mrs. Spires would really appreciate help getting the instruments loaded from Cokato Elementary and brought over the PAC. With a few volunteers (and their vehicles) it shouldn't take very long. Mrs. Spires plans to start at 9:15.

Thursday, May 6th - All of those great instruments that the students will be playing at the Spring Program will be need to be moved back to Cokato Elementary after the program for Grandparent's Day. We would appreciate any help after the program on Thursday evening to load them back up and bring them to the elementary school

Friday, May 7th - Grandparent's Day - THANK YOU to the 24 wonderful parents that have volunteered to help with Grandparent's Day!!

Tuesday, May 11th - VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 13th and Friday, May 14th - 3rd Grade T-Shirt Tie Dyeing - The 3rd graders will be tie dyeing t-shirts for their field trip. We will need 4 or 5 volunteers for each class, no tie dyeing experience needed!! You can volunteer for one or more classes.

- Thursday, May 13th 12:50 - Glur/Chap
- Thursday, May 13th 1:50 - Dolan
- Friday, May 14th 12:50 - Barton
- Friday, May 14th 1:50 - Stangland

Wednesday, May 19th - Activity Day here at Cokato Elementary

(makeup day is Thursday, May 20th if needed) - 30 volunteers are needed for each shift!

3rd and 4th grades - volunteers from 8:30-11:00

1st and 2nd grades - volunteers from 12:00-2:30

Thursday, May 27th - Olympic Day at the high school track and field

30 volunteers needed for each shift!!

3rd and 4th grades - volunteers from 8:30-11:00

1st and 2nd grades - volunteers from 12:00-2:30

AND THE WINNER IS . . Katherine Meredith

Katherine is the volunteer drawing winner for April. She has volunteered for many special events over the years! We appreciate her enthusiasm for everything she does! Thank you Katherine!!

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

BOX TOPS



The Box Tops drawing winners for March are:

Olivia Haataja, Noah Jenkins, Evan Schimmel, Brielle

Grangroth, Ritta Witt, and Jacob Mills.

Congratulations and Thank You for collecting Box Tops!

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

DQ KIDS NIGHT



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

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

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

Wednesday, May 12th - Ms. Zaske

Wednesday, May 26th - Mrs. Kielty



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.

VOLUNTEERS -

You are invited!

Volunteer Appreciation Salad Luncheon

Tuesday, May 11th

Cokato Elementary Parent Waiting Area



Come anytime between 11:15 and 12:30 to enjoy a salad luncheon provided by the appreciative staff at Cokato Elementary for everything you do for us and our students!

Your preschoolers are welcome to join us, too.

Please RSVP to Krista at 286-4100 ext. 1327

STUDENT VARIETY SHOW
Coming . . . Friday, June 4th
8:30-11:00 a.m.

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 solo or group talents such as: singing, reciting poetry/ dramatic reading, dance, gymnastics, playing an instrument . . . be creative!
- Acts should be no longer than 3-4 minutes
- Parent permission is required
- Try-outs will take place during the school day in mid May. Please come prepared to the try-out with any sheet music, music CD or props that are needed for your performance. If singing a song, you will need to either have a CD or tape without the recording artist singing. If you need someone to accompany you on the piano, you will need to have someone come in and play for you or you can bring the sheet music and ask Mrs. Spires if she would play for you.

Please fill out the following form and return it to Mrs. Spires by Friday, May 7th.

Name: _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

What is your act? _____

Props/Materials Needed: _____

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

My child has permission to try out for the 2010 Variety Show. I have reviewed his/her act and feel they are prepared to try out.

Parent's Singature: _____

Media Messages.....

Pam Osterberg



April is National Poetry Month, 30 days of celebrating poetry. Part of teaching reading is motivating children to practice, practice, practice. I have found that using children's poetry is one way to do this. Who can resist poets such as Jack Prelutsky, Bruce Lansky, or the late Shel Silverstein?

Poetry is something you can share with your children. The way to instill a love of poetry in kids is to engage them with poetry. Here are some suggestions to get kids reading poetry:

- **Number one: Make it FUN!** Share the funniest poems you can find.
- **Memorize and recite.** Have your child memorize their favorite poems and recite it for the family.
- **Celebrate holidays with poetry.** Valentine's Day, April Fool's Day, Halloween, birthdays, etc.; they all make great days for sharing fun poems.
- **Find a new favorite funny poet.** Familiarize yourself not just with Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein but with Jack Prelutsky, Douglas Florian, Colin McNaughton, Jeff Moss, Kenn Nesbitt, and others.
- **811 is for poetry emergencies!** Have kids find a poem from the library. They'll find them under 811. Our Media Center has purchased many new poetry books, check them out!

You will find some fun poetry links on the Cokato Elementary Media Center page.

Book Exchange

On Friday, May 21 the Media Center will host a paperback book exchange for students in grades 2 - 4. Students may bring in a paperback book and exchange it for another. Please contribute books that are in good condition. Limit of 5 books per student. This is a great way to get some free new books!

DC Saints Reading Challenge



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

On April 30th, your child will be introduced to the Saints Reading Challenge. The DC Saints are presenting a 4-week spring reading program that starts on Monday, May 3rd and will go through Monday, May 28th. 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 4th DC Saints home game against Clear Lake 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 May 31st. 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 is on Wednesday, May 19! 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 12:30-2:30 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 20th, if needed. We need many parent, grandparent, college-age siblings, etc to volunteers that day. At a minimum, 30 volunteers are needed for each session to help the day run smoothly. Contact Krista Cates, the volunteer coordinator ASAP by phone (286-4100 X 1327), email (krista.cates@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 20).** Volunteers do not need to chase/run to retrieve equipment, nor do they have 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 '10

Name(s) _____

Daytime phone # _____ **Home phone #** _____

Yes! I can help with Activity Day on Wednesday, May 19th!

- _____ 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 noon and help until about 2:45 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 20!

- _____ Thurs. May 20-AM only (for grades 3-4)
- _____ Thurs. May 20-PM only (for grades 1-2)
- _____ Thurs. May 20-both AM and PM

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

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

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 & clubs, softball, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, golf, football, wrestling, track, LEGOS, scrap booking, arts & crafts, Spanish, music lessons, private tutoring, Prairie Fire Children's Theater production of "Tom Sawyer" (August 2-7), trips to Summerland and Pump It Up, a Sprint Triathlon and MORE!! Watch for your brochure in the mail!

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

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

Little Ninjas (Ages 4-6) - Mondays & Thursdays, 4:45-5:15 pm

Youth Beginner (Ages 6-14) - Mon., Tues. & Thurs., 5:20-6:20 pm

Adult (Ages 14 & up) - Mon., Tues. & Thurs., 7:40-8:40 pm

Herbs & Natural Healing - \$29

Thursday, May 20

7:00-8:30 pm-HS Team Planning Room #501, Door C

Lap Swimming

Mondays & Wednesdays - 6:30-7:30 pm

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

Open Swimming

Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm

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

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

DC COMMUNITY THEATRE SUMMER MUSICAL

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat

Co-sponsored by D-C Community Education the D-C Arts Association

Directed by David Metcalf

Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center

Auditions:

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 pm OR

Monday, May 24, 7:00 pm

Performances:

- Thursday, July 22, 7:00 pm
- Friday, July 23, 7:00 pm
- Saturday, July 24, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, July 25, 2:00 pm

Show Synopsis:

The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to vibrant life in this delightful musical parable. Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western to calypso to bubble-gym pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless. This will be a great activity for the entire family!

Cast Requirements:

17 Men, 2 Women, Chorus of Men and Women & Children's Chorus (check website for audition preparation info)

Performance Dates:

Thursday, July 29, 7:00 pm

Friday, July 30, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 31, 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 1, 2:00 pm

Reserved Seat Tickets:

Adults \$13 • Youth \$5

Ticket Sales Begin June 1 at Community Education, 320-286-4120

Questions:

Director David Metcalf: 320-286-5630

Colleen Compton, Community Education: 320-286-4120

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, the district will not send any medication home directly with students without a signed consent from a parent/guardian. You will be receiving the consent form by mail in early May.



Please call the Health Office to let us know when you plan to pick up the medication. If we have not heard from you by Friday, June 4th, medication that has not been picked up will be destroyed. Please call the Health Office at x1305 if you have any questions!



Thank you and have a great summer!

Christine Lawyer, RN, PHN
Licensed School Nurse

Coming Events:

May

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

June

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

Cokato Olympic Day on May 27th!

OLYMPIC DAY INFORMATION

- Location: D-C High School track
- Date: May 27th (Thursday)
- No makeup day (too close to the end of the school year)
- Grades 3 and 4 will be from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Grades 1 and 2 will be from 12:30-2:30 p.m.
- 11-12 fun events
- Students should bring their own water bottles

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to make this day possible

If you would like to volunteer for the Cokato Olympics please contact Krista Cates @ 286-4100 ext. 1327. Or fill out the section below and have your child return it to the office.

Thank you!

* Remember to mark your calendar for May 27th

My Name is _____ and

my child's name is _____.

I would like to help out at Olympic Day on May 27th. (Check One or Both Times Below)

____ 9:00-11:00 a.m. - 3rd and 4th Grade

____ 12:30-2:30 p.m. - 1st and 2nd Grade

The best phone number to reach me at is:

_____ - _____ - _____

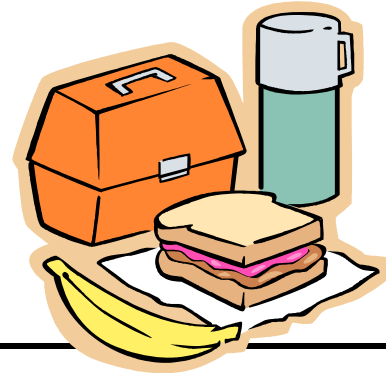
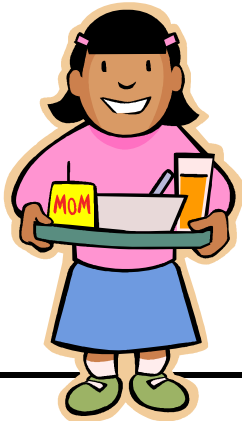
Cokato Elementary May 2010 Breakfast Menu



May				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Pancakes/syrup Sausage Link Juice	4 Cereal Graham sticks Fruit Sauce	5 Breakfast Bites Cheese Sticks Fruit Sauce	6 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Juice	7 Frutel Bar Cheese Stick Fruit Sauce
10 Cereal Muffin Fruit Juice	11 Omelet Toast Juice	12 Cereal Cheese Slice Fruit Choice	13 Breakfast on a stick Toast Fruit Sauce	14 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice
17 Cereal Granola Bar Juice	18 Waffle Sicks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	19 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit choice	20 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Juice	21 Cereal Muffin Fresh Fruit
24 Pancakes/Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Juice	25 Cereal Graham Cracker Sticks Fruit Sauce	26 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slice Fruit Sauce	27 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Choice	28 Apple Sticks Cheese Stick Fruit Juice
31 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	June 1 Cereal Breakfast Bar Choice Fruit Sauce			1/2 pint of milk will be served with each meal

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

Cokato Elementary Lunch Menu May 2010



May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	4 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Seasoned Carrots Tea Biscuit Fresh Fruit	5 Goulash French Bread Cole Slaw Fruit Sauce Cookie	6 Cheese Bread w/ Pizza Sauce Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	7 Turkey Roast Sandwich Potato Rounds Carrots Fresh Fruit
10 French Toast Sticks Sausage Links Tri Taters Orange Slices Juice	11 Hamburger/bun Oven Fries Vegetable Choice- Fresh Fruit	12 Taco in a bag w/fixings Seasoned Corn- Bread Choice- Fruit Sauce	13 Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Tomato- Soup/Crackers Vegetable Relishes- Fresh Fruit	14 Meat & Gravy- Mashed Potatoes- Mixed Vegetables- Dinner Roll Fruit Sauce
17 Popcorn Chicken Au Gratin Potatoes Seasoned Peas- Fruit Sauce	18 Corn Dog/ Oven French Fries Broccoli/Cheese Fresh Fruit	19 Lasagna Cole Slaw French Bread Fresh Fruit Milk	20 Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	21 Sub Sandwich- Potato Choice Vegetable Relishes Fresh Fruit
24 Cook's Choice	25 Hot Ham & Cheese/Bun Batter Bites Vegetable Choice- Fresh Fruit	26 Chicken Strips- Mac & Cheese Seasoned Peas Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	27 Chicken Patty/Bun Potato Choice Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit	28 Sloppy Joes/bun Oven French Fries Seasoned Green Beans- Fruit Sauce
31 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day				June 1 Hot Dog Bag of chips Bag of Carrots Fresh Fruit