



Cokato Elementary News

April 2011



Paragraphs from the Principal...

Mrs. Force

March at our School

March is the month of countless changes.
The wind blows and blows across open ranges.



The snow melts slowly, thanks to the sun.
Soon comes the mud with all of its fun.

Coming next month are the major state tests.
It seems like our minds are not given a rest!



Parents and teachers meet to confer

To see what children have learned in a year.



Visitors come for roundup to see
Just how much fun our school can be.



Spring break is coming; it's in the air
Everyone's practically jumping out of their chair!



My wish for you all is that spring break will bring
The beginning of sunshine and the promise of spring!

Lorene Force



Coming Events:

April

- 6th Kindergarten "Doughnuts for Dad"
Red Group
- 7th Kindergarten "Doughnuts for Dad"
Blue Group
- 12 & 13 MCA-II testing for Third and Fourth
Grade (Reading)
- 19 & 20 MCA-II testing for Third and Fourth
Grade- (Math)
- 21 CLIMB Theatre-Environment Plays
- 22 **No School-Good Friday**

May

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

June

- 3 Last Day of School
Variety Show and
Awards Program AM



Media Messages

Pam Osterberg

April is Poetry Month

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. 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.

Read Across America Day

Thanks to all of our guest readers!



ELM: Electronic Library for Minnesota

Your source for information!

Looking for an accurate place to locate information? Try searching ELM for **magazine, newspaper, and journal articles, eBooks,** and information from **reference sources.** These resources are available to Minnesota residents at no charge.

ELM provides information on many topics, including consumer information, arts and humanities, current events, health, science, social science, politics, business, and more.

You will find a link to ELM on the Cokato Elementary Student webpage.

You will find the link to ELM on the Cokato Elementary Student page.

Congratulation to Louis Larios

2011 Bookmark Winner!



Reading Counts Activities: Focusing on Award Winning Books

Congratulations to the following students. During the month of February they earned the most Reading Counts points in the following categories.



2nd Grade – Will O'Brien

EB White & Dr. Seuss Book Awards.

Zack Morris: Caldecott Award

3rd Grade – Amber Wickman earned the most points in all three categories; Caldecott, Newbery, and Maud Hart Lovelace.



4th grade – Casey Janckila: Maud Hart Lovelace Award

Joanna Koivisto: Newbery Award

Safety Patrol News...



Starla Powers

Safety Patrol Coordinator

We are now in the snowy, rainy, warm and cold mix otherwise known as springtime in MN. It's hard to know how to dress appropriately when our weather changes from day to day, sometimes hour to hour. I've told the patrol kids that if they are responsible enough to be on patrol, they can decide for themselves if they need snow-pants, hats and gloves. However, please continue to wear boots as the mud will be with us for quite sometime.

We honored the kindergarten patrol at our meeting this month. We also talked about patrol members visiting the second grade classrooms to recruit next years' new members. Busy, busy busy! Thanks everyone for hanging in there through our long winter. We couldn't do it without you!

Enjoy your break.

Patrol of the Month

Elizabeth Knutson



Elizabeth has been a great example of what it means to be a responsible member of our patrol team. I know that when Elizabeth is on the schedule I can depend on her to be on time and ready for her duties. She wears a smile and always has a good attitude. Thanks Elizabeth, for all the work you do here at Cokato Elementary. We appreciate you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING

CLASS LISTS FOR 2011-2012

From: Lorene Force, Principal

It seems hard to believe that we are starting to think about next school year, but that time will come soon. This spring, one of the biggest jobs our staff will be faced with is preparing the class lists for next year. A great deal of thought goes into this lengthy process. Classroom teachers meet several times with the special education teacher, the social worker, the physical education teacher, music teacher, and me to discuss the placement of students for the following year. Things we feel are very important to consider as we construct class lists include, but are not limited to:

- A balance of boys and girls
- A blend of all ability levels
- Careful consideration of student personalities and behaviors
- A mixture of students from all classrooms
- Placing students together who work well academically but aren't necessarily friends.

We realize that parents/guardians know their child's personality better than anyone, and we respect the fact that some parents may want to contribute their thoughts to the process. In the past, several parent requests for a specific teacher were not able to be granted due to a variety of reasons. Most parents do not put in a teacher request. This spring, if you choose, I am asking that you follow the steps below if you want to give input into your child's placement for next year.

Stop by the Cokato Elementary Office to pick up a form to complete. This form is short and will ask you to describe your child and your child's learning style. We carefully consider children's learning styles as we place them in classes for the following year. **No teacher name should be put on the request.**

Deadline to return the form to the Cokato Elementary Office is April 8, 2011. No exceptions.

Please complete a separate form for each child. Only these forms will be accepted. Do not replace these forms with written notes or letters. These forms are good for one year.

The class lists will be posted on the window by the auditorium doors in August of 2011. Once posted, the lists are not subject to change.

As you can tell, a great deal of time, thought, and effort goes into the formation of class lists each year. We want you to know that all Cokato Elementary teachers are highly qualified and exceptional teachers with whom you can put your trust. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please call me or stop by if you have a specific concern regarding the placement of your child for the next school year. My number is 286-4100 x 1304.

Salutations From The Social Workers



Sarah Terpstra



Heidi Sickmann

As many of you have heard our 3rd and 4th grade children will take MCA tests on April 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th. One thing I want you to consider before and during this time period is to turn off the screens. This includes not only the TV, but computers, and video games as well. Indiana University Brain Scan Research reports “media violence stunts or “retards” kids brain development: children with violent TV, movie, and video game exposure had reduced cognitive brain function.” Media violence can “knock out the logical part of the brain, and the brain becomes intoxicated and shuts down.” The exciting news, when a student “detoxified” from media violence for three days the brain looked like a typical left-brain with low levels of violence exposure.



So what does this mean for us as parents? Lt. Grossman has developed a curriculum, which advocated reducing/eliminating screen time for 3-10 days prior to school testing. Here are the results from the data collection: following a 10 day media violence shut down his data demonstrated an increase in test scores in the areas of math, student attendance, and an increase in athletic performance.

So I would like to encourage and challenge you to take a 3 or 10-day media/screen time “detoxification.” If you want to do the 3-day challenge you could start on Saturday, April 9th. If you would like to do the 10-day challenge, your start date would be Saturday, April 2nd. If your family does take the challenge, please let us know how you felt about the experience.





From the Health Office

Kelly Krueger
FUN IN THE SUN



Spring is here! The days will be getting warmer and longer which means more time spent in the sun. This is a good time to remember that sunscreen is a necessity whenever we are exposed to the sun, no matter how long the exposure. The majority of our lifetime sun exposure (50-80%) occurs during childhood. Regular use of an SPF-15 product starting after 6 months of age and continuing through 18 years can decrease the incidence of skin cancer over a lifetime by as much as 78%!

Here are some tips to protect your skin while having fun in the sun:

- Avoid the sun as much as possible between the hours of 10 am and 4pm as radiation from the sun is most damaging during these hours.
- Use sunscreen every day, even on days when it isn't hot or sunny. Clouds can only minimally filter UV radiation. 
- Apply sunscreen 20 to 30 minutes prior to sun exposure. This allows the sunscreen to form a protective layer on the skin
- Take extra precaution when around water, sand, snow or concrete, as these can reflect up to 85% of UV radiation. 
- Wear hats and sunglasses to limit sun exposure to the face and eyes. Damage from the sun can be seen later in life in the form of cataracts.
- Avoid artificial UV sources like tanning beds.
- Reapply sunscreen frequently: Water resistant and waterproof formulas can protect for up to 40-80 minutes if in the water.
- Check medication labels. Some medicine can cause skin to be more sensitive to the sun's rays.

For more information on skin safety, check out: http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/sun_safety.html



Phy Ed Fundamentals...

Sunny spring greetings to you! With the snow melting, temps warming, and flip flops in the store, we want to remind all parents and students that tight fitting athletic shoes are required everyday during physical education class. Other shoes/sandals, etc. can be worn to school and during school, however we are asking for your cooperation with reminding students about the safety rule of appropriate shoes and coming prepared for class. Also, as we soon transition back outdoors for physical education class, it is important to remember that dressing for the weather can be tricky this time of year. Encourage students to dress in layers and (if they have AM class) have an extra pair of socks/shoes for dewy mornings to avoid wet feet the entire day.

Looking ahead...

Mark your calendars for Cokato's Activity Day. It is scheduled for Wednesday May 18th. Thursday May 26th is the scheduled day for Olympic Day. Both of these physical education special events require lots of parent volunteers. You could volunteer for the AM, the PM, or both. More specific information to come, parents that are interested are encouraged to contact Mary Kay Morris, the volunteer coordinator, at 286-4100 extension 1327.

It was nice to connect with parents during conferences. As always, feel free to contact us if the need should arise. Looking ahead at the physical education curriculum, we will finish up our inside units and transition back outdoors when the field dries up. This spring students will be involved in batting/field skills, kicking skills, track and field skills, and various summer recreation activities.



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PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.®

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 the PTA for their next regular meeting to be held on Thursday, April 7th at 6:30 in the High School media center. Joining us for this meeting will be Mr. Dean Jennissen, High School principal to discuss high school class options and offerings. He will lead us through the high school Registration Guide and go over college options, graduation requirements and high school planning that will prepare students for their next step after high school.

We will also have a school board update and have an open forum for questions and comments to the PTA

If you are interested in becoming a PTA member or wish to learn more about PTA please contact Melissa at 275-3394 or email chargerpta@yahoo.com to request a membership form.

All community members are always welcome! We hope to see you at the meeting!

Hey dads and kids

Join us for the
Cokato Elementary



All Pro Dad

Dad's Day

Tuesday, April 5th

7:00-7:45 A.M.

Cafeteria/Media Center

Please RSVP to

www.allprodad.com/dd/2356

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

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

Your Cokato Elementary Leader

Joel Hillmann

Upcoming Community Education Activities

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

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Summer Community Education Brochure will be mailed the first week in May.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

ASA TRAVELING SOFTBALL (Ages 10 and Under-18 and Under)

This is competitive play for those girls who wish to play traveling softball this upcoming summer. The season will run from early June through late July. Note: There will be another opportunity for 3rd & 4th graders this summer to play in the in-house league if they prefer not to play this more competitive option. Check the upcoming Summer Community Ed. brochure for more information. To sign up for the 10U ASA league it is suggested that participant has prior softball experience and they may have to attend the tryout day. For additional information please check out the DCSA website at: www.dasselcokatosoftball.com

Practice Schedule: Practices will held at the HS/MS fields and begin the end of May. Dates and times-TBD

Game Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays- Beginning early June-late July

Activity #5500E- (10 U)-Grades 3 & 4

Fee: \$70

Registration/Cancellation/Refund deadline: Friday, April 15

SPRING SOFTBALL CLINIC (Grades 3-8)



Let's get ready for summer ball! This clinic will be a complete review of fundamentals, including: basics of hitting, proper fielding techniques, aggressive base running, and the technique of throwing and catching a softball. Time will be spent working with pitchers and catchers on proper mechanics and techniques for fastpitch softball.

Activity #5507- Grades 3-8

Saturday, May 7

9:00 am-12:00 pm

HS Quad Fields #5 & 6, (West Gym if rain)

Early Bird Fee: \$20; Fee after April 29: \$25

LACROSSE (Grades 1-6)

Learn how to play the fastest growing sport in the US. The first half of each class will be reserved for skills development with the second half for games. This activity will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.



Equipment needed: boys or girls lacrosse sticks (available at many stores including Dicks Sporting Goods in Minnetonka.) Please contact Coach Larry Hunter at 763-443-2562 if you would like to borrow equipment.

Activity #5511

3 Saturdays, April 9, 16 & 30 (No class 4/23)

12:15-1:15 pm at Peterson Park, Cokato

Early Bird Fee: \$35; Fee after April 4: \$40

CLAY CAMP SCULPTURES (Grades K and up)



Pottery and sculpture handmade by your child will truly capture their imagination. Students will be given 1.5 pounds of red and white earthenware clay and taught basic handbuilding techniques. Glazes are food safe, so projects may include covered jars, baskets, mugs, bowls or a sculpture reflecting your child's interest. The artwork will be fired and glazed by the instructor and returned back to school within four weeks. Dress for a mess! Parents - you can register and make a project too!

Activity #2205C- Cokato

Tuesday, April 19

3:15-4:15 pm

Cokato Elementary Room #139
(pick-up at west door)

Early Bird Fee: \$28; Fee after April 12: \$33

ART EXPLORATION (Grades K-8)



Learn to paint with Artist Larry Hunter, surrounded by beautiful art in his studio/gallery. Participants will have an opportunity to experiment with a variety of mediums to create their own masterpiece. All materials will be provided and are included in the class fee. Dress for mess!

Activity #2080

2 Saturdays, April 9 & 16

10:00-11:00 am

The Art Pig Studio & Gallery,
255 Millard Ave., Cokato

Early Bird Fee: \$25; Fee after April 4: \$30

MOTHER'S DAY SURPRISE (Grades K-4)



Come and make something for your mom that is as special as she is. Mother's day is Sunday, May 8. How good are you at keeping a secret?

Activity #2065C- Cokato

Wednesday, May 4

3:15-4:45 pm in Cokato Elem. Room #139, pick-up at west door

Fee: \$15, includes all supplies

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 27

Activity #2065D- Dassel

Thursday, May 5

3:15-4:45 pm in Dassel Elem. Room #109

Fee: \$15, includes all supplies

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 27

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

BASIC STEP XPRESS



No frills basic step aerobics. Warm-up, workout, cool-down and & get on with your evening.

Activity #7714B

6 Mondays, April 11-May 16

4:45-5:15 pm at Early Childhood Center, Door B

Fee: \$20

CORE & MORE

Using the core as the focus, this total body muscle conditioning class will get you tight & toned.

Activity #7719B

6 Mondays, April 11-May 16

4:15-4:45 pm at Early Childhood Center, Door B

Fee: \$20

SPICE UP YOUR LIFE

Gain knowledge of how kitchen spices can work to heal and improve your health by adding color, flavor, vitamins and often medicinal properties. A \$5 materials fee will be payable to instructors the night of class.

Activity #7935

Thursday, April 7

7:00-8:30 pm • HS FACS Room #114, Door C
Fee: \$27

PAINTING WITH ACRYLICS



Participants will use acrylics to paint on a variety of materials. This class is designed for the beginning and intermediate student.

Activity #2558

2 Mondays, April 4 & 11

9:00-10:00 am • The Art Pig Studio & Gallery, 255 Millard Ave., Cokato

Fee: \$25

MINNESOTA STARWATCH PARTY



Get a close up view of star clusters, nebulae, galaxies and other wonders in our skies with Mike Lynch.

Activity #1702A-Adults

#1702S-Students

Friday, April 8

8:00-10:00 pm • Cokato Township Hall

Fee: \$20-Adult, \$8-Student

HOME COFFEE ROASTING



Enjoy your own fresh roasted coffee from all over the world for much less than the cost of store bough coffee. Learn the basics of how to roast coffee at home.

Activity #1759

Thursday, April 26

7:00-8:30 pm • HS FACS Room #114, Door C

Fee: \$15

BASIC PISTOL FOR WOMEN (Ages 18-Adult)

This one day course will cover the basics of handguns, parts and terminology, types of ammunition, operation of various pistol actions, safety, cleaning, storage and learning how to properly shoot a pistol.

Activity #4513

Saturday, April 30

8:00 am-4:00 pm • HS Community Room, PAC Door

Fee: \$50

Faculty Follies is back!

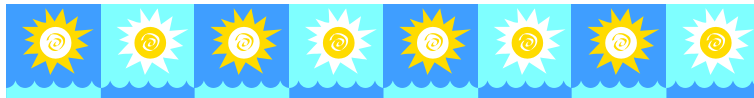


The staff of Dassel-Cokato Schools is once again presenting Faculty Follies, a variety show to raise money for local student scholarships.

The show will feature music, comedy, skits and a variety of other performances all set around the theme "Live from Dassel-Cokato. It's Saturday Night!" In a spin-off of the Saturday Night Live TV show format, teachers, staff members, administrators and school board members will all be showing their stuff on stage.

The show will be held at the Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the high school activities office, Red Rooster Foods in Dassel and the Marketplace in Cokato beginning Monday, April 4. All seats are general admission, and any tickets remaining after Friday, April 15 will be available at the door.

All money raised by the production will go toward the Dassel-Cokato Dollars For Scholars student scholarship fund. Come out and enjoy a night of entertainment and support a good cause. We hope to see you there.



Volunteering



MaryKay Morris

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

"Leo Buscaglia" - American writer

Grandparent's Day

Friday, May 6. We will once again need one volunteer for each classroom to help pass out cookies and lemonade to our visiting grandparents. Give me a call or drop me an email if you would like to volunteer. 320-286-4100 X 1327 or Marykay.morris@dc.k12.mn.us

Happy National Volunteer Month

The teachers and staff at Cokato Elementary greatly appreciate each of the volunteers that give the gift of their time to our school and students.

Mark your calendars

- Wed., April 13– Ms. Johnson's class displays at the DQ
- Thurs., April 14-April Birthday Table
- Wed., April 27– Miss Melquist's class displays at the DQ
- Wed., May 4– Mrs. Kusler's class displays at the DQ.
- Thurs., May 5– 3 & 4th Grade Spring Program
- Fri., May 6– Grandparent's Day
- Thurs., May 12– May Birthday Table
- Wed., May 18– Activity Day
- Wed., May 18– Mr. Barton's class displays at the DQ
- Wed., May 25– Mrs. Nelson's class displays at the DQ
- Thurs., May 26th– Olympic Day



UPCOMING ARTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

Rhythmic Circus Production:

Feet Don't Fail Me Now

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

Saturday, May 21, 7:30 pm

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

Location: D-C Performing Arts Center

Reserved Seating at the PAC

Member ticket sales: April 7 & 8, Public ticket sales begin: April 11

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

DC Elementary Lunch

April, 2011



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

1/2 pint of milk ;is served with each meal

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Lunch Around Pizza Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	5 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Carrots Biscuit Fresh Fruit	6 Tater Tot Hotdish French Bread Fruit Choice Cookie	7 Chicken Fillet W/ Alfredo Bread Stick Green Beans Fruit Choice	8 Fish Frys Potato Rounds Veggie Relish Fruit Choice Bread Choice Pudding
11 Breakfast Bites Tri Tator Orange Smiles Fruit Juice, Assorted	12 Hamburger on a Bun French Fries Vegetable Choice Fresh Fruit Gelatin	13 Super Nachos w/Fixings Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	14 Holiday Dinner Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Seasoned Vegetable Dressing Tea Biscuit Special Dessert	15 Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Tomato Soup/Crackers Veggies / Dip Fruit Choice
18 Popcorn Chicken Oriental Rice Seasoned Peas Fresh Fruit Bread Choice	19 Spaghetti / Sauce Lettuce Salad Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice	20 Corn Dog French Fries Broccoli and Cheese Fruit Sauce Choice Bread Choice	21 Turkey Sandwich Potato Rounds Fresh Veggies/Dip Yogurt	22 NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY
25 Hot Dog / Bun French Fries Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce Choice	26 Hot Ham and Cheese Batter Bites Fruit Sauce Choice	27 Chicken Patty Batter Bites Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice	28 Cheese Bread/ Sauce Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit School made Dessert	29 Sloppy Joe on a Bun French Fries Seasoned Carrots Fruit Sauce Choice

DC Elementary School Breakfast Menu April 2011



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Choice Milk	5 Pancakes/Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Choice Milk	6 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice Milk	7 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Fruit Choice Milk	8 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice Milk
11 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice Milk	12 Cereal Teddy Grahams Fruit Choice Milk	13 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Choice Milk	14 Breakfast Bites Fruit Choice Milk	15 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Choice Milk
18 Cereal Honey Graham Sticks Fruit Choice	19 Breakfast Omelet Toast Fruit Choice	20 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit	21 Breakfast on a Stick Fruit Choice Milk	22 NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY
25 Apple Strudel Sticks Cheese Stick Fruit Choice Milk	26 Cereal Cinnamon toast Fruit Choice Milk	27 French Toast Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Choice Milk	28 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Choice Milk	29 Frudel Bar Yogurt Fruit Choice Milk
** daily fruit choice fresh, canned or juice				In The operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against write immediately to Dept. of Agriculture, Wash. DC 20250