



Cokato Elementary News

January 2011



Paragraphs from the Principal Mrs. Force

Holiday Greetings from Cokato Elementary! The children are doing very well this month with all the excitement that December brings to them both at home and school. True to form, many students have been sick with various bugs! We hope that your family is healthy so that you can all enjoy holiday get-togethers.

The snow has brought about a new situation to deal with after school for our children who walk home. The snow piles in Peterson Park are just like a magnet to them! I have made a point of announcing each morning that the walkers should go directly home at the end of school, but the snow piles are so tempting! What makes it more difficult is that once we have dismissed classes at 3:15, the students are responsible to get themselves home—safely! The school only provides supervision during school hours, not after hours. If your child walks home, please encourage them to not stop off to play. “King of the Mountain” and “Push, Push” has become very rough after 3:15. They are not allowed to play these games during school hours. Let’s work together on this!

Our kindergarten, first and second grade students were the shining stars of Tuesday’s winter concert. Their sweet voices filled the jam-packed Performing Arts Center at the high school. We noticed that the afternoon matinee was highly attended too! We’re grateful that we can provide parents and community members with two options to attend our programs. The third and fourth graders will have their spring concert on Thursday, May 5 followed by Grandparents Day on Friday, May 6.

Thank you to all of you who take a minute to call school when your child will be absent or late. Our office makes certain to call the homes of the students who walk to school each morning if you haven’t called in to make sure everyone is accounted for. We greatly appreciate your phone call.

If your family has experienced the loss of employment since school began, please consider obtaining an application for free or reduced lunches. The application is available from Noni Smith, extension 1013, at the district office or on our school website. I want to reassure you that the food service workers, our secretaries, the teachers, and I are not told who receives this benefit. We want to honor that confidentiality so please feel safe applying for this benefit for your family. On the subject of lunch payments, I wanted to remind you that a credit/cash card can be used to pay for lunches either on-line or at the district office if you’d rather not send a check with your child. Please call if you have questions about this!

The month of January is “Focus on Math” month at Cokato Elementary. I’ve enclosed some math tips for parents elsewhere in this newsletter. Your child’s teachers will be incorporating many useful techniques during this month to address the Minnesota requirement that elementary children learn pre-Algebra at their young age! Wow, has that requirement increased through the years!

Have a very Merry Christmas! I look forward to working with your children in 2011!

Cokato Elementary School

200 5th St. SW

Cokato, MN 55321

Phone: 320-286-4100 Ext. 1300

Fax: 320-286-4131

[www. dc.k12.mn.us](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us)



Media Messages...
Pam Osterberg

JANUARY IS NATIONAL HOBBY MONTH

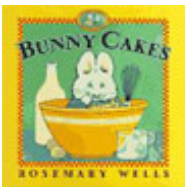
January is National Hobby Month and for good reason: hobbies are great for keeping people motivated with something they enjoy doing. Nearly anything can be a hobby. Celebrate your favorite pastimes and collections, revive old interests or begin new ones with your family during National Hobby Month. There are many books available in the Media Center to get you started.

Pictures Needed

Mrs. Osterberg is looking for pictures of students and their hobby. If you have a hobby please bring in a picture of you and your hobby to the media center. All pictures will be displayed in the media center during the month of January.

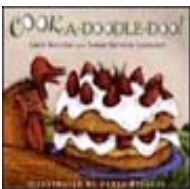
Try Cooking Up Fun

Mixing and measuring, blending and baking – cooking with kids can be fun! Did you know helping in the kitchen allows children to develop language, reasoning, reading, math, and science skills? The media center offers many mouth-watering books you might want to check out.



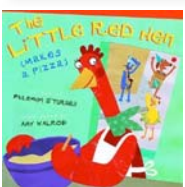
Bunny Cakes

By: Rosemary Wells



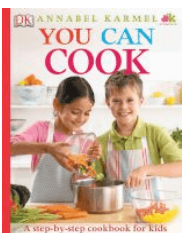
Cook-a-Doodle-Do

By: Janet Stevens &
Susan Stevens Crummel



The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza

retold by Philemon Sturges;
illustrated by Amy Walrod



You Can Cook

By: Annabel Karmel.

Chick-out this awesome cooking websites for kids:
Spatulatta - Cooking for Kids
<http://www.spatulatta.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 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!



Safety Patrol News...

Starla Powers
Safety Patrol Coordinator

It is hard to believe that this is the final newsletter of 2010. Time flies!

Thank you to our faithful patrol members and their families. My job is made easier because of the responsibility you show on a daily basis. I continue to be impressed by your dedication.

December has brought a lot of snow and some very cold temps. Thank you parents for making sure the patrol members have the appropriate clothing to keep them warm. Fingers and toes seem to be the hardest things to keep warm... so perhaps 2 pairs of mittens and 2 pairs of socks will help on those very cold days.

With the crazy classroom schedules for December, we did not have a meeting this month. We'll resume the meetings after the first of the year.

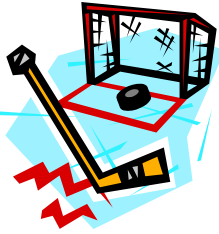


UPCOMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION YOUTH ACTIVITIES

To register call the Community Education office at 286-4120 or visit online at www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed

OUTDOOR D-C YOUTH HOCKEY (Gr. K-6)

Lead Instructors: Maurice Niemela & Abe Niemela



The outdoor D-C Youth Hockey program provides kids with the opportunity to learn how to skate and play the game of hockey. The program includes skating, individual drills, team play and scrimmages. If you don't know how to skate, don't worry, we will teach you.

Practices will begin on Tuesday, Dec. 28 and go through the end of February as weather permits. We will also hold an end of season event indoors, more details on this will be distributed in February. Participants will need to provide the following required equipment: Skates, helmet w/mask and stick. The remaining hockey equipment is recommended but not required. First-time participants will receive a hockey jersey, at no extra charge.

Weather conditions: If the temperature is below zero practice is canceled; if it is above zero practice will be held. Remember, it is always the parents discretion as to whether or not their child attends due to weather conditions or otherwise. A warming house is available at the rink.

Activity #5180 – Grades K-3

Tuesdays, December 28-February 22

6:00-7:30 pm

Saturdays, January 8-February 26

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Activity #5181 – Grades 4-6

Tuesdays, December 28-February 22

7:30-9:00 pm

Saturdays, January 8-February 26

9:00-10:30 am

Mooers Park, Cokato-Outdoor Rink

Fee: \$32



BASKETBALL GR. K-3

All boys and girls in K-3 are invited 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- Grades K-1 at 8:00-8:50 am

Activity #5130- Grade 2 at 9:00-9:50 am

Activity #5131- Grade 3 at 10:00-10:50 am

6 Saturdays, January 15-February 19

Jan. 15-Feb. 5 at HS East Gym,
PAC Door

Feb. 12-19 at Dassel Elem.
Large Gym, Door C

Fee: \$40

BASKETBALL "BRING A FRIEND" DISCOUNT:

Register your child and a friend or sibling for Gr. K-4 Basketball at \$10 off each. Both children need to register and pay at the same time either by calling Community Ed. at 286-4120 or stopping in their office to receive this discount.

CLAY CAMP SCULPTURES GR. K and up

Instructor: Laura "The Potter" Lounsbury



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 #2205D- Dassel

Thursday, January 27

3:15-4:45 pm

Dassel Elementary Room #109

Early Bird Fee: \$28;

Fee after January 20: \$33

Activity #2205C- Cokato

Tuesday, April 19

3:15-4:45 pm

Cokato Elementary Room #139

(pick-up at west door)

Early Bird Fee: \$28;

Fee after April 12: \$33



PRIVATE PIANO LESSONS

(Gr. 2-Adult)

Beginner & Intermediate Levels

Instructor: Beth Ashwill

The piano is an ideal first instrument for students who want to learn to read music, and play a musical instrument. The benefits of piano lessons for children go beyond music education: learning to play the piano, and the study of music in general, engages both hemispheres of the brain.

Lessons will be 30 minutes in length.

(Participants will have the opportunity for one make-up lesson at the end of the session, providing the instructor was notified in advance of an absence). Students will have the opportunity to continue lessons after the initial session. Participants may need to pay a nominal book fee. Prior to the start of lessons the instructor will contact students to set up specific lesson days and times.

Beth Ashwill is a former DC graduate who received piano instruction for eight years from local teachers. She has instructed several students in piano over the past few years. Beth also has 13 years teaching experience at multiple grade levels.

Activity #2021A- Session 1

Tuesdays, January 11-February 22

Activity #2021B- Session 2

Tuesdays, March 1-April 19

Times to be arranged

with instructor

MS Music Practice Room, Door H

Fee: \$100/session

PRIVATE TUTORING (Gr. K-8)

Beth Ashwill

Does your child struggle academically in one or more areas? Is homework a bit overwhelming? If so, one-on-one tutoring is available through the 2010-2011 school year. One-on-one tutoring has proven to be successful for students of all skill levels who:



- struggle to keep up with daily assignments;
- need remediation of basic skills
- want or need to develop learning and studying skills

Upon registration, Mrs. Ashwill will contact you to arrange tutoring days and times. She will set up an individualized program based specifically on your child's needs. With your permission she will connect with your child's teacher(s) to assist her in developing a learning plan for your child.

Mrs. Ashwill is a former D-C graduate with 13 years teaching experience. She has been a 4th grade classroom teacher, Title I Lead Teacher and most recently a special educator at the D-C Middle School.

Activity #4002

Schedule and location to be arranged with instructor

Six 30-minutes, 1-on-1 sessions

Fee: \$90

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.®

The Dassel Cokato PTA is proud to once again make \$200 donations for literacy to each Dassel and Cokato Elementary Schools and the Early Childhood Center. The elementary schools will be using the donations to purchase books for their reading bingo events taking place at each school. The early childhood center will be using the funds to purchase books to give to each child that goes through early childhood screening. It is exciting to get more books into the hands of children in our district!

The next bi-monthly meeting is Thursday, February 3rd at 6:30. A guest speaker will be joining us to give a presentation on cell phone safety for our children. This will be a meeting that you won't want to miss.

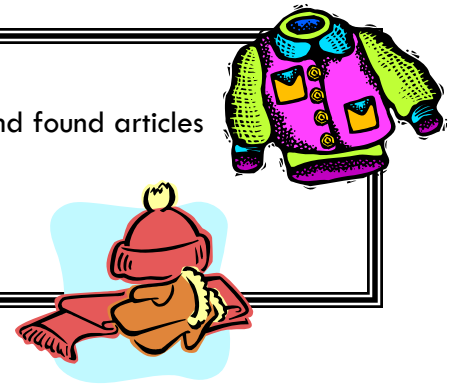
Watch for more information to come!

To become a PTA member or for more information about the PTA, please contact Tonia Olsen:

320- 275-3275 or email chargerpta@yahoo.com

Lost and Found:

More items have been added to the lost and found rack. All of the lost and found articles will be donated during the winter break to Community Action. If you want to go through them before they are donated, please come to the elementary school and look at them.



Welcome to New Staff Member:

Christine Karlgaard:



I am glad to be a Charger! My journey of becoming a teacher came a few years after I graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. While at Concordia College I graduated

with a double major in Psychology and Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations and Advertising. It wasn't until I started working with kids here at Cokato Elementary as a paraprofessional, did I realize what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. So I went back to school and became a Special Education Learning Disabilities teacher. My first year of teaching (2009-2010) was at Talahi Elementary School in St. Cloud, MN. Now I am back to where my love of teaching began and I couldn't be happier! I am truly excited to be a part of such a great community and school!

Parent Pick-up Problem

Parents picking up children on the north side of the school need to be aware of safety concerns. Please do not double park or block drive-ways of nearby residents. For the safety of your children, find a place to park your car and **come into** the school to pick up your child.



School Closing Information

Notices of Dassel-Cokato School closings and other school emergencies will be broadcast again this year over:

- WCCO (830 AM) Minneapolis,
- KRWC (1360 AM) Buffalo,
- KDUZ (1260AM) Hutchinson,
- KLFD (1410 AM) Litchfield,
- KARP (106.9 FM) Hutchinson
- Channel 11 KARE TV.



Sarah Terpstra
320-286-4100
ext. 1349



Heidi Sickmann
320-286-4100
ext. 1336

Salutations From The Social Workers

January is the time of year when personal resolutions are often made such as losing weight or quitting bad habits. It is stated that only ten percent of people keep their resolutions. I challenge you to change it up this year and try something different. Instead of doing individual resolutions why not try a family resolution. Your goal could be to make your family closer. Start by having a family meeting and then brainstorm different ideas to achieve this goal. Some examples could be having a game night, having special days with each child in your family, going for a walk as a family, and the list could go on. Have fun and be creative. I wish all of you a very happy New Year, and I look forward to hearing all of your family resolutions.



Phy Ed Fundamentals...

MERRY FITNESS AND A HAPPY NEW YOU!!!

Dear Students,

We have enjoyed working with you this fall in physical education class. Have a great winter break! The holidays are a busy time for you and your family. Many exciting things will be happening around your homes during the winter break. To keep physical education on your minds and to promote an active, healthy lifestyle for you and your families, our gift to you is this fun and fitness-filled holiday activity! Take some time each day to sing the song and try the activities listed to keep your heart, lungs, and muscles strong and healthy! As an extra incentive, any students in the school that brings in a photo or drawn picture of themselves exercising with their family by January 5th will receive a prize from Mrs. Sorgatz.

Happy exercising!



THE 12 DAYS OF FITNESS

On the FIRST day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . a heart-healthy family! Plan a family walk to look at all the spectacular holiday lights in the community.

On the SECOND day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Two minutes of my favorite sport-skill activity! Play catch, dribble a ball, shoot some baskets, jump rope, or do another activity that you enjoy.

On the THIRD day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Three sets of wonderful wall-sits! Hold each wall sit for 30 seconds; get your quadriceps in shape for ski season.

On the FOURTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Four fantastic sets of push-up fun with my family! Hands go over, over, back, back across a line; try each set for 15 seconds.

On the FIFTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Five minutes of my favorite aerobic activity! Walk, hike, jog, bike, jump rope, roller skates, or do another activity. Be safe and wear a helmet to bike or skate.

On the SIXTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Six super stretches! Try the sit-and-reach. Hold each stretch for 10 to 30 seconds and alternate legs.

On the SEVENTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Seven jolly jumping jacks! Have FUN getting fit!

On the EIGHTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Eight awesome arm circles! Try eight sets—forward and backward, big and small; work those deltoids.

On the NINTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Nine hearty laughs! I hope that you are enjoying your winter break with family and friends.

On the TENTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Ten minutes of my favorite aerobic sport activity! Jump rope or play basketball, soccer, hockey, or play another sport.

On the ELEVENTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . Eleven courageous curl-ups! Hold each curl-up for four seconds up and two seconds down; work those abdominal muscles.

On the TWELFTH day of fitness, my PE teacher gave to me . . . a heart-healthy family!

Plan a special activity to promote physical activity, fitness, and fun for the whole family.

Enjoy a healthy and happy holiday season! See you in January!

—Physical Education Teachers

Mrs. Sorgatz, Mr. Berggren, and Mr. Pokornowski

Activity 7.5 12 Days of Fitness Family Activity Sheet

From *Physical Best activity guide: Elementary level*, 2nd edition, by NASPE, 2005, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.



Contact Info:

Stacy Sorgatz

Ph: 286-4100 X 1355

stacy.sorgatz@dc.k12.mn.us



Brice Berggren

Ph: 286-4100 X 1332

brice.berggren@dc.k12.mn.us



Vinne Pokornowski

Ph: 286-4100 X 1654

vincent.pokornowski@dc.k12.mn.us



Volunteering
MaryKay Morris

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 and the DQ will donate a percentage of 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:

- Wed. January 12– Bertram
- Wed. January 26– Doering
- Wed. February 2– Bussler
- Wed. February 16– Searles

We will be continuing the Birthday Table again this year for grades 1 to 4. Each student with a birthday during the month will receive an invitation to the Birthday Table about one week prior to the date (summer birthdays will be celebrated during the half birthday month). The birthday student is invited to bring a guest to the table. The guest can be any number of parents, grandparents, younger siblings, or other special person, OR the birthday student can invite ONE school friend. Please talk about this choice with your child so that they understand they can bring one or the other. Students will go to lunch during their regular lunchtime, but can sit at the Birthday Table with their guests and all guests will enjoy a birthday treat. Guests that come for lunch will need to sign in at the office and can then go down to the lunchroom to meet the birthday student. Please bring exact change of \$3.05 for each adult lunch. Exact change is important since the kitchen staff does not have change.

January Birthdays: Thursday, January 20

July Birthdays: Thursday, January 27

Lunch Times:

- 1st Grade 11:45
- 2nd Grade 12:30
- 3rd Grade 12:05
- 4th Grade 12:20

Keep on Collecting:

- Target Red Card
- Box Tops
- Kemps and Land O' Lakes Milk Caps

Volunteer Prize Winners:

When you come in to volunteer please sign up for the Volunteer Prize drawing. There is a small container near where you sign in. Each month I draw a winner. If you volunteer with at-home projects, I will drop your name in the container as well.

The November winner is: Dean Jenkins

Thank you Dean for volunteering your time to help with the 1st grade Fall party as well as serving lunch out at Collinwood for the 4th graders. You are appreciated!

The December winner is: Anne Ortquist

Anne is a great at home helper. We have many projects that are sent home for volunteers to work on there. Thank you Anne for being such a dependable volunteer. We appreciate all you do.

Coming Events:	
December	
23– Jan. 2	Winter Break
January	
3	Classes Resume
17	No School-Staff Development
February	
14	Valentine's Day Celebration Jump Rope for Heart
21	No School-Presidents' Day
March	
2	Read Across America Day
4	End of Grading Period
7	No School Staff Development/Teacher Planning
11	Kindergarten Conferences No Kindergarten
15 & 17	Elementary Conferences 5:00-8:00 PM
18	No School-Elementary Only AM Teacher Planning/PM Conferences

DC Elementary Breakfast

January 2011



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Choice	4 Pancakes/Syrup Sausage Link Fruit choice	5 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	6 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Fruit Choice	7 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice
10 Breakfast Pizza Fruit choice	11 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Choice	12 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slices Fruit Choice	13 Cereal Trix Yogurt Fruit Choice	14 Frudel Bar Cheese Stick Fruit Choice
17 NO SCHOOL	18 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	19 Breakfast Omelet Toast Fruit Choice	20 Breakfast on a Stick Fruit Choice	21 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice
24 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Choice	25 French Toast Sticks Smokies Fruit Choice	26 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	27 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice	28 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice
31 Apple Stick Cheese Stick Fruit Choice				



DC Elementary Lunch January, 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Lunch Around Pizza Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	4 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/gravy Seasoned Carrots Biscuits Fresh Fruit	5 Chicken chow Mein Rice/Noodles Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	6 Chicken Patty/Bun Potato Smiles Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice	7 Turkey Wrap Potato Rounds Carrot Sticks Fresh Fruit Gelatin
10 French Toast Sticks Sausage Patty Tri Tator Orange Smiles Fruit Juice	11 Hamburger on a Bun French Fries Vegetable Choice Fresh Fruit	12 Super Nachos w/Fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce Choice	13 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tuna Salad Sandwich Tomato Soup Fresh Veggies/Dip Fruit Sauce Choice	14 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Mixed Vegetable Fresh Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit
17 No School Staff Work Day	18 Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Lettuce Salad Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice	19 Corn Dog French Fries Broccoli And Cheese Fruit Sauce Bread	20 Chicken Nuggets Oriental Rice Seasoned Peas Fresh Fruit	21 Sub Sandwich w/fixings Potato Chips Fresh Veggies /dip Trix Yogurt
24 Hot Dog/Bun French Fries Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce Choice	25 Hot Ham and Cheese Batter Bites Fresh Fruit	26 Chicken Fajitas Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Fruit Sauce	27 Whole Wheat Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	28 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Potato Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Sauce Choice
31 Pizza Seasoned Corn Fruit Sauce Choice				In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against write immediately to: Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250