



# **Dassel-Cokato Community Education**

## **Annual Program Report 2009-2010**

# **Dassel-Cokato Community Education Annual Program Report**

2009-2010 was another successful year for Community Education. As you look through this report you will be able to see the tremendous variety of educational and recreational opportunities that Community Education offers to our communities. We strongly believe that we have something for everyone! Our youth recreation and swimming lessons remain extremely popular for our residents. Our School Age Childcare Program continues to experience success in Cokato and is growing steadily. Our Early Childhood Programs remain strong with many participants in our community. We continue to offer excellent opportunities for the adults ranging from recreation, to physical fitness, to AARP Driver Safety Program and many other enrichment courses.

## **This Annual Report is to keep you informed with what is happening in Community Education from September 2009 through August 2010:**

Total Classes Offered: 511

Fall 09: 148, Winter/Spring 10: 182, Summer 10: 181

Classes Held: 404

Fall 09: 114, Winter/Spring 10: 125, Summer 10: 165

Total Registrations: 4148

Fall 09: 1013, Winter/Spring 10: 1313, Summer 10: 1822

Not included: ECFE and Preschool Registrations

Many thanks to all who taught a class or led an activity of some sort.

## **Adult Basic Education**

*Perry Thinesen, Community Ed. Director and Jim Nicholson, ABE Coordinator*

This year GED (General Equivalency Diploma) and ESL (English as a Second Language) classes were offered to our residents at the Area Learning Center in Cokato. Classes were taught by Cheryl Molenaar and Alison Torgersen.

There were 48 students with 641 hours of student instruction. There are several programs offered through ABE including GED-i, an online GED study program; STAR reading, a diagnostic and reading improvement program; Mind Quest, an online study program to help with transition to college and stackable credentials offered in C N A, retail instruction, work readiness and basic computers. The Glacial Lakes Consortium continues to

supply us with instructors, textbooks, computers and testing opportunities for our community members in need of adult basic education.

## **Aquatics**

*Libby Bayuk, Pool Manager*

Over the past year the Aquatics program has remained consistent offering the same classes that were established when *The American Red Cross* changed to their new format last summer. The lessons now offer class settings for children as young as age 4. The following numbers of participants were involved in our aquatics programs:

Swim Lessons: 648 participants (includes Lifeguard Training, WSI class)

Fall 09: 107, Winter/Spring 10: 129, Summer 10: 412

Lap Swim: 537 participants

Fall 09: 187, Winter/Spring 10: 233, Summer 10: 117

Water Fitness/Exercise: 136 registered participants and walk-ins

Fall 09: 59, Winter/Spring 10: 54, Summer 10: 23

Open Swim: 526 participants

Fall 09: 169, Winter/Spring 10: 316, Summer 10: 41

We offered a wide variety of aquatics programs this past year. Swimming lessons were offered fall, spring and 2 sessions during the summer. Unfortunately, many of our new instructors have graduated and gone on to college, leaving us short handed this Fall. We will be offering a Water Safety Instructor Course this spring, and are hopeful to get new staff on board. Our teachers are continuing to be in-serviced on the latest teaching methods, in accordance with the new format of the American Red Cross lessons. A new lifeguarding program, "Guard Start" was offered and the lesson classes offered include: Adult/Baby, Adult/Tot, Pre-A Aquatics (age 4 yrs), Pre-B (age 5 yrs); and the regular lesson levels 1-6.

We continue to offer Open Swimming on Wednesday evenings and Sunday's, but the numbers have been lower this past year. In Summer, we ended up only offering Open Swimming on Wednesdays. The numbers were low, and we will likely not offer open swimming during the summer months this coming year.

We also continue to offer water aerobic classes 2 times per week. The numbers have increased in both of these classes. In addition, the Competitive Swim Camp was offered again this summer with increased enrollment. The camp offered workouts with our D-C swim coaches and gave participants a good idea of what would be expected on the swim-

ming team programs already in our schools. An inter-squad meet was held at the end of July.

We pride ourselves on continuing to deliver a wide variety of offerings with the best possible instruction and aquatic services to the people in the school district and surrounding communities.

## **Youth Programs**

*Colleen Compton, Youth Programs Coordinator*

The youth of our community had a wide variety of programs to choose from again this past year. Over the course of the year we offered 210 youth recreation & enrichment classes and had 2,876 participants. Popular youth programs this year included:

### Youth Enrichment Programs

A variety of Clay Camps, Create a Computer Game (computer programming), MS Jazz Band and MS Morning Choir, private piano and string lessons (74 participants,) Red Cross Babysitting, Young Eagles Flying, Wacky & Wild Fun, ACT Test Preparation (35 participants,) Independent Art Endeavors and Magic and More, Art Workshops, Scrapbooking, Father's Day Surprise, Spanish for Beginners and Motorized Lego Camp. 75 students, grades 1-8, participated in our 17th annual Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production this summer and presented two public performances of "Tom Sawyer."

### Youth Recreation Opportunities

Basketball (251 participants,) Flag and Tackle Football (143 participants,) Football HIT Camps, Youth Hockey (115 participants,) Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Ski Club (125 participants), Wrestling, Gymnastics, Games and Sports Sampler, Softball, Softball Clinics, Athletic Performance Program (79 participants,) Competitive Swim Club, Golf, KinderBall & T-Ball (144 participants,) and a Track & Field Camp. Many of these youth programs are run in cooperation with local youth associations. The Bill Hempel Endowment Funds help support our Ski Club, Golf program and Youth Hockey.

### Special Events

Friday Night Out, Girls Night Out, Spring Break Pool & Pizza Party, Tubing at Powder Ridge, and summer trips to Pump It Up (the inflatable party zone) and Summerland Water Park in St. Cloud.

## **Adult Programs**

*Colleen Compton, Adult Programs Coordinator*

The number and variety of learning opportunities for adults continues to expand. We created an enhanced continuing education menu to serve adults of every age and interest, offering many choices to support the stages of their lifetime journey. Dassel-Cokato Community Education continues to co-sponsor classes with the Community Education offices in Litchfield, HLWW and Kimball, thereby enabling more options for adults in all four communities. Program highlights this year included:

### Adult Enrichment Courses

Minnesota Starwatch, Grape Growing, The Aging Brain, CPR, First Aid, Essential Oils, Selling Online, Tracing Roots, Weight Loss...If You're Ready, Good Neighbor Law, Square Foot Gardening and Herbs & Natural Healing. Two courses were also offered specifically for teachers this year: SMART Board Training for Substitute Teachers and Save your License Saturday. AARP Driver Safety Program (formerly 55 Alive) continues to be our most popular class for adults 55 and over.

### Adult Recreation and Fitness Opportunities

Yoga, Step Aerobics, Total Toning, Swing Dance, Family Open Gym, Water Fitness and Lap Swimming. Hall Walking in all of the school buildings continues to be a popular activity for all ages, especially in the winter months. Community Education sponsored the "Just For Fun" Sprint Triathlon this summer with over 50 participants! Proceeds of the triathlon were designated to the repair of the Dassel-Cokato bike path.

## **Early Childhood Programs**

*Jane Ryan, Early Childhood Programs Coordinator*

### Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

The Early Childhood Family Education program continues to reach out to the families in the community that have children ages birth to 5. The program this year included on-site classes and off-site classes, special events and enrichment classes.

The Early Childhood Advisory Council continues to maintain their level of involvement in the early childhood programs. The fundraising efforts from the Craft Fair raised \$1,400. The money is being used in large part for "Dollars for Pre-School Scholars". A portion is being used for outreach materials such as parade outreach materials for the summer town festivals.

Our class offerings consisted of the following:

7 different age level classes plus visiting child care sites in the community. This served a total of 182 children and 244 parents.

Special Events were planned and hosted with support from the Advisory Council members as one of their many contributions to the Early Childhood programs. The Special Events included:

- Fall Kick-off
- Pumpkin Patch Party
- Holiday Celebration in collaboration with Cokato Chamber
- 4 Frolicking Fridays
- Pre-K Lunch
- 4 Parent Night Outs were offered. The Curriculum was Parenting With Love & Logic.
- Early Childhood Garage Sale
- Car Seat Safety Check
- End of the Year Party - Down On The Farm
- Scholastic Book Fair

School Readiness (Play 'n' Learn Preschool)

Our preschool offered 6 sections for children. Parents had the option of enrolling their children in a 1, 2 or 3 days a week program. We served 90 students, of which 21 were ECSE students. This program is a wonderful collaboration with the District's Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) department. It also provides a positive learning environment for our preschool children to advance their school readiness skills. For parents, it provides great support while promoting school involvement from an early age.

Staff

Aimee Gabrielson-Preschool Teacher

Mary Meyers-Reinarts-Preschool Teacher

Heidi Kelly - long-term sub Preschool Teacher

(November - May for Aimee Gabrielson)

Jane Ryan- Parent Educator & Early Childhood Coordinator

Karen Latt- Preschool Paraprofessional

Linda Nordberg- ECFE Paraprofessional

Patty McCain- ECFE & Preschool Paraprofessional

Katie Quaas- ECFE Teacher

Vicky Sager- Preschool Paraprofessional

## **School Age Child Care-Charger Kids Club**

*Colleen Compton, School Age Child Care Coordinator*

Charger Kids Club is our school age childcare program that runs before & after school, on non-school days and during the summer months. This program is open to all Dassel and Cokato students grades K-6.

The program is open before school (6:00-8:00 am), after school (3:00-6:00 pm) as well as non-school and summer days (6:00 am - 6:00 pm.) The program is housed at Cokato Elementary School during the school year and at the Community Education and Early Childhood Center during the summer.

Charger Kids Club had another great year! During the school year we had 46 students enrolled and 42 students during the summer. Our summer enrollment was up over 20% from the year before and we hope to see that continue to rise each year. It is very exciting to watch this program continue to grow and change each year. Our program is a great success because of the energetic and caring staff we have on board.

## **Performing Arts Center Activities**

*Colleen Compton, Dassel-Cokato Arts Association Executive Director*

The Dassel-Cokato Arts association continues to contract with Community Education to provide ticket selling services for the DCAA events. Community Education was once again contracted to provide Executive Director services as well. Colleen Compton continues in that role and also serves as school liaison to the D-C Arts Association Board of Directors. Last year's activities included: a public performance by Todd Green (a multi-instrumentalist), a Monroe Crossing Christmas concert, the Neuss Chamber Orchestra from Neuss Germany, Collective Unconscious performing "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Cirko Cabaret (containing aerialists, acrobatics, hand balancing, juggling and more) and the second annual Celebration Showcase, a fundraiser for the Arts Association! The DCAA once again provided a unique opportunity to Dassel-Cokato MS and HS students by offering two Todd Green educational school-day performances at no charge to the school or the students. The Arts Association also sponsored the Red Rooster Fine Art Show again at the Dassel History Center during the Red Rooster weekend.

Community Education and the Arts Association also co-produced the summer community theatre production of "Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat," a musical performed in the PAC in July. Auditions for this production brought out 81 people, the most people in the history of Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre! Over 2000 people attended one or more of the four performances of "Joseph."

## **Dassel-Cokato Community Education Staff**

Libby Bayuk, Pool Manager

Krista Cates, Early Childhood Secretary & Receptionist

Colleen Compton, Programs Coordinator, School Aged Child Care  
Coordinator & D-C Arts Assn.

Jane Ryan, Early Childhood Programs Coordinator

Shannon Smieja, Community Ed. Secretary & Graphic Designer

Perry Thinesen, Community Education Director

Jennifer Todnem, Charger Kids Club Site Supervisor

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