

DASSEL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Rob Nudell, Principal

www.dc.k12.mn.us

December, 2008

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

rob.nudell@dc.k12.mn.us

by Rob Nudell



It was great to see such a great turnout at conferences. Ninety-nine percent of parents attended conferences and many of you visited the Book Fair as well. Your dedication to your child's education is very important. Please take the time to tell your child how proud you are

of them and their efforts. They are truly wonderful kids!!

Winter in Minnesota brings snow, wind and cold weather. Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately so they can stay warm and dry during recess. Students will be outside for recess each day for 20 minutes, unless the temperature or wind chill gets well below zero degrees. Be prepared by sending a warm coat, a hat, mittens, boots and snow pants.

My best wishes to all of you for an enjoyable holiday season. With all of the activities going on this time of year, please set aside some quality time to spend with your children. Time is the best gift you can give them. When was the last time you built a snowman? Enjoy your winter break with your family.

There are many of you who attend High School events/activities. Just want to remind you for everyone's safety that students/children need to be supervised by an adult. These activities are a lot of fun and I encourage your attendance. We have lots of gifted students and your support is appreciated.

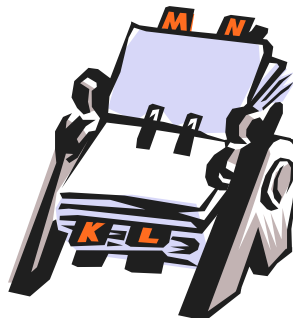
TESTING DATES

April 14-15 MCA Testing for Grades 3 & 4 in Reading

April 21-22 MCA Testing for grades 3 & 4 in Math

It is very important to have your children in school during testing dates.

EMERGENCY CARDS



Please help us by keeping your child(ren)'s emergency cards up-to-date. Remember to always let us know when you change phone numbers, cell phone numbers, and work numbers. There are times when we have called work

places, and they have told us that person no longer works there.

When your child gets sick or hurt at school, we need to get a hold of you as soon as possible. It is also important to have some contact people on the emergency card, when we can't get a hold of you. You may call us or just stop by the office and change the information on the card. Thank you for your assistance.

***The mission of
Dassel-Cokato Schools
is to provide programs
of educational excellence
to students of all ages***

DAIRY QUEEN ART SCHEDULE

Here is the schedule for Dassel Elementary Art displays at the Dairy Queen. Please mark your calendar and support our school while enjoying some great treats!

November 12 th :	Heidi Little
December 3 rd :	Kindergarten
December 17 th :	Gail Ganser
January 14 th :	Luke Karlgaard
January 28 th :	Mechele Pitchford
February 11 th :	Ali Conely
February 25 th :	Kindergarten
March 11 th :	Carla Halvorson
April 1 st :	Brad Force
April 15 th :	Missie Opsahl
April 29 th :	Laura L. and Matt W.
May 13 th :	Kindergarten
May 27 th :	Karley Silverberg



OLWEUS FOCUS

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

This quote is from Maya Angelou when she was being interviewed for her 70+ birthday.

The words that we say have such an impact on people. We need to remember to choose our words wisely. Remember that what we say does have an impact, even if for a short period of time. But, like in the words of Maya Angelou, how we feel after someone has said something is the long-term effect.

Keep choosing your words carefully and make sure that what we say helps others!



CHARGER KIDS CLUB



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

Location

Cokato Elementary – Cafeteria (Small Gym)
 Dassel & Middle School students welcome, transportation is available before and after-school, to and from Cokato Elementary.

Upcoming Non-School Days

Non-school days: 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM
 Friday, November 14
 Monday, December 29
 Tuesday, December 30
 Wednesday, December 31
 Friday, January 2

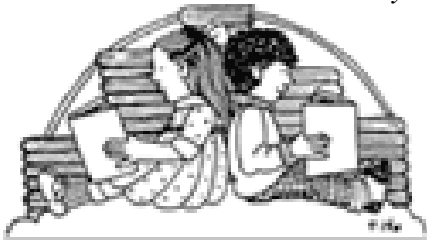
2008-09 Fees	1 st Child	2 nd Child
Registration Fee (June 08-May 09)	\$25 Family	\$25 Family
Before School		
Daily	\$5.00	\$4.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	\$22.00	\$19.50
After School		
Daily	\$8.00	\$7.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	\$36.00	\$32.50
After School until 4:30 PM	\$5.00	\$4.50
Non-School days		
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

Contact Information

To register or get more information contact:
 Site Supervisor: Jennifer Todnem
 320-286-4100 ext. 1334
 Jennifer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us

FROM THE MEDIA CENTER...

by Pam Dille



CHILDREN'S BOOK CHOICES FOR 2008

Each year it is interesting to see what children actually choose as the year's best books. With holiday giving right around the corner, please consider one of the following books, recommended by children, for that special gift. Books are the ideal gift as they can be opened over and over again!

Children's Choices, a joint project of the International Reading Association (IRA) and the Children's Book Council (CBC), is an annual list of favorite new books chosen by 10,000 school children. An annotated list of the following favorites is available from IRA at:

http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices_childrens.html

GRADES K-2:

- Best Buds** - Maxwell Eaton III. Knopf.
- Big Bug Surprise** - Julia Gran. Scholastic Press.
- Bunny Wishes** - Michaela Morgan. Caroline Jayne Church, Ill. Chicken House.
- Chester** - Mélanie Watt. Kids Can.
- Deep In The Swamp** - Donna Bateman. Brian Lies, Ill. Charlesbridge.
- Delicious!** - Helen Cooper. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Dino-Dinners** - Mick Manning & Brita Granstrom. Holiday House.
- Dino-Hockey** - Lisa Wheeler. Barry Gott, Ill. Lerner.
- Duck, Duck, Goose** - Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.
- Five Little Monkeys Go Shopping** - Eileen Christelow. Clarion.
- Fly Guy #4: There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy** - Tedd Arnold. Cartwheel Books.
- Frankie Stein** - Lola M. Schaefer. Kevan Atteberry, Ill. Marshall Cavendish.
- Ginger Bear** - Mini Grey. Knopf.

- Grumpy Bird** - Jeremy Tankard. Scholastic Press.
- How Do Dinosaurs Go To School?** - Jane Yolen. Mark Teague, Ill. Blue Sky Press.
- How To Be A Baby By Me, The Big Sister** - Sally Lloyd-Jones. Sue Heap, Ill. Schwartz & Wade.
- I'd Really Like to Eat a Child** - Sylviane Donnio. Dorothee de Monfreid, Ill. Random House.
- Millie Waits For The Mail** - Alexander Steffensmeier. Bloomsbury/Walker.
- Polar Slumber** - Dennis Rockhill. Raven Tree.
- The Perfect Nest** - Catherine Friend. John Manders, Ill. Candlewick.
- Three Little Fish and The Big Bad Shark** - Ken Geist & Julia Gorton. Cartwheel.
- Tucker's Spooky Halloween** - Leslie McQuirk. Candlewick.
- Tyson The Terrible** - Diane Fox & Christyan Fox. Bloomsbury/Walker.

GRADES 3-4:

- The Amazing Spider - Man Pop-Up** - Marvel. Caroline Repchuk, Ed. Candlewick.
- Animals In The House** - Sheila Keenan. Scholastic Nonfiction.
- Babymouse: Camp Babymouse** - Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm. Random House.
- Babymouse: Heartbreaker** - Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm. Random House.
- Big Cats** - Elaine Landau. Enslow.
- The Book Club Kit** - Patti Kelley Criswell. Ali Douglass, Ill. American Girl.
- Could You? Would You?** - Trudy White. Kane/Miller.
- Dare to Dream!** - Carl Sommer. Jorge Martinez, Greg Budwine, Kennon James, Ills. Advance.
- Dinosaurium** - Edited by Dorling Kindersley.
- Dinosaurs Across America** - Phil Yeh. NBM.
- Do Not Open** - John Farndon. Dorling Kindersley.
- Dog Diaries** - Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey, Laurie Myers. Erik Brooks, Ill. Henry Holt.
- Dogs** - Meish Goldish. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.
- Encyclopedia Brown Cracks the Case** - Donald J. Sobol. Penguin.
- Every Minute on Earth** - Steve Murrie & Matthew Murrie. Mary Anne Lloyd, Ill. Scholastic Reference.
- Explorer** - Henry Hardcastle. Dugald A. Steer, Ed. Milivoj Ceran, Alastair Graham, Ills. Candlewick.
- Extreme Dinosaurs** - Robert Mash. Stuart Martin, Ill. Atheneum.

Extreme Pets! - Jane Harrington. Scholastic Nonfiction.

Goosebumps Graphix 3: Scary Summer - R.L. Stine. Ted Naifeh, Dean Haspiel, Kyle Baker, Ills. Graphix.

A Horse In The House and Other Strange But True Animal Stories - Gail Ablow. Kathy Osborn, Ill. Candlewick.

How Big Is It? - Ben Hillman. Scholastic Nonfiction.

Medical Detective Dogs - Frances E. Ruffin. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Military Dogs - Frances E. Ruffin. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Monday With A Mad Genius - Mary Pope Osborne. Sal Murdocca, Ill. Random House.

Mythology - Lady Hestia Evans. Dugald A. Steer, Ed. Candlewick.

Nancy Drew Graphic Novels #9: Ghost In The Machinery - Stefan Petrucha. Sho Murase, Ill. Papercutz.

Night Sky Atlas - Edited by Dorling Kindersley.

Old Penn Station - William Low. Henry Holt.

The Painted Circus - Wallace Edwards. Kids Can.

Race Horses - Michael Sandler. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

Real-Life Sea Monsters - Judith Jango-Cohen. Ryan Durney, Ill. Lerner.

The Richest Poor Kid - Carl Sommer. Jorge Martinez. Advance.

Scholastic Book Of World Records 2008 - Jenifer Morse. Scholastic Reference.

Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure - National Geographic Society.

See What You Can Be - Diane Heiman and Liz Suneby. Tracey Wood, Ill. American Girl.

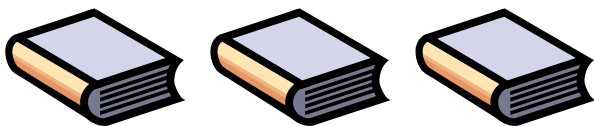
Spike The Rebel! - Carl Sommer. Enrique Vignolo. Advance.

Summerhouse Time - Eileen Spinelli. Joanne Lew-Vriethoff, Ill. Knopf.

Turtle Summer - Mary Alice Monroe. Barbara Bergwerf, Photog. Sylvan Dell.

Wolves - Duncan Searl. Ill. with photographs. Bearport.

The Worst Name In Third Grade - Debbie Dadey. Scholastic Paperbacks.



DASSEL ELEMENTARY VOTE FOR BOOKS ELECTIONS YIELD CLEAR WINNERS

On election day, November 4th, Dassel Elementary students had the opportunity to vote for their favorite books. The three divisions and results are as follows:

CHAPTER BOOKS:

Where the Red Fern Grows by Rawls (93 votes) defeated *Because of Winn-Dixie* by DiCamillo (51 votes).

SERIES BOOKS:

Magic Tree House by Osborne triumphed over *Junie B. Jones* by Park in a 151 to 68 vote margin.

EVERYBODY BOOKS:

Knuffle Bunny by Willems edged *The Polar Express* by Van Allsburg by 12 votes (77-65).



DASSEL ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR



The Dassel Elementary Book Fair had another successful run during conference week. A steady flow of customers, parents and students alike, toured the Fair before and after their conferences. All receipts from Book Fair sales go toward the purchase of new books for the Media Center. Thank you to all who visited our 2008 Book Fair. We appreciate your support!

Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come; you have to get up and make them.
Madam C.J. Walker

*An Open House
Invitation
to a Holiday Tea*



*for our Volunteers
at Dassel Elementary
in the Staff Lounge
Wednesday, December 3rd
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
We appreciate
your gift of time!*



**BOX TOPS
"GET ON THE BALL"
BASKETBALL CHALLENGE**



Our next Box Tops Challenge is here! Each student will get a Basketball Collection Sheet to complete and turn in! Last year we raised a total of \$192.10 with our Football Fever. Let's see if we can "dunk" last years total and score for the school!

Watch for the forms and collect some big numbers!

CAMBELLS SOUP LABELS

Once again, we **thank you** for collecting soup labels for us at Dassel Elementary. We appreciate your efforts!



Just a reminder: **We need the UPC code and the logo next to it.** If it is easier for you, please just send us the whole label. The wonderful residents at the Dassel Lakeside apartments are trimming for us! *Thank you very much!*



TITLE FUNDS



Each year, our school district writes a grant for the Minnesota Department of Education for federal funds given to each state. This grant provides funding, which is based on the number of free and reduced lunches, to each district to help students in need of help in reading and mathematics. In the Dassel-Cokato School District, the majority of the Title funds are used to pay our reading specialists, and some of our paraprofessionals. Our paraprofessionals work with students one-on-one or in small group settings to help children improve in their skills for reading and math. These teachers and paraprofessionals all contribute to the education of our children. To continue to receive these funds, we encourage families to apply for the free and reduced lunch program.

If you would like more information on the free and reduced program, please talk with your child's teacher, school office personnel, or Rob Nudell, our Title Director and Principal.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS/FOOD



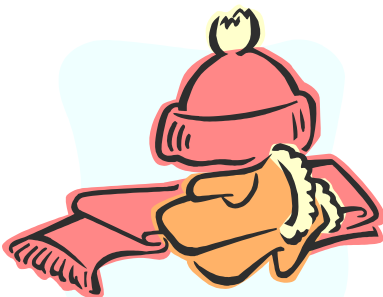
The holiday season is fast approaching. This season is meant to be a happy and festive time for families; however, it can also be a stressful and difficult time because of the financial strain. Often, due to life circumstances and personal hardships, parents are faced with not being able to buy Christmas gifts for their children.

Through Heartland Community Action Agency, families are able to receive donations to help with the Christmas expenses. If you are interested in a referral form for this Holiday Project – please contact Heather Dixon at 693-7911 or stop at Threads of Hope Thrift Store in Litchfield. Wright County families can call Wright County Human Services at 1-800-362-3667. Often parents find it difficult to call, yet we encourage you to make a contact, and we can help facilitate this process.

*There is no such thing in
anyone's life
as an unimportant day.*

- Alexander Woollcott

LOST AND FOUND



Please feel free to check the box in the front hallway for items that may belong to your child. **We will be bringing whatever is left to Goodwill during Christmas break.** Please remember to label all of your child's winter clothing. We are then able to return them to the owner.

HELP NEEDED/FOOD DRIVE

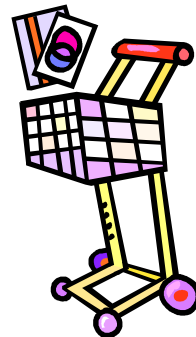


Again, this year, Dassel Elementary will be participating in a December food drive. Students are encouraged (but certainly not required) to bring a food item to school for the Meeker county Food Shelf sometime during this month. Food shelf items should

be canned goods and sealed boxes—all of a non-perishable nature. Some suggested items are: macaroni and cheese, tuna, pork and beans, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, cake mixes, boxed cereals, boxed pastas, salad dressing, chili and kidney beans, Jello, pudding mixes, Hamburger Helper, soup, canned fruit, dry milk, flour and sugar. Thanks for your participation in this activity!



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE DASSEL ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE CHRISTMAS STORES



The third grade students are beginning their annual math mini-unit where they will create a Christmas craft, start their own business, and market their Christmas items. This unit includes lessons on product development, money, labor, advertising, art, multiplication, and division.

The students will be ready for “business” on the following dates: Thursday, December 18th, from 1:30-2:45 p.m., and on Friday, December 19th, from 10:20-11:40 a.m. The stores will be open to community members, staff, and second and fourth grade students to buy the Christmas items. All profits from the “Christmas Stores” will then be used to support our local food shelf, and Habitat for Humanity.

If you would like to come, we welcome you!!
FROM THE VOLUNTEER CORNER . . .

by Mary Neu



Happy December! It is hard to believe that it is the end of this calendar year already! I hope you find joy in this holiday season and many great memories are created for your family.

Volunteers are a very important part of our school. Thank you to many of you who have been so busy here at school and at home. Our school year is in full swing and as a way of expressing our thanks we are planning an appreciation. Please join us for the Holiday Tea on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2008 from 10:30-1:30pm in the staff workroom. It is an open house, so feel free to come when it is convenient for you.

As parents, we often forget that we are teachers, too. Thank you for supporting your child and their educational experience. You are the first of many teachers they will have and you demonstrate the desire for learning as you help them prepare for each day of school.

We are very busy this time of year. Thanks for giving of your time and talents and for supporting our school!

Volunteer opportunities:

- Decorating for the K-2 program
- 3rd grade store helpers
- Reading buddy
- Classroom helpers: grades 2 & 3
- AAA performance and project judges (AAA is coming soon!)

Again, I thank you for your support of Dassel Elementary and our district.

Happy Holidays!



KEEPING WARM IN THE COOKS'

CORNER...

Doris Kyllonen, Head Cook



Holiday greetings from the Cooks' Corner! I really can't believe we are already starting the month of December. Time really does have a way of flying when you're not looking.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans is a document published jointly by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) every five years. The recommendations in the guidelines provide science-based knowledgeable advice about healthy dietary habits.

What are "DRIs"? DRIs, or Dietary Reference Intakes, are measurements used to help prevent nutrition deficiencies and reduce the risks of chronic diseases. These are the DRIs: Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs)--establish the average daily nutrient intake level sufficient to meet the requirement of nearly all healthy people of a particular age or gender. Government regulations state that school meals must contain specified levels of RDAs. Estimated Average Requirement (EAR)--average daily nutrient intake level estimated to meet the requirement of half the healthy people of a particular age or gender.

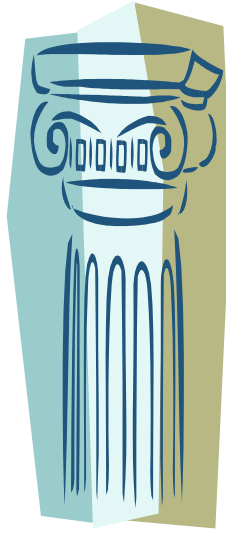
Adequate Intake (AI)--recommended average daily nutrient intake level deemed to be adequate. This is used when an RDA cannot be determined. Tolerable Upper Intake Level (UL) -- highest average daily nutrient intake level likely to pose no risk of adverse health effects to almost all people of a particular age or gender.

As a school food service, we use these guidelines as we plan our lunch menus.

We wish you all a happy, healthy winter break--laugh a lot and enjoy time with family and friends. Remember, time can slip away!

Chat with you in 2009.

GOLDEN RULERS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER



Every day of school, the students at Dassel Elementary are involved in CARE groups from 9:45 – 10:15. During this time, they have a snack and juice/milk break and are engaged in a lesson about character education. This year we are focusing on the character pillars of resiliency and understanding diversity. One of the activities we do each month, is to have the students

in each of the nine CARE groups select a Golden Ruler of the Month to represent their group. They are asked to vote for a member of their CARE group who continually displays all six character pillars and demonstrates the Golden Rule: “Treat others as you would like to be treated”.



The students selected for the month of November were:



Back Row: Abby Huhn, Emma Niemela, Madison Mayer, Morgan Miller, Gaven Gillman
Front Row: Isabelle Lehto, Erick Rossow, Emily Tolkkinen, Shaina Siltala

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR STUDENTS



We are all aware of the need for our children to learn to read, do mathematics, and be able to communicate with others to be successful in school and in life.

However, research is also showing us students need something else: relationships with peers and adults. How do we go about promoting this?

Developing relationships with our children is a necessity. Whether you are a parent, a staff member, or a community member, you have the potential to be an influential person in a child’s life. Whether it will be a positive or negative influence is your choice. Consider the following when working and visiting with our youth:

- Acknowledge students when passing them in the school or at community activities.
- Get to know students by their names.
- Be a real person.
- Use your sense of humor.
- Remember your body language is speaking as loudly, if not louder, than your words.
- Treat the students with respect and you will get respect back.
- Keep students accountable for their behavior.
- Ask about their interests.
- Be an active listener and build on their conversation.

To open the door on a positive relationship, all adults should try to understand the world of a child. We need to know our students, accentuate their strengths and limitations, and connect with children by showing genuine interest in them. Thank you to the Dassel Cokato School District, parents, staff, and community members for all you do for our students.



FROM THE SHARE GRANT PARENT/ SCHOOL LIAISON...



The media plays a large role in our lives today. I am very glad to have the elections behind us, because I was getting tired of all of the ads on TV and everywhere!

In thinking about the impact that the media played with the election, I did some research and found some information I would like to share.

According to Media Wise.org, Dr. David Walsh has written out some of the following research information. (The Center for Media Education reports that TV is the number one after-school activity for kids ages 6-17.)

1. Children have a sense of **Curiosity**. We need to make sure, as parents, that we give them time in their day to be curious and explore. Watching too much TV can limit their time to play.
2. **Imagination**. What a powerful learning tool this is! Playing games, making projects and reading are great ways to encourage imagination!
3. **Ability to Focus**. Our kids need activities that help them learn this skill. Science and building projects can help with this skill.
4. **Ability to keep Attention**. Too much fast paced media trains kids to always expect constant stimulation.
5. **Persistence**. Too much media affects a child's ability to stick with an activity without getting frustrated. Again, we need to teach them to keep trying.
6. **Language**. Talk with your kids and have them talk with you. We need language in all the areas of school and the world we live in!
7. **Inner Speech**. Encourage your kids to think before they act. We all need the skills to keep ourselves from acting on an impulse. Talking to ourselves can guide us through situations and help us come to the right answers.

Being a parent is a great joy and responsibility! Have a great holiday season and keep your kids engaged, having fun and building wonderful memories!

Please feel free to contact me for further information or to talk about parenting and the joys of having your child in school!

Mary Neu, SHARE Parent Liaison (ext. 1518)



FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION...

by Patti Jo Erickson & Amanda Berg



Wow, it's already December! We have been having a wonderful time in Physical Education. First graders finished their kicking unit and began working with the parachute and scooters. Second through fourth graders studied fitness components and aerobic fitness and began our work with jump ropes. The students have also been learning and reviewing some of the names of the major muscle groups and bones.

One of the goals of our program is to encourage students to be active outside of class. We also want them to be diligent about eating fruits and vegetables. We are providing an activity/nutrition calendar this month as an option for students who would like to keep track of these important points. Students are encouraged to take a calendar and complete at least 20 days on the calendar. The activities usually take only a few minutes to complete. The intent is for them to be active daily-, not to fill in the entire calendar in only a few sessions. We ask that students do not work more than a day or two ahead or make up more than one or two that they missed. This will reinforce the message of being active on a daily basis. Simply color in the large shape for completing the activity and one small shape for each serving of fruits or vegetables. We ask parents to sign it, and have your child bring it back to us during class. You will notice that weekends have no activities listed. Be creative and choose an activity. Those can count toward one of the 20 days.

As always, we want to thank you for the privilege of teaching your child. We both feel so passionately that regular physical activity is the foundation to good health (both physical and mental) and good learning. Have a blessed Christmas.

DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS



Our school day runs from 8:00-3:10 pm. If you are picking up your child at the end of the school day, please meet him/her at the **east doors**. These doors will be opened at 3:05. We ask that you wait in the east lobby, supervising any younger children, until that time. Please do not go to your child's classroom to meet your child. Classes are still in session, and this is an important time for teachers to remind students of homework, or coming events of the next day. Students also have "jobs" to do at the end of the day. We ask that you do not meet your child at the main entrance unless it is an unexpected pick-up. For everyone's safety, we want to keep the bus students separate from students getting picked up by parents. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



SCHEDULING FAMILY VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR



The Dassel-Cokato Public Schools are committed to informing parents of the district calendar with as much advance notice as possible. This enables families to plan family vacations to coincide with breaks in the school year. In most cases, families are able to work their travel plans around the school year. We appreciate your efforts in making your plans in this way. In the event that you are restricted to travel plans, which cause your child to miss school, please contact Rob Nudell, principal, to give as much advance notice as possible of a child's upcoming absence. The teachers spend considerable time putting together assignments for the students to complete on the trip, but there is truly no substitute for the instruction that is given in the classroom during this lost time. Thank you for working together with us on this issue.

MEET A NEW STAFF MEMBER



My name is Christina Mattson. I am a lunch lady at the Dassel Elementary. I'm very happy to be able to work at the elementary and see all the kids, when they come through the lunch line. I also work at the Dassel Lakeside Nursing Home as a Dietary Aide. I've been working there for two years. I love being a part of the Dassel-Cokato School District.

I have lived in Dassel since I was born. I went to Dassel Elementary, so I know a lot of the teachers. I live on Lake Jennie with my uncle. I have two pet goats, which are named Clearince and Smokie. I also recently got a pet cat and his name is Max or my little brother and sister call him Max-A-Million.

Some of the children may have seen me before at football, basketball, wrestling meets or games. I was a D-C cheerleader for four years of my life. I graduated from D-C last May. I'm currently working and plan on going to college to be a preschool educator. I love to help kids learn new things.

My family all went to D-C schools. My dad, Brian Mattson, is a custodian at the high school. My mom, Veronica, does daycare in our home. She has been doing it for 19 years. My brother, Daniel, is in 8th grade this year and my sister, Katelyn, is in 7th grade. I also have one older sister, Jessicaq, who is married, has two wonderful little boys, Jebadiah (1 year old) and Hezakiah (6 months old).

When I am not working at either job, I like to go camping, snowmobiling and four-wheeling with my friends. I love going up north with my family. I love to go bowling, even though I'm not very good bowler.

I am very proud to be working for such a wonderful school district, who cares so much about each and every student. I'm having fun getting to know each student and their families. Have a great year.



FROM THE NURSE'S DESK...

by Kelly O'Fallon, LSN



With flu season here, many parents across the country are finding themselves caring for children who are sick with influenza. Children are two to three times more likely than adults to get sick with the flu, and on average, one in three children in the U.S. is affected by the virus each year. The

National Association of School Nurses (NASN) is working to educate parents about how they can keep their children healthy this flu season. Following is a simple three-step approach to flu prevention.

- 1. Vaccination:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best way to prevent flu is to get a vaccine. While October and November are the best times to get a flu vaccine, it's never too late to get vaccinated. It takes about two weeks for the vaccine to become fully effective. There is plenty of vaccine still available, according to the CDC.
- 2. Antiviral Medication:** Prescription antiviral medication is an important adjunct to vaccination for flu prevention and treatment. If a child has been around someone who has the flu, a doctor can prescribe antiviral medication to help prevent the child from catching the virus. However, it's important to contact the doctor fast, because children should begin taking the medication within the first 12-48 hours of exposure to the virus. If taken within that window of time, there is an 89 percent chance that antiviral medication will keep him/her from getting sick. A doctor can also prescribe antivirals to treat the flu, helping both adults and children feel better faster.
- 3. Good Hygiene:** Practicing good hygiene habits is a great way to help control the spread of germs like the flu virus. Parents should teach their children healthy habits such as:
 - Washing their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds

- Covering their mouths and noses with tissues when sneezing and coughing
- Avoid sharing drinks, water bottles, silverware and pencils

The CDC suggests that parents disinfect objects frequently-touched by children, such as toys. Parents should also keep children who have influenza at home. For more information, see the fact sheet "When Sickness Strikes."

Teachers, staff, and parents can help slow the spread of flu by serving as role models for good hygiene practices.

For additional information on the influenza virus, visit www.cdc.gov/flu



AAA IS COMING!

Attention all Dassel Elementary students and parents! AAA is coming! Please put Wednesday, February 18th and Thursday, February 19th on your calendar of fun events! These are the dates for the matinee and the exhibits and evening program. Get your thinking caps on and have some fun this winter break, working on your projects and performances! More details will be coming, but start your creative juices flowing now!



99%

That is how many of our parents attended Parent/Teacher Conferences!

What a great way to share your child's successes at school.

We hope to reach 100% after we reschedule those who were unable to attend.

Thank You Parents!

DECEMBER MUSIC "NOTES"...

by *Becky Litzau*



Coming soon to a DC Performing Arts Center near you:

The K-2 Holiday Program!

Thursday, December 11, 2007
Matinee – 1:30pm
Evening – 7:00pm

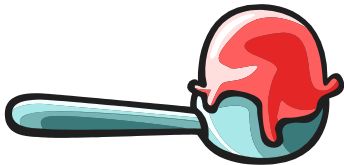
Volunteers are needed! People are needed to set up the stage, make costumes and set pieces, and string a few lights. New faces are always welcome! (And the old faces are always loved and appreciated too!) Please contact Mary Neu for details – 286-4100 ext. 1518.

You will have an opportunity to bring a food shelf item and drop it off at the evening performance. There will be a box marked "food shelf" in the entrance of the PAC building.

Thanks for your time and support!



AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK



During the week of November 17-21st, we celebrated American Education Week here at Dassel Elementary.

The theme was: Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.

In honor of this week, the students discussed why they think our school is cool. Ideas were recorded on ice cream scoops, and displayed in the hall. Hopefully, you had a chance to see them at conference time. Staff and students all agreed that we have so many things to be thankful for here at Dassel Elementary. Thank you parents, for your support of your child's education. The scoop is . . . "Our School is Cool!"



Dassel-Cokato

PTA

everychild.onevoice.

Thank you to all that stopped by our food booth at the Dassel-Cokato Craft Fair. It was fun and tasty fundraiser thanks in part to Jimmy's Pizza.

Our upcoming meetings will have some interesting topics. Mark your calendars and join us on:

Thursday, December 4th 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center. The presentation will be on Project Lead the Way and AP offerings. These programs are important for many different reasons, a couple include giving students an option to take higher level courses for college credit and it is free of charge. Also, if students have completed their high school graduation requirements they are able to get started on some of their college coursework. Join us in learning more about these programs.

***DATE and LOCATION CHANGE ***

Thursday, January 8th 6:30-8:00 PAC Community Room. Deb Griffiths will be presenting "Are We Serious About Quality Education in Minnesota." This promises to be an informative 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.

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.

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

COMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

To register, call the Community Education office at 286-4120 or visit us online at www.dc.k12.mn.us and click on Community Education.

WRESTLING Gr. K-6 DC Coaching staff



Whether you've been in wrestling or not, this is a great opportunity for boys and girls to learn! Charger wrestling techniques, skills, drills and games will be emphasized.

Meeting & Registration:

Monday, Dec. 1, 7:00 pm, HS Commons

Activity #5120 Gr. K-1, 6:00-7:00 PM

Activity #5121 Gr. 2-3, 7:00-8:00 PM

Mondays, Dec. 8-Mar. 16

(no class 12/29, 1/19, 2/16)

HS West Gym South Mezzanine

Fee: \$20 each or \$35 family cap

Activity #5122 Gr. 4-6, 6:00-7:30 PM

Tuesdays, Dec. 2-Mar. 17 (no class 12/30)

HS West Gym South Mezzanine

Fee: \$20 each or \$35 family cap

OUTDOOR DC YOUTH HOCKEY (Gr. K-6)

Lead Instructors: Mark Raisanen & Larry Tormanen



The outdoor DC Youth Hockey program provides kids with the opportunity to learn how to skate and play the game of hockey. The program includes skating, individual skill drills, team play and scrimmages. If you don't know how to skate, don't worry, we will teach you. Practices will begin on Saturday, Jan. 3 and going 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 equipment: Skates, helmet w/mask and stick.**

Weather conditions: If the temperature is below zero practice is **canceled**, if it is **above zero practice will be held**. Just a reminder it is always the parents discretion as to whether or not their child attends.

Activity #5180 Gr. K-3

Saturdays, Jan. 3-Feb. TBD, 10:30-12:00 noon

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. TBD, 6:00-7:30 PM

Activity # 5181 Gr. 4-6

Saturdays, Jan. 3-Feb. TBD, 9:00-10:30 AM

Tuesdays, Jan. 6-Feb. TBD, 7:30-9:00 PM

Location: Mooers Park in Cokato – Outside Rink (warming house available)

Fee: \$27

OPEN GYM AND SWIM

Open Gym has begun! Join us on Sunday afternoons for family time in the HS gyms and pool. Open Gym Hours: 1:30-5:00 p.m. and Sunday Open Swim Hours: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Admission includes participation in either or both activities.

Youth - \$3

Adults - \$5

Families - \$12.

Punch cards available at the door. Please use the north pool entrance, Door A. Open Swim is also held on Fridays, 6:30-8:00 pm. Same rates apply.

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM



Dassel Elementary hosted a Veteran's Day program on Tuesday, November 11th at 2:00. Special guest speakers, Matt and Sue Cron, spoke about their experiences in the military. They are parents of four Dassel-Cokato students and Sue is also a paraeducator at Dassel Elementary.

Both Sue and Matt are veterans of the United States Air Force, and both spent time in Colorado Springs, CO, and Germany. Matt is currently with the 133rd Air Force Guard Unit out of Minneapolis. He has earned the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

The program also included the presentation of the colors by two students, the Pledge of Allegiance, a video clip about Veteran's Day, and patriotic music.







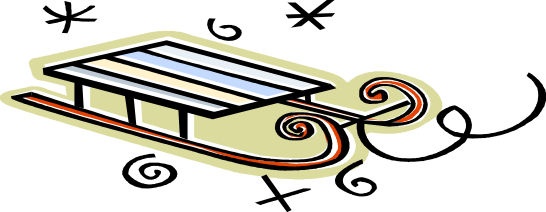
The attending veterans were invited to the media center following the program for refreshments.

Thank you to ALL veterans!!

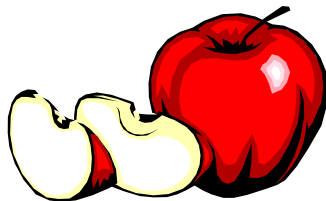
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2008		DECEMBER						2008	
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT			
	1	2 	3  Volunteer Christmas Tea 10:30-1:30	4 PTA Meeting at the High School Media Center 6:30-8:00	5	6			
7	8 	9	10 	11  Music Program (Grades K-2) 1:30 Matinee 7:00 Evening	12	13			
14	15 	16 	17 	18 2 nd Grade go to Cokato Museum 12:40-2:30 3 rd Grade Christmas Stores afternoon	19 3 rd Grade Christmas Stores morning	20			
21	22 3 rd Grade Christmas Stores Shopping Grade 3 Gingerbread Houses	23 Sing-Along 8:45 Jingle Bingo 9:45 Holiday Movie 1:00	24  Winter Break	25  Winter Break	26  Winter Break	27			
28	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break	<i>Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together.</i>					

BREAKFAST MENU

2008		DECEMBER				2008	
SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	
	1 Cereal Granola Bar Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	2 Waffle Sticks Syrup Smokie Link Fruit Sauce Milk	3 Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fresh Fruit Milk	4 Doughnut Yogurt Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	5 Cereal Mini Muffin Fresh Fruit Milk	6	
7	8 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	9 Cereal Cinnamon Sticks Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	10 Pancakes with Syrup Smokies Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	11 Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Peaches Milk	12 Pop Tart Yogurt Fresh Fruit Milk	13	
14	15 Cereal Mini Muffin Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	16 Breakfast Omelet Toast Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	17 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Slice Fresh Fruit Milk	18 Breakfast on a Stick Toast Fruit Sauce Choice Milk	19 Cereal Granola Bar Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	20	
21	22 Apple Strudel Sticks Cheese Stick Assorted Fruit Juice Milk	23 Cereal Muffin Fruit Sauce Milk	24  Winter Break	25  Winter Break	26  Winter Break	27	
28	29  Winter Break	30  Winter Break	31  Winter Break				

ANTICIPATED FAMILY FOOD COST FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2008.




Grades K-4:

Breakfasts: 17 days x \$ 1.00 = \$17.00
 Regular Lunches: 17 days x \$ 1.50 = \$25.50
 Reduced Lunches: 17 days x \$.40 = \$ 6.80
 Extra milks = 35 cents

Please write your child's first and last name on the check or envelope to ensure proper credit to the account. We welcome you to join your child for a meal!

LUNCH MENU

2008		DECEMBER					2008
SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	
	1 Pizza Corn Bread Applesauce	2 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Seasoned Carrots Biscuits Fruit Sauce Choice	3 Goulash French Bread Fruit Sauce Gelatin	4 Grilled Chicken Breast Alfredo Sauce Noodles Green Beans Fresh Fruit	5 Chili Cheese Stick Cinnamon Roll Carrots in a Bag Fresh Fruit Choice	6	
7	8 French Toast Sticks with Syrup Sausage Links Tri Tater Orange Slices Fruit Juice Choice	9 Hamburger/Bun with fixings Oven Fries Veg. Choice Fresh Fruit	10 Hard or Soft Shell Taco with fixings Seasoned Corn Churro Fresh Fruit	11 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Mixed Vegetables Dressing Dinner Roll Christmas Cookie	12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich or Tuna Sandwich Tomato Soup Veg. Relishes Fruit Sauce Choice	13	
14	15 Popcorn Chicken AuGratin Potatoes Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	16 Spaghetti with meat sauce Lettuce Salad / dressings Green Beans Fresh Fruit Cookie	17 Corn Dog Oven French Fries Broccoli with cheese Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	18 Pizza Corn Applesauce Bread Choice	19 Sloppy Joes/Bun Potato Rounds Veg. Relishes Fruit Sauce Choice School-made Dessert	20	
21	22 Hot Dog/Bun Oven French Fries Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce	23 Bag Lunch Sub Sandwich with Fixings Carrot Paks Chips Apple	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27	
28	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break				

½ pint milk will be served with each meal --- An additional bread item will be offered with each meal.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, please contact: Tina Palmer, 4852 SW Reardon, Cokato, MN 55321 @ 320-286-4100, x. 1002.

