

# DASSEL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Rob Nudell, Principal

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

May, 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

[rob.nudell@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:rob.nudell@dc.k12.mn.us)

by Rob Nudell



Another school year has flown by. I can't believe it is May already. You can definitely feel the energy in the building with all of the activities taking place at Dassel Elementary.

The last month of school will go by quickly. I know it's difficult for students to be inside when the weather is so nice, please help us finish the school year on a strong note by making sure your child continues to come to school each day ready to learn.

Thank you for sending your wonderful children to us each day. We do our best each day to provide your children with the best instruction possible. Together, we have done a great job helping these children grow!

It has been a pleasure to work with you and your children. Your support has been greatly appreciated. I sure look forward to next year and hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and enjoy time with your friends and family.

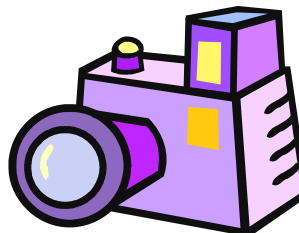
The week of May 3-9<sup>th</sup> is Teacher Appreciation Week.

The last day of school for this year will be Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Student Report Cards will be sent home that day.

This will be the last newsletter for the 2008-09 School Year.



## MEMORY BOOKS ARE HERE!



Get your memory book soon; there are only a few left. The memory books have pictures of all students and staff members. There are many action shots and room for students to sign each other's books. It's a nice remembrance from the 2008-2009 school year. You may send \$7.75 or a check made out to "**Dassel Elementary**". When our supply is gone, we will be unable to get any more copies printed, so get your copy now!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Books \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

## JOIN US FOR A SCHOOL CELEBRATION

The Minnesota Association of Administrators  
of State and Federal Education Programs  
awarded

Dassel Elementary School  
**the Distinguished School Award**  
for demonstrating  
significant growth  
in Reading and Math  
for the students.

Our celebration is set for  
Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 a.m.  
at Dassel Elementary School

Hope to see you there!

## DASSEL ELEMENTARY RECEIVES AWARD



Dassel Elementary School has been recognized by the Minnesota Association of Administrators of State and Federal Education Programs (MAASFEP) as a Distinguished School. Dassel Elementary was the only school in the state to receive this honor. The award was presented to Mr. Rob Nudell, principal, during the March convention.

Dassel Elementary School has made exceptional growth towards closing the achievement gap and raising achievement for all students. Through combined efforts of students, parents, staff and administrators, Dassel Elementary School is able to show remarkable progress on its mission to improve student achievement.

Academically, there were several pieces that helped students achieve at a higher level:

- Grade level teams gathered to analyze MCA test specs and student achievement data in order to identify gaps in curriculum and plan for instruction to help close the gaps.
- District Staff Development opportunities were put into place, giving teachers time to grow professionally in the areas of instruction and assessment.
- TAT (Teacher Assistance Team) members met regularly with classroom teachers to help create measurable goals for at-risk students.
- Special Education staff members focused on specified skills to promote success on each child's individualized learning goals.
- Title One assistants and teachers worked closely with students to review skills not yet mastered.

- The MARS (Math and Reading success) after school program was established to help targeted students receive additional instruction and test-taking preparation in the weeks prior to standardized testing.
- District gifted/talented students continued to be challenged at their academic levels through the Odyssey program, which met for four hours each week to engage students in a variety of academic and creative areas of study.

Research strongly indicates that academic success is directly correlated with social and emotional well-being. Dassel Elementary worked diligently to address needs through the following programs:

- JUMPSTART, a breakfast meeting before school, gave a small group of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders support with organizational, behavioral, hygiene, and academic issues. JUMPSTART leaders were in direct contact with the students' classroom teachers through individualized behavior programs, providing encouragement to help "jumpstart" the students' days on positive notes.
- CARE time was an integral part of building positive relationships and promoting academic success throughout the school. During CARE time, students engaged in multiple intelligence learning activities through art, reading, games, character educational and OLWEUS (anti-bullying program) lessons.
- STARS (Students Are Reaching Success) program, a dynamic and effective program that met on a weekly basis after school, had a target population of second through fourth graders. Led by staff members under the guidance of the school social worker, it provided opportunities for students to engage in activities which they might not otherwise have had an opportunity to experience. Favorite activities included numerous family nights with parents and staff. New last year was the addition of a homework/skills remediation program, which provided additional academic support for students.

Dassel Elementary School plans to hold a celebration in May!!

**FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
TEACHER...** *by Patti Jo Erickson*

**GUMMY BEAR DAY**



The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Gummy Bear Day is fast approaching. On Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, students in grades 1-4 will showcase the skills they have learned in physical education throughout the year. At each of the 20 events, students are awarded 1, 2, or 3 points based on a set standard. At the end of the day, points are exchanged for gummy bears.

Indoor events are jump rope, bean bag toss, ball catches, paddle taps, softball pitch to target, "javelin" throw, basketball shooting, bowling, standing long jump, and wall climbing.

Outdoor events are the 50 yard dash, hurdles, distance throw, soccer goal kick, kick for distance, batting, foxtail throw, football target throw, pole climb, and horseshoe pitching.

The day begins at 10:00 with grades 1 and 2 at the outdoor events and grades 3 and 4 at the indoor events. Activity resumes at 1:00 with grades 1 and 2 inside and grades 3 and 4 outside. We hope you can join us for one or both sessions. Perhaps you'd like to take this opportunity to join your son or daughter for lunch. There is a special hot dog cookout planned to make the day even more special. Adult meal tickets are \$2.95. Please purchase your lunch ticket in the office.

Many volunteers are needed in order to make the day run smoothly. Contact Mary Neu or use the volunteer form below if you would be willing to help in the morning, afternoon, or both sessions.

In case of inclement weather, Gummy Bear Day will be rescheduled for Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**HELP WANTED FOR GUMMY BEAR DAY**

Yes! I can help with Gummy Bear Day, on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- \_\_\_\_\_ I can help in the morning (9:45 a.m. please report to the gym)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I can help in the afternoon (12:45 p.m. please report to the gym)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I can help both morning and afternoon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Class \_\_\_\_\_



**An Open House  
Luncheon Invitation**



for our Volunteers  
at Dassel Elementary  
in the Staff Lounge  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>,  
10:30 a.m. – 1:30p.m.  
"Hats Off  
to our Volunteers!"

## DASSEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS



Thank you to all who contributed to the various fundraisers we participate in at Dassel Elementary! We have had a successful year. The Target Guest card, Take Charge of

Education Program has been a huge success. We have received over \$1,000.00 from Target! This money is used to help supplement the budgets for the media center, physical education department and supporting our volunteers and students. Thanks!

Campbell's Soup labels are still being collected and will be sent in to the company the end of May. Remember the new cutting guidelines. Look at the example shown below to see where to cut the label. The UPC code bar must not be cut through. Call if you have any questions.

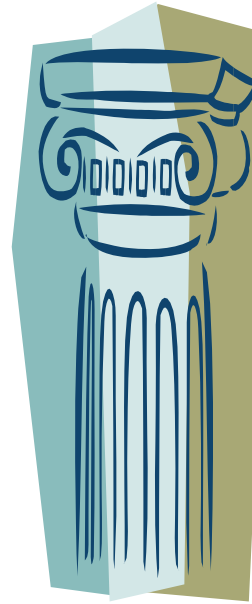


Our Kemp's Milk Caps and Land O Lakes milk caps will be sent to Kemp's in May, also. We continue to collect the used ink cartridges and old cellular phones. These program proceeds also go to the media center and physical education departments and any other area as needed. We will send in the final spring collection of General Mills Box Tops for Education, too.

We cannot thank you enough for your generous support of our elementary school through supporting these programs. Please continue to collect all of the above items this summer! We'll be participating in these programs again next year!

**THANK YOU!**

## GOLDEN RULERS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL



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 demonstrate the Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would like to be treated".



The students selected for the month of April were:  
**Back Row:** Billy Wallace, Isak Johnson, Brady Smith, Blake Snyder, Harley Money  
**Front Row:** Naomi Johnson, Jack Marco, Miah Mattson, Eleanor Weckwerth

Take the attitude of a student...  
never know too much  
to learn something new.  
*Og Mandino*

**FROM THE CAFETERIA...**

by Doris Kyllonen, Lead Cook



The lunch ladies are really enjoying the fine days of spring. It is so hard to believe this is the last chat for the school year--time has a way of slipping away. We want to say a special thank you and goodbye to all the 4th graders; we have enjoyed all of you and

your enthusiasm in the lunchroom. Good luck in the 5th grade, and keep up the great manners and healthy eating.

Here is a poem for our student customers:

As Lunch Ladies, we try so hard,  
Our hearts are in our work.  
We are never cross or serious  
When you forget to use your fork.

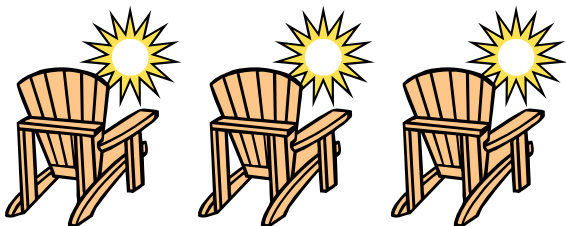
When you come down to have your lunch,  
Be it from home or made by us,  
We'll always treat you kindly,  
Your comfort is a must.

You're here at school to learn all day,  
Your brains are getting fed.  
At lunch time, things are different,  
We feed your tummy, not your head.

The lunchroom is a place to come  
To eat and to relax.  
Your body will be fueled up,  
All set to learn new facts.

Sometimes when you've had a bad day,  
Your smile has left your face,  
Just think about the lunchroom,  
'Cause it's a warm and friendly place.

Enjoy the sun, have fun, relax, and eat  
healthy. See you next year.



## MUFFINS FOR MOMS

Beth Allen & Becky Holm



Dassel Elementary kindergartners will be hosting a "Muffins for Moms" party in their kindergarten rooms on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, for the Monday/Wednesday class and Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, for the Tuesday/Thursday class, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

All kindergarten moms are welcome to come and have a muffin and coffee or juice with their kindergartner. The kindergartners will show their moms around their classroom and give them something that they have made for them. We will have some "moms" available to help out in case some moms are unable to attend. This will be a very special day for our kindergartners and their moms.

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

## THANK YOU



From the Olsons:

Thank you to Dassel Elementary for everything you've done for our family after our house fire. Your generous spirit will not be soon forgotten. We are blessed to have our children in such a caring school family.

Thanks again!  
The Olson Family

## FROM THE VOLUNTEER CORNER . . .

by *Mary Neu*



The calendar tells us that the school year is coming to a close, but the good news is that we still have lots of learning (and fun) scheduled! The month of May brings a landslide of activities: the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Spring Program, field trips, volunteer

recognition, and yes, Gummy Bear Day!

Before I give you the details of the events to come, I'd like to share a heartfelt THANK YOU to the wonderful volunteers of Dassel Elementary! It is difficult to explain the impact these people have on our school. This dedication to the children speaks highly of our belief that it takes a village to raise a child. We all want what is best for our children -- they are our future. THANK YOU!

On Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> we will be recognizing the volunteers with an appreciation Open House. An invitation is extended to the parents and community members who have so generously given of their time and talents this year. We thank you for being involved in the learning environment here at Dassel Elementary! Please plan on attending anytime between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm on that Thursday. Thank you for all of your support!

Gummy Bear Day is coming on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We need many volunteers to make the day flow smoothly. You may volunteer for the full day or for 1/2 of the day. Please be a part of the day and see for yourself the excitement of winning gummy bears! (See article on Gummy Bear Day or call me for more information: ext. 1518)

The month of May is full of special days, field trips, and lots of fun in learning. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer. I'm certain that we can find a place for you.

Again, thank you for your support this year. Our volunteer program is as good as the parents and

community members that give of their time and talents. We appreciate your being here with us! We'll see you next school year!



## MAY MUSIC NOTES...

by *Becky Litzau*



With the school year coming to an end, it's neat to see how much students have grown and changed since September. Not only have students gotten taller, but their academic, physical and musical/arts skills have grown as well. At the beginning of each year, I set many goals for music students to attain musically. This year all 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders have excelled and gone beyond those goals – leading me to make even bigger goals!

Let's take a little look back at some accomplishments, and peek ahead to the future:

- Congrats to those who performed in AAA. There was such a variety of talent shown!
- Congrats to the Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on a great holiday program!
- Good luck to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders for our upcoming Spring Program *Africa Sings!*
- Good luck to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders who are moving on to the middle school. It has been very special getting to know each of you since you were in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Keep up your musical talents and get involved in choir, band, and other activities that will help you grow into a well-rounded person.

Thanks for the memories in 2008-2009!

### **SPRING PROGRAM**

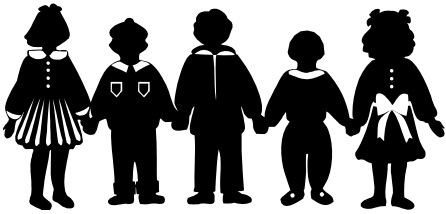
*AFRICA SINGS!*

Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Performing Arts Center

1:30 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

**FROM THE SHARE GRANT PARENT/  
SCHOOL LIAISON... by Mary Neu**  
**S.H.A.R.E.**  
(Supporting Healthy  
And Respectful Environments)



Wow, it is hard to believe that the school year is coming to a close! Thank you for sharing your children with us this year.

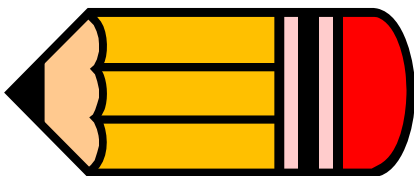
Our SHARE grant will be coming to a close soon, too. I thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your children these past 4 years. I hope that our focus on the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program and other topics supported by the SHARE grant have been helpful for you. I know that our staff has really Stepped-Up to the challenges of working on understanding and preventing bullying in our school.

Just because our support from the SHARE grant will stop, our belief in the need to not bully, to demonstrate and show respect, and our focus on teaching the whole child will not come to an end. The staff at Dassel Elementary is an awesome staff! Every day we see the care and concern for the kids we have the privilege to work with!

Thank you for sharing your kids with us, and for the opportunity to be a part of your lives through our school. Remember that it takes a village to raise a child and we are part of "the village".

Have a great summer and keep up the great work of raising your children!

Mary Neu  
Parent/School Liaison  
286-4100 ext. 1518



**A SPECIAL THANKS**



A very special thank you to a wonderful group of volunteers! The Dassel Lakeside Apartment group that trimmed and counted soup labels and box tops for Dassel Elementary are a wonderful group that gave many hours of volunteer time. We thank you and Peggy Smith for organizing the soup label and box tops process for this school year. We hope your hands will have a rest over the summer and we can "count" on your help again next school year! Thank you!

If you see any of these volunteers, make sure to say thanks!

**ATTENTION PARENTS**



We have just been notified that the **Land-O-Lakes Milk cap redemption program** is offering a **great bonus** for the next months! We will be given 15 cents per cap instead of the usual 5 cents for all of the caps we redeem until June

1, 2009!

So please save your milk caps, rinse them and turn them in to Dassel Elementary ASAP! We want to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Thanks in advance for your help!

**CONGRATULATIONS**



Congratulations to our physical education teacher at Dassel Elementary, Amanda Berg, who just gave birth to a baby girl on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Her name is Bernille Jo and she weighs 6 lbs. 13 oz. and is 19 inches long. She joins her big brother, Johnny.

## CATCH THE BEAT AT YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY . . .

by Doni Adams



“Reading is a family affair.” The Dassel Public Library summer reading program is a fun way to include reading and related activities into summer family fun time. It helps children maintain

and improve reading skills.

“Catch The Beat” is the theme for the summer reading program at the library this summer. Join us for some fun activities, crafts, cool prizes, and lots of good reading. This year we are hosting a Kickoff Party on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. You are invited to join our party for lots of fun, music by Mrs. Nordlie, and to sign up for the reading program for a fun summer of reading. Children between the ages of 5 & 12 are encouraged to come in to the library to register on June 5<sup>th</sup> or later. At that time, they will receive a cool book bag, bookmarker, and a reading log.

Don't forget to check out some books too, so you can get started on that reading log! So come one, come all for a FUN summer of reading.

### Dassel Public Library Hours

Monday – 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

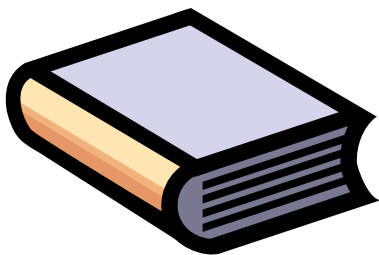
Tuesday – 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Wednesday – 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

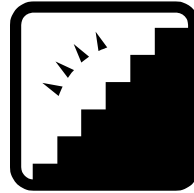
Thursday – 3:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday – 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Saturday – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm



## OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM



What can we, as parents, do to help our children understand that bullying is not okay?

We need to “Step Up” and guide our kids. Here are a few strategies we can try with our children at home.

- ◆ Bullying is wrong and is against our school rules. Find an adult and get help by talking with them about the situation.
- ◆ Encourage your child to include the target of the bullying in their activities at recess and lunch times. Ask your friends to help you support the target and get away from the bully.
- ◆ Let the bully know that what they are doing is not okay. Talk to your own child about how to do this. Role play the situation if that is a good way of learning for your child.
- ◆ Spend time with your child. Find out how their day is going at school and what can you do as their parent to make it better.

Explain to your child that the strategies take time and practice. We can work together at school and home and offer a wonderful environment of learning.

### ARE YOU READY FOR SOME COOL TREATS AND GOOD EATS?



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

The Dassel Elementary students will be proudly displaying some of their artwork at the local Cokato Dairy Queen on Wednesdays, May 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Cokato elementary students' artwork is showing on the other Wednesdays.

Stop in between the hours of 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and 15% of the profits during that time will be donated to our schools! So stop by, get a fun treat or something good to eat and support our schools, too!

Dassel-Cokato

**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.

**The next PTA meeting is Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center.**

Physical Education teachers from the elementary schools and possibly the middle, and high schools will be joining us to talk about the physical education program, how it has changed, the importance of physical education for our students, and the academic benefits of PE. They will also be sharing great ideas for keeping active with children/families in the summer and much more.

The PTA regularly meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the high school media center. There will be **NO MEETING** in June and July. Monthly meetings will resume on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

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



If you know of a new family,  
please have them register  
as soon as possible at the  
Dassel Elementary Office.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE  
DASSEL-COKATO  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**



**SHANE & SHANE  
CONCERT  
WITH SPECIAL  
GUEST  
MATT MAHR**



Two of the Christian format's core artists, Shane Barnard and Shane Everett, will present an uplifting concert enjoyed by the entire family. With a sound more likely heard in a coffeehouse than a church house, the singers/songwriters are constantly on the road, performing throughout the country.

Performance: Friday, April 24, 7:30 pm  
Reserved Seat Tickets: Adults \$20 (\$25 day of show) and Youth \$15  
Location: D-C Performing Arts Center

**Information and Ticket Purchases:** D-C  
Community Education, 286-4120  
**Website:** [www.dc.k12.mn.us/artscenter](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/artscenter)

**Reserved Seat tickets can be purchased in the Dassel-Cokato Community Education office or by calling 320/286-4120. Visit [www.dc.k12.mn.us/artscenter](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/artscenter)**



## CAUGHT BEING GOOD

Watch out Dassel Elementary Students! The Dassel Elementary staff is on the look out for students who are showing RESPECT towards their peers and staff. When staff “catches” students demonstrating RESPECT – students will receive a slip recognizing their positive behavior. If your child is “caught” – they will bring home one half of a slip and the other half will be turned in for a drawing. At the end of each week, 7 students (as there are 7 letters in RESPECT) will be pulled and these students will be announced to the student body and have their picture taken. This picture will be displayed on our OLWEUS board at the entry of school. We will be catching students during the weeks of April 13<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our goal in this activity is to continue to recognize all the great things our kids are doing at Dassel Elementary. Send your child with lots of encouragement to show RESPECT to others and maybe they will be “CAUGHT”!



## 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 “D-C’s Got Talent!” In a spin-off of the TV variety 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, May 2 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at any of the school offices, the school activities office,

Peterson Pharmacy in Dassel and the Marketplace in Cokato. All seats are general admission. Tickets will also 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.



## NOTES FROM COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Watch for our summer brochure. It's coming the first full week in May! There are a variety of summer activities planned, including swim lessons, t-ball/kinderball, youth softball, gymnastics, basketball, Prairie Fire Children's Theater - "Beauty and the Beast", Science Explorers, trip to Summerland and much MORE!!

Watch for our brochure!

### SOME IMPORTANT DATES AT DASSEL ELEMENTARY TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR

End of August	Posting of class lists at the front door
Sept. 3	Open House
Sept. 8	School begins
Sept. 15	Picture Day for Kindergarten
Sept. 16	Picture Day for all students
Oct. 9	Grandparents' Day
Oct. 21	Picture Retakes
Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Winter Break
Mar. 29-Apr. 2	Spring Break
Apr. 13-14	MCA Testing - Reading (grades 3 & 4)
Apr. 20-21	MCA Testing - Math (grades 3 & 4)
May 28	Gummy Bear Day
June 4	Last day of school (unless there are snow days)

## FROM THE MEDIA CENTER...

by Pam Dille

### TURN OFF THE TV WEEK



Usually, giving gifts to children means buying manufactured toys at a store. Here is an alternative gift idea that you can easily put together. Shoe box gifts are collections of small, familiar items that are organized around a play theme and presented in an appealing way. They also show that expensive toys in fancy packages aren't necessarily the best.

#### Making Shoe Box Gifts

- Decorate an empty shoe or appropriate-sized box and lid (gift wrap, stickers, etc.)
- Choose a theme and put a clear label on the box which includes both a simple word and picture of the theme.
- Most of the items we suggest are found at hardware stores, pharmacies, stationery stores, art/crafts stores, supermarkets.
- Use small containers, ziplock sandwich bags, or build dividers with small pieces of cardboard to make compartments for the various items in the shoe box. Young children appreciate organization – being able to return everything to its place.
- Most of these suggestions are appropriate and safe for children to use independently; however, objects in some kits may require adult supervision and/or aid (e.g., food coloring.)

**Shoe Box Gift Theme Ideas: Use these or create your own.**

#### SENSORY FUN

- Hypoallergenic, unscented shaving cream
- Plastic tray
- Food coloring
- Popsicle sticks, clean combs, plastic fork, etc.
- Smock or old T-shirt (Adult sprays piles, lines, or other shapes on tray. Children sculpt, smooth, draw, and write.)

#### SHOE BOX GARDEN

- Plastic-lined shoe box
- Potting soil
- Seed packets
- Small watering can
- Popsicle sticks
- Garden tools
- Gardening gloves

#### NATURE EXPLORER

- Nature guides with pictures of birds, trees, woodland animals
- Small sketch book and colored pencils
- Binoculars
- Plastic magnifying glass
- Camera (toy or real)
- Vest or small backpack with pockets
- Small ziplock bags
- Bag of bird seed

#### COLLAGE KIT

- Roll of wax/craft/freezer paper
- Recycled gift wrap/ribbon
- Children's glue or tape
- Fallen pinecones, other natural materials
- Scroung materials: old keys, plastic bottle tops, buttons, fabric scraps, etc.
- Craft feathers, glitter, etc.

#### RESCUE/FIRST AID

- Flashlight
- Band-aids
- Fabric strips/bandages
- Ace bandage
- Sling
- Eye patch
- Gauze
- Stethoscope
- Surgical mask

## PLAYDOUGH

- Buy a can of playdough or make your own
- Garlic press
- Plastic knife
- Popsicle sticks
- Wooden dowel
- Plastic lids
- Small tray/plate
- Buttons/beads
- Plastic animals

## PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

1 cup flour  
1 Tbsp. Oil  
1 cup water  
½ cup salt  
2 tsp. cream of tartar  
food coloring

- Mix ingredients in saucepan.
- Cook on low heat. Stir constantly until playdough pulls away from sides of pan.
- Scoop playdough onto wax paper. Knead until smooth.
- Store in airtight container.

## BEYOND SHOE BOXES

Recycle large boxes that can be painted/decorated for dramatic play. Create a car, spaceship, animal, creature, house, or cave. Extend the play possibilities by adding blocks, flashlight, tablecloth, and/or pillows.

Materials:

- Appliance box
- Paint, tape, markers
- Wallpaper books to decorate and glue
- Utility knife (for adults to cut holes)
- Carpet samples



## DC SAINTS READING CHALLENGE



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

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, your child was introduced to the Saints Reading Challenge. The DC Saints are presenting a 4-week spring reading program that started on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and will go through Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. This incentive based program challenges students to read a set number of minutes per week. At the end of the 4 weeks, students who reached their reading goal and turned in their calendars for all 4 weeks will earn a free FAMILY PASS and treat coupon for the May 22<sup>nd</sup> DC Saints home game against Rogers! This game will be designated as the “DC Saints Reading Challenge” night. Students who reach their weekly goal and turn in their calendar each Monday will qualify for a weekly drawing for a DC Saints prize. Game tickets and treat vouchers will come home the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher. Hopefully we will see you at the ball park!



## READING COUNTS



Meet Nathan Weckwerth, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader in Mrs Pitchford’s class. He has been quite a reader all of his life. According to our last check, he has earned a total of 1,991 points in our Reading Counts program, breaking all of Dassel Elementary’s previous records by about 400 points! Just think where he can go with more than a month left of school!

In the Reading Counts program, students can read specially marked books, then take a quiz. They earn points for each quiz successfully completed. These points accumulate throughout the years K through 4. Along the way, they can earn prizes according to how many points they have earned. We would encourage all students to keep reading. It can be such fun!



## FIRST GRADE 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BIKE RALLY



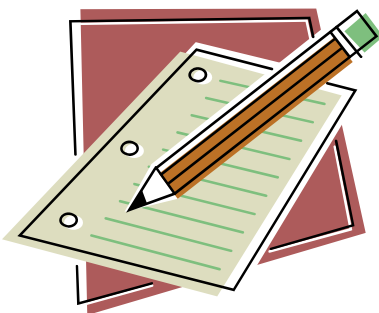
The first grade bike rally will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Once again we are very excited to take the day and teach our students about the importance of safe bike riding. The day itself will be

filled with many fun opportunities for our students. There will be guest speakers, an obstacle course, bicycle safety inspections, prizes given away, and a bike ride from 1:30-2:30 on the trail between Dassel and Spring Lake Park. Parents of first graders are invited to join us on the trail for the bike ride. We will be leaving from Dassel Elementary at 1:30. All first graders will receive a free t-shirt, bike helmet, and water bottle. New bikes and other prizes will also be given away.

As a reminder, parents will need to drop their child's bike off in the teacher parking lot before school on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Students will be using their bikes throughout the day. All bikes need to be picked up by 2:45. Dassel Elementary will not store bikes that are not picked up. With your help, this will be a FANTASTIC day for your first grader!!



### EMERGENCY CARDS



Parents, please remember to up-date your child's emergency card.

There have been many changes this year, including jobs and addresses.

PLEASE notify school of any changes so we can get ahold of you when your child needs you!

## UPCOMING WINTER COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

To register or if you have questions call  
Community Education at 286-4120  
or get more information by visiting us online at  
[www.dc.k12.mn.us](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us)



### MOTHER'S DAY SURPRISE (Gr. K-4)

Come and make something for your mom that is as special as she is. Make some delicious treats for her just in time for Mother's day! How

good are you at keeping a secret?

Thursday, May 7  
3:15-4:45 pm  
DE Room #145  
Fee: \$15, includes all supplies  
Activity #2065A



### TAE KWON DO – Youth Beginner (Ages 6-14)



TaeKwonDo is the world's most widely practiced martial art. TaeKwonDo is a Korean Martial Art, most recognized for its unique and explosive kicking techniques. Students have fun getting in shape while learning effective methods of self-defense. Students may attend as many days a week as they choose.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, each month  
5:20-6:20 pm  
Northwest Martial Arts Studio, Cokato  
Fee: \$60/month  
Activity #5616 (please specify which month)



Hello parents and caregivers,

During this school year, I have had the opportunity to work with many children and families. In talking with people, I am overwhelmed at the resiliency of parents and children as they face and tackle life's events and difficult situations with enormous courage and strength. Often, these events create an additional obstacle -- that being --a lack of funds to cover the basic needs.

Through my involvement with outside resources, I have the chance to access many services for families. One of these resources is the Back to School Supplies Committee. Free school supplies are available for next fall for families through donations of businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals. Below is the release form that would allow families to receive a voucher in August to redeem the school supplies. Although fall seems like a long time away, if you are concerned it may become a financial stress, I encourage you to complete the form and return it to me. I will forward them to the appropriate personnel. If your situation changes, there is no commitment to utilize the voucher in August, it will then be transferred to others in need. Supplies are distributed through a referral only and are only available to Meeker County Families.

Secondly, it is always a great idea to keep kids busy in summer activities, however, work schedules and financial stresses can sometimes make this impossible. As the summer recreation schedule comes out, or if you become aware of an activity that you feel your child could benefit from, but financially it is not feasible, let me know and together we can arrange for some funding.

I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had this year with all the children and families I have met. I have learned a lot from them and continue to admire their courage and resiliency. Please call me if a situation arises where I can provide support to you or your child. (320) 286- 4100 ext. 1507

-----  
**SCHOOL SUPPLIES PERMISSION**

**I would like to request school supplies for my children. I give my permission to release the following information to the Back to School Supplies Committee. The Back to School Supplies Committee will be distributing school supplies in August. I understand that the Back to School Supplies Committee will let me know when and where to pick up those supplies in August.**

**Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Child's Name</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Gr. Entering</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Parent / Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

# SUPPLIES FOR DASSEL ELEMENTARY 2009-2010

## KINDERGARTEN

- 1 - resting mat or rug - must fold up to fit in cubby hole (plastic ones are best)
- 1 - pack of 8 crayons (whatever size your child uses best)
- 1 - pkg. of low odor dry erase markers
- 1 - large school bag (with zipper)
- 1 - pocket folder
- 4 - pencils #2 (sharpened)
- 1 - paint shirt
- 1 - spiral notebook for journal writing (wide lined)
- 1 - school box
- 1 - eraser
- 1 - box of Kleenex
- 1 - Fiskar Scissor

## GRADE 1

- 1 - Sturdy pocket folders
- 1 - school box (not a zipper bag)
- 1 - box of 24 color crayons
- 1 - 3 subject wide-lined notebook
- 1 - box of Kleenex (to be shared)
- 12- pencils #2
- 3 - large glue sticks & 1 bottle of white glue
- Pencil erasers
- 1 - backpack (no wheels)
- 1 - Fiskar scissor
- 1 - deck of playing cards
- 1 - clipboard
- 1 - box **gallon** Ziploc bags (last name A-J)
- 1 - box of **quart** Ziplock bags (last name K-Z)
- 1 - 1" white 3-ring Viewbinder (clear view-cover) for Opsahl's class only
- \$5.00 to purchase "Bee Binder" from teacher

## GRADE 2

- 1 - box of crayons
- 1 - large glue stick & 1 bottle of school glue
- 1 - Fiskar scissor
- 12 - pencils #2 (sharpened)
- 1 - large eraser & pencil top erasers
- 2 - sturdy pocket folders
- 2 - spiral notebooks (wide lined)
- 1 - school box (keep in mind limited desk storage space)

- 1 - box of Kleenex
- 1 - colored pencils
- 2 - white board markers with a clean sock for eraser
- 1 - large, old paint shirt

## GRADE 3

- 1 - box of 24 crayons
- 1 - box of colored pencils
- 1 - sturdy pocket folder
- Last Name A-J - 1 box of gallon size Ziplock bags
- Last Name K-Z - 1 box of quart size Ziplock bags
- 1 - white liquid glue & 1 large glue stick
- 12 - pencils #2 (sharpened)
- 1 - Fiskar pointed scissor
- 1 - ruler (inches & cm.)
- 1 - large eraser & pencil top erasers
- 3 - single subject spiral notebooks (1 blue, 1 green, 1 yellow - wide lined)
- 2 - blue pens
- 1 - box of Kleenex
- 6 - page protectors
- 1 - white 1½ inch durable 3-ring "Viewbinder" (clear view-cover)
- \$2.00 for switch-time materials

## GRADE 4










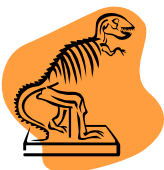
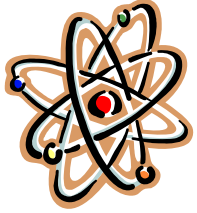
- 2 - spiral notebooks
- 2 - 3 subject notebooks
- 3 - pocket folders
- 2 - red/green pens for correcting
- 2 - glue sticks & 1 bottle of white glue
- 1 - large box of Kleenex
- 1 - Fiskar scissor (sharp point)
- 1 - box colored pencils & markers
- 1 - backpack or school bag
- 12 - pencils (#2 lead)
- 1 - Large eraser and pencil top erasers

## FOR EACH GRADE

- ◆ A pair of tennis shoes for physical education class which have good support for running, kicking, and jumping

**NO** backpacks on wheels  
**NO** roller shoes

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009		M A Y			2009		
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI			
		<p>5:00 – 8:00 DQ Art Work every Wednesday evening:</p>			<p>1</p> <p>May 13<sup>th</sup> is Kindergarten class May 27<sup>th</sup> is Ms Silverberg's first grade class</p>		
4	<p>5</p>  <p>Spring Program Grades 3 &amp; 4 1:30 P.M. &amp; 7:00 P.M. at Performing Arts Center</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Kindergarten Muffins for Moms 8:00-8:30 (Mon./Wed. Group)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PTA Meeting at the High School Media Center 6:30-8:00</p> <p>Kindergarten Muffins for Moms 8:00-8:30 (T/Th. Group)</p>	8	 <p>4<sup>th</sup> Grade go to MN History Center</p>		
11			12	13	14	15	
		<p>12</p>  <p>Grade 1 Bike Rally</p>			<p>13</p>  <p>Grade 1 Bike Rally Rain Date</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon 10:30-1:30</p>  <p>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Patrol go to Twins Game</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Grade visit the Middle School</p>
18	19	20	21	22			
		<p>22</p> <p>Award Celebration 9:00</p> <p>Kdgn. go to Como Zoo 8:00-2:50</p> <p>Gummy Bear Day 10:00-11:30</p> <p>School Picnic 11:30-1:00</p> <p>Gummy Bear Day 1:00-2:30</p>					
25	26	27	28	29			
<p>25</p>  <p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> Memorial Day</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade go to MN Zoo</p>		<p>28</p>  <p>1<sup>st</sup> Grade go to Children's Museum &amp; Baker Park Reserve</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade go to Science Museum</p>			

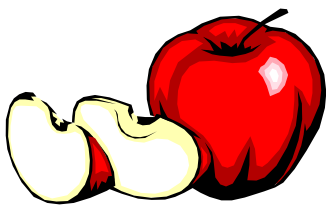
Saturday, May 2: 7:00 Faculty Follies  
 Tuesday, June 2: Alternative Day for Gummy Bear Day in case of rain

Wednesday, June 3: 9:00 Awards Program and last day of school  
 Sunday, June 7: 1:00 Graduation

# BREAKFAST MENU

2009		M A Y			2009
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
½ pint milk served with each meal				1 Cereal Mini Muffin Fresh Fruit	
4 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice	5 Cereal Cinnamon Sticks Fruit Sauce	6 French Toast Sticks Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Juice	7 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Sauce	8 Pop Tart Yogurt Fruit Choice	
11 Cereal Mini Muffin Fruit Juice	12 Breakfast Omelet Toast Fruit Juice	13 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Slice Fresh Fruit	14 Breakfast on a Stick Toast Fruit Sauce	15 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Juice	
18 Apple Strudel Sticks Cheese Stick Fruit Juice	19 Cereal Muffin Fresh Fruit	20 French Toast Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Juice	21 Cereal Toast with Jelly Fruit Sauce Choice	22 Cereal Bar Yogurt Fruit Sauce	
25  <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Memorial Day	26 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	27 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	28 Doughnut Yogurt Fruit Sauce Choice	29 Breakfast Cereal Mini Muffin Fresh Fruit	

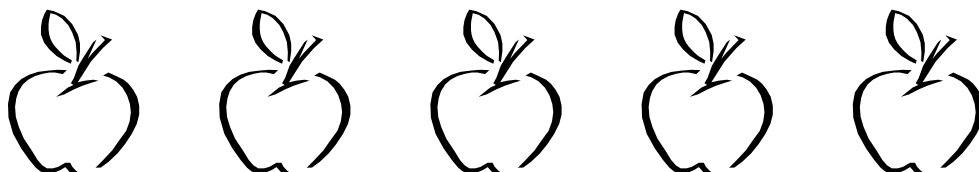
## ANTICIPATED FAMILY FOOD COST FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2009.



### Grades K-4:

Breakfasts:            20 days x \$ 1.00 = \$20.00  
 Regular Lunches:    20 days x \$ 1.50 = \$30.00  
 Reduced Lunches:   20 days x \$ .40 = \$ 8.00  
 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

2009		M A Y			2009
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
<p>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.</p>					<b>1</b> Long Dog on a Bun Oven Fries Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce
<b>4</b> Waffle Sticks Sausage Links Tri Taters Orange Sections Juice Choice	<b>5</b> Hamburger on a Bun Oven Fries Vegetable Choice Fruit Sauce Choice	<b>6</b> Taco in a Bag with Fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	<b>7</b> Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Spaghetti's Vegetable Relishes Fruit Sauce Cookie	<b>8</b> Meat & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Fresh Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	
<b>11</b> Popcorn Chicken AuGratin Potatoes Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	<b>12</b> Spaghetti with Meat Sauce French Bread Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	<b>13</b> Corn Dog Oven Fries Broccoli /Cheese Bread Fresh Fruit	<b>14</b> 4X6 Tony's Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce Choice Birthday Cake	<b>15</b> Turkey Sandwich Potato Rounds Vegetable Relishes Yogurt	
<b>18</b> Beef Bites Potato Rounds Fresh Veggies Fresh Fruit	<b>19 <i>Bag Lunch</i></b> Hot Ham & Cheese Chips Carrot Paks Fresh Fruit	<b>20</b> Chicken Fajita Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	<b>21</b> Cheese Sticks with Sauce Lettuce Salad Bread choice Fruit Sauce	<b>22</b>  <b>Gummy            Bear            Picnic</b>  Hot Dogs	
<b>25</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Memorial Day	<b>26</b> Individual Lunch Pizza Seasoned Corn Fresh Fruit	<b>27</b> Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Seasoned Carrots Bread Fruit Sauce Choice	<b>28</b> Chicken Hot Dish French Bread Vegetable Choice Fresh Fruit	<b>29</b> Taco with Fixings Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce	

½ pint milk served with each meal

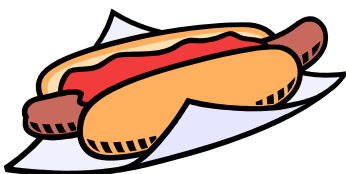
## JUNE LUNCH MENU

June 1 – Cook's Choice

June 2 – Cook's Choice

June 3 – Bag Lunch

## DIZZY DOGS



1 package (8 breadsticks) refrigerated breadstick dough  
 8 hot dogs  
 1 egg white

Sesame seeds and poppy seeds  
 Mustard, ketchup and barbecue sauce (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Using 1 piece breadstick dough for each, wrap hot dogs with dough in spiral pattern. Brush breadstick dough with egg white and sprinkle with sesame seeds and poppy seeds. Place on ungreased baking sheet.
3. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until light golden brown. Serve with condiments for dipping, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

# Charger Kids Club

## Summer 2009

★Charger Kids Club is a school age childcare program for children in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> (grade completed in 08-09).★  
 ★Charger Kids Club offers a fun, safe and exciting place for your child to spend their summer. Summer★  
 ★programming includes a variety of scheduled activities and FUN field trips.★

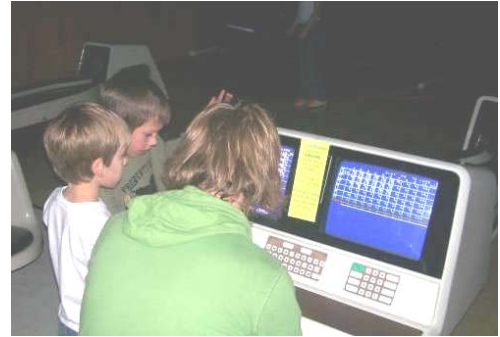
★Daily activities could include:

- ★ • Arts/Crafts
- ★ • Outdoor play
- ★ • Field Trips
- ★ • Swimming
- ★ • Games
- ★ • Computer Time
- ★ • Movie Days
- ★ • Quiet Time/Reading
- ★ • Free play
- ★ • Lunch Bunch
- ★ • Mystery Guests

**Summerland!**



**Pool Parties!**



**Cosmic Bowling!**

**Location: Community Ed. Center at the HS/MS Complex**  
**Hours: Monday- Friday, 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM**

Summer 2009	First Child	Additional Children
Registration (annually)	\$25 per family	\$25 per family
Full Week (5 Days)	\$110	\$100
1-4 days	\$25/day	\$24/day
½ day	\$15/day	\$15/day
Lunch Bunch	\$3/week	\$3/week
Transportation	\$45	\$45
Drop-In Full Day	\$30	\$30
Drop-In ½ day	\$20	\$20

★\*Drop-in care will ONLY be provided if staff/student ratio's allow room for your child. Payment is to★  
 ★be made at the beginning of the day of drop-in care.★

- ★ • Each participant enrolled 3 full days or more will also receive a coupon towards two Community★  
 Education classes at half price up to a maximum of \$40 total.★
- ★ • Transportation is available to and from Summer School for an additional fee of \$45.★
- ★ • Fees include: breakfasts, snacks, activity supplies, field trips, pool use and much more!★

**To register or get more information:**

Contact - Jennifer Todnem, Site Supervisor at 286-4100 ext. 1334.

# REPORT TO PARENTS

## Summer Programs

Summer programs for children are more popular today than ever. In the U.S., more than nine million children participated in summer programs last year. Here are some different summer options to consider:

### Summer School

**Not just remedial.** Although historically focused on remedial classes, summer school can include wonderful enrichment experiences for children. Many school districts offer summer classes in computer skills, art, music, and foreign languages.

### Day Camps

**At what age should children attend day camp?** It depends on the child and the camp. Typically, children who have adjusted well to full-day elementary school fare well in day camps.

**How long is the day and the sessions?** The length of days and sessions varies among day camps. Some run for just a few hours each day, while others run all day. Some programs are week-long sessions and others cover the entire summer.

**How much do day camps cost?** School- or community-sponsored day camps can be extremely affordable and some are even free. On the other hand, private day camps can cost more than \$300 per week.

### Overnight Camps

**What are the benefits of overnight camp?** Living away from home helps a child learn independence, expand social skills, and build self-confidence.

**At what age should children attend overnight camp?** Generally, by about third or fourth grade a child is ready for overnight camp. Four or five nights is probably long enough for the first time.

**Should we call or visit?** In most cases, camps prefer that families limit contact to an occasional letter, postcard, or care package because too much contact could increase feelings of homesickness.

How much do these camps cost? Nonprofit or youth-oriented organizations may charge several hundred dollars, while special-interest camps could set parents back thousands of dollars.

### The Right Fit

To find the best summer program for your child:

- **Match the program with your child's age and interests:** Look for a program that either builds on skills your children already have (i.e., sports, arts, music, computers) or introduces them to something new and exciting.
- **Start close to home:** Check to see if any of the organizations your child already participates in, such as sports teams, religious organizations, or scouts, sponsor summer programs.
- **Go online:** Visit [www.acacamps.org](http://www.acacamps.org) or use your favorite search engine and key phrases such as "summer camps," "day camps," and "summer programs."
- **Visit the camps:** If you can't, be sure to ask for a video, brochure, or references. Many camps also have Web sites where you can take virtual tours.
- **Watch for over-scheduling:** Ask to see the camp or program's daily schedule. Make sure there's plenty of time for children to relax and enjoy their friends.
- **Get qualifications:** Ask for information regarding staff qualifications, safety procedures, and cleanliness. Camps accredited by the American Camping Association have met a number of standards related to these areas.
- **Ask for the counselor-to-camper ratio:** At a minimum, there should be one counselor for every six children.

Finally, remember the power of peer pressure. If your child is unsure whether he or she is interested in camp, but you think it would be a good experience, try to find a friend or two to go along.

