

DASSEL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Rob Nudell, Principal

www.dc.k12.mn.us

October, 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

rob.nudell@dc.k12.mn.us

by Rob Nudell



Fall is such an exciting time. The school year starting, seeing kids eager to learn and settling into a routine. The staff has been working real hard to make this another successful start to the year. Our custodial staff did a fantastic job this summer getting our

building ready for another year. The school looks fabulous! We held Open House on September 3rd and there was a great turnout. We had 98% of our students attend with their families. Teachers and paraprofessionals have been busy planning and organizing to meet the needs of our students. I know they were excited to see the students back. We have had a great start to the school year!

Each year, teachers review bus safety rules for riding the bus as well as the proper way to cross the street with a crossing guard. Also, a reminder that the doors to Dassel Elementary open at 7:45, and there is no supervision before that time. Please don't send them to school too early!

CRITTER'S AND COMPANY

Once again we were fortunate to have Critter's and Company send their message to our students and staff. This year, they were at Dassel Elementary on Tuesday, Sept 15th. The name of their program was "Friends and Choices". Critter's and Company uses a unique medium of live animals and their stories to share, with the children, relationship building concepts. Each of the animals and the major issues of the presentation are shared below.

1. Friends that have been hurt, the **Cockatoo:**

- a. Relationships take time to develop.

- b. Personal space is different for different people or animals. Sometimes it is based on past experience.

- c. We always have a choice: to step in and make a difference or to step back and allow people or animals to have a larger personal space bubble.

2. Friends with attitudes, the **Blue & Gold Macaw:**

- a. Each of us is responsible for self protection.
- b. We need to be alert and ask ourselves; is this going to hurt me or others before we get involved.
- c. Friends with attitudes are still treated with respect and courtesy.

3. The **Snake**, friends that are different:

- a. It is ok to have Safe Space, and Safe Space is a Choice.
- b. When something is different, use your eyes and ears to discover.

4. Good Friends, the **Tortoise:**

- a. Good Friends are good listeners, dependable, and do not need to be the center of attention.

5. Fun Friends, the **Dog:**

- a. Friends who follow the rules have more fun.
- b. Friends who follow the rules are safer.
- c. Friends who follow the rules get to do more and have more choices.
- d. Following the rules can save your life.



- e. Parents and teachers have rules or guidelines so you can have fun.

You can visit their website at:
crittersandcompany.com

Congratulations to our students for their great work on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments that were taken last spring. The results were:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>State Ave.</u> <u>Passing</u>	<u>Dassel Elem.</u> <u>Passing</u>
3 rd Grade	Math	82.09	91.46
3 rd Grade	Reading	78.32	91.46
4 th Grade	Math	74.86	83.13
4 th Grade	Reading	74.51	89.15

As you can see, our students did an outstanding job! Way to go!



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DASSEL ELEMENTARY



The Target School Fundraising Made Simple program makes it easy to support your school. Apply for a Target charge Card, designate Dassel

Elementary as your school of choice and then shop at Target. Target will donate 1% of your qualifying purchases to our school. If you already have a Target Card, you may still designate Dassel Elementary as your school of choice by calling 1-800-316-6142.

Save these items and help us raise additional funds for our school!



Look for products with the Box Top for Education coupon. Each coupon is worth 10 cents.

Please check the expiration date and trim the coupon! (Sometimes we'll have a special event for the program!) Keep

on clipping! See boxtops4education.com for online shopping and saving.



Campbell Soup Labels still count! Please trim the UPC code and logo part of the label and send in. (If easier, send in the whole label.) The labels collected will be used to purchase equipment for the media center, music and physical

education.

Over 25 million pounds of empty printer cartridges and cell phones are thrown in landfills each year. Send those old cell phones and empty laser, inkjet, fax and copier cartridges into Dassel Elementary. You will help the environment, too!

Kemps cows have an exciting program! Just look for the milk caps with the official Kemps Give 'em Five Sticker. They are found on the cap of gallons and half gallons of white and chocolate milk and on the side panel of paper half-gallons of white milk. Each cap is worth 5 cents. Just **rinse** the cap and send it to school.



Dassel Elementary is enrolled in the Land O Lakes milk "Save Five for Schools" program. We are collecting caps from milk, orange juice or chocolate milk cartons. Please leave the stickers on the caps, rinse and send them to school. We will earn 5 cents per cap when we send them in!



NO SCHOOL

October 15th & 16th
MEA Conference

October 19th
Staff Development Day

FROM THE VOLUNTEER CORNER...

by Mary Neu



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! The staff at Dassel Elementary is very excited to see your smiling faces and to get started on a year of fun and learning!

As the Volunteer Coordinator, I look forward to finding the best volunteers for the job and the best job for the volunteers. I invite you to be a part of your students' educational experience through volunteering in the classroom, one of the many opportunities throughout the building, or by doing projects at home. The requests have already started coming in, so I'm ready when you are! My schedule brings me to school on Mondays and Thursdays for the day and Wednesday mornings. Please feel free to call me at extension 1518 with any questions.

The monthly newsletter is a great tool for communication between school and home. I will submit an article each month that gives you an overview of what is happening at school regarding the upcoming events and needs for volunteer support. We know through experience that children do better in school when they see adults take an active role in their education. Please join us!

Dassel Elementary will be participating in various fundraising opportunities. Please see the article in this newsletter for further information. We will need volunteers for these programs, so contact me if you are willing to help and some of these are projects could be done at home!

Again, welcome to the school year. I am looking forward to working with you as we support our children, staff and community by being a part of the lives of these students. Check your schedule and give me a call!

"Don't wait for a crisis to discover what is important in your life."

DASSEL ELEMENTARY EXTENSIONS

Please post extension numbers by your telephone. First dial 286-4100, when you get the recording immediately dial one of the extensions below:

Allen, Beth	1510
Berg, Amanda	1534
Caron, Steph	1540
Conely, Alison	1526
Davis, Karla	1513
Dille, Pam	1531
Erickson, Marlyce	1500
Erickson, Patti Jo	1534
Force, Brad	1512
Ganser, Gail	1520
Grochow, Shelly	1522
Hall, JoAnna	1529
Halvorson, Carla	1537
Holly, Barb	1506
Holm, Becky	1530
Karlgaard, Luke	1528
Kitchen	1505
Lawyer, Christine	1519
Lingl, Mark	1514
Little, Heidi	1516
Lynk, Laura	1533
Miller, Sarah	1535
Neu, Mary	1518
Nudell, Rob	1504
Opsahl, Melissa	1527
Pitchford, Mechele	1515
Redman, Julie	1524
Renkes, Julie	1536
Silverberg, Karley	1525
Smoldt, Charlie	1508
Stang, Jim	1511
Tschida, Carmen	1507
Whittaker, Matt	1533

KIDS NIGHT AT THE LOCAL DAIRY QUEEN



Every Wednesday evening between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. the Cokato Dairy Queen is supporting our elementary schools with a 15% contribution of the total of sales!

Our students will take turns providing art work to decorate the eating area of the DQ. We will alternate Wednesdays with Cokato Elementary for art work display.

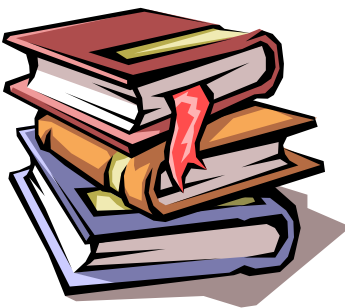
Soon we will be posting the list of dates and which classrooms will be hosting their artwork on those days! Watch for further information!

Please stop in and buy a treat and look at the wonderful art provided by our children! What a fun and tasty way to support our schools!



4TH GRADE BOOK CLUB

by Pam Dille



Attention fourth graders!!! We'd like to invite you to join us for book celebrations that will again be held throughout this school year. We again want to include as many students as possible.

Following are some details for this year's 4th grade book club.

- This fall we will be offering 3 books for fourth grade readers. We will also offer 3 books in the spring.
- Students may sign up for one or all of the titles offered
- In order to allow for many students to join us, students will need to read and return the book in one week. Then we will pass the books on to other students.

- You are welcome to borrow or purchase the books somewhere else.
- Students must pass a Reading Counts test or complete a short story map by the required due date as proof that the book has been read.
- Celebrations for the books read will be held approximately one week after the book is due.
- Celebrations include discussions, fun activities, and a treat!
- Celebrations will be held over the recess/lunch hour. (approx. 12:00-1:00) Students will be excused to eat lunch at their regular time.

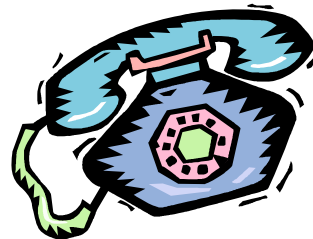
Mrs. Dille will explain more about book clubs during the regularly scheduled media center times and you can sign up at that time. We are looking forward to celebrating good books with all who are interested!

There are some changes in third grade book club this year. These details will be shared within the third grade classrooms

Hope to see you there!



NOTES PLEASE . . .

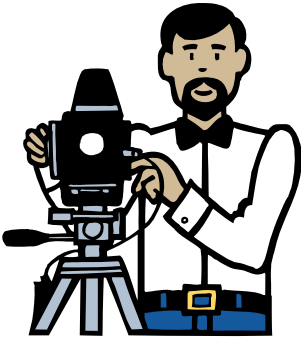


Due to the abundance of phone calls at the end of the day, we ask that you please write a note for your child with instructions as to where they should go at the end of the school day. This is only if there is a change in their regular schedule. An example of the information we need are:

- Date of note
- Name of student
- Name of teacher
- Where must my child go to
- Bus # (if needed)
- Name and signature of parent

We really appreciate your assistance in this matter to help eliminate the amount of phone calls and interruptions to the classrooms.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY



Friday, October 30th will be picture retake day at Dassel Elementary between 8:30 a.m.– 9:00 a.m. If your child missed picture day or you weren't satisfied with the picture taken, please bring him/her to the small gym during this hour.

Students who were absent or forgot their money on September 16th, whose portraits need to be retaken, or who wish to purchase another package, may do this on October 30th. Students desiring retakes must return their complete original package to the photographer on retake day. All checks must be made payable to **HERFF JONES**.



STUDENTS FEATURED IN ENTERPRISE DISPATCH



The Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch comes to school periodically to take pictures of five students and ask them a question which will be featured in the local newspaper. If your child has not been featured in the paper before, please sign the permission slip below and have your child return it to the office.

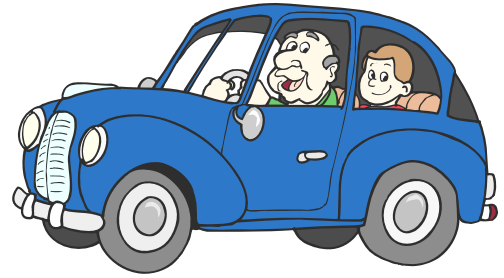
Yes, my child has permission to be featured in the Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch.

Child's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Parent Signature _____

PARENTS WHO PICK UP & DROP OFF THEIR CHILDREN



All parents are asked to pick up their child or drop off their child on the **EAST** side of the school. For the safety of our students and staff, **do not** pick up or drop off children while buses are loading/unloading on the south side.



ATTENTION PARENTS...



If your child is allergic to milk we need a physician's statement and this statement is to be renewed annually. If your child is lactose intolerant we require a written note from the child's parent requesting that we give them lactose reduced milk. We are not required to make available any other substitute such as juice to lactose intolerant students.



The doors to school will be locked until 7:45 a.m. each day, as we do not have supervision before that time. So please do not send your students to school earlier than 7:45 a.m.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY OCTOBER 9th



This year we will be hosting Grandparents' Day at Dassel Elementary on Friday, October 9th at 10:00 a.m. This is a special day for us as we welcome the grandparents to en-

joy a program, visit the classroom, and then join their grandchildren for a delicious school lunch.

Please assist us in notifying your child's grandparents so that we can have as many as possible on that date. If your child would like to use a ready-made invitation to send their grandparent, you will find it included in this newsletter.

You DO NOT need to call in for a meal reservation. The meal cost is \$3.00. (Please try to have the correct amount to make the line for buying meal tickets go faster.)



FROM PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPT . . .

by Patti Jo Erickson & Amanda Berg



We are glad to be back in school and blessed to have your child in class each day. The year is off to a great start and the students are eager to learn and participate.

Now for the \$64,000 question (someone is showing their age)! What

would you pay for a prescription that could accomplish the following?

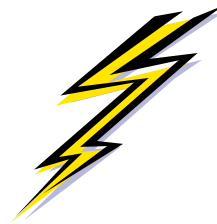
- reduce the risk of dying from heart disease
- reduce the risk of developing diabetes, hypertension and colon cancer
- control weight

- enhance mental health
- foster healthy muscles, bones and joints
- improve learning and alertness
- and a host of other benefits

If you have read the newsletter articles throughout the years submitted by the Physical Education staff, you already know what we are going to tell you. The prescription is daily exercise! The cost is free! The benefits are priceless!



FRIDAY IS CHARGER DAY



As a continuation of our school pride theme – all students and staff are encouraged to wear the Dassel-Cokato Charger colors on Fridays throughout the rest of the year. The colors are red, blue and white.



PICKING UP YOUR CHILD EARLY FROM SCHOOL



At Dassel Elementary, the safety of your child is a priority. The Safety Committee continues to meet this year and asks the following of you:

If you are picking your child up between 8:15–3:10 from school, please **come directly to the office** and the office will contact your child's teacher. Your child will then come to the office to meet you. If you know when you are picking up your child, please send a note with the time, and the teacher will have the child come to the office early.

Please wait by the **east door**, if you plan to pick up your child after school. We will open the east door at 3:05 so you don't have to wait outside.

FROM COOK'S CORNER...

by Doris Kyllonen, Lead Cook



Welcome back, everyone!

The summer seemed to go by so quickly! Here we are again, as busy as ever, preparing nutritious meals for staff and students and doing our best to stay cool on these beautiful late-summer days.

The new kindergarteners have been coming to lunch for the past three weeks. It has been fun getting to know them, and they have been doing a fantastic job of coming through the line.

National School Lunch Week will be October 12-16. Come and enjoy lunch with your children.

We welcome parents and family to come and have lunch any time during the year with their children, except for Grandparents' Day, which is set aside so children can have lunch with their grandparents. The kids and the cooks all look forward to Grandparents' Day. Parents, please let this be a special day for children to get together with their grandparents only. Thank you.

Just a few updates:

--If their class is going on a field trip, students and their chaperones may buy bag lunches. Chaperones must pay cash for their lunches--they cannot use their children's lunch accounts.

--The price for adult lunch tickets has increased 5 cents, to \$3.00 per lunch.

--If your child is allergic to milk, we need a doctor's note on file so we can substitute juice.

--If your child is lactose-intolerant, parents may send us a note requesting lactose-free milk. We cannot offer juice a substitute for milk if a child is lactose-intolerant. Thank you for your cooperation.

--We are always looking for people who would like to be substitutes in the kitchen. If you are interested, call me at 286-4100, school extension

1505, or fill out an application in the district office. We promise you will enjoy yourself, see many smiling faces, and hear a lot of thank you's!

It's great to be back, seeing everyone, and enjoying the laughter and smiles from all the great children.

Enjoy your October. We'll chat soon.

❖ Student elementary lunch	\$1.50
❖ Student middle school	\$1.55
❖ Student high school	\$1.55
❖ Adult lunch	\$3.00
❖ Student breakfast	\$1.00
❖ Adult breakfast	\$1.50
❖ Extra milk	\$.35



MUSIC "NOTES"...

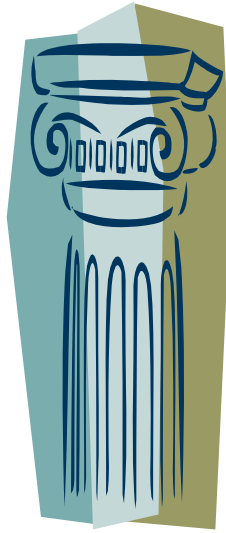
by Sarah Miller



It's been a great first month in the music room. We started by talking about goals, hopes, and dreams for music class this year. Then, we moved to talking about good vocal technique.

Ask your student what he or she knows about good breathing for singers. We'll continue reviewing concepts from last year while adding new concepts at each grade level. Fourth Grade students are also busy getting ready for Grandparents Day. Please do not hesitate to call, email, or stop by if you have questions or concerns – or just to say hi. I look forwarding to meeting more families as the school year progresses!

GOLDEN RULERS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER



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 respect and responsibility. 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 September were:

Back row: Katlin Johnson, Orlando Carrasco, Camryn Sullivan, Cressa Looft, David Malenke

Front Row: Cole Evjen, Logan Kelly, Carlie Young, Isaac Janckila

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

PATROL INSTALLATION AT DASSEL ELEMENTARY

On Friday, September 11th, the fourth grade school patrol had their installation at Dassel Elementary. We are honored that they are serving their school as



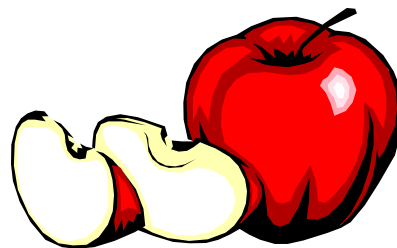
patrol members. Part of the activities of the day included taking the Patrol Member’s Pledge:

If accepted I will obey the pledge below and other rules and regulations of the Patrol. I promise to do my best to...

- ◆ Report for duty on time.
- ◆ Perform my duties faithfully.
- ◆ Strive to prevent traffic crashes, always setting a good example myself.
- ◆ Obey my teachers and officers of the patrol.
- ◆ Report dangerous student practices.
- ◆ Strive to earn the respect of fellow students.



NUTRITIOUS SNACKS FOR CARE GROUP



Each day your child has CARE Time. During that morning activity the students have the opportunity for a snack/beverage.

Please make sure your child brings a healthy snack such as fruit, cheese crackers, granola bar, etc. These healthy snacks will help provide the energy necessary for a productive day. We strive to have fit students as much as you do, so your cooperation is appreciated.

FROM THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER'S OFFICE...

by Carmen Tschida



As we begin our second month of school, we hope that the children have adjusted to a calm morning routine, are comfortable in their new classroom, and have made some new friends. If you are finding that your child is continuing to struggle with any of these

issues, or have noticed negative behavior changes, please contact their teacher or myself. We want all students to feel welcome and comfortable when they arrive at Dassel Elementary and are away from their parents.

I will be at the school this year on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday all day long. If you need to talk with me, please leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. My job as a school social worker is to identify obstacles to a child's learning and then develop a plan to break down the obstacle. The obstacles can vary from behavior concerns, family changes, friendship issues, low self-esteem, a learning disability as well as other issues. If you are unsure if you should call, please do so and I can re-direct you if necessary. Early intervention is important to a child's success.

“Golden Ruler”

CARE Group Character Education Activities

This school year, our students will continue to focus on the Character Pillars during CARE Group, through Character Education activities. Although the activities include all the pillars, there will be a special emphasis on respect and responsibility. Our overall school theme for Character Education is emphasizing the **“Golden Rule: - Treat others as you would like to be treated”**. Each Care Group will be recognizing one student from their group on a monthly basis that consistently demonstrates the Golden Rule in their daily activities. The “Golden Rulers”, for the month will be announced on the morning announcement and will have a special locker marker for the month in recognition of their good character. As you walk through the hallways, look for the “Golden Ruler” locker markers and acknowledge the student for demonstrating good

character. We are also addressing manners. Ask your student about Monday Manners. More information to come.

I look forward to a great year, and let me know if I can help out in anyway. Please call me at (320) 286-4100 ext. 1507.



MEET A NEW STAFF MEMBER



Sarah Miller is excited to join the staff at Dassel Elementary as a Music Specialist. Ms. Miller grew up near Madison, Wisconsin, and spent a good part of her formative years playing piano, playing clarinet in band, and singing in several choirs. She went

to St. Olaf College, where she continued musical training through private lessons, and membership in the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Orchestra, and St. Olaf Cantorei. Ms. Miller earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education.

Ms. Miller continues to participate in musical activities, but has other interests as well! She likes to crochet, read books, attend concerts, and is teaching herself how to cook. She also enjoys rooting for Wisconsin sports teams – Go Packers! She is excited to marry Ryan Luhrs, Dassel-Cokato High School choir director in November 2009.

Ms. Miller has had a great first month with the students at Dassel Elementary and looks forward to many more great months.

PLEASE CALL SCHOOL TODAY:



1. with change of address or daytime telephone number, or
2. with information regarding your child's special health conditions.

HEADLINES IN SCHOOL HEALTH ...

by Christine Lawyer, LSN

Cold & Flu Season



During this school year, many children and adults will get sick with a cold or flu (influenza). For most, treating these illnesses at home with lots of rest and extra fluids will be the best approach. The symptoms of a cold or flu are similar. Cold symptoms include a runny

nose, sore throat and sneezing and usually develop slowly. Flu symptoms develop more quickly and tend to be worse than cold symptoms.

Common signs & symptoms of the flu include:

- Fever over 101°F in adults and often as high as 103°-105°F in children. Anyone with a fever greater than 100°F must stay home from school.
- Chills & sweats
- Headache
- Muscular aches & pains, especially in back, arms & legs
- Fatigue & weakness
- Nasal congestion
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea & vomiting in children

Influenza viruses travel through the air in tiny droplets when someone with an infection coughs, sneezes or speaks. You can inhale the droplets directly, or you can pick up the germs from an object, such as a telephone or computer keyboard, and then transfer them to your eyes, nose or mouth.

Ways to stay healthy during cold & flu season 2009-2010

- **Wash your hands.** Frequent thorough hand washing is the best way to prevent many common infections.
- **Eat & sleep right.** Eat a well balanced diet with fresh fruits and vegetables and drink plenty of water. Get to bed early.

- **Exercise regularly.** Cardiovascular exercise – running, walking, biking, aerobics-boosts your immune system.
- **Avoid crowds during flu season.** Flu spreads easily wherever people congregate.
- **Annual flu vaccination.** If you normally get a flu shot, the best time to be vaccinated is October or November. Your body needs about 2 weeks to build immunity following a flu shot.

Please stay home if you are sick!!



OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM AND THE SHARE GRANT



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We are excited to have your students with us at Dassel Elementary.

Our school district is at an end of our collaborative grant with 13 other school districts in the state where we were funded by a federal grant to assist with Supporting Healthy And Respectful Environments. (SHARE)

There were many pieces to the grant, but one of the key components was the OLWEUS bullying prevention program. The goal of this program is to stop bullying in our schools, and more importantly, teach the students what bullying is and give them the tools to change that imbalance of power. Dassel elementary will continue this focus and program.

We look forward to this school year and the opportunities we have to work together to support our children, keep them healthy and continuing the goals of teaching respect along with their academics.

If you would like to volunteer with our OLWEUS program, please contact Mary Neu, (320-286-4100 ext. 1518) or other staff at Dassel Elementary.

**BECKY HOLM
WINS LEEA AWARD
(LEADER IN EDUCATION OF
EXCELLENCE AWARD)**



Every year the Central Minnesota Service Cooperative honors one teacher from each building that demonstrates leadership, dedication, and professionalism in his/her building and district. Teachers in that building select that teacher to be recognized.

This year the Dassel Elementary teachers chose Mrs. Becky Holm, kindergarten teacher, to receive that award. Mrs. Holm models excellence in her assignment everyday, and we want to thank her for her dedication and service.

Mrs. Holm will be recognized at the LEEA banquet on Wednesday, October 21st, in St. Cloud.



**12 WAYS
GRANDPARENTS
SHOW THEIR LOVE FOR
GRANDCHILDREN**

- G**reeting them with smiles and hugs
- R**eady to offer a kind word
- A**lways cheering them on
- N**ever doubting their abilities
- D**oing as much for them as they can
- P**roviding wisdom and guidance
- A**ccepting them for who they are
- R**eassuring them and bringing comfort
- E**xpecting the best of them
- N**oticing their special talents
- T**aking time to play and laugh
- S**upporting them in all they do!

FROM THE MEDIA CENTER. . . by Pam Dille

Reading Role Models are the Key



A recent article in *School Library Journal* underscores the importance of strong reading role models in the lives of children, particularly boys. Generally, boys and girls alike loved to be read to when they were tots and young children. But sometime between third

and fifth grade there can be a “disconnect” between boys and books. As gender consciousness begins to flower, boys’ lives often take on a more active role than their female counterparts.

Who are the predominate reading role models? For the most part, women. Moms frequently read to their children at bedtime. Elementary school teachers and media specialists, who read aloud to students, are primarily women.

How can we even the score? It would certainly help to have more men in the teaching and library professions. Also, mothers and other female caregivers need to hand off books to male role models and have them read to children. Encourage male adults in boys’ lives to model silent reading at home. Establish a “Dad’s” or “Grandpa’s” reading chair and allow children the special privilege of reading in it. Community support might include libraries or local groups that sponsor father-and-son book clubs.

From the website *Guys Read* at <http://www.guysread.com>. Here are some other suggestions:

- Let boys choose what they read.
- Expand the definition of “reading” to include:
 - Nonfiction
 - graphic novels, comics, comic strips
 - humor
 - magazines, newspapers, online text
- Get boys to recommend reading they like to other boys.

Ever wonder why leaves change color? Visit this website to find the science behind the changing colors of leaves:

<http://ksnn.larc.nasa.gov/webtext.cfm?unit=leaves>

FROM THE READING CORNER . . .

by Julie Renkes



Summer came... and went! Now we're off to a new start on a new school year. This is a great time to establish a study time in your home for homework and reading more regularly.

Quiet time can be set aside

for:

- reading to your child(ren) (*in any grade*)
- having them read to you (*especially in grades 1-3*)
- having them read independently (*any grade with books that your child can read with a lot of success.*)

Reading to your kids builds language and family closeness. It sends the message that reading is fun, important, and part of our everyday lives. Most families read at night before bed. But right before bedtime may not be the time when you have the most patience! So consider a reading time after supper, after school, or during bathtime. What about reading to your kids while they eat breakfast??! Keep books in a bag in the car for travel time, waiting for appointments, "downtime" at ball games, etc. Be flexible to find a time that works for you and your family!

It's also important for students to have at least a few books that are at a good reading level for them so they can have fun and good success at reading by themselves!

But sometimes children have a difficult time choosing books that are at an appropriate reading level for them to read. Books too easy offer no challenge, and books too hard get "looked at" but not really read. (Although these could certainly be read to the child)

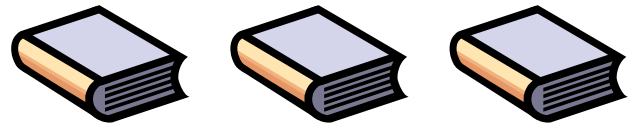
A good rule of thumb for choosing books is to:

1. Have the child open the book to the middle and begin reading.
2. Every time he/she comes to a word he/she doesn't know, have them put down 1 finger.

3. If your child uses up all his/her fingers on one hand, it's likely the book is too hard to be read independently.

Need ideas for books to read aloud?? Try this website for ideas. www.trelease-on-reading.com
Jim Trelease is a notable author on the topic.

Happy reading!



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our second grade teacher at Dassel Elementary, Alison Conely and her husband, James, who are the proud parents of a baby girl born last April 24th, 2009. Her name is

Adelaide Katelin Iola Conely and she weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



CHECK OUT THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE TALENTED TIMES for Parents & Educators of the Gifted & Talented



Rather than mailing The Talented Times, either by US mail or e-mail a link on the school web site has been set up for parents' access.

Dassel Elementary:

<http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/dassel/odyssey/index.html>

**UPCOMING
COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES**

To register call 286-4120
or visit us on line at www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed
and click on Community Education

WACKY AND WILD FUN (Gr. K-3)

This class will be a mini blast of fun, something new every session. Activities may include tie-dyeing, science experiments, goop, side walk paint and much more. Grab a friend and join me for some fun after-school.

Activity #2108

Mondays, Oct. 5, 12, 26 (no class Oct. 19)
3:15-4:30 PM – Dassel Elementary, Rm. #145
Fee: \$16



FRIDAY NIGHT OUT (Gr. 1-6)

A night just for kids and their friends!

FRIDAY NIGHT OUT is a special night for kids in first through sixth grade. Children will spend their evening swimming in the pool, doing a project or playing games and relaxing at an evenings end with a movie and a snack. Parents will have time to catch up on shopping, cleaning, playing or simply relaxing.

Maximum 50 - To find out what movies will be shown please call the Community Education office.

Gr. 1-6: Activity #3008A - Friday, Oct. 9
6:30-10:00 PM

Fee: \$9 per session – Pre-registration required.
Location: MS Commons, Door I

Registration deadline: 1 week prior to each event

GIRLS NIGHT OUT (Gr. 1-5)

Want a night out with your girlfriends? Join us for loads of fun...we'll start the evening with PIZZA, crafts, games, swimming and end the evening watching a movie!! So bring along a friend, swimsuit & towel and a blanket and pillow and we will make it a slumber party! **Girls ONLY!**

Activity# 3013

6:00-10:00 PM
Friday, Nov. 6
Fee: \$12 - **Registration deadline: Friday, Oct. 30**
Location: Community Room – PAC Entrance

**LDC YOUTH HOCKEY PRESEASON CAMP
(Boys & Girls 10U-14U)**



*Chris Olson, Varsity Hockey Coach
& Hockey Coaching Staff*

Get an early jump on the season and attend the preseason youth hockey camp. It is an awesome way to get back into the hockey mode just before the regular season begins. Basic skating skills, stick handling, body checking, and fundamentals of the game will be emphasized.

Sunday-Tuesday, Oct. 10-13

Activity #5183 - Boys 10U-14U (ages 8-15)

Activity #5184 - Girls 10U-14U (ages 8-15)

Oct. 10 Girls-3:45-5:15 Boys 5:30-7:00

Oct. 11 Boys 2:30-4:00 Girls 4:15-5:45

Oct. 12 Girls 5:00-6:30 Boys 6:45-8:15

Oct. 13 Boys 5:00-6:30 Girls 6:45-8:15

Litchfield Civic Arena

Fee: \$65

CLAY CAMP (Ages 6 & up)

Instructor: Laura Lounsbury

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

Activity #2200A

Monday, November 9

3:15-4:45 PM – Dassel Elementary Rm. - #145

Fee: \$27

TAE KWON DO (ages 6-14)

Mr. Todd Malenke



Tae Kwon Do 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.

Activity #5616 – Youth Beginner

Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays, each month
5:20-6:20 pm – Northwest Martial Arts, Cokato
Fee: \$60/month (specify which month)

Dassel-Cokato

PTA

everychild.onevoice.®



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.

Start the year off right by becoming a Dassel-Cokato PTA member! The PTA is a group of community members that works to contribute to the schools and the families of children that attend the school.

Being a member of the PTA **WILL** allow you to

- Be connected and informed about school through PTA involvement & Advocacy
- Influence decisions that affect your child's learning
- Become more informed about topics that affect our children and their schools
- Get to know school administration and some school board members
- Receive emailed copies of school board minutes and agendas
- Meet other community members

Being a member of the PTA **DOES NOT** mean

- You have to attend every meeting
- You will be made to volunteer many hours
- You will have to do lots of fundraising
- You will have to be on a committee unless you choose to

Upcoming Meeting:

Thursday, October 1 at 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center. Lorene Force and Rob Nudell, the elementary principals, will be the guest speakers. They will be talking about the MCA test

results as well as other topics. This is a great time to learn more about what is happening at the elementary schools as well as brining any questions you may have. You do not have to be a current PTA member to attend, the D-C PTA welcomes ALL community members!

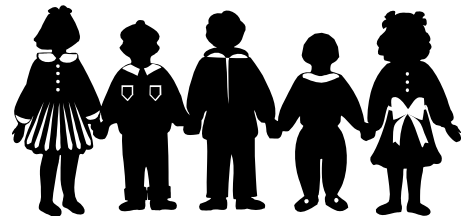
The PTA meets regularly the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the high school media center.

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



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
Non-school days: 6:00 AM – 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

MEA Break – Oct. 15 & 16
Teacher workshop – Oct. 19

No Elementary Only – Nov. 20
 Teacher Workshop – Dec. 7
 Winter Break – Dec. 28-31
 Martin Luther King Day – Jan. 18
 President’s Day – Feb. 15
 Teacher Workshop – March 8
 No Elementary Only – March 19
 Spring Break – March 29-April 1

2009-10 Fees	1 st Child	2 nd Child
Registration Fee (June 09-May 10)	\$25 Family	\$25 Family
Before School		
(6:00-8:00 A.M.) Daily	\$5.00	\$4.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	\$22.00	\$19.50
After School		
(3:00-6:00 P.M.) 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



UPCOMING ARTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Todd Green in Concert



Todd has astounded audiences across the country with his diversity on a multitude of string, flute and percussion instruments from all over the world. His performance will be enhanced by digital samplers, which allow him to record and overdub instruments one by one, making him a one-man-orchestra of unique and exotic instruments. As fascinating to watch as to

listen to, Todd intersperses his playing with entertaining explanations of the music and the instruments. His performance will be enjoyed by the entire family. Prepare to be amazed!

The D-C Arts Association is also bringing Todd into the school on October 29 for educational student clinics for all middle school students as well as the high school music students. The concert is a totally different program than the clinics, which are show-and-tell-type demonstrations of the instruments themselves. Todd’s concert complements the clinics but is a musical adventure exploring the musical styles of many different cultures.

Public Performance: Sunday, Nov. 1, 3:00 P.M.
Tickets: Adults \$12 and Youth \$5
Location: D-C Performing Arts Center
Information and Ticket Purchases: D-C Community Education, 286-4120

Adult Enrichment Opportunities Through Community Education

The following upcoming courses are offered through Community Education. Please call 320-286-4120 for a Fall Brochure or for more information.

- First Aid** - Monday, Oct. 5, 6:30-9:30 P.M., \$35
- Your Happy & Healthy Pregnancy** - Monday, October 25, 6:30-8:00 pm, \$10
- Introduction to Essential Oils** - Thursday, November 5, 7:00-8:30 pm, \$5
- What a Crock! (slow cooker ideas and recipes)** - Monday, October 5, 7:00-9:00 pm, \$29 (includes cookbook)
- Go Green, Live Clean, Save Money** - Tuesday, October 6, 6:30-7:30 pm, \$15
- Scandinavian Baking** - 2 Thursdays, October 8 & 22, 7:00-9:00 pm, \$25
- Quilted Purses** - Saturday, October 3, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, \$20 (see samples in the Community Ed. office.)
- Deer Cutting for Dummies** - Monday, October 12, 7:00-9:00 pm, \$46 (includes reference book)
- Adult TaeKwonDo** - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:40-8:40 pm, \$60/mo.
- Instructor-Facilitated Online Courses** - Choose from more than 250 classes! Visit 222.ed2go.com/dc

RAISING RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL CHILDREN

PRESENTER: Peggy Imholte

Super Size... Extreme... To the Max... This describes the American culture today. How can that look? Buying more toys than a child can remember... Allowing children unlimited access to today's technology... Allowing children to set their own rules. Come discover what is overindulgence and the possible results. This 3-session class will give you the opportunity to learn, try, discuss, and network with other parents. Rediscover the value of chores. Identify alternatives to giving in. Set realistic expectations of children, teaching them to be responsible and respectful.

Title: How much is Enough? Raising Responsible, Respectful Children
Presenter: Peggy Imholte
Dates: Tuesdays, October 13, 20, 27, 2009
Time: 6:30-9:00 p.m.
(registration 6:00 p.m.)
Fee: \$45.00/person registered
\$65.00/couple registered
Refreshments served
Location: Resource Training and Solutions
West side Bremer Bank Building,
Suite 550
4150 2nd St. South,
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Who should attend: Parents, grandparents, foster parents, childcare providers, preschool staff, coaches, counselors, and others who have a concern for children.

Presenter:
Peggy Imholte, has taught hundreds of parents, school staff and others interacting with youth a variety of essential behavior management techniques. Peg's drive and her passion for youth success and parent excellence will inspire you, challenge you – and remain with you long after her sessions end!

To register or for more information: Go online at www.resourcetraining.com or call me at Resource Training & Solutions at 255-3236 or 888-447-7032.

Martha Roth
Resource Training & Solutions

BOB GASCH VISITS KINDERGARTEN



On September 23rd and 24th, the Dassel kindergarteners had the pleasure of hearing Bob Gasch tell the story of Johnny Appleseed. He has a unique way of capturing a story with words and animation. The children were able to picture the story in their minds as it was being told.



WHY I LOVE MY GRANDPARENTS

Linnea Pokornowski: because they make good food.

Kierstyn Dietel: I love doing puzzles with my grandma.

Ben Smock: I like going in the tractor with my grandpa.

Caleb Olson: because they spend time with me and take me places.

Maddilyn Soderberg: they make good cookies and tell stories about when they were young.

Kalena Swendra: I have fun with them and when I'm there I get to visit my family.

Kristiana Anderson: she enjoys talking with them and hearing about what it was like when they got trapped in a hurricane.

Ashley Aho: They are very funny, especially my grandpa. When we went to the cabin there was a bat and my dad was taking it out. My grandpa said "BOO!" and I screamed!

Joslyn Parks: My grandpa is funny. Whenever I go there he tickles me and traps me with his feet.

DASSEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2009-2010

OCTOBER	2	9:45 Climb Theater
	2	10:30-12:00 Gr. 2 go to Apple Orchard
	7	Kindergarten go to Fire Hall & Carlson Apple Orchard
	8	Kindergarten go to Fire Hall & Carlson Apple Orchard
	9	Grandparents' Day
	12	9:30-2:45 Gr. 1 go to Amazen Farms
	14	Gr. 3 go to Nelson Farms
	15-16	NO SCHOOL – Education Convention
	19	NO SCHOOL – Staff Development
	23	Grades K-3 Vision & Hearing Screening
	30	Picture Retakes & Action Shots

NOVEMBER	6	Grades K-3 Vision & Hearing Rescreening
	13	Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School – Kindergarten only)
	16	5:00-8:00 Elementary Conference
	19	5:00-8:00 Elementary Conference
	20	No School - A.M. Teacher Planning/P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences
	26-27	Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER	2	Volunteer Christmas Tea
	4	End of 1 st Trimester
	7	NO SCHOOL – Staff Development
	14	1:30 Music Program Matinee (Gr. K-2)
	14	7:00 Evening Music Program (Gr. K-2)
	16	Gr. 2 go to Cokato Museum
24-Jan. 1		No School - Winter Break

JAN.	4	Classes Resume
	5	AAA Kick-Off for Grades 3 & 4
	6	AAA Kick-Off for Grades 1 & 2
	18	No School – Staff Development
	20	AAA Contracts Due

FEB.	3	AAA Performance Judging
	12	Jump Rope for Heart
	15	No School – Presidents' Day
	16	9:45 AAA 1 st half of program
	17	9:45 AAA 2 nd half of program
	17	AAA Projets due
	18	AAA Project Judging & Performance

MARCH	2	Read Across America
	5	End of 2 nd Trimester
	8	No School – Staff Development
	12	Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School – Kindergarten only)
	15	5:00-8:00 - Elementary Conferences
	18	5:00-8:00 - Elementary Conferences
	19	No School - A.M. Teacher Planning/P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences
	23	3:30-5:30 Kindergarten Round-Up
	Mar.20 - Apr.2	No School - Spring Break


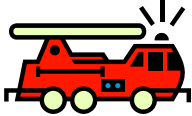



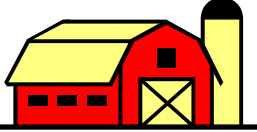




APRIL	2	No School – Good Friday
	7	8:00-8:30 Kindergarten “Donuts for Dads” (Monday/Wednesday Class)
	8	8:00-8:30 Kindergarten “Donuts for Dads” (Tuesday/Thursday Class)
	13-14	MCA Testing for 3 rd & 4 th Grade (Reading)
	20-21	MCA Testing for 3 rd & 4 th Grade (Math)

MAY	4	1:30 Spring Music Matinee (Grades 3-4)
	4	7:00 Spring Music Program (Grades 3-4)
	5	8:00-8:30 - Kindergarten “Muffins for Moms” (Monday/Wednesday Class)
	6	8:00-8:30 - Kindergarten “Muffins for Moms” (Tuesday/Thursday Class)
	7	Gr. 4 go to MN History Center
	13	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
	24	Gr. 1 go to Children’s Museum & Baker Reserve
	26	Gr. 2 go to MN Zoo
	28	10:00-11:30 - Gummy Bear Day Activities
		11:30-1:00 - School Picnic
		1:00-2:30 - Gummy Bear Day Activities
	28	Kindergarten go to Como Zoo
31	No School - Memorial Day	

JUNE	4	Last day of school (unless there are snow days)
	4	9:00 - Awards Program
	6	2:00 Graduation
	7	Teacher Workshop ½ Day



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009		OCTOBER			2009	
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI		
<p>Please refer to the “09-10 School Calendar” which is included in this newsletter. Some dates have changed and have been up-dated since the Parent Handbook was printed.</p>			1	PTA Meeting at the High School Media Center 6:30-8:00	2	Climb Theater 9:45 2 nd grade go to Hillside Apple Orchard 10:30-12:00
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Mon./Wed. Kdgn. 9:00-10:30 Carlson Apple Orchard 1:00-2:30 Fire Hall Visit Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M.	Tues./Thurs. Kdgn. 9:00-10:30 Carlson Apple Orchard 1:00-2:30 Fire Hall Visit 	Grandparents' Day 10:00 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 <p>9:30-2:45 1st Grade go to Amazen Farms</p>		 <p>8:30-1:45 3rd Grade go to Nelson Farm</p>	Education Convention NO SCHOOL	Education Convention NO SCHOOL		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
 <p>Staff Dev. Day NO SCHOOL</p>		 <p>Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M.</p>		 <p>Gr. K-3 Vision & Hearing Screening</p>		
26	27	28	29	30		
				 <p>Picture Retakes & Action Shots</p>		

BREAKFAST MENU

2009		OCTOBER			2009	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
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.			1 Breakfast Pizza Fresh Fruit	2 Breakfast Cereal Mini Muffin Fruit Sauce Choice		
5 Cereal Cinnamon Sticks Fruit Sauce	6 Pancakes with Syrup Sausage Link Juice	7 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fresh Fruit	8 Apple Strudel Sticks Cheese Stick Juice	9 Cereal Yogurt Fruit Sauce		
12 Cereal Mini Muffin Fruit Juice	13 Omelet Toast Fruit Juice	14 Cereal Cheese Slice Toast Fresh Fruit	15 Education Convention No School	16 Education Convention No School		
19 Staff Development Day No School	20 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Sauce	21 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit	22 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Juice	23 Breakfast Cereal Mini Muffin Fresh Fruit		
26 Pancake with Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Juice	27 Breakfast Cereal Toast with Sugar & Cinnamon Fruit Sauce Choice	28 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fresh Fruit	29 Apple Strudel Sticks Cheese Sticks Fruit Juice	30 Cereal Yogurt Fresh fruit		

½ pint milk served with each meal

ANTICIPATED FAMILY FOOD COST FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



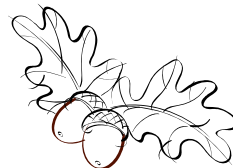
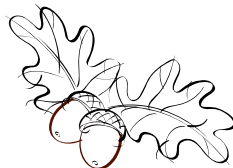
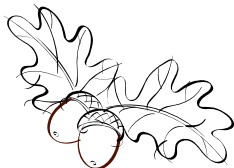
Grades K-4:

Breakfasts: 19 days x \$ 1.00 = \$19.00
 Regular Lunches: 19 days x \$ 1.50 = \$28.50
 Reduced Lunches: 19 days x \$.40 = \$ 7.60
 Extra milk = 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		OCTOBER			2009
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
		<p>½ pint milk will be served with each meal</p>	1 Cheese Bread with Pizza Sauce Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	2 Sloppy Joe on a Bun Oven French Fries Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit	
			5 Individual Pizza Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Sauce	6 Mini Corn Dogs Oven Fries Seasoned Carrots Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	7 Tater Tot Hot Dish French Bread Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit
12 French Toast Sticks Smoked Sausages Tri Tater Orange Sections Fruit Juice	13 Hamburger on a Bun Oven Fries Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit	14 Super Nachos with fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	15 Education Convention No School	16 Education Convention No School	
19 Staff Development Day No School	20 Popcorn Chicken Au Gratin Potatoes Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	21 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Seasoned Veg. Tea Biscuit Fruit Sauce	22 4X6 or Quesadilla Pizza Lettuce Salad Bread Choice Vegetable Choice Fruit Sauce Choice	23 <i>Bag Lunch</i> Turkey Sandwich Chips Carrot Paks Relishes Yogurt Fresh Fruit	
26 Long Dog on a Bun Oven Fries Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce	27 Hot Ham & Cheese on a Bun Batter Bites Carrot Sticks Fresh Fruit	28 Chicken Fajita Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Bread Choice Fresh Fruit	29 Pizza Sticks Lettuce Salad Bread Choice Vegetable Choice Fruit Sauce Choice	30 Shrimp Poppers Oven Fries Seasoned Green Beans Bread Choice Fresh Fruit Pumpkin Juice Cup	



YOU ARE INVITED TO GRANDPARENTS' DAY



Calling all
Grandmas & Grandpas of Dassel Elementary Students

What:
Grandparents' Day

When:
Friday, October 9th

Where:
Dassel Elementary School

Time:
Program will start promptly at
10:00 a.m.
(but come a little early to buy your lunch ticket)

Activities will include
a program featuring your grandchild,
observing in a classroom, touring the building,
and eating a delicious meal.

MENU



Turkey & Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Dressing
Cranberries
Seasoned Mixed Vegetables
Dinner Roll
Ice Cream Treat
Milk

You do not need to call in a reservation, and please do not send money in advance for the meal. You can purchase your meal ticket (\$3.00) right when you enter the building. Please have the correct amount to make the line for buying meal tickets go faster.

We will be finishing around 1:00 p.m.