

DASSEL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Debbie Morris, Principal

www.dc.k12.mn.us

January, 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Debbie.Morris@dc.k12.mn.us

by Debbie Morris



Happy New Year!!! All over the world, people welcome the new year for it is one of the oldest of all holidays. Most New Year celebrations focus on family and friends. It is a time to reflect on the past and envision a future.

Every week I like to challenge students to a TUESDAY TRIVIA CHALLENGE. Parents & students, give these New Year Trivia Questions a try.....

Q: The New Year has not always been celebrated on January 1. When did the original celebration take place?

A: Starting around the year 2000 B.C., the Babylonians observed the beginning of spring as the start of a new year.

Q: Who established January 1 as the start of a New Year?

A: Julius Caesar, who did so when he created the Julian calendar.

Q: What does the traditional New Year's song, Auld Lang Syne, mean?

A: *Auld Lang Syne*, written by Robert Burns in the 1700s, is Scottish for "old long ago."

Q: Who established the tradition of setting New Year's resolutions?

A: The Babylonians, whose most common resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

Q: Which city hosts the first major New Year's Eve celebration each year?

A: Sydney, Australia

Q: What year did the first New Year's Eve ball drop in Times Square?

A: 1907

Q: What is the most popular New Year's resolution in the United States today?

A: To lose weight.

How did you do?!?!?!?

At Dassel Elementary we've been having conversations about healthy food/snack choices. Not necessarily to lose weight, but to think about what we can do to promote healthy minds & bodies. Our resolution is to communicate with families food related information about classroom parties, reward opportunities, breakfast/lunch menus, milk/juice options, special occasions, etc. If you would prefer your child not receive certain food items please contact your child's teacher in person, via phone, e-mail, or note.

Food Related Items:

*Wellness Policy 533 states that *Food brought in for classroom sharing must be purchased from a store or commercially prepared*. Note: Please bring the item in original packaged material.

*Healthy snack items are encouraged during the daily Milk/Juice Break.

The new year looks very promising at Dassel Elementary! The students are making a commitment to making a difference by 'filling the buckets' of others, making each day count, living – laughing – learning, and dedicating themselves to DOING THEIR BEST! I am very PROUD of all that they do!!!

Kudos as well to parents and guardians!! We had a 99% turn out for fall conferences. Thank you for supporting your child/ren and the educational programs at Dassel Elementary! I look forward to seeing you at Bingo for Books – January 25th. (See article in newsletter)



BINGO FOR BOOKS!

**AT DASSEL ELEMENTARY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25TH**

An evening of food, fun and games is planned for Tuesday, January 25th, as Dassel Elementary staff, students, and their families kick-off "I Love to Read" month. This event, co-sponsored by the Dassel-Cokato P.T.A., will be held in the Dassel Elementary small gym between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. and will include bingo, prizes, pizza, popcorn, and beverages.

The organizers of this event are looking for books to give away as prizes. If you have any new or gently used books to donate, please send them to school with your child or drop them off at the Dassel Media Center by Friday, January 14th. We are accepting books at reading levels from preschool through high school/adult.

We hope that every student (and perhaps quite a few adults) attending will go home with a different book to read that night. Any proceeds from the event will go towards purchase of new media center books.

Come join the Dassel Elementary staff and P.T.A. members for an evening of family fun as we celebrate reading and the impact it makes in our students' success in school and later life.



THIRD GRADE STORES

The third grade teachers and students would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all parents and community members who came to support the Christmas Stores on December 17th and 20th.

Creating a store and selling the store items was particularly exciting for the kids. They were amazed at how their collective efforts could produce such fantastic results.

Every item was sold, and the third graders were able to contribute greatly to the needs of the food shelf right here in Dassel, and to Habitat for Humanity.

Once again, thanks to everyone who made this event successful!



AAA ARTS & ACADEMICS AWARDS

We are planning to kick off our AAA program for 1-4 graders early in January. Hopefully, the students have been thinking about their entries throughout the school year and are eager to show off their skills and projects! Each year, we are impressed with the quality of the performances and work submitted for AAA. We hope to see participation continue to grow. There are a number of projects that can be completed at home during the cold winter evenings. The program timelines and dates are on a monthly calendar, which your child will be bringing home along with other AAA information soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

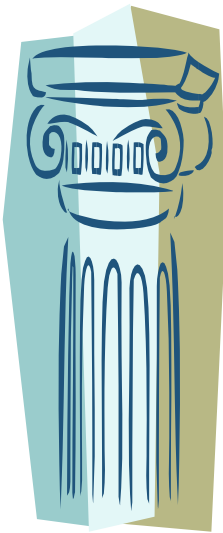


The PTA will be partnering with the Elementary schools and their staffs again to offer the fun and exciting Bingo for Books events. The event will take place in Dassel on Tuesday, January 25th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. This event will be exciting for students and adults alike, and the PTA is proud to be a small part of these grand events. Every child will leave with at least one book, and many adults can leave with a good read as well. Come join us!

The Dassel-Cokato PTA is now on Facebook! Check out our page to keep updated on what is happening with the PTA and to find pictures of Charger apparel and information.

To become a PTA member or for more information about the PTA, please contact Tonia Olsen at 275-3275 or email chargerpta@yahoo.com

GOLDEN RULERS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY



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 compassion and integrity. 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 were:

Back Row: Keyra Hillmyer, Michelle Tormanen, Spencer Schoening, Isaiah Hornick

Front Row: Molly Hendrickson, Clara Cady, Riley Pennala, Austin Campbell, Myra Johnson



**In partnership with our communities,
Dassel-Cokato Public Schools
will provide all learners opportunities
designed to maximize their potential
and promote lifelong learning.**

FROM THE VOLUNTEER CORNER...

by Mary Neu



Happy New Year! May your new year be filled with wonderful times with your family and friends!

Watching the students continue their journey of learning is one of the benefits of volunteering. We have an opportunity to be a part of this learning process, so please look at your schedule and see if you can give some time to the students and staff at Dassel Elementary. We welcome your support!

You can reach me at school at 286-4100 ext. 1518 or via email: mary.neu@dc.k12.mn.us.

Looking forward to BINGO for BOOKS in January as a kick-off to I Love to Read Month! Lots of family fun coming up!

The next big event for our students is AAA! Please start working with your student as they chose their projects and prepare for performances. Information is soon coming and we need volunteers for judging, both performances and projects, and decorating. Please call for more information about volunteering with AAA.

There are many needs here at school. Please let me know if you have an interest in helping! We can always find a spot for you!

- AAA: judges, helpers, decorating
- In-school projects
- Projects at home
- February “I Love To Read”

Welcome to the New Year and please join us in celebrating the gifts that come from children!

*“You cannot do a kindness too soon,
for you never know how soon
will be too late.”*

- Ralph Emerson

FROM THE CORNER OF THE COOKS...

by Doris Kyllonen, Head Cook



Wow--its 2011! Happy New Year to everyone from the Lunch Ladies' Corner.

We hope the new year will find you trying new, healthy foods and continuing to include all the food groups in your meals. This month, I will be talking to you about foods in the dairy group. These foods provide calcium, which helps build strong bones and teeth, and other important nutrients including protein, vitamins A and D, and B-vitamins.

Calcium helps your body in these ways:

- Strengthens bones, which are growing stronger and longer
- Stops bleeding if you get cut or bruised
- Helps muscles contract and relax

These are some foods in the dairy group: milk (including flavored milks like strawberry, banana, and chocolate), yogurt (and frozen yogurt), cheese (string, cheddar, American, and others), and pudding. We need three servings per day from this food group--have fun trying all these good foods.

We hope you all had a wonderful winter break with family and friends. Be safe this winter, and enjoy some good fun food. We'll chat again soon.

S U D O K U

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9		6		2	8			5
	1			5	3		4	
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2								4
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1			3	7		9		6
		2			9	3	5	

FROM THE MEDIA CENTER...

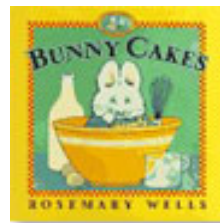
by Carla Halvorson

January Is National Hobby Month

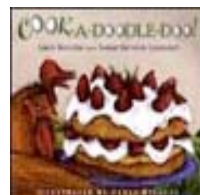
January is National Hobby Month and for good reason: hobbies are great for keeping people motivated with something they enjoy doing. Nearly anything can be a hobby. Celebrate your favorite pastimes and collections, revive old interests or begin new ones with your family during National Hobby Month. There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

Try Cooking Up Fun

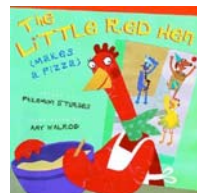
Mixing and measuring, blending and baking – cooking with kids can be fun! Did you know helping in the kitchen allows children to develop language, reasoning, reading, math, and science skills? The media center offers many mouth-watering books you might want to check out!



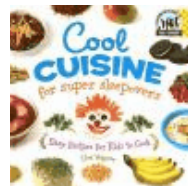
Bunny Cakes
By: Rosemary Wells



Cook-a-Doodle-Do
By: Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel



The Little Red Hen Makes Pizza retold by Philemon Sturges ; illustrated by Amy Walrod



Cool Cuisine for Super Sleepovers: Easy Recipes for Kids to Cook
By: Lisa Wagner

Check out this awesome cooking website for kids:
Spatulatta - Cooking for kids
<http://www.spatulatta.com/>

MEET A NEW STAFF MEMBER



Hi, my name is Lori Crowe and I am a Special Education Paraprofessional at Dassel Elementary. I may be familiar to some of you as I had been a Para substitute in the fourth grade classrooms since mid-September and I have done some volunteering at the school in past years.

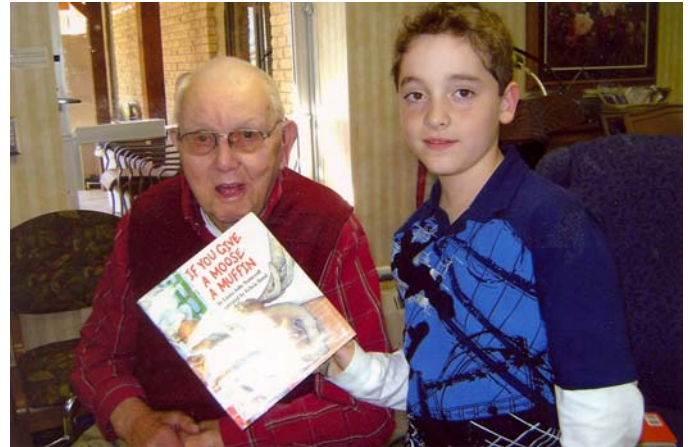
I live south of Dassel near Lake Washington, with my husband Paul, who works in Plymouth as an Electrical Engineer and our five children. Our three oldest, Matthew (13), Caitlyn (12) and Michael (10) attend Dassel-Cokato Middle School and our two youngest children, Sam (7) and Ellie (5) attend school here at Dassel Elementary and are so excited to see “mom” at school everyday!

I grew up in Darwin and graduated from Litchfield High School. I attended SCSU where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications and English. Following graduation, I worked as a reporter for KBJR-TV in Duluth, before marrying and moving to California. Both my husband and I worked as civilians for the Dept of Defense at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Port Hueneme, CA. While in CA, I also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and spent time helping to care for a friend’s daughter with special needs. That experience and raising my own children, led me to realize that I find my greatest joy working with children!

My husband and I moved back to his hometown of Dassel 14 years ago and I have spent this time at home, raising our five children. Our family enjoys going to Grandma and Grandpa Crowe’s home on Lake Washington, where we love to go boating, skiing and swimming in the summer and snowmobiling is our favorite activity during the winter. In my spare time, I enjoy taking walks in our woods, cooking, reading, writing, flower gardening and gathering with family and friends.

I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to work with all the wonderful students and staff at Dassel Elementary. Thank you all for welcoming me so warmly!

DASSEL ELEMENTARY FOURTH GRADERS VISIT THE DASSEL LAKESIDE NURSING HOME



The fourth graders in Mr. Lingl’s classroom have been making regular visits to the Dassel Lakeside Nursing Home located just two blocks east of the elementary school. The students, along with their teacher and parent volunteers, walk to the nursing home once a month to visit and do various activities with the residents.

During the October visit, the students read books to the residents. In light of Halloween, some students dressed as one of the characters from their book. The November visit was a popcorn social. The students also colored pictures to help decorate the Nursing Home for Thanksgiving.

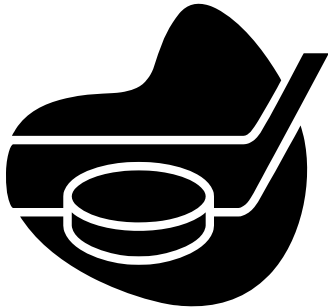
“The students have really enjoyed their visits to the nursing home,” commented their teacher. “The students look forward to these visits and interact very respectfully and appropriately with the residents.” The students are a real blessing to those residents, it is a very rewarding experience for all!



COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM WINTER ACTIVITIES

To find out more about the classes listed below or to register: call by phone: 320-286-4120 or go online: www.dc.k12.mn.us click on Community Education

OUTDOOR D-C YOUTH HOCKEY (Gr. K-6) Lead Instructors: Maurice Niemela & Abe Niemela



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

Practices will begin on Tuesday, Dec. 29 and go through the end of February as weather permits. We will also hold an end of season event indoors, more details on this will be distributed in February. Participants will need to provide the following required equipment: Skates, helmet w/mask and stick. The remaining hockey equipment is recommended but not required. First-time participants will receive a hockey jersey, at no extra charge.

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

Activity #5180 – Grades K-3

Tuesdays, Dec. 28 - Feb.22 at 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Saturdays, Jan. 8 - Feb.26 at 10:30 am -12:00 p.m.

Activity #5181 – Grades 4-6

Tuesdays, Dec. 28 – Feb. 22 at 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Saturdays, Jan. 8 – Feb. 26 at 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Mooers Park, Cokato-Outdoor Rink - Fee: \$32



BASKETBALL GR. K-3



All boys and girls in K-3 are invited to come and have fun in this recreational basketball program. This program will give participants the opportunity to play and learn the basic skills of basketball in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment. These young ball players will also have the opportunity this season to perform during the half-time of a home varsity basketball game. Returning ball players, remember to bring your blue/white basketball to every practice. New players will receive a ball at the first practice.

Activity #5129- Grades K-1 at 8:00-8:50 a.m.

Activity #5130- Grade 2 at 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Activity #5131- Grade 3 at 10:00-10:50 a.m.

6 Saturdays, January 15-February 19
Jan. 15-Feb. 5 at HS East Gym, PAC Door
Feb. 12-19 at Dassel Elem. Large Gym, Door C
Fee: \$40



BASKETBALL “BRING A FRIEND”

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



CLAY CAMP SCULPTURES GR. K and up

Instructor: Laura “The Potter” Lounsbury



Pottery and sculpture handmade by your child will truly capture their imagination. Students will be given 1.5 pounds of red and white earthenware clay and taught basic handbuilding techniques. Glazes are food safe, so projects may include covered jars,

baskets, mugs, bowls or a sculpture reflecting your child's interest. The artwork will be fired and glazed by the instructor and returned back to school within four weeks. Dress for a mess! Parents - you can register and make a project too!

Activity #2205D- Dassel

Thursday, January 27

3:15-4:45 p.m. at Dassel Elementary Room #109

Early Bird Fee: \$28; Fee after January 20: \$33

Activity #2205C- Cokato

Tuesday, April 19

3:15-4:45 p.m.

Cokato Elementary Room #139 (pick-up at west door)

Early Bird Fee: \$28; Fee after April 12: \$33



PRIVATE PIANO LESSONS (Gr. 2-Adult)

Beginner & Intermediate Levels

Instructor: Beth Ashwill



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

brain.

Lessons will be 30 minutes in length. (Participants will have the opportunity for one make-up lesson at the end of the session, providing the instructor was notified in advance of an absence). Students will have the opportunity to continue lessons after the initial session. Participants may need to pay a nominal book fee. Prior to the start of lessons the instructor will contact students to set up specific lesson days and times.

Beth Ashwill is a former DC graduate who received piano instruction for eight years from local teachers. She has instructed several students in

piano over the past few years. Beth also has 13 years teaching experience at multiple grade levels.

Activity #2021A- Session 1

Tuesdays, January 11-February 22

Activity #2021B- Session 2

Tuesdays, March 1-April 19

Times to be arranged with instructor

MS Music Practice Room, Door H

Fee: \$100/session



PRIVATE TUTORING (Gr. K-8)

Beth Ashwill

Does your child struggle academically in one or more areas? Is homework a bit overwhelming? If so, one-on-one tutoring is available through the 2010-2011 school year.

One-on-one tutoring has proven to be successful for students of all skill levels who:

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

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

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

Activity #4002

Schedule and location to be arranged with instructor

Six 30-minutes, 1-on-1 sessions



Fee: \$90



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

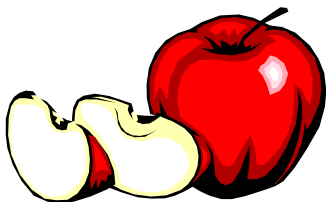
2011		JANUARY						2011	
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT			
								1	
2	 Classes Resume	 AAA Kick-Off Grades 3 & 4	5 AAA Kick-Off Grades 1 & 2 Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M. Mrs. Allen's Kindergarten Classroom	6	7			8	
9	10	11		13	14	15			
16	17 NO SCHOOL  Teacher Planning/Staff Development No STARS	18	19 AAA Contract Due  Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M. Mr. Lingl's 4 th Grade Classroom	20 	21  Climb Theater 1:00	22			
23	24  STARS ski trip at Powder Ridge in Kimball 3:00-7:30	25  Bingo for Books Night Small Gym 5:00-7:00	26	27	28	29			
30	31								

JANUARY BREAKFAST MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Choice	4 Pancakes / Syrup Sausage Link Fruit Choice	5 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fresh Choice	6 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Fruit Choice	7 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice
10 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice	11 Waffle Sticks Sausage Link Fruit Choice	12 Breakfast Bites Cheese Slices Fruit Choice	13 Cereal Trix Yogurt Fruit Choice	14 Frudel Bar Cheese Stick Fruit Choice
 NO SCHOOL Staff Dev. Day	18 Cereal Cinnamon toast Fruit Choice	19 Breakfast Omelet Toast Fruit Choice	20 Breakfast on a Stick Fruit Choice	21 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice
24 Cereal Granola Bar Fruit Choice	25 French Toast Sticks Smokies Fruit Choice	26 Cereal Cinnamon Toast Fruit Choice	27 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Choice	28 Cereal Muffin Fruit Choice
31 Apple Stick Cheese Stick Fruit Choice	FRUIT CHOICE will consist of fresh fruit, fruit sauce or fruit juice. 			

½ pint milk served with each meal

ANTICIPATED FAMILY FOOD COST FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY





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
 Second Entrée for \$1.00
 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!

JANUARY LUNCH MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Lunch Around Pizza Corn Fruit Sauce Choice	4 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Seasoned Carrots Biscuits Fresh Fruit	5 Chicken Chow Mein with Rice/Noodles Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	6 Chicken Patty on A Bun Potato Smiles Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Fruit Choice	7 Turkey Wrap Potato Rounds Carrot Sticks Fresh Fruit Gelatin
10 French Toast Sticks Sausage Patty Tri Tater Oranges Smiles Fruit Juice	11 Hamburger on a Bun French Fries Cooked Carrots Choice Fresh Fruit	12 Super Nachos with fixings Seasoned Corn Bread Choice Fruit Sauce Choice	13 Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Tomato Soup Fresh Veggie & Dip Fruit Sauce Choice	14 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Mixed Vegetables Fresh Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit
17  NO SCHOOL Staff Dev. Day	18 Corn Dogs French Fries Broccoli & Cheese Fruit Sauce Bread	19 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Lettuce Salad Seasoned Gr. Beans Fruit Sauce Choice	20 Chicken Nuggets Oriental Rice Seasoned Peas Fresh Fruit	21 <i>Bag Lunch</i> Sub Sandwich with Fixings Potato Chips Fresh Veggies & Dip Fresh Fruit
24 Hot Dog/Bun French Fries Baked Beans Sauerkraut Fruit Sauce Choice	25 Hot Ham & Cheese Batter Bites Carrot Sticks Fresh Fruit	26 Chicken Fajitas Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Fruit Sauce	27 Whole Wheat Cheese Pizza Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	28 Pulled Pork Sandwich Baked Potato Seasoned Gr. Beans Fruit Sauce Choice
31 Pizza Seasoned Corn Fruit Sauce Choice				

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against write immediately to Dept. of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250.

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

