DASSEL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Debbie Morris, Principal
www.dc.k12.mn.us
February, 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK…
Debbie.Morris@dc.k12.mn.us

by Debbie Morris

February is the month for showing appreciation for the special people in our lives. There are so many ways to show appreciation. One way is to give a lovable HUG! Students from Dassel Elementary were treated to a play called THE HUGGERTREE ME. Well, students weren't actually learning how to 'hug' a tree, but they were learning about ways to appreciate the environment, which in turn allows special people to live better lives.

The play, presented by CLIMB Theatre, was made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board. Huggertree, a walking/talking deciduous tree, talked to the students and said, "We have to save the earth. See, the earth is getting sick, and we have to stop hurting it."

During the play students learned many important lessons:

- To teach children that if we don't change how we do things now, they could live as adults in a world that has poor drinking water, unclear air, dirty lakes, few trees, a damaging sun and energy supplies that do not meet their needs
- To teach simple conservation measures such as: turning off the water when brushing teeth, wearing extra clothing instead of turning up the heat, and turning lights off when leaving the room
- To teach children that resources such as water, oil, and aluminum are limited
- To teach children that trees, which are essential for many birds and animals and for cleaning the air, are being needlessly wasted
- To empower students to encourage the adults in their lives to conserve energy and practice the Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

We have so much to appreciate in our lives! I would like to express my appreciation to all the families that turned out for our Family Night – Bingo for Books. And, I can't wait to see all the projects and performances that students create for our annual AAA event. I know parents/guardians lend a supportive hand to fulfill all requirements – THANKS!

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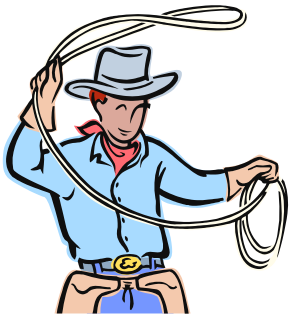
KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP
MARCH 20th AT DASSEL ELEMENTARY



Kindergarten Round-up is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20th, 3:45 p.m., at Dassel Elementary. If you have a child who is eligible to attend kindergarten next fall (age 5 on or before September 1st) you should be attending the Round-Up activities. We will be sending letters out the last part of February to give you more information. If your child is eligible, and you do not receive a letter or you know of someone new in the area, please contact Marlyce Erickson (286-4100 ext. 1500) at school.

If you are wondering… Is my child ready for kindergarten, there will be a Transition Meeting at ECFE on Tuesday, Feb. 21st at 6:30-7:30 p.m. More information will be coming on a post-card in the mail.

DASSEL ELEMENTARY NOMINATED BY MINNESOTA FOR THE 2012 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

Dassel Elementary School is one of eight schools nominated by Minnesota for the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools award. The National Blue Ribbon Schools award highlights and gives recognition to both public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are producing outstanding results for all students regardless of race or socioeconomic status. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is part of a larger U. S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices.

Dassel Elementary was nominated for the award based on the following criteria: 1) **Exemplary High Performing:** a school, whose students, regardless of backgrounds, is high performing. This means your school is ranked among the state's highest performing schools as measured by your performance on state assessments.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award sets a standard of excellence for all schools striving for the highest level of achievement. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program sets a high standard that should represent a goal for all schools that strive for excellence. For the past 29 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 6000 of America's most successful schools. For public schools, the U. S. Secretary of Education invites Chief State School Officers to nominate schools from their state that meet the National Blue Ribbon School recognition criteria.

The next step in the process involves Dassel Elementary completing an application and submitting it to the US Department of Education by March 2, 2012. The National Blue Ribbon winners will be announced sometime in September and will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

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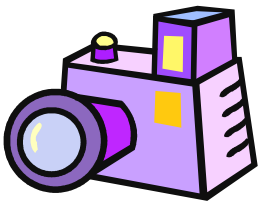
ORDER YOUR MEMORY BOOK NOW



Memory books from this school year will arrive about the middle of March which are now in **COLOR**. If you haven't requested a yearbook yet, please fill out the form below by February 17th. The cost of the book is $10.00 and you can make a check out to **"Dassel Elementary".** The memory books have pictures of all students and staff members. It's a nice remembrance from the 2011-2012 school year. When our supply is gone, we will be unable to get any more copies printed, so reserve your copy early!

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 17th

Name _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

Number of Books _____ Amount _____

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STEP UP DAY

The 1st Thursday of each Month is Dassel Elementary's Day to Step-Up against Bullying! Those dates are: February 2nd, March 1st, April 5th, and May 3rd.

On this day our staff and students are to wear their Step-Up blue shirt/or any navy blue shirt and join us in taking a stand against bullying. We recite our No More Bullying Pledge and sing our song about making new friends. We talk about the tools needed to be prepared to end bullying in our school and community! Thank you for your support, too!

FROM THE MEDIA CENTER…

by Carla Halvorson

Read a Book: Celebrate Black History Month through literature with these award winners!

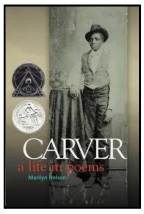
A complete listing of these and many other award-winning books may be found at: http://www.ala.org/

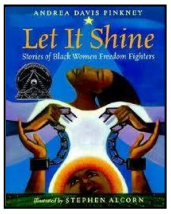
Caldecott Award:

Martin's Big Words: the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by: Doreen Rappaport & Bryan Collier

Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince & the Orchestra by: Andrea DavisPinkney & Brian Pinkney

Coretta Scott *King Award:*





The Land by Mildred D. Taylor

Carver: a Life in Poems by Marilyn Nelson

Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney & Stephen Alcorn

The Smithsonian Institution has a recommended reading list for Black History Month called "Down through the Years: African American Stories for Young Readers and the Young at Heart". You can find it at: http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmah/youngrdr.htm

FEBRUARY IS
"I LOVE TO READ MONTH"

Kickoff: I Love to Read Month Storytelling Day

A big thank you to Bob Gasch who will be regaling our students with his fantastic stories and kicking off I Love to Read Month! Find out more about Bob's storytelling at: http://www.gaschstories-puppets.com/Bob/index.htm

Fridays in February—Special Event Days

February 3: "Kickin' It with a Good Book" Day
Wear: Sweats / Running Clothes
Prizes: Hacky Sacks

February 10: "Have a Ball with Books" Day
Wear: Beach / Hawaiian Clothes
Prizes: Inflatable Balls

February 17: "Round Up a Good Book" Day
Wear: Cowboy / Cowgirl Clothes
Prizes: Hats

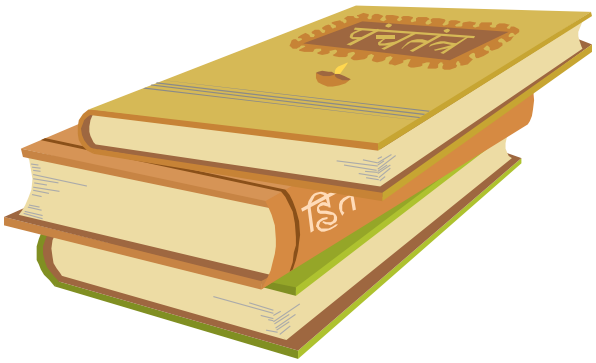
February 24: "Charge into a Good Book" Day
Wear: Charger Colors and Clothes
Prizes: Charger Colored Beads

February 21-24—Stop, Drop, and Read Week

At some time during each day, students will stop whatever they are doing and read!

February 24—Mystery Reader Day

At 1:00, each classroom will be visited by some "Mystery Readers"! Who will they be?



MEET A NEW STAFF MEMBER

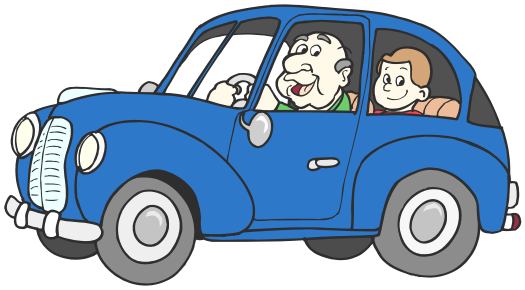
Angie Hopkins

Hello, my name is Angie Hopkins. I am the new Title I Paraprofessional for the third grade at Dassel Elementary.

My husband, Brian & I live in Dassel with our three daughters. Bree (6) is in kindergarten at Dassel Elementary, Lauren (5) attends the DC Play N Learn Preschool, and Megan (3) is following quickly in their footprints. I also have a son, Josh Balmores (21), who attends Mankato State University. If the kids aren't enough to keep us busy, we also have two dogs. Sophie is a 12-year-old black lab and Deak is a 19-month yellow lab.

In my "free" time, I enjoy reading to the kids, cooking and baking. Please feel free to say hello and introduce yourself, I am trying hard to learn everyone's names!

PARENTS WHO PICK UP & DROP OFF THEIR CHILDREN



All parents are asked to pick up their child or drop off their child only on the **EAST** side of the school. For the safety of our students, **do not** pick up or drop off children on the west side of school by the school patrol because it makes it very difficult for the patrol to see oncoming traffic. Also, do not pick up or drop off your child in front of the school. This is a bus loading/unloading zone with NO school patrol support.

FROM THE CORNER OF THE COOK'S…

by Doris Kyllonen, Head Cook

Warm greetings from the rockin' lunch ladies!

February is the month where we see many special faces and many special days: Ground-hog Day, Valentine's Day, Jump Rope-for-Heart Day, Presidents' Day, and the projects for AAA Day. We look forward to all these special days, and to helping to make them memorable and fun with our food and special snacks or treats. We want to invite parents to come and enjoy lunch with their children any time during this busy month. During February, we also encourage parents to help their children make friends with the oft-forgotten nutrient, fiber. Over the next couple of months, I am going to share some facts about fiber.

Fiber and whole grains--what's the difference? That's a good question, and one that confuses a lot of folks. High fiber and whole grains are not the same thing. Different types of whole grains (wheat, oats, corn, rice, barley, etc.) have varying amounts and types of fiber. Both fiber and whole grains are important for good health, but in different ways. For example, while some whole-grain foods may not be particularly high in fiber, they do provide a package of other health-promoting benefits, including vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and other nutrients.

Some grain foods with a "high fiber" label may not necessarily be 100% whole grain. For example, certain bran cereals may have the added fibers from grains or other plant foods in order to raise their fiber levels. On food packaging, "dietary fiber" will be listed in grams on the Nutrition Facts panel. Whole grains also may be listed on the package in grams, but often on a separate label or stamp. Just remember that these grams are not equivalent, and that you need both fiber and whole grains for good health.

Next month, I will answer these three key questions about fiber: what, why, and how. Almost none of us gets enough fiber for optimal health. Maybe this month you could grab a friend, enjoy some of the great fiber and whole grains you find in foods, and help make your heart and body happier and healthier!

HEADLINES IN SCHOOL HEALTH

by Tracy Kraemer, Licensed School Nurse

February is National Dental Health Month

Take good care of your teeth! You want them to last a lifetime.

There are five important things that students (and adults!) can do to take good care of their teeth:

- Brushing each morning and night
- Flossing (with your help) every day
- Eat nutritious foods and limit snacks, drink plenty of water
- See your dentist for regular checkups
- Use fluoride. It is one of the most effective minerals in preventing tooth decay. By making the tooth enamel stronger, fluoride makes the tooth less susceptible to cavities. Fluoride is provided in certain foods, water, and toothpaste. If your water supply does not contain fluoride, ask your dentist about fluoride treatments. If you are unsure of the amount of fluoride your water contains, your dentist may have fluoride water kits available. They are also available online.

As many of you know, affordable dental care can be hard to find. Now in its 10th year, **Give Kids a Smile** is a charitable program coordinated by the Minnesota Dental Association to provide free care to low-income children in need. The two-day, statewide event is Friday, Feb. 3, and Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012. The Association is committed to doing what it can to make quality care accessible to every child in Minnesota. Below are the links available if this would be of interest for you.

Main website: http://www.mndental.org/public_home/about_us/give_kids_a_smile/

Clinics sorted by county here http://www.mndental.org/public_home/about_us/give_kids_a_smile/list_of_dentists/

For more information and fun games for the kids, check out

http://www.colgate.com/app/BrightSmilesBrightFutures/US/EN/HomePage.cvsp

AAA
RAINBOW OF TALENTS

We are excited that AAA has started again! We look forward to seeing all of the great projects and performances. It always makes us proud to see the many talents of our students.

This year the performances will be on Thursday, February 16th, at 10:20 a.m. for the K-2nd grade and 2:00 p.m. for the 3rd-4th grades. Community members are welcome to come to either performance. We have extended the project viewing time to go until 5:00 p.m. on that same day. We hope you can join us to support the time and talents of our students.

All first through fourth grade students should have received an information packet that includes all of the dates and times. Please be sure to read through it, and feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. We hope that every student chooses to participate to show their unique strengths and abilities!

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ARE YOU READY FOR SOME COOL TREATS AND GOOD EATS?

The Dassel Elementary students will be proudly displaying some of their artwork at the local Cokato Dairy Queen on Wednesdays, February 8th from Mrs. DePatto's 1st grade class and 22nd from Mrs. Lynk's 4th class. 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!

FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER…

by Patti Jo Erickson & Dan Krause

Ms. Erickson
Grades 2-4

Mr. Krause
Grade 1

February 14 has been slated for our Jump Rope for Heart event. You should have received information about the event a few weeks ago. To review, this is a fundraising event for the American Heart Association. More importantly, it is a culmination of learning about the heart and how to keep it healthy for a lifetime. All students will be jumping for health and fitness during physical education. Collection envelopes can be turned in anytime, but the deadline is February 14. Please contact us at extension 1534 if you have any questions. Feel free to come in and enjoy the fun.

The schedule is as follows:

9:00 - 9:45 - 2nd grade
10:15-11:00 - 1st grade
11:15-12:00 - 4th grade
1:30 - 2:15 - 3rd grade

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

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FROM THE VOLUNTEER CORNER…

by Mary Neu

Wonderful events are planned for both our students and families during the month of February. It is a month that many of us seem to enjoy because we take time to tell people that we care for them! I want to take this time to tell the volunteers that they are appreciated! Thank you for finding time in your schedule to support our students and staff through your efforts both here at school and at home!

February is the month of AAA. The Arts and Academic Awards program is a great opportunity for students to show their talents from an area outside of the classroom. Please read the AAA packet carefully for details. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or the classroom teacher.

Jump Rope for Heart is coming, too! Parents are invited to jump rope a few times if you'd like! The students enjoy the day and really find it funny to see that the "old" people know how to do this, too!

February is also "I Love to Read Month". We have lots of fun planned!

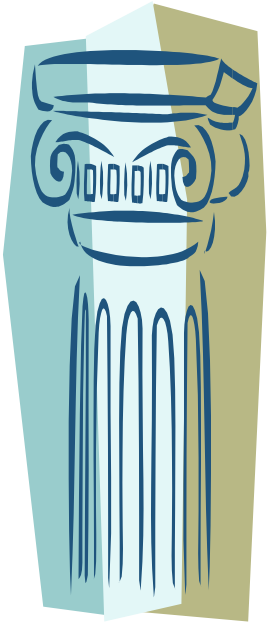
Please consider volunteering in our school. It is a great way to see your school in full swing! We all win in this event. (my extension is: 1518)

Needs list:

- AAA performance judges Wednesday, Feb. 8th
- AAA decorating Wednesday, Feb. 15th
- AAA project judges Thursday, Feb. 16th
- "I Love to Read Month" readers
- Money counters for Jump Rope for Heart Feb. 14th
- Milk cap counters

"*We are rich only through what we give, and poor only through what we refuse.*"
-Anne-Sophie Swetchine

GOLDEN RULERS OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY



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 understanding diversity and resiliency. 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".

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR CHILD'S EMERGENCY CARD UP-TO-DATE AT ALL TIMES.

Dassel-Cokato PTA

every child. 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.

Please join us for the next bi-monthly Dassel-Cokato PTA meeting. Please note the location change.

In February, the PTA will be hosting Alisa Johnson, Middle School Dean of Students, to educate parents and the community on "Professional Learning Communities". Mrs. Johnson is a member of the district team that oversees these professional development teams among our teachers. "Professional Learning Communities" is an on-going program in which the teachers and administrators continuously seek and share learning and then act on what they learn. The goal of their actions is to enhance their effectiveness as professionals so that students benefit. As an organizational arrangement, the professional learning community is seen as a powerful staff development approach and a potent strategy for school change and improvement. Parents and community members concerned about school improvement are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be Thursday, February 2, at the High School Media Center from 6:30 – 8 pm.

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

To register or get more information visit us online at www.dc.k12.mn.us or call us at 286-4120.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITES:

FRIDAY NIGHT OUT (Grades 1-6)

FRIDAY NIGHT OUT is a special fun night just for kids! Gather in the Middle School Commons and your first activity will be a dip in the pool -- don't forget your towel! We will then move back to the Commons for a snack and your choice of games or a fun craft project to complete and take home. Then it's off to watch a movie! Not only will you have a great time but it's a wonderful opportunity for your parents to enjoy an evening of dinner, shopping or just relaxing! Maximum 50. To find out what movies will be shown please call the Community Education office.

Activity #3008B
Friday, February 10 at 6:30-10:00 p.m.
Drop off & pick up location: MS Commons, Door I
Fee: $9.00 - Pre-registration is required.
Registration Deadlines: 1 week prior to each event.

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WINTER WARM-UP ON THE FARM (Gr. K-6)
Warm up with a busy day on the farm! Travel with us to Gale Woods Farm in Minnetrista on this non-school day. Enjoy an activity-packed day meeting farm animals, making a farm fresh snack and creating crafts to take home. Take a winter hike, play in the snow and explore the farm while doing fun winter activities! Bring a bag lunch and warm clothes for outdoor fun. Chaperones will be provided but adults are also welcome to register and pay with their children. For more information about the farm visit: www.galewoodsfarm.org

Activity #3021
Monday, February 20
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Gale Woods Farm, Minnetrista
Departure: Dassel Elem. Door A: 9:00 a.m.
Cokato Elem. Door D: 9:15 a.m.
Return: Cokato Elem. Door D: 2:45 p.m.
Dassel Elem. Door A: 3:00 p.m.
Early Bird Fee: $15; Fee after February 3: $20
Registration Deadline: Friday, February 10

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TUBING AT POWDER RIDGE (Ages 4 and up)
Join us on this non-school day for 3 hours of fun on the tubing hill at Powder Ridge. The trip fee includes transportation and tubing. All participants will need to bring along a bag lunch. Children ages 4, 5 & 6, not in first grade yet will need to attend with an adult. Make it a family event or go with friends - either way it will be LOTS of FUN!

Activity #3014
Monday, March 5
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Powder Ridge, Kimball
Departure: Cokato Elem. Door D: 9:00 a.m.
Dassel Elem. Door A: 9:15 a.m.
Return: Dassel Elem. Door A: 1:45 p.m.
Cokato Elem. Door D: 2:00 p.m.
Early Bird Fee: $15; Fee after February 27: $20

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CHARGER GYMNASTIC MINI-CAMP
(Gr. K-6) D-C Coaches & Gymnasts

Jump, twist, turn and tumble with the high school gymnasts! This camp will focus on learning basic gymnastics skills on all four events. This is a fun program for beginner gymnasts which will help increase flexibility, balance, coordination, strength and self-confidence in a positive and safe environment. ***Space limited to 24 per section***.

Dates: February 27, 28, March 1, 2, 6, 8
Location: Middle School Gym, Door I

Activity #5154 - Grades K
5:45-6:15 p.m.
Early Bird Fee: $25; Fee after February 21: $30

Activity #5155 - Grades 1-2
5:00-5:45 p.m.
Early Bird Fee: $35; Fee after February 21: $40
Activity #5156 - Grades 3-4
4:15-5:00 p.m.
Early Bird Fee: $35; Fee after February 21: $40
Activity #5157 - Grades 5-6
3:15-4:15 p.m.
Early Bird Fee: $45; Fee after February 21: $50

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ADULT OPPORTUNITES:

SUCK & TUCK ADVANCED

Dr. Jennifer Butturff
Holidays are over and you have lost the weight but what is that bag of jelly over your stomach and why is it still there? Baby weight is gone but baby belly is not? The Suck and Tuck Intro was too easy for you? This is the class for you!

All exercises are designed to be safe for your body type, can be done at home and will produce results in 2 weeks. Exercises are designed to be done safely in your home with little to no equipment and to be very effective at flattening your stomach. This is an advanced class for the abdominal, pelvic floor and lumbar muscles. Participants must be able to hold a pelvic tuck for 10 seconds and hold legs in the air in pelvic crunch position unsupported. Bring a towel and your exercise ball, if you have one. Some balls will be available for use. This is a very active, entertaining and challenging class.

Activity #7732
Monday, February 13
7:00-8:30 p.m. in MS Gym, Door I
Fee: $10

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SEWING FOR BEGINNERS

Jan Arnold
Have you always wanted to learn how to select a pattern, read the pattern envelope and instructions, lay out and cut a pattern correctly? In this class you will do just that and more! Learn the basics from a very knowledgeable instructor and create a project you will be proud to use or give as a gift! After you successfully complete your cooking apron or gardening/utility-tool apron you will be ready to take on a multitude of patterns and projects!

Please bring a spool of thread (any color) to the first class as well as your own sewing machine, if you have one. (If not, indicate upon registration that you would like to use one of the school's machines.) The instructor will supply fabric to practice on and will give you a list of supplies and help you determine how much fabric to bring to the second class.

Activity #2549
4 Tuesdays, February 21-March 13
7:00-8:30 p.m. in MS FACS Room #B-20, Door J
Fee: $27
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, February 14

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SQUARE FOOT GARDENING BASICS

Connie Lahr, Certified SFG Instructors
Square Foot Gardens produce delicious produce but require no tilling, no digging and very little weeding! Intrigued? Come to an introduction of the Square Foot Gardening System, which is vegetable gardening in the ground, or in a box or containers, which utilizes less water, less space and less work! An optional textbook will be offered at a reduced price at the class and participants will have an opportunity to receive related garden materials and the best soil mix later in the season at a site in Maple Lake.

An Intermediate class will be offered in Howard Lake on March 15. More information will be available at the Basics class. These classes are hosted by Gardening World Wide (www.gardeningww.com) with the objective of encouraging families to include vegetable gardening as a healthful and nutritious hobby.

Activity #1752
Tuesday, March 6
7:00-8:30 p.m. in HS Art Room #31, Door C
Fee: $7

UPCOMING ARTS ASSN. EVENTS:

Arsenic and Old Lace
March 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 7:30 p.m. & March 11 & 18, 2:00 p.m.

This classic comedy features two elderly sisters who are famous in their neighborhood for their numerous acts of charity. Unfortunately, however, their charity includes poisoning lonely old men who come to their home looking for lodging. Their nephew, convinced that he is Teddy Roosevelt, willingly rids the ladies of the men's bodies by burying them in the basement. The motion picture version of the play was released in 1944 and starred Cary Grant.

Tickets: Adults-$15, Youth-$7
Location: Dassel History Center
Member Ticket sales: Jan. 19 & 20
Public ticket sales begin: January 23
To Purchase Tickets:
ONLINE: www.dc.k12.mn.us/pac
IN PERSON: Community Education Office at the HS. Office hours are M-F, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
BY PHONE: 320-286-4120, with a credit card

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CHARGER KIDS CLUB

Before & After School Child Care

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 School – Cafeteria (Small Gym)

No need to worry about having to walk home in the rain or cold! Students come straight from their classroom to the Small Gym! Dassel Elementary & Middle School students are also welcome! Transportation is available before & after school, to and from Cokato Elementary.

Activities:
Computer Time
Arts & crafts
Sports
Special Guests
Outdoor & Indoor Play
Games
Field Trips
Movie Days
Homework Time & Quiet Time

Fees:

2011-2012 School year Fees	First Child	Additional Children
Before School Daily	$4.50	$4.00
Full Time (5 days a week)	$20.00	$17.50
After School (3-6pm) Daily	$8.00	$7.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	$36.00	$32.50
After School (until 4:30pm)		
Daily	$5.00	$4.50
Full Time (5 days a week)	$22.50	$20.00
Non-School Days Full Day	$25.00	$24.00
Half Day (5 hours or less)	$15.00	$15.00
Drop-In Rate - Before School	$6.50	$6.50
Drop-In Rate - After School	$10.00	$10.00
Annual Registration Fee (June 2011-May 2012): $25/ Child or $35 Family		

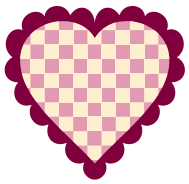
Contact Information:
To register or get more information please contact Site Supervisor Jennifer Todnem at
320-286-4100 ext. 1334 or
Jennifer.Todnem@dc.k12.mn.us

Up Coming
Non-School Days
That we are OPEN

Presidents Day
Monday, February 20th
No Elemantary School only
Friday, March 16th
Spring Break
Monday, March 26- Friday, March 30th

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

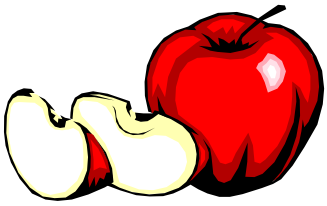
2012 FEBRUARY 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	**2** **PTA** Meeting High School Choir Room 6:30-8:00	**3** "Kickin' It with a Good Book" day Wear: Sweats/Running Clothes	**4**
5	**6** 	**7**	**8** **AAA** Performance Judging Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M. Mrs. DePatto's 1st Grade Classroom	**9** **AAA** Performance Practice during Care Group Time	**10** "Have a Ball with Books" day Wear: Beach / Hawaiian Clothes	**11**
12	**13**	**14** **AAA** Performance Practice 1st half of Performers during recess **Jump Rope for Heart** 9:00 - 9:45 Gr. 2 10:15-11:00 Gr. 1 11:15-12:00 Gr. 4 1:30 - 2:15 Gr. 3	**15** **AAA** Performance Practice 2nd half of Performers during recess All AAA projects due	**16** **AAA** Project Judging 10:20 Grades K-2 Performance 2:00 Grades 3-4 & Public Performance Projects on Display until 5:00	**17** "Round Up a Good Book" day Wear: Cowboy / Cowgirl Clothes 	**18**
19	**20** **NO SCHOOL** *Presidents' Day*	**21** 8:45 Stop, Drop, & Read Kindergarten Transition Meeting at ECFE 6:30 p.m.	**22** 1:35 Stop, Drop, & Read Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M. Mrs. Lynk's 4th Grade Classroom	**23** 2:45 Stop, Drop, & Read 	**24** 10:30 Stop, Drop, & Read "Charge into a Good Book" day Wear: Charger Colors & Clothes	**25**
26	**27**	**28**	**29**			

FEBRUARY
BREAKFAST MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fruit Sauce	**2** Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit	**3** Cereal Muffin Fruit Sauce
6 Breakfast Pizza Fresh Fruit	**7** Cereal Grahamy Bear Fruit Sauce	**8** Waffle Sticks Smokies Fresh Fruit	**9** Breakfast Bites Fruit Sauce	**10** Cereal Trix Yogurt Fresh Fruit
13 Cereal Grahamy Bear Fruit Sauce	**14** Breakfast Omelet Wheat Toast Fresh Fruit	**15** Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fresh Fruit	**16** ***Breakfast Bag*** Cereal Bar Honey Graham Sticks Fruit Juice	**17** Cereal Muffin Fruit Sauce
20 **NO SCHOOL** Presidents' Day	**21** Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fruit Sauce	**22** French Toast Sticks With Syrup Smokies Fresh Fruit	**23** Cereal Trix Cereal Bar Fruit Sauce	**24** Frudel Bar Trix Yogurt Fresh Fruit
27 Cereal Trix Cereal Bar Fruit Sauce	**28** Mini Pancakes Syrup Smokies Fresh Fruit	**29** Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fruit Sauc	**½ pint milk served with each meal**	

ANTICIPATED FAMILY FOOD COST FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



Grades K-4:

Breakfasts: 20 days x $ 1.00 = $20.00
Regular Lunches: 20 days x $ 1.60 = $32.00
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!

FEBRUARY
LUNCH MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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.				
		1 Taco in a Bag Refried Beans Black Bean Salsa Pineapple Chunks Bread Choice	**2** Salad with Popcorn Chicken Broccoli Peaches Breadstick	**3** BBQ on a Bun Potato Choice Veggies / Dip Fruit Choice
6 French Toast Sticks With Syrup Smokies Tri Tator Orange Slices Fruit Juice	7 Lasagna French Bread Lettuce Salad Fruit Choice	**8** Mini Corn Dogs Oven Fries Broccoli & Cheese Apples Bread Choice	**9** Chicken & Gravy Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Peas Dinner Roll Peaches	**10** Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Tomato Soup Crackers Veggies / Dip Pears
13 Chicken Rice Bowl Broccoli Normandy Mandarin Oranges Bread choice	**14** Turkey Wrap Potato Rounds Cottage Cheese with Fruit Valentine Sherbet	**15** Hamburger Hotdish Seasoned Green Beans Fresh Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	**16** ***Lunch Bag*** Ham & Cheese on a Bun Chips Carrot Paks Fruit President's Cookies	**17** Chili Cheese Stick Cinnamon Roll Fresh Veggies Fruit Choice
20 **NO SCHOOL** **Presidents' Day**	**21** Hot Dog / Bun Batter bites Baked Beans Fruit Choice	**22** Fish Wedge Mac & Cheese Seasoned Carrots Fresh Fruit	**23** Chicken Breast with Alfredo Sauce Pasta Green Beans Pears	**24** Cheese Pizza Seasoned Corn Apple Slices Bread Choice
27 Hamburger / Bun Potato Smiles Green Beans Pears	**28** Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Carrots Apples Dinner roll	**29** Super nachos Refried Beans Black Bean Salsa Pineapple Chunks Wheat Bread	**½ pint milk will be served with each meal**	

VEGGIE VALENTINE

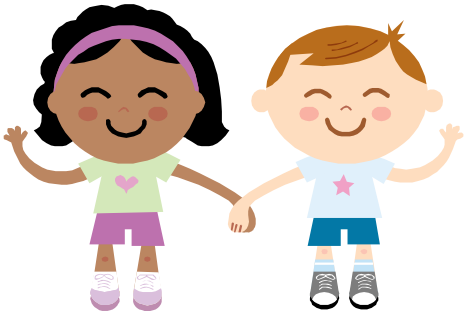
You may not "carrot" all for me
The way I care for you.
You may "turnip" your nose
When I plead with you
But if your "heart" should "beet" with mine
Forever "lettuce" hope
There is no reason in the world
Why we two "cantaloupe."
Author Unknown

R E P O R T T O P A R E N T S
Preparing for Kindergarten

The move from preschool to "real" school is exciting (and often tearful) for both children and parents. There's a lot you can do to make the transition to kindergarten enjoyable.

Making Friends with the School. Point out the school as you drive or walk past, and say, "That's *your* school." Attend kindergarten orientation together, taking the opportunity to tour the school and meet the principal and teachers. Take your child to play on the school's playground after school, on weekends, and during the summer.

Learning Social Skills. *Sharing* is a regular part of the day in kindergarten. Help your child learn to take turns by sharing toys, crayons, and games with friends and family members. *Waiting* is tough for preschoolers, but you can help them get used to it by saying things like, "We'll go to the park after lunch." Teach your child to *communicate* with words, not actions, when upset. Emphasize that screaming, crying, hitting, kicking, and other "temper tantrum" behavior is not acceptable.



Listening Is Important. Looking at the person who's talking to you is more than good manners when it's the teacher who's doing the talking. Work with your child on paying attention and following simple directions: "Please put your pillow on your bed, and then put your shoes in your closet."

Loosening the Apron Strings. If your child isn't already attending preschool or day care, look for ways for them to spend some time apart from you. Trade off with a friend, or sign your child up in a community or church program for preschoolers.

Who Am I? Kindergartners should know not only their full names, but the first and last names of their parents and caregivers. Memorizing your phone number and address may be a little easier for a preschooler if you set them to a familiar tune, like "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

All by Myself. Your child should know how to zip, snap, tie, button, and fasten Velcro. Be sure that your little one can also take care of his or her bathroom needs well before the first day of school.

Begin with Basics. Go beyond teaching your child the "ABC" song by working on letter recognition, especially letters that spell out his or her name. It's also helpful if your child can recognize isolated letters and those not in alphabetical sequence. Talk about the colors and shapes around you – the round clock, the red umbrella. Make simple counting a part of your preschooler's day by counting aloud as you put each piece of silverware in the drawer, climb stairs, or bring in bags of groceries. Help your little one learn important concepts by "acting out" the differences between up and down, in and out, high and low, over and under, small and tall.

Ensure a Healthy Start. Make sure your child's immunizations are up to date. A complete physical before the start of school, including vision and hearing tests, is also a good idea. Start your preschooler on a school day regimen of bedtime and wake-up time several weeks before school starts. At this age, a child should have ten hours of sleep.

Most importantly, understand that your child is unique and will learn at his or her own pace. So don't become frustrated if your child fails to master simple skills right away. The best thing you can do to prepare your preschooler for kindergarten is to invest as much time as possible helping him or her learn new skills. The long-term results will be worth your efforts.

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