

DASSEL ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Debbie Morris, Principal

www.dc.k12.mn.us

January, 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Debbie.Morris@dc.k12.mn.us

by Debbie Morris



Happy New Year! I was thinking about the various ways people around the world celebrate the new year. How would I communicate a New Year's greeting? Would I understand their holidays and traditions? Well, one thing I could do is extend

a greeting in their language.

Finnish – Onnellista uutta vuotta

German – Ein glückliches neues Jahr

Chinese – Xin nian yu kuai

Spanish – Feliz año nuevo

Hawaiian – Hauoli Makahiki hou

My attempt might come across very humorously, but hopefully they would appreciate my effort to communicate in their language.

I know in my daily life it is so important to communicate effectively. When I am connecting with students it is very important to make sure that we both understand what is being said and what the intent of my words mean. As with the foreign language greetings from above, if what I am saying is not communicated clearly my intent might be completely misunderstood.

One way I try to engage in a conversation is by practicing 'active listening'. By listening very carefully to what is being said I can make sure that what I said was understood. I also try to send the message that a student has my undivided attention and that what they are saying is very important to me.

Here are some techniques for effective listening I try to use, you might use them too.....

- **Take a break and listen to what is being said.** It is important to make eye contact and kneel down to a child's level. If busy, say, "Let's talk in a few minutes; I am in the middle of something."
- **Ask specific questions to gather information.** Good questions can get a child to talk about all the feelings they may be experiencing, yet can't put into words.
- **Repeat what you heard.** It is often useful to restate what is heard to try to put the feelings of the conversation into words.

I will make one of my New Year's resolutions a goal to become a better communicator. If I can ever help clarify anything or you need to connect with me, please feel free to contact me at 320-286-4100 Ext. 1504.

Right around the corner are some important events. I look forward to seeing and 'communicating' with you at these events and others during 2012.

- Bingo for Books – January 24th – see newsletter insert
- AAA Performances and Showcase – coming in February

Dassel Elementary School
131 William Avenue East
P.O. Box 368
Dassel, MN 55325
Phone: 320-286-4100 Ext. 1500
Fax: 320-286-4151
www.dc.k12.mn.us



BINGO FOR BOOKS!

**AT DASSEL ELEMENTARY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24TH**

An evening of food, fun and games is planned for Tuesday, January 24th, 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 13th. 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 support of media center programs.

Come join the Dassel Elementary staff 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 16th.

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.

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. We have added a few changes this year that will be outlined in your child's packet. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

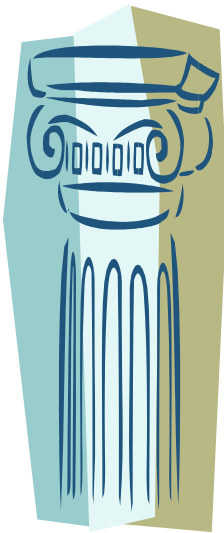


EARLY CLOSING INFORMATION



On days that the weather conditions indicate that an early closing of school could occur, please make sure that your children know what to do in advance. Have you filled out the emergency closing form sent home with your child/children? Have you returned the form to your child's teacher? Can they get into the house if you are at work? Should they wait to be picked up? Should they go to a neighbor's house? These are common questions that need answering when early closings happen.

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 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”.



**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 in February! Lots of family fun coming up!

Another big event for our students is AAA! Please start working with your student as they choose 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. (see article for more details-or call!)

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 our students!

FROM THE CORNER OF THE COOKS...

by Doris Kyllonen, Head Cook



Greetings for 2012. We hope everyone had a fabulous winter break with family and friends. The new year begins with thoughts of eating healthy and taking the time to try new foods, while still enjoying the foods we have had before.

"A Taste for Taters"



Americans love their potatoes so much that the average citizen eats more than 100 pounds of spuds every year, making them the second-most consumed food in the United States, after dairy products. In fact, the potato is such a food staple that it was the first food to be grown in outer space! Astronauts on board the 1995 Columbia space shuttle determined that potato plants could be grown in zero gravity. Take time at school lunch or at home to enjoy the healthy potato, either the white kind or the sweet potato. Get a taste for the 'tater'--enjoy!

We'll talk later.



MEET A NEW STAFF MEMBER



Hello, my name is Laura Erickson and I work as a Special Education paraprofessional one day a week at Dassel Elementary.

I live in Cokato with my husband Hutch and our 4 children. Kerry is

in 9th grade at the DC High School, Alexis is in 7th grade at the DC Middle School, Clinton is in 3rd grade at Cokato Elementary, and Cecilia is in Preschool at the DC Early Childhood Center.

In addition to working here at Dassel, I am also a full time student at Southwest Minnesota State University. I am working on getting my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education and will be completing this in the Fall of 2012!

I am so glad that I have been able to be a part of the Dassel Elementary family and hope to continue to meet many new friends along the way.



UPCOMING ARTS ASSN. EVENTS

The Butch Thompson Jazz Trio
Saturday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m.



Enjoy their exuberant brand of jazz, blues, ragtime, and pop songs, laced with Butch's entertaining commentary.

Location: D-C Performing Arts Center

Tickets: \$15 – Adults, \$5 – Youth, Reserved Seats

Tickets on sale now!

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 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

By Phone: 320-286-4120, with a credit card



FROM THE MEDIA CENTER...

by Carla Halvorson

Using E-Games in Education



School libraries are increasingly incorporating gaming into their curriculum and list of resources and services. Besides addressing the natural interest that students have in games, school librarians recognize the educational benefits of games in terms of information and digital literacies. While board games have been around for years, e-gaming (that is playing video, console, and computer games) is a new trend. When incorporated thoughtfully, e-games can introduce technology through motivating activities, improve problem-solving and collaboration skills, and enhance spatial skills, all of which benefit learners.

On the media center student page of our school website

(http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/teacher_websites/dassel/mediacenter/index_files/Page489.htm) you will find a wide variety of links that will take you to an assortment of learning activities and games. Here are a few you might want to check out:



www.spellingcity.com/

Spelling City is a site where you can enter your spelling list and then practice your spelling words by playing games, taking practice tests, and do many other activities in order to ace your next spelling test! It also has vocabulary activities as well.



www.sheppardsoftware.com/

Sheppard Software has something for almost every subject and age level. They describe themselves in this way, “At our site, we have hundreds

of free, online, educational games for kids. But

anyone interested in online learning can use our site – we have so many subjects – (geography, math, animals, science) and many levels, games and activities for learners of any age.”



www.learninggamesforkids.com/

Learning Games for Kids .com offers games and songs. They are categorized by topic and / or grade level on the left side of the website. This site states that, “Educational games are a great tool for building foundation math and language skills that today’s elementary school curriculum requires. These online learning games and songs for kids are fun, teach important skills for preschool and elementary school kids and they’re free. Want educational games that help build skills in math, language, science, social studies, and more? You’ve come to the right place!”



DAIRY QUEEN NIGHTS



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.

January 4th
Mr. Whittaker’s 4th Grade Classroom

January 18th
Mrs. Allen’s Kindergarten Classroom

Dassel-Cokato

PTA®

everychild.onevoice.®

On Saturday, November 19, approximately 100 students in grades K-6 braved the cold and wind to participate in the first annual D-C Fun Run. This event was sponsored by the D-C PTA and Dassel Snap Fitness to promote health and fitness in the community in conjunction with National PTA's Healthy Lifestyles month.

The event was held at the High School track. Students in grades K-2 ran ½ mile, 3-4 grades ran 1 mile, and 5-6 grades ran 1 ½ miles. Students also had the opportunity to participate in other fitness related activities such as sack races, jump rope, hula hoops, and more. Each participant received a "D-C Fun Run Finisher" shirt and healthy snacks. Trophies were awarded to the top three finishers in each age group. All participants were also entered into a drawing for prizes including IPOD's, Scheel's gift cards, and Overtime Ink gift certificates. Thanks to all who participated. Next year we will definitely target an earlier date!!!



At the PTA's December membership meeting, Bernie Reinke, Food Service Director for Hutchinson, Litchfield, and Dassel-Cokato school districts, presented information on the process of purchasing our students' meals and the guidelines that are followed. Brian Franklin, Middle School Principal, also presented information regarding middle school lunch procedures. Notes from the meeting can be found on the PTA website, www.chargerpta.com.

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.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Register online at www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed or call Community Ed. At 320-286-4120.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITES

BASKETBALL (Gr. K-4)



All boys and girls in K-4 are encouraged 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 to perform during the half-time of a home varsity basketball game. Fourth graders will work on fundamentals and will play one game against another team. New participants will receive a basketball at the first practice. Returning ball players, remember to bring your DCYBA ball to every 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.

Activity #5132 – Grade 4 at 11:00 am-12:00 p.m.

6 Saturdays, January 7 – February 11

Jan. 7 – 21 at HS East Gym, PAC Door

Jan. 28 – Feb. 11 at Dassel El. Large Gym, Door C

Fee: \$40



JANUARY JAMBOREE (Gr. 2-5)

Brittany Bayuk, Instructor

Boys and girls, get off the couch and into the gym this January! Have fun while getting some good exercise. Participants will play a variety of sports and games in a positive environment. Emphasis will be on having fun, good sportsmanship and fitness.

Activity #5059

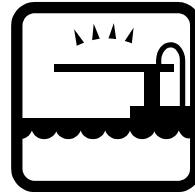
4 Tuesdays, January 10.-31

5:15 – 6:00 p.m. in Dassel Elem. Gyms, Door A

Early Bird Fee: \$18; Fee after January 3: \$23



FRIDAY NIGHT OUT (Gr. 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 #3008A

Friday, January 13 at 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Activity #3008B

Friday, February 10 at 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Drop off and pick up location: MS Commons, Door I

Fee: \$9 per session – Pre-registration is required.

Registration Deadlines: 1 week prior to each event.



ADULT OPPORTUNITES

SUCK & TUCK INTRO

Dr. Jennifer Butturff



Flatten your belly with these quick exercises while strengthening your back and core! See results in just two weeks! Exercises can all be completed at home and following this class you will be an

expert on how to tighten your tummy. Exercises will be specific for your level of strength and your body type. All exercises are fun to do yet safe for your back. Bring a bath or beach towel to class and an exercise ball if you have one. Some balls will be available for use.

Activity #7729

Monday, January 30

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in MS Gym, Door I

Fee: \$10

BEGINNING YOGA

Irene Genelin



These classes are designed with the beginner in mind. Come and learn about the basic philosophy of yoga. We will learn key asanas (postures) and move into them using our breath, which is an extremely

powerful tool that is too often ignored. Yoga helps you learn to be present, while also offering stress reduction, more flexibility, and strength. Class size is limited so that the instructor may work one-on-one with each student to address their specific needs. Please bring a yoga mat (if you have one; some are available in class,) a blanket or towel, and wear comfortable clothing.

Activity #7721

5 Mondays, January 9 – February 13 (No class on January 16)

4:30-5:30 p.m. in Centennial Room, Cokato Library

Fee: \$42

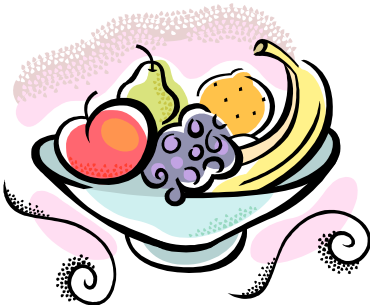


THE DRYER KEEPS SHRINKING MY PANTS

Dr. Jennifer Butturff

Are you sick of diets, resolutions, and the poor quality of your shrinking pants? This class will teach you how to eat to live, not live to eat. The instructor will cover why we

eat and what we should eat according to how our bodies function, energy needs and blood type. No diets, just better choices that will make you thinner so those shrunken pants will fit!



Activity #7733

Monday, January 9

7:00-8:30 p.m. in HS Team Planning Room, Door C

Fee: \$10



RECYCLED SWEATER MITTENS

Rita Streich



Make a pair of warm stylish mittens from used sweaters! This is a great way to recycle your favorite sweater and make a fun and practical gift. Mittens can be made lined or unlined. Best if sweaters

contain 60% wool if you want a felted look. Pre-wash and dry sweaters and lining fabric in hot water and dryer to pre-shrink.

Bring used sweaters, coordinating thread, poly-fleece lining material, if you choose to line the mittens, sewing machine, pins and scissors. Mittens can be hand-sewn if preferred. The instructor will provide the pattern and ideas to coordinate and embellish your sweater mittens. View samples in the Community Education office.

Activity #2546

Tuesday, January 17

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in MS FACS Room #C-20, Door J

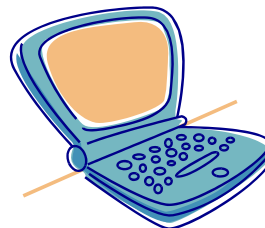
Fee: \$15

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, January 10



INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (Ages 16-Adult)

Teresa Harmala



Come get your feet wet in the art of computer programming. Whether you are interested in learning from a hobby or a possible career, the instructor will cover some basics to help you get started. Participants will learn about using variables, functions, and libraries as well as how to create and debug a simple application.

Activity #4517

6 Tuesdays, January 31-March 6

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in HS Media Center, Door H




Fee: \$70



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

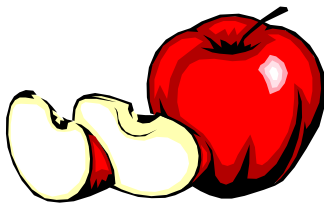
2012		JANUARY					2012
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
1	 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	 Classes Resume	Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M. Mr. Whittaker's 4 th Grade Classroom	 AAA Kick-Off Grades 3 & 4	 AAA Kick-Off Grades 1 & 2	7	
8	9	 10	 11 Climb Theater "Hugger Tree" 1:40-2:20	12	13 AAA Camp at Care Group	14	
15	NO SCHOOL  Teacher Planning/Staff Development No STARS	17	AAA Contract Due  Dairy Queen Night 5:00-8:00 P.M. Mrs. Allen's Kindergarten Classroom	19	 20	 21 The Butch Thompson Jazz Trio PAC Bldg. 7:30 p.m.	
 22	23	 24 Bingo for Books Night Small Gym 5:00-7:00	25	26 	27	28	
29	 STARS ski trip at Powder Ridge in Kimball 3:00-7:30	31					

JANUARY BREAKFAST MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 	3 Mini Pancakes / Syrup Smokies Fresh Fruit	4 Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fruit Sauce	5 Cinnamon Roll Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit	6 Cereal Muffin Fruit Sauce
9 Breakfast Pizza Fresh Fruit	10 Cereal Grahamy Bear Fruit Sauce	11 Waffle Sticks Smokies Fresh Fruit	12 Breakfast Bites Fruit Sauce	13 Cereal Trix Yogurt Fresh Fruit
16  NO SCHOOL Staff Dev. Day	17 Breakfast Omelet Wheat Toast Fresh Fruit	18 Cereal Toast with sugar & cinnamon Fresh Fruit	19 Breakfast on a Stick Fresh Fruit	20 Cereal Muffin Fruit Sauce
23 Apple Strudel Bar Cheese Stick Fresh fruit	24 Cereal Toast with sugar & Cinnamon Fruit Sauce	25 French Toast Sticks with syrup Smokies Fresh fruit	26 Cereal Trix Cereal Bar Fruit Sauce	27 Frudel Bar Trix Yogurt Fresh Fruit
30 Cereal Trix Cereal Bar Fruit Sauce	31 Mini Pancakes Syrup Smokies Fresh Fruit			

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 \$ 1.60 = \$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!

JANUARY LUNCH MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2  WINTER BREAK	3 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Carrots Dinner Roll Apples	4 Taco with fixings Refried Beans Black Bean Salsa & Chips Pineapple Chunks Wheat Bread	5 Salad with Popcorn Chicken Broccoli Peaches Breadstick	6 Hamburger on a Bun Potato Choice Baked Beans Fruit Choice
9 French Toast Sticks with Syrup Smokies Tri Tator Applesauce Fruit Juice	10 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Lettuce Salad French Bread Fruit Choice	11 Mini Corn Dogs Oven Fries Broccoli & Cheese Apples Bread Choice	12 Chicken Fajitas Rice Pilaf Seasoned Peas Peaches	13 Grilled Cheese or Tuna Sandwich Tomato Soup Crackers Fresh Veggies / Dip Pears
16  NO SCHOOL Staff Dev. Day	17 Pepperoni Pizza Seasoned Corn Applesauce	18 Turkey Wrap Potato Rounds Fresh Veggies Fruit Choice	19 Baked Chicken Drumsticks Mashed Potatoes Gravy Mixed Vegetables Pears Cookie	20 BBQ Pork on a Bun Roasted Potatoes Veg. Choice Fresh Fruit
23 Hot Dog/Bun Pasta Salad Baked Beans Peaches	24 Hot Ham & Cheese Batter Bites Fresh Veggie / Dip Fresh Fruit	25 Chicken Chow Mein with Rice/Noodles Coleslaw Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookie	26 Cheesy Bread with Sauce Green beans Pears	27 <i>Bag Lunch</i> Sub Sandwich with Fixings Carrot Paks Sunchips Apples
30 Pizza Choice Green Beans Bread Choice Pears	31 Country Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Carrots Dinner Roll Apples			
<p>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.</p>				

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



D-C Early Childhood Play 'N' Learn Preschool School Readiness

It is not too late to enroll in preschool for this school year!

Dassel-Cokato Early Childhood Center's
Play 'N' Learn Preschool has preschool
openings for children ages 3.5 to 5.
(ages as of November 1, 2011)

Sec.	Days	Time	Ages
A	Monday	12:30 – 3:00 p.m.	3.5 – 5
C	Tuesday / Thursday	12:30 – 3:00 p.m.	4 – 5
D	Wednesday	9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	3.5 – 5
E	Wednesday / Friday	12:30 – 3:00 p.m.	4 - 5

For more information call the
Early Childhood office at 286-4120
or log onto www.dc.k12.mn.us/ecfe