

Dassel-Cokato Middle School

May 2009 Newsletter

(320) 286-4100 Ext. 1600

Www.dc.k12.mn.us./mschool

PO Box 1500, Cokato, MN 55321

From the Principal's Desk:

We are just about finished teaching our students everything they could possibly learn in one year! (At least, that was our intention!) Now they are in need of some well-deserved summer recreation with friends and families. I hope they encounter many fun, exciting and safe adventures while they are away from school. We always enjoy hearing their stories and seeing how they have grown when they return to us in the Fall.

Summer School

Summer school is undergoing an exciting change this year! Instead of our usual 6 week schedule of classes, we will now finish before July 4, so that families can have the entire remainder of the summer together following that holiday. Classes will be held Monday through Friday from 8:00 -12:30 starting June 8 and ending July 1.

Summer school is designed for any students who could benefit from additional instruction and for students who have failed a course throughout the school year. Classes for students in grade 5- 6 are taught in multi-grade clusters and focus on math and reading skills. Classes for 7th

grade students include remediation in all classes where students may have struggled during the school year. 8th grade students meet in the high school for classes that focus on developing skills necessary for high school success.

If your child has failed a class this year and needs to complete summer school in order to advance to the next grade, you will receive a letter from us. If you would simply like to enroll your child in summer school to take advantage of the additional instruction, we will have enrollment forms available in the middle school office in early May. If you have any questions regarding summer school please contact me at 286-4100 ext. 1604.

3rd Trimester Incentive Activities

At the end of the year our students are given an opportunity to participate in various activities designed to reward positive academic performance and good behavior they have maintained during the third trimester. This year 5th grade students will, again, go to the Becker Community Center, 6th grade will go to the Monticello Community Center, and grades 7 and 8 will go

to Valley Fair. Students who have earned a failing grade or who have failed to qualify for the reward trip because they don't meet the behavior criteria will be expected to attend school on the day of the reward trip just as they would on any other day. They will spend the day trying to improve their grades and helping staff at school. Students who do not qualify for this activity will receive a notification letter from our office.

Immunizations

Our school health office has already started sending out notices reminding parents of the need to have student immunizations brought up to date before the school year begins next fall. **This is especially important for students entering 7th grade, since state law forbids school attendance in that grade without current immunization records.** Unfortunately, I have been placed in the unpleasant position of sending students home on the first day of school because their updated immunization records had not been delivered to our office. Please make certain that your child has current records on file before the start of the school year.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Up Coming Events

- 5-1 5th Health Fair
8th Reading/Math make-up
- 5-5 5th MCA Science
- 5-6 8th MCA Science
- 5-7 5th or 8th Science Make-up
- 5-14 Mentor/Mentee Breakfast
- 5-15 4th Grade Visits the MS
- 5-19 5th & 6th Band & Choir
5th: 7:00 pm
6th: 8:00 pm
- 5-26 7th & 8th Band & Choir
7th: 7:00 pm
8th: 8:00 pm
- 5-29 Awards Ceremony &
RC Celebration
- 6-3 Last Day of School

Student of the Month March 2009

5th Grade

Blake
Aina
Jacob
Taylor

6th Grade

Shannon
Isaac
Jose
Brooke

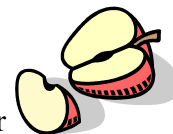
7th Grade

Kyler
Katie
Whitney
Michael

8th Grade

Leah
Michaela
Nathan
Brandon

From the Middle School Kitchen:



The end of another school year is fast approaching here at Dassel-Cokato Middle School. Thank you for a great year.

Are you tired of making those bag lunches for your child's field trip? We would like to help you by making them for you. If you let us know a day ahead of time, we can have a bag lunch ready for your student. We offer ham and cheese sandwiches, baked chips, apple, juice and a treat. It is offered at the same price as a hot lunch.

Remember, breakfast is a very important way to start your day, especially with all the testing that is going on at this time of year. Free and reduced participants always get a free breakfast.

Thank you for supporting our school breakfast and lunch programs. We are here to make sure you get a well balanced meal each day.

Music Notes



The final concerts of the year are coming up quickly! It has been a busy year in the music department preparing for concerts and working on various units in each grade level. Our final performance of the year is the last opportunity our students have to present what they have learned to an audience. Please put these dates in your calendar to remind students of their concert date! We ask that students arrive at the school at least 15 minutes prior to concert time to prepare to perform. Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you there!

Concert Dates:

- 5th Concert-May 19th, 7:00 pm
6th Concert-May 19th, 8:00 pm
7th Concert-May 26th, 7:00 pm
8th Concert-May 26th, 8:00 pm

6th Grade News

Social Studies:

Now that our study of Minnesota History is complete, sixth graders will be learning about our neighbors to the north and south. Throughout April and May, students will be examining the geography and cultures of Latin America and Canada. Students will partake in a Canada travel activity and a Latin America country study.

6th Grade Science and Health

Science - 6th grade science students will end the year by completing a unit on Simple Machines. Students will use motorized Lego sets to practice problem solving and mechanical skills.

Health – The last health unit is “Family and Responsibility”. Students will learn that responsibility and self-discipline are important parts of growing up. They will also learn that communication, cooperation, and compromise are essential to a family’s success.



To the world you might
be one person,
But to one person you
Might be the world.
Unknown



On Wednesday, May 13, at 11:20, Mrs. Margot DeWilde will address the 8th grade class. She was born in Berlin, Germany, July 18, 1921. Her family immigrated to Holland as Hitler’s anti-Jewish laws became more and more restrictive and Jewish life became more dangerous.

The formal study of our Holocaust Unit ended, but Mrs. DeWilde was ill and unable to come. But, she just recently called and said she is happy to come now. Her engagement calendar is filling up, again.

Margot will share much of her story from Amsterdam to Auschwitz to the Winter March with students. Recently, a biography of her life was released and will be available on Wednesday, also. Margot 47574 is a collaborative effort of mother-daughter team Sharma L. Wolff and Carol L. Miller, Ph.D.

If students would like to order a copy of the book autographed by Margot, they should contact their communications teacher. The cost of the book is \$15.00. The book includes photos and documents that survived the War and the Holocaust. An added feature included in the book are notes sent to Margot by students who have listened to her story. This really adds a personal touch to a well-written biography.

The presentation will be held in the double classrooms B-11 and B-18. Parents are welcome, but we have no accommodations for small children.

On April 3, 8th graders made their annual trip to the Science Museum of Minnesota. There was a special exhibit Water this year which was a great tie-in to our interdisciplinary unit. Students viewed *Mysteries of the Great Lakes*, an Omnitheater film which revealed the plight of the lake sturgeon and the scientists efforts to save them. Students also enjoyed the special *Goose Bumps* exhibit, the Science of Fear.

We were awarded a Target Field Trip Grant of \$800 to cover transportation costs. Thank you Target!



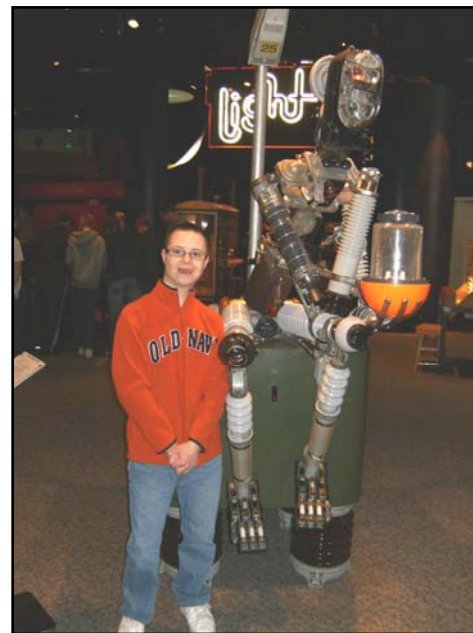
Alexis , McKenzie and Julia discover how gear ratios make activities like bicycling easier.



Travis Devon and Trevor adjusting the amplitude of the waves



Anna Aspen and Brittany enjoy this hair-raising experience.



Dylan makes a new robotic friend at the Science Museum.

News From the Media Center

Media Center Book Due Dates

To encourage reading, we have two due dates that allow us to keep books available to students as long as possible:

8:10– Monday, May 18th: All but one book is due. After May 18th students may check out one book at a time. This way students can still read while media center staff start to inventory and process the collection.

8:10-Tuesday, May 26th: Final book due All books are due back in the collection in order for staff to complete the inventory.

With increasing costs of books, it is very important that books are returned to libraries. If you find any books with barcodes and spine labels, please return them to the Middle School Media Center. Our staff will gladly make arrangements to return them to the proper school or public library.

Annual Book Exchange: May 28th

The Media Center will host its annual Book Exchange on Thursday, May 28th. The purpose of this exchange is to provide students the opportunity to swap books with each other. Students are asked to bring their donated books to their reading teachers during the week of May 18th. To ensure a fair and

quality exchange, please only donate books that meet the following criteria:

- Books must be of Middle School interest (no elementary or adult level books or magazines)
- Books must be in good condition

Students can donate as many books as they want to the exchange; they will get one coupon for each book they donate to the exchange. Each coupon is then good for purchasing one book during the exchange. This is a fun event where many students swap hundreds of books and discover great summer reading material.

Media Center Summer Schedule

The Dassel-Cokato Middle School Media Center will be open from 8:00-12:00 a.m. on the following **Tuesday mornings** this summer for students to checkout books:

June 9, 16, 23, 30

There is no cost for students to participate in this opportunity.

Note: Students must have been in 5th, 6th, or 7th grade during the 2008-2009 school year.

Reading Counts Book Bingo Contest Winners

Every year the media center sponsors monthly contests to encourage

students to read and participate in our Reading Counts program. The February contest was "Book Bingo." Students were given the opportunity to read books of various genres to complete a bingo. We wish to congratulate the following students who were drawn as the Book Bingo card winners. These students were awarded a certificate and a \$10 cash prize.

5th Grade: Ross Aho

6th Grade: Audrey Aspen

7th Grade: Paul Levinski

8th Grade: Jessica Arteaga

Reading Counts Draw A Date Contest Winners

Every year the media center sponsors monthly contests to encourage students to read and participate in our Reading Counts program. The March contest was "Draw A Date"; March 16th was randomly selected. We wish to congratulate the following students who earned the most points in their grade on that date. These students were awarded a certificate and a \$10 cash prize.

5th Grade: Tavis
(38 pnts)

6th Grade: Troy
(57 pnts)

7th Grade: Lauren
(73 pnts)

8th Grade: Kristine
(89 pnts)

DCMS Presented with Target Donations

Our school recently received a \$632.56 donation from Target's "Take Charge of Education" program. When parents, teachers and other school supporters use their Target card, Target donates up to 1% of the purchases to the designated K-12 school. This money is used to support our Reading Counts program. We appreciate the support of Target cardholders and the Target company. If you have a Target card, we encourage you to contact Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school as the recipient of their donation.

DCMS Collects Record Number of BoxTops

This year students collected \$1,174.20 in boxtop labels this school year. Our previous record was \$805. The General Mills BoxTop funds are used to support the school's Reading Counts program. We appreciate the support of students, families and community members in collecting BoxTops and sending them to our school.

Recycle Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones to Raise Funds for Our School

For every cell phone and printer cartridge the school collects, our school earns cash. The environment also benefits because these items are recycled. So far this year, students have collected \$696 in recycled items. These funds are used to support our Reading Counts program. We welcome empty cartridges and old cell phones from homes and businesses.



Faculty Follies is back!

The staff of Dassel-Cokato Schools is once again presenting Faculty Follies, a variety show to raise money for local student scholarships.

The show will feature music, comedy, skits and a variety of other performances all set around the theme "D-C's Got Talent!" In a spin-off of the TV variety show format, teachers, staff members, administrators and school board members will all be showing their stuff on stage.

The show will be held at the Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at any of the school offices, the school activities office, Peterson Pharmacy in Dassel and the Marketplace in Cokato. All seats are general admission. Tickets will also be available at the door.

All Money raised by the production will go toward the Dassel-Cokato Dollars For Scholars student scholarship fund.

Come out and enjoy a night of entertainment and support a good cause. We hope to see you there.

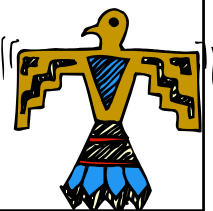
Ancient Indian Artifacts from Dassel area to be featured in exhibit at Universal Laboratories—opens Mar 22

A new exhibit, *What's in Your Backyard?: A Collection of Ancient Indian Artifacts from the Dassel Area* opens March 22. The exhibit will be on the fourth level of Universal Laboratories, 901 First Street, Dassel for several months.

The exhibit deals with research that Bob Munter, with the help of Arnie Ruotsinouja, has conducted, documenting 25 Native American sites in the Dassel area, which includes hundreds of Indian artifacts. Twenty-two of the sites were assigned a Smithsonian number by the Office of the State Archeologist. This is significant research since the state of Minnesota had only six recorded Indian sites in Meeker County.

The exhibit will focus on three of the sites that have the earliest artifacts dating back to the Paleo-Indian era, 10,000-1000 BCE (BC). Artifacts from these three sites, as well as four artifacts which have been donated to the Society, will be displayed.

Information about these sites, the artifacts, and the Indians who hunted in this area during those early days will be presented in the Exhibit. Also you will learn what to do if you discover an Indian artifact in your backyard. There is no admission charge.



Community Education Opportunities:

Tae Kwon Do

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

Youth Beginner (Ages 6-14)

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, each month

5:20-6:20 pm

Northwest Martial Arts Studio, Cokato

Fee: \$60/month

Activity #5616 (please specify which month)

Youth Advanced (Ages 14 and up)

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, each month

7:40-8:40 pm

Northwest Martial Arts Studio, Cokato

Fee: \$60/month

Activity #5617 (please specify which month)

Red Cross Babysitting (Ages 11+)

Boys and girls can get the inside scoop on how to improve your babysitting services. Young people caring for young children need to be well trained. Learn about babysitting responsibilities, basic child development, accident prevention, emergency actions, basic care of children, and practice in problem solving. Infant and junior rescue breathing will be taught as well as junior first aid skills. Fee includes American Red Cross Babysitter's Handbook. Bring a bag lunch.

Saturday, May 2

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

HS Team Planning Room, Door C

Fee: #47

#7100B

Upcoming Dassel-Cokato Arts Association Event:

Shane & Shane Concert
with special guest Matt Maher

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

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

Information and Ticket Purchases: D-C Community Education, 286-4120

Website: www.dc.k12.mn.us/artscenter

AUDITIONS for "Little Me"

Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre
Summer Musical

Saturdays, May 23 OR 30
6:30 PM

Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center

Bring a vocal-range song and summer conflict schedule. Individuals who auditioned in November are asked to return for call-back auditions. If unable to attend either date, or if you have any questions, contact Director David Metcalf at 320-286-5630 or Colleen Compton 320-286-4120. Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre is co-sponsored by Dassel-Cokato Community Education and the Dassel-Cokato Arts Association.

A Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre production
"Little Me"

Directed by Dave Metcalf

Friday, July 10 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 11 • 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 18 • 7:30 pm

Sunday, July 19 • 2:00 pm

Reserved Seat Tickets: Adults - \$15, Youth - \$10

D-C Performing Arts Center

Member ticket sales: June 11 & 12

Public ticket sales begin: June 15

"Little Me" is a fast-paced musical comedy written by Neil Simon. The 1998 Broadway revival of this play was memorable with Martin Short in multiple roles with multiple stage accents, playing all of the heroine's husbands and lovers. Community musicians will provide orchestration for this production including musical numbers such as "Real Live Girl."

PTA

The mission of the Dassel-Cokato PTA is to foster communication between schools and families as well as supporting children in their work of learning. The Dassel-Cokato PTA hopes to create a collaborative effort with the schools, community, and parents/guardians to ensure a quality, well-rounded education for the children in the D-C area.

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

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

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

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
Summer 2009**

Pool Parties!

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

**Location: Community
Ed Center at the HS/MS
Complex**
**Hours: Monday-Friday
6:00 am—6:00 pm**

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

Daily activities could include:

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

Summerland!

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

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

Cosmic Bowling!

To register or get more information:

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