



# Dassel-Cokato Middle School Newsletter February 2009

Wwww.dc.k12.mn.us/mschool

(320) 286-4100 Ext. 1600

PO Box 1500, Cokato, MN 55321

## From the Principal's Desk:

At this point we are slightly more than half way through the school year. I hope, by now, you have a clear picture of your child's complete experience at school including academic achievement, social interaction and over-all behavior. Our use of conferences, Parent Portal, email, phone calls, and report cards is all part of our plan to communicate frequently and accurately with you. I sometimes wonder, however, if we solicit enough feedback from you, so that we also have a clear picture of how you think we are doing, whether we are teaching your child in a way you appreciate, if you like or dislike our policies, or if there are changes in our procedures you would like to suggest. While we conduct periodic surveys of parent satisfaction, I also encourage you to provide us with feedback whenever you feel inclined to express your approval or dissatisfaction. An opportunity to communicate will take place in the middle school media center at 7:00 on Monday, Feb 23 when we have our second trimester Evening with the Principal. While we will have time for a general exchange of information, at this particular meeting we will be discussing the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) assessment tool we implemented this year and demonstrating our use of SMART board technology. Please join me, if you have the time and inclination to attend.

## Activity Day

On February 20 we will hold our annual activity day. This is a full day when students can take part in a wide variety of fun and exciting activities that provide an incentive for students to behave well and earn good grades during the second trimester. While there are requirements for participation, they do not preclude any students from some level of involvement. You will soon receive a booklet describing each session being offered on that day. Please look

through the booklet with your child and help him or her choose sessions that you support. Because of limitations related to certain activities, students will need to select back-up choices as explained in the booklet.

Because we are sensitive to current economic conditions, we have made a deliberate attempt to provide a number of activities that involve either no or minimal cost. If a minimal cost activity still poses an economic challenge for your child's participation, please contact Sandy Jones, our school social worker for scholarship assistance.

Students' opportunities during activity day will be based upon the following guidelines:

### Academic

Students who are earning an "F" in any class on February 11 will be required to work for the first half of the day in a study hall. They may participate in afternoon on-campus activities.

### Behavioral

Students who earn 3 infractions or one office referral during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester will, at the discretion of the principal or dean of students, only be allowed to participate in on-campus activities.

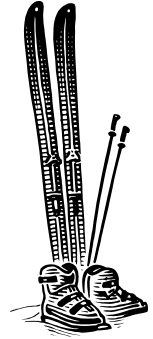
### School Policy

Students who violate any major school policy, as listed in the student handbook, will only be allowed to participate in on-campus activities.

We hope that our students enjoy this break from our daily routine and feel rewarded for their academic and behavioral efforts.

Upcoming Events

- 1-30 6th Grade Spelling Bee/1:30-3:00
- 2-5 Middle School Spelling Bee PAC/1:00-3:00
- 2-5 Mentor/Mentee Breakfast
- 2-10 Math Counts in St. Cloud
- 2-12 Mentor/Mentee Field Trip Powder Ridge/10:00-3:00
- 2-16 No School/President's Day
- 2-19 7th/8th Band & Choir Concert
  - 7th/7:00
  - 8th/8:00
- 2-20 Activity Day
- 2-24 5th/6th band & Choir Concert
  - 5th/7:00
  - 6th/8:00



**Student of the Month  
December 2008**

5th Grade

Kelseigh  
Dustin  
Jacob  
Caitlin

7th Grade

Kailee  
James  
Jessalyn  
Robert

6th Grade

Sam  
Katie  
Rebecca  
Josh

8th Grade

Kenny  
Elizabeth  
Darrin  
Charstyn



## 6th Grade News



### Science

The sixth graders will be working on an animal research reports during the month of February. The goals sixth graders are expected to accomplish during this report are: correctly practice the research process, use the resources available in the media center to find quality factual information, and learn more about wild animals native to Minnesota. Listed below is a schedule that will be followed while going through the research process. Please note due dates for specific items. We encourage you to ask your student how he/she is progressing on the report. Most of the work will be done at school; however, your student may need to finish some parts of the report at home. Thanks in advance for your help. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher.

February 2-13	Intro. to report/computer resources, note taking.
February 17	Notes due. Begin organizing/number notes.
February 19	Organized notes due. Begin topic sentences.
February 20	Topic sentences due. Begin rough draft.
February 23-24	Write rough draft
February 25	Rough draft due. Peer edit report in class. Have adult edit at home.
February 25-26	Write final draft.
February 26	Completed report due



### Math

We just concluded unit 5. In unit 5 we computed fractions. These multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction computation skills are essential for problem solving and for future success in algebra.

Our next unit is called *Data About Us*. This is a supplemental unit from our CMP series. This unit teaches students how to organize, display, analyze, and interpret data. They will learn to create line plots, bar graphs, stem-and-leaf plots, coordinate grids and to recognize and interpret patterns shown in these displays. Along with making the different types of graphs they will learn how to compute the mode, median, mean, and range of a data set and to use these statistics to describe data and make predictions.



As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this unit, please feel free to contact us. All of us here are interested in your child and want to be sure that this year's mathematics experiences are enjoyable and promote a firm understanding of mathematics.



### Media Center News

### Reading Counts Winners

8th Grade: Wahala Period 1	2202 pts.
7th Grade: Kittock Period 4	1499 pts.
6th Grade: Erickson	1782 pts.
5th Grade: Veith	1250 pts.



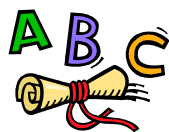
## Spelling Bee

The District Spelling Bee for DC Middle School will be held on Thursday, February 5th at 1 pm. The public is invited to attend.

The National Spelling Bee was launched by the Louisville, Kentucky, Courier-Journal in 1925. With competitions, cash prizes and a trip to the nation's capital, it was hoped the Bee would stimulate "general interest among pupils in a dull subject." The Scripps Howard News Service took over the Bee in 1941. Typically, the final day of the two-day National Bee has been shown on ESPN for thirteen years. In 2006, the preliminary rounds of that day were on ESPN, but the final rounds were aired on ABC in prime time, reflecting the increased popularity of the competition. Last year, Evan O'Dorney, an 8th grader from California took home more than \$42,000 in cash and prizes for correctly spelling serrefine.

Families can easily practice together for the spelling bee. It is a great work out for all family members to use their brain power. While studying weekly spelling words, have your child spell the words out loud, spell words while driving in the car, watch the movie Akeelah and the Bee with the family. When kids practice out loud at home, it makes it easier to spell in the classroom in front of other students.

Each grade level will have six students participating in the bee. Ask your child what their grade level is doing to get prepared. Two students from DC will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee in St. Cloud on March 2nd.



## Charger Kids Club Before & After School Childcare 2008-2009

**Charger Kids Club** is a school age child care and enrichment program located at Cokato Elementary, 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 recreations 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 - 6:00pm

**Contact Information:** To register or get more information contact: Site Supervisor Jennifer Todnem at 320-286-1400 ext. 1334 or [jennifer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.todnem@dc.k12.mn.us)

### Upcoming Non-school Days:

Feb. 16th

March 6th

March 13th/Elementary Only

March 22-27

Hours: 6 am - 6 pm

Fee: \$25 First child \$24 Second child





## PTA Corner

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.



Our January meeting was a very informative meeting with Deb Griffiths as our presenter. Deb is the Director of Communications and Community Outreach and has been a parent advocate and chair of Centennial's Legislation Action Committee for over 5 years. She talked about our schools being underinvested by the state and showed us how our schools are not all funded equally. She also talked about the importance of us letting our legislators hear from us, either in person, by phone call or by email. Our voice does make a difference! If you would like more information, please go to the Schools for Equity in Education web site at . It is a great, informational site.

**Our next meeting is THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the high school media center.** Becky Litzau, music teacher, will be giving a demonstration of the Smart Boards and how it is utilized to teach music. There will also be information presented about the state's PTA advocacy platform and an update on the school's health and wellness efforts, facilities update and school board update.



The PTA regularly meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the high school media center. The March meeting will be Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Run for Reading** - Watch for information about an upcoming fun gym and read night hosted by the PTA for all K-6 students. A flyer will be sent home with more information closer to the date. It promises to be a fun night with healthy activities, stories, and a book exchange!

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