

Dassel-Cokato Middle School

November 2008 Newsletter

Www.dc.k12.mn.us/mschool

(320) 286-4100 Ext. 1600

PO Box 1500, Cokato, MN 55321

From the Principal's Desk:



Thank you to all of you who were able to attend parent conferences in October. If you were not able to speak with a particular teacher, please remember that you can always call the school and request a conference with any of our staff members. Conference nights are simply our attempt to meet with a large number of parents at one time. I hope that you were able to use the information received at conferences to discuss with your child academic performance, goals for improvement, and strategies for achieving those goals.

6, and from 7:30- 9:30 for students in grades 7 & 8. Activities available will include a variety of inflatable games, sports activities, dodge ball, ping pong and foosball. You will receive a letter with more detailed information closer to the date of the event. If you have questions or would like to volunteer a little chaperone time, please contact Mr. Franklin at 286-4100, ext 1608, or brian.franklin@dc.k12.mn.us.

We hold high expectations for student behavior and academic effort, and greatly appreciate your support in these areas. If a student does not meet the criteria for participation in an incentive activity because of academic or behavior issues (as listed in the student handbook), he or she will be notified, in advance. Please encourage your children to continue to work hard to earn this privilege!



Veterans' Day Program

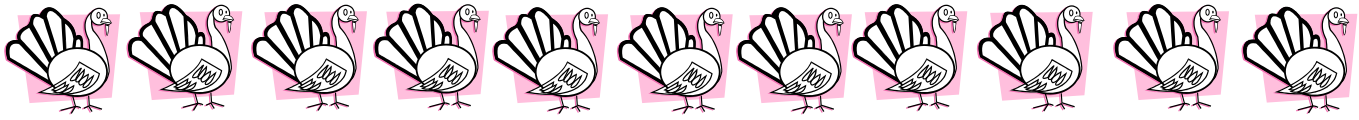
On November 11 we will present our Veteran's Day program to both honor our veterans and reinforce our students' understanding of the value of service to one's country. Students in grades 5-12 will attend and participate in the ceremonies. We invite all veterans to attend (in uniform, if desired) and sit in the front section of chairs. All community members are also welcome to attend this event. Visitors should enter through the east entrance by the auditorium any time after 1:30. Again, this year our program will include a variety of patriotic music, inspirational speakers, and participation by our local American Legion.

Congresswoman Bachmann's Visit

On October 15, Representative Michele Bachmann visited the middle school to meet and congratulate the five teachers who were recipients of a substantial Hewlett Packard grant. Melissa Rudebusch, Sue Sparboe, Catherine Young, Susan Pospichal, and Jacob Stang all met with the congresswoman and explained the concept of their water quality project. Rep. Bachmann then visited Jessica Luebker's 7th grade American history class where she presented the school with a book and taught a brief civics lesson to the students. Rep. Bachmann was very impressed with both the knowledge and courtesy displayed by our students!

Incentive Activities

Each year we provide incentive activities that are designed to be a fun reward for students who have performed well throughout a particular trimester. Our first trimester activity will take place Tuesday, Nov 25 from 5:00-7:00 for students in grades 5 &



Upcoming Events:



- 11/3 Evening with the Principal, 7:00, media center**
- 11/6 FLY Mentorship Breakfast**
- 11/11 Veteran's Day Program 2:00, open to the public**
- 11/24 7th and 8th Grade Choir Concerts, 7:00 & 8:0**
- 11/25 End of 1st Trimester**
- 11/26 Staff Development Day,**
- 11/27 & 28 Thanksgiving Vacation**

the weather in case there are circumstances where your child needs the warm clothing. I am sometimes amazed at the number of students who come off the busses in the morning wearing only a short sleeved shirt or light sweatshirt during some of the coldest days of winter. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 320-286-4100, Ext. 1608, or by emailing me at Brian.Franklin@dc.k12.mn.us.

Mr. Franklin, Dean of Students

6th Grade News



From the Dean's Desk

It is hard to believe that we are already in late October of this year. We have had a wonderful fall here at the Dassel-Cokato Middle School with some great weather and we look forward to continuing with great things. Because we live in Minnesota, the cold weather and winter season are just around the corner and it is my intention to remind parents and students to prepare for the cold weather season.

Please make sure children dress appropriately for being outside at bus stops and out at recess during this coming winter by sending them with warm coats, hats, and gloves or mittens. Waiting for the bus may take only minutes, but those minutes go by so slow when you are cold.

During recess, if the temperature is above 10 degrees Fahrenheit, we will attempt to go outside for recess. If the wind chill is above 0 degrees Fahrenheit, we will also attempt to go outside. Again, these temperatures are guidelines we will be using for determining if recess will be outside. If however the weather does not permit us to go outside because of snow or other extreme conditions, we will also make that decision.

Parents, take time to check to make sure your child leaves the house with clothing appropriate for

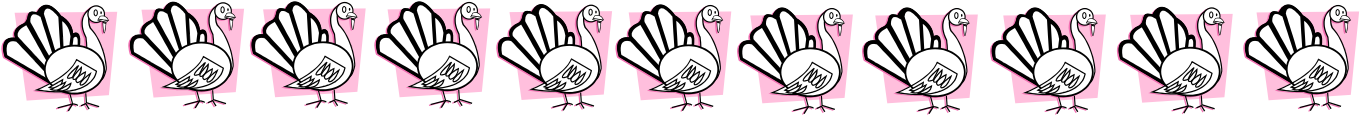
Science – Students will be learning about simple organisms found in the fungi, protist, and moneran kingdoms. They will be observing some of these organisms under microscopes. The final project for this unit will be creating a collage explaining how simple organisms are helpful and harmful.



Health – We are continuing with the “Growth and Development” chapter. On November 7, we will discuss the maturation process with the girls and boys in separate classes.

Social Studies

The students had a successful trip to Fort Snelling on October 15th. In the weeks ahead we will be studying the effects of the fur trade and the tie in with Indian treaties that were signed by the Ojibwa and Dakota people. We will also be looking at territorial days leading to statehood and the establishment of state government. This will lead us into discussions about the upcoming historic Presidential election in November. A modern map project will be completed in November which is part of the Minnesota booklet project the students are continually working on.



7th Grade News

Field Trip

Written by Gabriella and Kristina

On September 26th the 7th graders went on a field trip to Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. It was a beautiful day! Some of the activities we experienced were the Flying Squirrel, Jacob's Ladder, and the rock climbing walls.

When groups came to the flying squirrel, they had to wear a helmet and a harness. The belayers held on to a rope that pulled the harnessed person up into the air up to 40 feet high before coming back down. It was a lot of fun!

Another activity was Jacob's ladder. When you went on this activity you also had to wear a harness and helmet. You had to use upper and lower body strength, have a strategy, and rely on your partner. For example, a strategy Joey and Tyler used was to help each other. One would cradle his hands and the other would put his foot into the cradle and step up. Then the person that climbed up first pulled the other person up. It was teamwork that got them up the ladder. They said afterward, "Once you got closer to the top, the ladder got farther apart." They successfully made it all the way to the top!

The last big activity was the rock climbing wall. We all know how to climb a rock wall, but these rock walls were hard! One rock wall that was hard was the ledged rock wall. It's a regular rock wall at the beginning, and then toward the top there is a ledge that sticks out. You have to climb over that and finish climbing to the top. Then you can do an awesome pose and smile, and feel good about yourself for making it up there! Ella is one student who made it up all the way.

Besides the three main activities, we met in smaller groups and did team building activities. This was a great chance to work with others and get to know them better.

Some things we learned on the field trip were team work, personal confidence and leadership skills, problem solving skills, and understanding diversity. We were able to see that each of us have our own strengths and weaknesses. In life, not all tasks are

easy. This field trip taught us never to give up and to work with others to accomplish a task. Our field trip was a fun and exciting experience!



Jacob's Ladder



Rock Wall



Belayers



Flying Squirrel

8th Grade

Learning to Write; Writing to Learn

Pronouns and Poetry

I shot a deer

By JH

I shot a deer.

I shot with luck.

I shot an enormous

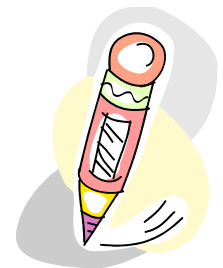
12 point buck.

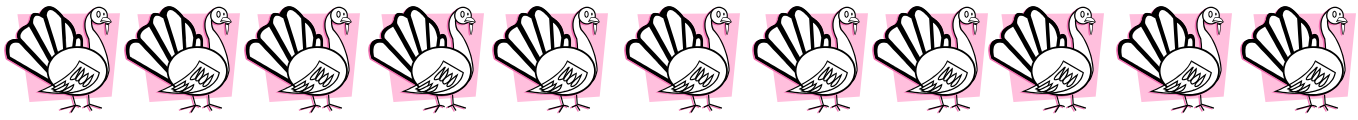
I shot a deer.

150 pounds of flesh and bone.

Dragging it out

is a major groan.





Slice it up, pull those guts out,
smoke the meat and
get ready to eat.

Vibrant Verbs & Poetry

10 things every sportsman should do
By KD

- Flush a ring-necked pheasant in tall grass
- Catch a walleye from a boat
- Camp in a State Park
- Spend a sunrise hunting ducks in a duck boat
- Feel the tug of a fish through an ice hole
- Shoot a deer when it is snowing outside
- Sleep outside on the ground in a sleeping bag
- Walk through crunching leaves in the woods during Fall
- Sit by a fire on a cold night
- Introduce someone new to the outdoors

Verbs should NOT be this fun!



Olympics
By LT

- Running, springing straight down the track
- Leaping, stretching your legs to clear the hurdles
- Hurling the shot-put, discus, and javelin
- Vaulting over the bar with a pole twice your size
- Jumping high as you can go
- Flipping down into your dive
- Swimming the backstroke, butterfly, and freestyle
- Racing towards the water's edge

Adverbs tell us How? And When? And Where? and To

what extent? Let's see how they work in this poem:

Quietly
By ED

Quietly the distant coyotes howl
Quietly the owl hoots on the big maple tree
Quietly the crickets chirp outside by window
Quietly my brother snores in the room next to mine
Quietly fall the fee of my parents as they go to bed
Quietly my heavy eyelids droop closed as I fall asleep.

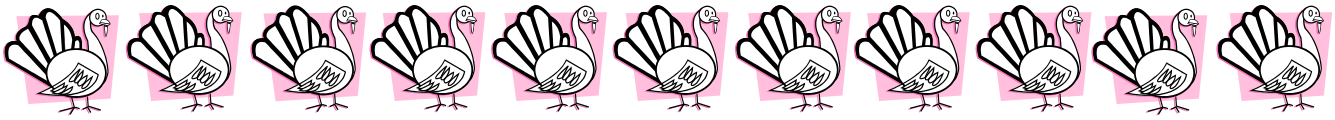
**The 2009 SPACE CAMP/
AVIATION CHALLENGE
Scholarship Program**



Middle School science teachers, Mrs. Rudebusch and Ms. Sparboe, have both had the opportunity to attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama thanks to Honeywell sponsorship. Students, too, can apply for full or partial scholarships directly through the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. We encourage students to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

The scholarship program is managed by the U.S. Space & Rocket Center Foundation. Full Scholarships cover tuition, room & board for any weeklong, age-appropriate camp and are good for one year. Transportation and incidentals are the responsibility of the scholarship recipient. Scholarship applications for the 2009 cycle are due December 12, 2008. The U.S. Space and Rocket Center Foundation will announce the winners March 20, 2009.

Applicants may apply in one of four categories - Financial Need/Disadvantaged, Special Needs, Academic Achievement, or General. Each applicant must answer an essay question, design a mission patch, describe a science project using the scientific method, and provide three letters of recommendation. A selection committee reviews applications, and scholarships are awarded based on available funding. To attend camp students must between the



ages of 9 and 18 and have completed 4th grade.

CATEGORY GUIDELINES:

Financial Need/Disadvantaged - applicants in this category must either be in a low income family or receiving government assistance.

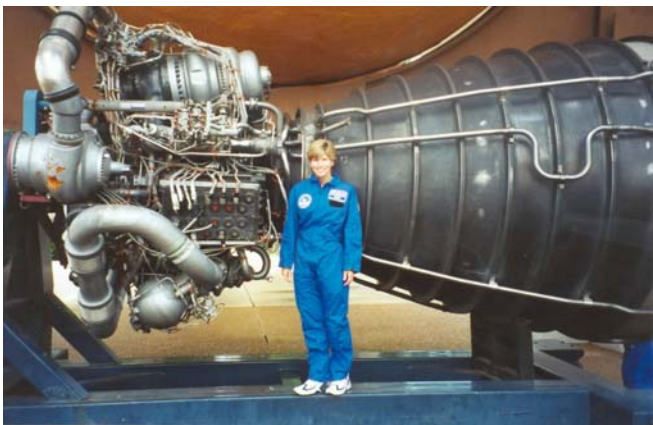
Special Needs - applicants in this category must have a learning challenge and/or physical challenge.

Academic Achievement - applicants in this category must be participating in a gifted program and/or have excelled academically.

General - applicants must not qualify for any of the other categories and demonstrate, through a written essay, a desire for knowledge and hold a yearning to learn through the experiences of SPACE CAMP programs.

For more information please visit the website listed below and click on "Scholarships" under the "News and Information" tab. <http://www.spacecamp.com/>

For copies of the application or additional questions see Ms. Sparboe or Mrs. Rudebusch



Art Department



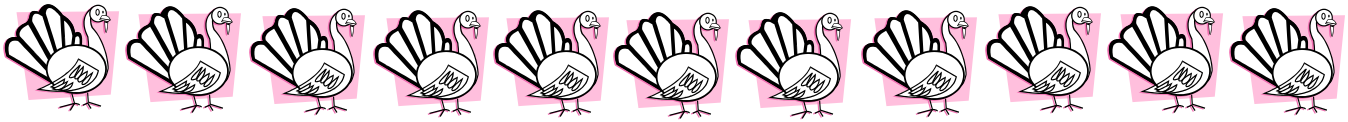
Our school is a member of Artsonia.com (www.artsonia.com), the largest online student art museum. Artsonia showcases artwork from thousands of schools around the world.. Artsonia's goals are to develop students' pride and self-esteem, increase their multicultural understanding through art and involve parents and relatives in student education and accomplishments.

One of the most exciting features about being published on Artsonia's Art Museum is that friends and family can leave a nice comment for the artists and become a fan club member of the artist. As a security feature, Artsonia requires the parent to pre-approve all comments before they are posted on the website. Your child has been given a screen name and password so that you may approve all comments. If your child has lost their information, please send a quick e-mail or phone call to Ms Enfield Kristin.enfield@dc.k12.mn.us and she will retrieve it for you.

As an added bonus, parents and family members may purchase keepsakes from the museum with the child's artwork imprinted on it, and 15% of the revenue is commissioned back to the school art program.

Please support your student's artistic achievements and visit our virtual museum today!





September Student of the Month

5th Grade

Abrielle
David
Zachary
Jenna

6th Grade

Morgan
Cole
Katrina
Alec



7th Grade

Ryan
Anne
Jack
Katelyn

8th Grade

Kenneth
Krista
Darrin
Maria



From the Nurses Desk

With flu season upon us, it is important that we work together to keep our children healthy. Viruses spread easily among children in schools, and families with school-age children have more infections than others, with an average of one-third of these family members infected each year. By keeping our children flu-free, we benefit the community as a whole. You can help prevent the spread of flu or help your child get better if he/she does get sick by following a few simple steps:

If possible, you and your child should get a flu vaccine

Remind your child to cover his/her nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue immediately

Have your child wash his/her hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds

Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and shared items at least once a day

Ensure that bathrooms are stocked with soap, hand towels and tissues

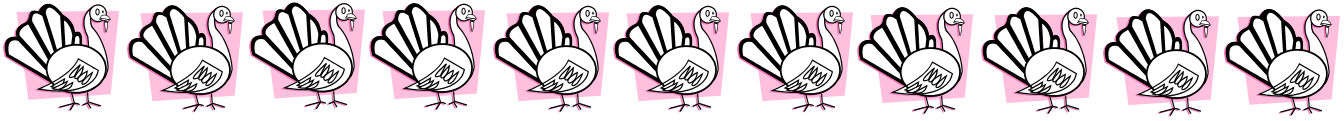
Teach your child not to touch his/her mouth, nose and eyes

If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others

If you are concerned about your child's flu symptoms, call your doctor early. Call your doctor immediately if your child has a chronic disease. Common symptoms of flu include high fever, severe headache, muscle and body aches, exhaustion, and dry cough. Additionally, children often exhibit other flu symptoms that are rare in adults, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some children might benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a physician and can help lessen the symptoms and reduce the risk of complications. To be effective, antiviral medication must be taken within 48 hours after flu symptoms begin.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about preventing and treating the flu, please contact the school nurse, Kelly O'Fallon at 320-286-4204 or kelly.ofallon@dc.k12.mn.us





Target "September Take Charge of Education" Payout



As part of the September Take Charge of Education donation, Target recently awarded Dassel-Cokato Middle School with a \$650.78 check.

This payout is a direct result of the parents, teachers and school supporters who participate in the target program.

Through Take Charge of Education, families, teachers and members of the community have an easy way to raise money for their school. When they sign up and designate an eligible K-12 school, target donates up to 1% of every purchase they make with their Target Visa Credit Card, to that school. Take Charge of Education dollars are donated to schools twice a year.

Dassel-Cokato Middle School uses these donations to support the Reading Counts Program.

To participate in Take Charge of Education all you need to do is designate our school online at Target.com/tcoe, or by calling 1-800-316-6142.

Thanks for supporting student reading by designating Dassel-Cokato Middle School on your Target Card.

time. It was a great opportunity for our community members to get to know them a bit better.

The PTA was asked to have a food stand at the Dassel-Cokato Craft Fair this year. The craft fair is November 1st at the high school. As you are enjoying all the great craft vendors and you are ready for a bite to eat, stop by our table and enjoy some nachos or a slice of pizza! You will satisfy your hunger and support the D-C PTA all at once!

The PTA will be placing another youth Charger Apparel Order. These long sleeved t-shirts and sweat-shirts are a big hit with the kids! Take a look at them on the order form in this newsletter. They are a great gift idea, too.

Upcoming Meeting:

Note - Our regular meetings take place in the high school media center on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:00.

Thursday, November 2, 6:30-8:00, high school media center

Thursday, December 4, 6:30-8:00, high school media center

Fund Development Committee meeting - anyone is welcome to attend the Fund Development committee meetings which are held on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 am at the Grounds.



PTA News

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.

Thank you to the five school board candidates for taking part in our October meeting for a "meet the candidates"

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

