

# Dassel-Cokato Middle School May 2010

May 2010

## Newsletter



ISD466 320-286-4100 ext 1600

[www.DC.k12.mn.us/mschool](http://www.DC.k12.mn.us/mschool)

### From the Principal's Desk:

Writing an article for the May newsletter is always a definite reminder for me that the school year is almost over with summer opportunities and adventures waiting for our staff and students just a few weeks away! These last few weeks can also be a little challenging for students as they are drawn toward activities other than homework and studying. Please encourage your child to stay invested in school-related learning activities for just a few more weeks, as many of them are designed to tie together the information presented throughout the year.

#### **S u m m e r   S c h o o l**

Our summer school program is an excellent opportunity for students to spend their June mornings improving their math and reading skills. The program is designed to assist 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade students include remediation in math and reading and a service project. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students focus

on developing skills and goals necessary for high school success. Summer school instructors are Ms. Runquist, Ms. Athmann, Mr. Randy Johnson, and Mr. Bessingpas.

Classes will be held Monday through Friday from 8:00 -12:30 starting June 9 and ending July 2.

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.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Tri. 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will, again, go to the Becker Community Center, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **Lunch Account Balances**

All lunch accounts must be **paid in full** prior to the end of the school year. If you have questions about your account, please contact Noni Smith at ext 1013.

## From the Nurse's Office:

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### A Note for Parents of 6th Graders:

Minnesota's School Immunization Law requires students to have documentation of certain immunizations before starting 7th grade. Documentation of the following shots will be required before your child starts 7th grade in the fall of 2010:

**MMR:** (Measels, Mumps and Rubella): a second dose given after the first birthday

**Td**(Tetanus and diphtheria): one dose given after the seventh birthday

**Hepatitis B:** a series of three shots given over a 6-month period

**Varicella** (chicken pox): immunization after the 1st birthday or documentation of disease history (month and year) provided by **a health care provider.**

Students who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons or

whose parents are conscientiously opposed to immunization may receive a legal exemption.

Last February you received a copy of your child's current immunization record by mail. Many of the students have already received the necessary immunizations and sent in the paperwork. Thank you for being so timely in your actions! If you have not yet had your child updated and have not sent in the necessary paperwork, please do so. **Your child will not be able to start school next fall until we receive documentation of these shots!**

**Attention Parents:** Please make arrangements to pick up any medication that has been stored in the Health Office this year. For the safety of all students, our school district will not send any medication home directly with students without a signed consent form from a parent/guardian. You will be receiving a consent form in the mail during the first week of May. Please sign it and send it back to school with your student. If we in the health office have not heard back from you by ***Friday, June 4th***, medication that has not been picked up will be destroyed. Please call the Health Office at extension 1605 if you have any questions! Thank you and have a great summer!

Christine Lawyer, RN, PHN Licensed School Nurse

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## 6th Grade News: (Math)

We are currently in the middle of our geometry chapter (Chapter 7). In this chapter we are learning some of the fundamentals of plane geometry. This includes learning how to describe various figures in geometric terms, measure angles, and solve problems involving measurement of angles and lines. Unit 7 also involves learning about polygon relationships. This geometry unit can be applied to careers of aviation, navigation, design, and many others. We are also learning how to measure an angle using a protractor. By doing this we get to solve everyday problems by looking at the angle relationships.

Once we conclude geometry we will get into ratios, proportions, and percents. Ratios are used to compare a part to a part, a part to a whole, or the whole to a part. We will also learn how to write and solve proportions. A proportion is an equation that shows two equivalent ratios. The last part of this unit deals with solving percent problems. Some of these problems involve discounts, tips, and sales tax.

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## News From the Media Center

### Reading Counts: March Random Classic Contest Winners

In an effort to promote the Classic collection, the Media Center sponsored a March contest and awarded \$20 to the following students for reading one of the five classic books randomly selected during the month of March:

**5th grade:** Nathan Weckwerth (Gulliver's Travels)

**6th grade:** Abrielle Anderson (Anne of Green Gables)

**7th grade:** Travis Hendrickson (Anne of Green Gables)

**8th grade:** no submissions.

### Reading Counts: Classic Bookmark Con-

In an effort to promote the Classic collection, the Media Center sponsored a March contest and awarded \$10 to the following students for earning the most Reading Counts points on their classic bookmark:

**5th grade:** Laif Hendrickson (358 points)

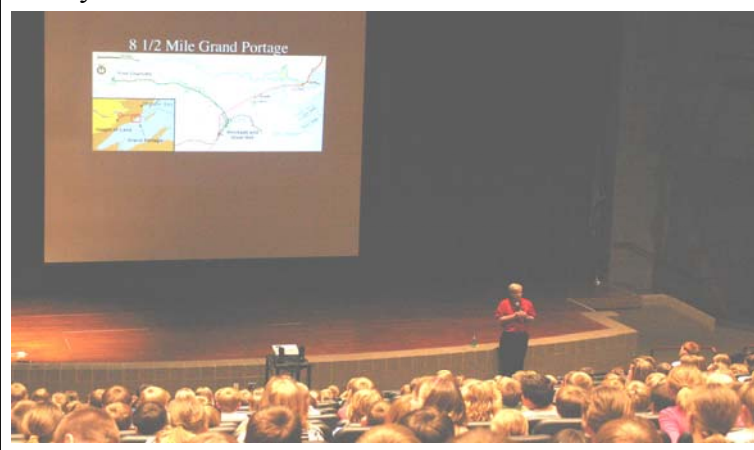
**6th grade:** McKenzie Ebert (176 points)

**7th grade:** Logan Erickson (94 points)

**8th grade:** Cassie Mages (78 points)

### Author William Durbin Visits Middle School

Our fifth and sixth grade students recently had the pleasure of hearing author William Durbin give a presentation about his historical fiction books. Many students read his book Blackwater Ben when it was a nominee in the Maud Hart Lovelace program in 2008. His new book, Winter War, has been very popular with our students this year. Many of his historical fiction books involve Finish Americans; it was particularly interesting to hear the real history behind his fictional stories.



### **Math, cont'd from page 2**

After chapter eight we will explore the Integers chapter. In this chapter the students will solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers. After the integers chapter we will be getting into measuring the perimeter, area, and volume of various plane and solid geometric figures including the circle, rectangle, prism, pyramid, and cone. We will conclude the year with the probability unit. In this chapter the students will learn about the difference between experimental and theoretical probability. We will also learn how to use probability to indicate chance of particular outcome.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, 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. Thanks for all the support you give your child with homework and the basic facts.

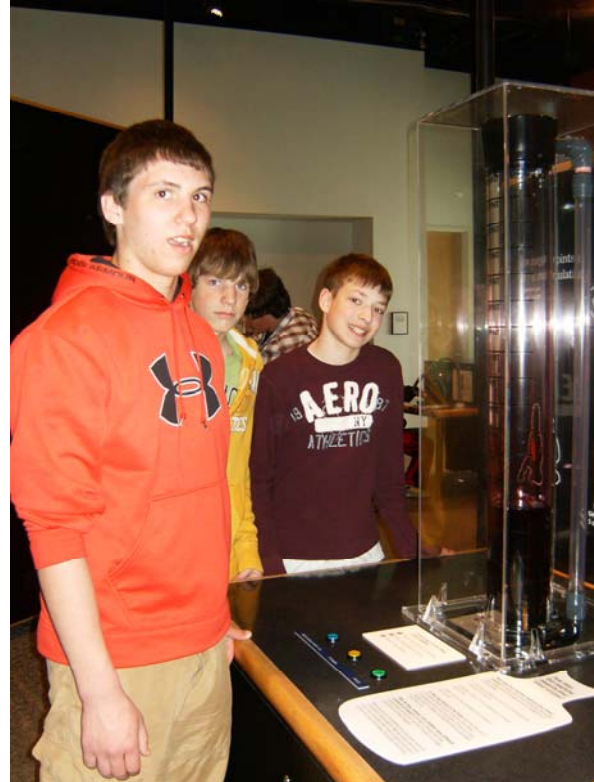
On Friday, April 9th, the 8th grade class from Dassel-Cokato Middle School spent the day at the Science Museum of Minnesota. This year's special exhibit was "The Dead Sea Scrolls". Students saw some of the earliest known Biblical writings. The scrolls were found in a cave located in the area of Qumran by a simple shepherd in 1947. The climate and clay jars preserved these ancient writings for 100s of years. The audio tour added meaning as the students experienced the exhibit.

Students also attended the Omnitheater film titled "Arabia". This film offered a glimpse into the rich culture and unique geography of this region.

## 8TH GRADERS EXPLORE THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA



Clare Lundeen and Mrs. Tanner conduct an experiment during the 8th grade Science Museum field trip.



How much blood is in the human body? Joey Mills, Mason Hjelmeland, and Alex Zobel step on the scale to find out!



Jack Raisanen, Grant Wuollet, Trevor Johnson, Tucker Josephson and Tom Tolkkinen make waves at the Science Museum's wave tank.

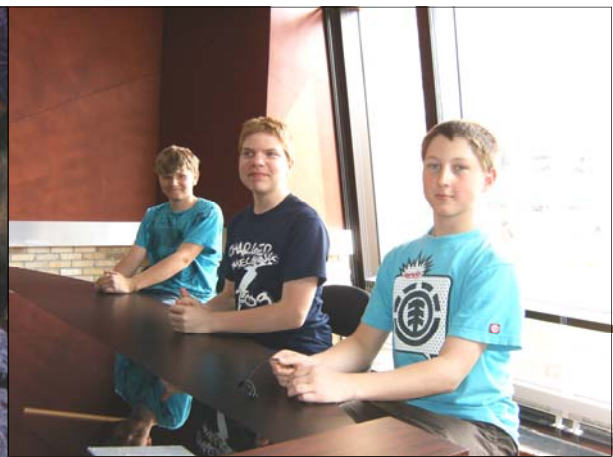


Brianna Lindgren, Kate Tormanen, and Rachel Christensen are happy to be done counting the rings on this very old tree!!

## Unplugged Crew Makes Good Use of Flu Video Prize Money

Earlier this year, the DCMS Unplugged Power Hour was awarded \$3,000 for their 1st place finish in the Kohl's/Children's Hospital Flu Prevention video contest. They wanted to use the prize money in ways that would benefit students at DCMS and improve the quality of their weekly Unplugged segments. Here's how the money was spent:

- Seven new video cameras were purchased for filming Unplugged segments.
- Four \$50 prizes (one per grade level) were awarded to students who read the flu prevention book titled "When Birds Get Flu and Cows Go Mad!" and passed the Reading Counts quiz. Every student in the middle school received a copy of this book, compliments of Kohl's and the Children's Hospital. The following students were winners in this drawing: Alayna Johnson (5th grade), Marcus Johnson (6th grade), Matthew Dahlseng (7th grade), and Gabby Funk (8th grade).
- The Unplugged crew traveled to Minneapolis on April 13th. Their trip included a visit to Norcostco costume shop to purchase additional props/costumes for Unplugged. From there, they headed to downtown Minneapolis for a tour of WCCO studio. They even got to experience a live news broadcast with Mike Binkley at noon. Below are some pictures from the trip.



## PTA

### Information:

Please join us for the PTA meeting on Thursday, May 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center. Mari Pokornowski, state PTA president and past president of Dassel-Cokato PTA, will join us to talk about how PTA can make schools stronger. Parent involvement, communication and current issues are all important aspects of PTA. Come with questions and any discussion topics you may have encountered throughout the year. Hope to see you there!

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

### Summer Brochure Coming Soon!

The summer Community Education brochures will be mailed the first week of May. There are a variety of fun summer activities planned, including: T-ball/kinderball, swim lessons & clubs, softball, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, tennis, soccer, golf, football, wrestling, track, LEGOS, scrap booking, arts & crafts, Spanish, music lessons, private tutoring, Prairie Fire Children's Theater production of "Tom Sawyer" (August 2-7), trips to Summerland and Pump It Up, a Sprint Triathlon and MORE!! Watch for your brochure in the mail!

### Tae Kwon Do, Ages 4 to Adult, \$60/mo.

*Tae Kwon Do is the world's most widely practiced martial art!*

Little Ninjas (Ages 4-6) – Mondays & Thursdays, 4:45-5:15 pm

Youth Beginner (Ages 6-14) – Mon., Tues. & Thurs., 5:20-6:20 pm

Adult (Ages 14 & up) – Mon., Tues. & Thurs., 7:40-8:40 pm

### Herbs & Natural Healing - \$29

Thursday, May 20

7:00-8:30 pm-HS Team Planning Room #501, Door C

### Lap Swimming

Mondays & Wednesdays – 6:30-7:30 pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 6:00-7:00 am

### Open Swimming

Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm

Fees: \$3 for children/students, \$5 for adults and \$12 for families

**To register or for more information visit [www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed](http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed) or call us at 286-4120.**

## DC COMMUNITY THEATRE SUMMER MUSICAL

### *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat*

Co-sponsored by D-C Community Education the D-C Arts Association

Directed by David Metcalf

#### Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center

Auditions:

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 pm OR Monday, May 24, 7:00 pm

Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center

Performances:

Thursday, July 22, 7:00 pm

Friday, July 23, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 24, 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 25, 2:00 pm

#### Show Synopsis:

The Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes to vibrant life in this

**COMMUNITY ED. continued on Page 6**

**COMMUNITY ED., cont'd**

delightful musical parable. Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western to calypso to bubble-gym pop and rock 'n' roll, this Old Testament tale emerges both timely and timeless. This will be a great activity for the entire family!

**Cast Requirements:**

17 Men, 2 Women, Chorus of Men and Women & Children's Chorus (check website for audition preparation info)

**Performance Dates:**

Thursday, July 29, 7:00 pm

Friday, July 30, 7:00 pm

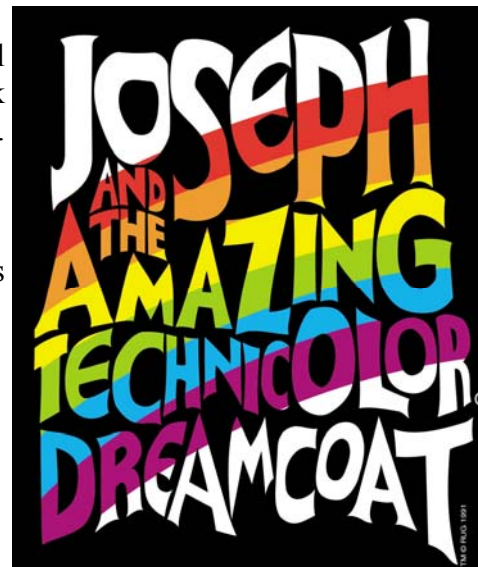
Saturday, July 31, 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 1, 2:00 pm

**Reserved Seat Tickets:**

Adults \$13 • Youth \$5

**Ticket Sales Begin June 1** at Community Education, 320-286-4120

**ALLIED ARTS NEWS:****Middle School Art Show**

The Middle School Art Show will be on display in the PAC from May 24th through May 28. The artwork shown is from students currently in art during the last trimester of school. They have been working very hard and I hope you get the opportunity to stop by to see their creations!

Ms. Arenson

**Instrument Night for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

On Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the MS/HS band room, Mr. Roeser will be holding the first of two instrument nights for parents that would like their incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in band. The second meeting will be held in late August before the school year starts. Date TBD. Both meetings will contain the same information.

We will be discussing how the MS band program functions and the requirements for your student. Representatives from Schmitt Music will be there to answer any questions you have about purchasing an instrument for your student and how their trial purchase program works. You may place your order for an instrument that night or just get the information to make plans before the 2010-2011 school year starts. Community members wishing to sell an instrument will be invited also.

Mr. Roeser will be visiting both elementary schools to do mouthpiece checks on instruments students wish to play the week of May 17. Remember that to be eligible to play percussion students must have two years of piano lessons.