

Dassel-Cokato Middle School

February 2010 Newsletter

Www.dc.k12.mn.us/mschool

320-286-4100 Ext. 1600

P0 Box 1500, Cokato, MN 55321

From the Principal's Desk:

We're experiencing quite an interesting winter with colder temperatures and more snow than we've seen for awhile. I hope our kids have been able to get bundled up and spend time outdoors pursuing the various winter adventures that make life in Minnesota so exciting. (If weather conditions do keep kids inside more than usual, it is a good opportunity to remind them of the joy of curling up with a good book. We are fortunate to have so many avid readers in our school!)

Cell Phones

I recently heard from some of our students that a few other middle school students were sending text messages on cell phones during class time. (I even had one student admit that he was able to text without looking while his phone was hidden from sight inside his desk.) Mr. Franklin has already and will continue to remind students that they are welcome to have cell phones in school but that the only way they can use them is to come to the office and ask permission to make a call. If a student is caught using a cell phone without permission, I have asked teachers to take the phone and

bring it to the office, where it can be retrieved at the end of the day. If your child needs to bring a phone to school, please remind him or her that it must be used according to the guidelines in the student handbook.

Activity Day

On February 22 we will hold our annual activity day. This is a full day during which 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 15 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 2nd 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.





Up-Coming Events

- 2-3 Spelling Bee PAC
- 2-4 Mentor/Mentee Breakfast
- 2-12 Sign up/Activity Day
- 2-15 President's Day No School
- 2-22 Activity Day

Student of the Month December



5th Grade

Jordan
Harper
Cody
Shaina

6th Grade

Olivia
Cody
Tavis
Trinity

7th Grade

Anthony
Tristan
Hannah
Emma

8th Grade

Maretta
Caitlin
Kristina
Alyssa

Happy Valentine's Day!

That means it is already February.



Hawaii in January has come and gone in the lunch-room. We had a good time and hope the kids enjoyed the decorations we had. It reminded us that flowers and sunshine are but a few short months away.

A bit of trivia. Did you know approximately 98,000,000 school lunches are served during the school year? We serve on an average 170 students daily. That means many people know how important good meals are and what a good deal it is to eat at school. We are including more fruits, vegetables and whole grains on our lunch menus. We offer at least one alternate everyday. Some of the alternates are: pizza, chicken patty on a bun, hamburger on a bun, and peanut butter and jelly which is offered every day.

We realize how important it is to start the day with a balanced breakfast. We serve breakfast for 20 minutes every day beginning at 7:45 a.m.. Breakfast is free to any students whose family qualifies for free or reduced price lunches.

Thank you for your continued support.

Barb Quast, Kitchen Manager

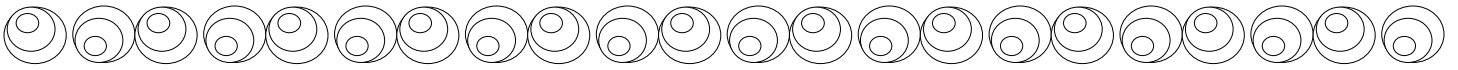
Spelling Bee



The Dassel-Cokato District Spelling Bee will be held on Wed., Feb., 3rd at 1 pm in the Performing Arts Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

Ask your student what has been happening in communications class to get prepared for the spelling bee. Practicing for the bee is something that everyone can do at home with their own spelling words or while driving in the car. Spending time spelling the words out loud helps prepare kids for the spelling bee. Six students from each grade will participate in the district bee and two spellers will move on to the Regional Bee in St. Cloud on March 2.





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 6th grade science teacher.

- January 29-February 12 Intro. to report/
computer resources, note taking.
- February 16 Notes due. Begin
organizing/number notes.
- February 18 Organized notes
due. Begin topic sentences.
- February 19 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.

Re-scheduled Parent Conferences

The parent conferences that were canceled due to weather conditions on Monday, January 25, are now scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 2. Your conferencing teacher will work with you and your child to arrange a conference time. Thank you for being flexible as we work through this unusual situation.

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 for DCMS Students

We are proud to share that our DCMS students read an amazing number of books during first trimester. Students checked out 17,113 books, earned 77,544 Reading Counts points and read more than 200 million words. Thanks for all you do to encourage reading at home. Following are some suggestions from the Reading Counts program on ways to continue to support reading at home:

- Make connections to other books your son/daughter has read as well as connections to their real-life experiences.
- Ask your son/daughter questions about the fiction book plots or about fun facts they learned





from reading nonfiction.

- Make reading a fun, positive experience.
- Celebrate reading successes.
- Read independently alongside your son/daughter –let them see you reading in different places for different purposes.
- Encourage your son/daughter to read books related to their specific hobby or sport.
- Provide your son/daughter a variety of reading materials for them to experience: Magazines, fiction, nonfiction, newspapers, humorous books, recipes, maps, etc.

December Reading Counts Contest:
Classes Compete

Each month the media center sponsors a contest to encourage students to read and participate in our Reading Counts program. The December contest was "Classes Compete." The communication classes at each grade level had a fun and friendly competition to see which class could earn the most points between December 1st and December 21st. The following classes were recognized for their success:

5th Grade:

- 1st Place: Schmidt (1,758 points)
- 2nd Place: Popelka (1,644 points)
- 3rd Place: Veith (1,505 points)

6th Grade

- 1st Place: Illies (1,393 points)
- 2nd Place: Flick (1,339 points)
- 3rd Place: Anderson (1,234 points)

7th Grade

- 1st Place: McGraw6 (1,467 points)
- 2nd Place: McGraw3 (1,308 points)
- 3rd Place: Kittock6 (1,296 points)

8th Grade

- 1st Place: Wahala1 (2,045 points)
- 2nd Place: McGraw3 (1,837 points)
- 3rd Place: Wahala2 (1,784 points)

**DCMS Recieves \$1,152 from
General Mills BoxTops**

This past year middle school students collected over 11,000 BoxTop labels. Each label is worth \$.10, and the school recently received a \$1,152 check from General Mills. These funds will be used to support our Reading Counts program. We appreciate the support of students and their families in collecting these labels!

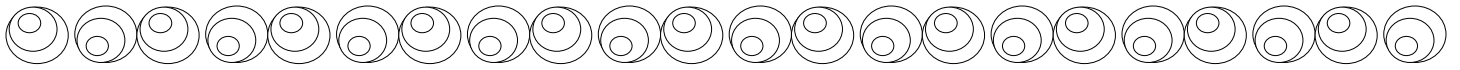
Volunteers Needed for
Feed My Starving Children

As part of our Activity Day Celebration, we are hoping to take a group of 20 students and parent volunteers to pack food at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) at the Chanhassen site on February 22 from 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Please contact Jill Kittock, Pam Beckermann or Peggy Smith if you are interested in chaperoning this activity. To learn more about Feed My Starving Children, you may visit their website at <http://www.fmsc.org/>.

Pamela Beckermann

√out the January edition of
The Talented Times
 For Parents & Educators of the Gifted & Talented
http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/ms/special_services/index.html#Gifted





**Dassel-Cokato Bands
Pride, Excellence, & Commitment**

Dear 7th -12th Grade Parents and Students,

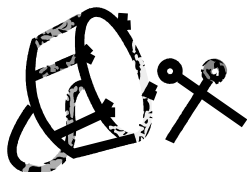
DC MARCHING CHARGERS WANT YOU!

Now is the time to start checking schedules and making plans to participate in the summer of 2010. The DC Marching Chargers Bands have had a long tradition of excellence and it would be great to increase numbers this year and put a strong ensemble on the street. The DC Marching Chargers work hard for the first few weeks of June and are then rewarded with a fantastic music and learning opportunity with a trip. This year we will (pending school board approval) be traveling to the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City Michigan. This is a great low cost trip that provides a great musical experience, lots competition, and fun activities. Watch for an info letter from the music department with more details!

Call or email Mr. Veith if you are interested or have questions!

320-286-4100 ext. 1829

Brian.veith@dc.k12.mn.us



***Happy Belated
Head Lice Month!!***

September was National Head Lice Awareness/Prevention Month. For any of you who missed this, I will recap the highlights. I have been quite busy researching and educating myself about head lice. I find this topic fascinating and am delighted to pass on what I have learned! First I will give credit to my many sources of information: Minnesota Department of Health, National Association of School Nurses, American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and the Harvard School of Public Health. I have also been in contact with other Licensed School Nurses in Wright County.

Important Points

1. *The worst problem associated with head lice is adult attitudes.*
2. *Head lice do not spread diseases like ticks and mosquitoes can.*
3. *Head lice are "host specific", they will not infest your pets.*
4. *Head lice and their eggs soon die if separated from the human head.*
5. *Carpets and furniture are not usual sources of infestation.*
6. *Direct physical head to head contact is the usual method of transmission.*
7. *Head lice do not jump, hop or fly but can crawl quickly.*
8. *Lice are fragile, and the chance of being transmitted on hats and combs is unlikely.*
9. *Having head lice is not a serious medical condition, but-over treatment with chemicals is.*

Over-reactions to head lice can lead to fumigating classrooms, schools, buses etc...this is expensive and unnecessary.



It is important to periodically check your child at home for head lice. Head lice do cause scalp itching and seem to prefer the warmth of the scalp above/behind ears and in the hairline at the back of the neck. A lice infestation should not be a source of embarrassment to either parent or child since lice can and do infest anyone. The important thing is to treat promptly and correctly. There are many products available over the counter. Wright County Public Health recommends a product called Lice Free which is pesticide free.

Please call or e-mail me or the Health Assistant in your child's school to let us know if your child has head lice. We can assist you with the identification of lice or their eggs and treatment options. We will also check you if you would like. We are very good at finding them! If we do find head lice on a student during school hours, the student's parents will be notified and the student will be sent home. The student can return to school after treatment and my Health Assistants or I will recheck their scalp.

I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the infamous Head Louse. I hope you all had a terrific Christmas break....and if any of your little ones participated in sleepovers during break I recommend you check them for head lice. You can schedule a "family beauty shop" night and have fun going through everyone's hair!

*Christine Lawyer RN, BSN
Licensed School Nurse
ISD # 466
320-286-4100 ext. 1804
Christine.Lawyer@DC.k12.mn.us*

Health Assistants:

<i>Mary Vollen</i>	<i>Cokato Elementary</i>	<i>ext. 1305</i>
<i>Barb Holly</i>	<i>Dassel Elementary</i>	<i>ext. 1506</i>
<i>Jo Bender</i>	<i>Middle School</i>	<i>ext. 1605</i>

PTA News

Still need some Charger gear? You're not too late! The D-C PTA continues to sell Charger apparel as our fundraiser. The funds raised enable us to donate to our schools, such as money for books for the elementary schools upcoming reading events and funds for a 2nd grade science presentation.

Sweatshirts and t-shirts are available to order in either of these designs:



Items are available in both adult and youth sizes.
Hooded Sweatshirt - \$22 – available in navy, white, gray and red
Zip Sweatshirt - \$22 – available in navy, white, gray and red
Long Sleeve T-Shirts - \$15 – available in navy, white, gray and red
T-Shirts - \$12 – available in navy, white, gray and red
Sweatpants - \$13 – available in navy, gray and red
Skull caps - \$10 – one size fits most
Baseball adjustable caps - \$12

If you would like to place an order please call Krista Cates 320-221-4011 or email to chargerpta@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Meeting

The D-C PTA meets the first Thursday of each month. **The next meeting is Thursday, February 4th from 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center.** All community members are welcome to attend!



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.

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

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION
 YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Friday Night Out, Gr. 1-6 \$9/night

Friday, January 22
 6:30-10:00 pm– Meet in MS Commons
 Movie- Shark Tales

Friday, February 26
 6:30-10:00 pm– Meet in MS Commons
 Movie- Cheaper By the Dozen

Chess, Gr. 5-12- \$27

Tuesdays, Jan. 26-Mar. 23
 3:30-5:00 pm- HS Art Room #31

RC Babysitting, Ages 11+- \$48

Saturday, February 20
 9:00 am–3:00 pm- HS Room #501

Create a Computer Game, Gr. 6 & up- \$40

Mon., Tues. Wed., Feb. 1, 2, 3
 3:15-5:15 pm– MS Computer Lab #2

Advanced Create a Computer Game, Gr. 6 & up- \$40

Wed., Thurs., Fri., Feb. 24, 25, 26
 3:15-5:15 pm– MS Computer Lab #2

Fun with Duct Tape, Gr. 2-5- \$15

Thursday, February 11
 3:15-4:45 pm- Cokato Elem. Rm. 139

Other Upcoming Events

- Tae Kwon Do
- Clay Camp
- Swimming Lessons
- 4th Grade Ski Night

PRE-REGISTRATION Required

To register or for more information visit www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed or call us at 286-4120.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION
 ADULT ACTIVITIES**

Hair Braiding- \$15

Monday, February 8
 6:30-8:00pm-HS Community Rm, PAC Door

Organizing 101- \$18

Monday, January 25
 7:00-8:30 PM-HS Room #206, Door C

Good Neighbor Law- \$7/family

Thursday, January 28
 7:00-9:00 pm-HS Room #501, Door C

Swing Dance- \$47/couple

5 Tuesdays, February 9-March 9
 7:00-8:30 pm-Dassel Elem. Small Gym

Heartsaver CPR- \$35

Monday, February 1
 6:30-9:30 pm-HS Room #24, Door D

First Aid- \$35

Monday, February 8
 6:30-9:30 pm-HS Room #24, Door D

Woodworking- \$50

6 Mon., Feb. 1-Mar. 15 (no class 2/15)
 7:00-9:00 pm-HS Room #406, Door H

Aquacise- \$36

8 Mon., Feb. 1-Mar. 22 (no class 3/29)
 7:30-8:30 pm-HS Pool , Door A

Aqua Fitness- \$27



6 Sat., Feb. 13-Mar. 27 (no class 3/6)
8:30-9:30 am-HS Pool , Door A

ROBOLAB!

Cake Decorating-Beginning- \$35

4 Thursdays, February 4-25
7:00-9:00 pm-HS Room #114, Door C

In 8th grade science, students have been busy designing and testing Lego rovers. Working in teams of 3 – 4 students, they have used Robolab computer software to guide their rovers through a “Martian” obstacle course. At the heart of this busy and fun lab are the skills - - problem-solving, teamwork, creativity, and communication - - which can lead to a successful career in any field. To find out more about the real rovers, “Spirit” and “Opportunity” check out the Jet Propulsion Lab web site:

<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>.

To register or for more information visit www.dc.k12.mn.us/commed or call us at 286-4120.

UPCOMING DASSEL-COKATO ARTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Celebration Showcase

Fundraiser for the Dassel-Cokato Arts Association
Enjoy family entertainment provided by local talent!
Sunday, February 14 - 3:00 pm
Tickets: Adults - \$12, Youth - \$5
Reserved Seating at the PAC

Neuss Chamber Orchestra

On tour from Neuss Germany!
Sunday, March 14 – 3:00 pm
Tickets: Adults - \$15, Youth \$5
Reserved Seating at the PAC
Public ticket sales begin February 1

“ The Diary of Anne Frank ”

A Dassel-Cokato Community Theatre Production
Performances:
Friday, March 19, 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 20, 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 21, 2:00 pm
Thursday, March 25, 7:30 pm
Friday, March 26, 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 27, 7:30 pm
Dassel History Center & Ergot Museum
Tickets: Adults - \$15, Youth - \$8 (includes dessert!)
Public ticket sales begin February 15

“ Bridge Over Troubled Water ”

Simon & Garfunkle’s classic album performed by Collective Unconscious & 17 talented musicians
Saturday, April 10 – 7:00 pm
Tickets: Adults - \$20, Youth \$10
Reserved Seating at the PAC
Public ticket sales begin March 1

