



Dassel-Cokato Middle School

January 2010 Newsletter

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

320-286-4100 EXT. 1600
PO Box 1500, Cokato, MN 55321

From the Principals Desk:

Season's Greetings! I hope that as you read this your family is in the midst of joyful celebration of the holiday season and that your middle school child is enjoying some well-deserved time away from school!

Christmas vacation tends to serve as a half-way point for the school year, so students now have the opportunity to return to school refreshed and ready to focus their efforts on learning as much new information as possible for the second half of the year. If parents and teachers both take time to review with students their progress from the first part of the year and set achievement goals for the remainder, it may help to focus their efforts and help them be more successful.

Student-led Conferences

On January 25 & 28 we will host student-led parent conferences. With this conference format you will be given a scheduled time to meet with one of your child's teachers. During the conference, your child will be responsible for presenting information about academic achievement (grades to date), test scores, a representative sampling of assignments, and goals for future accomplishment. The teacher will be prepared to support the student's presentation and answer general questions. This

year we also hope to have some of our students utilize a SMART board as part of their presentation. A few parents do not particularly like this format because they do not have access to all teachers during these conferences dates, but we believe that students receive valuable lessons in accountability and communication when they have to conduct a conference. Please remember that you can always contact the school to request a conference with an individual teacher. We look forward to seeing you on conference days!

2nd Trimester Incentive Activity

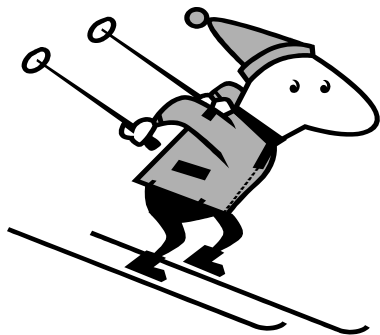
At the end of the first trimester we hosted a fun activity night at school as reward for students who had achieved well academically and behaved appropriately throughout the trimester. While some students did not achieve this reward, we always start the next trimester with a "clean slate" so all students are, once again, eligible to earn the next incentive activity. For the second trimester, we are planning to provide a number of exciting activities during the day on Monday, February 22. We will send home more details about these activities as we get closer to the event. However, now is a good time to remind your child that good grades and proper behavior throughout the trimester will be required in order for them to participate.

Internet Safety Presentation

On Thursday, January 21, Karina Berzins is coming to the middle school to give 7th grade students a presentation on Internet Safety and appropriate cell phone use. (This was rescheduled from a cancelled December 10 presentation.) Karina is a representative of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and works with students and parents to help them understand the potential dangers associated with social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace. She also teaches students about the dangers associated with sending sexual or harassing pictures and text messages via cell phones. I heard Karina speak at a Safe Schools conference last year and was so impressed with her presentation that I asked her to come to D/C to speak to our students, especially since we have experienced unfortunate incidents involving students, cell phones, and the Internet. Karina would also like to give an evening presentation to parents, but we have not been able to finalize those details, yet.

Up-Coming Events

- 1-4 Classes Resume
- 1-7 Mentor/Mentee Breakfast
- 1-15 Mentor/Mentee Field Trip
- 1-18 No School/Martin Luther King



Student of the Month November

5th Grade

Jordan

Harper

Cody

Shaina

7th Grade

Anthony

Tristan

Hannah

Emma

6th Grade

Olivia

Cody

Tavis

Trinity

8th Grade

Maretta

Caitlin

Kristina

Alyssa

News From The Middle School Kitchen

Happy New Year!

It is always nice to start a new year. I want to thank everyone who participates in the school lunch program. It is important to get a nutritional meal everyday, which is what our school lunch provides. Let's not forget that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It is a proven fact that if you eat a balanced breakfast, you are more alert and able to concentrate during the day.

We are always looking for people to be subs in our kitchen; so if you would like to work a few hours during the day, please stop in at the district office and put in your application.

Barb Quast Kitchen Manager

6th Grade News

6th Grade Hearts

“Oh, look at that!” “It smells in here!” “What is that? It looks like grape jelly!” “Oh, that’s gross!” These phrases and many more could be heard in Science Labs at the Dassel-Cokato Middle School. Ms. Erickson’s, Mr. Neutzing’s and Ms. Trisko’s health classes completed their study of the circulatory system by dissecting pork and venison hearts. The students began the circulatory unit by learning about the composition of blood. They ended by learning about the parts and functions of the heart and blood vessels. The students had a chance to put their knowledge to good use by cutting into real hearts and identifying the parts.

Dissecting was a fantastic educational experience.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this unit a success. Thanks to these parents and friends for joining us while we dissected: Kay Anderson, Amy Keranen, Terry O’Brien, Jessie Dutra, Carl Rokala, Susan Lingl, Chad Cates, Maureen Busche, Richard and Robert Tormanen, Todd Lindell, Michele Harmening, Sharon Asplin, Kevin Carlen, John Sandstede, Thomas Johnson, Anne Kivisto, Allan VonOhlen, Jen Money, Rene Marelic, Greg Martin, Jen Mader, and Lynette Crayford.

A big thank you to Hector Meat Market (Tony Schwarze), Dave Eckhoff, Kutz Family, Lindell Family, Dave Sangren family, Jimmy Vetsch, Mat, Todd, and Jeff Wozniak, Dave Arvola, Randy Vredenburg, Leonard and Sandy Wozniak, Roger Blank, Logan Anderson, Ben Hackbarth, Mike Sebring, Amanda Sebring, Jarod Sebring, Rory Smith, Michael Marttinen, Jon Young, Troy Gille, Andrew Pokornowski, Brad Polzin, Matthew Johnson and Uncle Gary, Orville Anderson, Eric Pederson, Justin Otto, Lydia Linkert, Derek Holm, Dustin Kaczmarek, Dakota Poukka, Hunter Martin, and Wyatt Aubol, Trinity Johnson for providing the hearts. Thank you to Kathy Nelson and Lara Packard for donating gloves. Thank you to Kelly Keaveny for the donation of garbage bags. Thank you to Peggy Smith for arranging volunteers.



Social Studies News

In social studies, sixth graders will be studying important industries in Minnesota's past. This will include railroading, farming, flour milling, lumbering, and iron mining. Students will also be learning about early immigrants that came to Minnesota. They will be participating in a group research project that studies these early immigrants. Finally, students will be examining the Native American reservations in Minnesota while completing a power point presentation. Keep up the great work on your Minnesota Booklets!

Math

We are close to concluding our final "piece" in Bits and Pieces 1. In this unit the students explored with fractions, decimals, and percent. The students used concrete models, such as fraction strips, number lines, and grids to help reason about fractions.

In our next unit (Chapter 5) the students will get a chance to explore with computing fractions. These fraction skills are essential for problem solving and for future success in algebra.

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.

Science and Health News

Science - After Christmas break, we will study landforms and changes in the earth. The students will learn about physical and chemical weathering, plate tectonics, mountain formation, earthquakes,

and volcanoes. We will wrap up the unit by completing various research projects related to these topics. The students will create an assortment of 3-D models or visual aids and present them to the class.

Health - Sixth graders will be covering the following chapters in Health: "Staying Safe Every Day" and "Community Health". Students will learn how to stay safe at home and in their communities by recognizing health hazards and dangerous situations. They will also learn ways to prevent violence and resolve conflicts. Students will also study what to do before, during, and after various natural disasters.

Media Center News

Reading Counts 1st Trimester Drawing Winners

At the end of each trimester, the media center sponsors a Reading Counts drawing for various prizes such as electronics, crafts, games, books, etc. Students collect and recycle BoxTops, milk tops, printer cartridges and cell phones to raise funds used to fund these prizes. Students received one coupon to put in the drawing for ten Reading Counts points earned. Eighty students won prizes during this first trimester drawing. The following students had the most points for their grade and were guaranteed a spot on the winners' list:

8th Grade

Samantha 607 pnts

Rebecca 511 pnts

Arianna 415 pnts

7th Grade

Erin 722 pnts

Jordan 710 pnts

Gretta 682 pnts

6th Grade

Dylan 406 pnts

Christina 380 pnts

Wm 348 pnts

5th Grade

Nathan 1024 pnts

Laif 705 pnts

Tyler 406 pnts

November Reading Counts Winners

Each month the media center sponsors a contest to encourage students to read and participate in our Reading Counts program. The November contest was "Looking for Lexiles". For every book students read within their Lexile range (reading level) they could put a slip into a drawing. The following students were drawn as the winner for their grade level and were awarded \$10 cash prizes:

5th Grade: Arissa

6th Grade: Mariina

7th Grade: Lexie

8th Grade: Jack

Do your students need something to do after school?

Why not try D-C Strength and Conditioning! The National Strength and Conditioning Association 2009 position paper states that recent findings indicate that resistance training can offer unique benefits for children and adolescents when appropriately prescribed and supervised.

Some are:

Improve one's cardiovascular risk profile

Facilitate weight control

Strengthen bone

Enhance psychosocial wellbeing

Improve motor performance skills

Increase a young athletes'

Resistance to sports related injuries

The D-C strength and conditioning program provides participants with a well supervised dynamic warm-up, a monitored weight program, a group work out consisting of endurance, strength, power, agility, or strength activities, followed by a supervised stretch and cool down.

The strength and conditioning program is open to students in 7th – 12th grade. Students can work to a varsity letter if 60 sessions per school year are attended.

Hours of the D-C Strength and Conditioning program are:

Senior High – M, W, F – 3:20 – 4:30

Junior High – T, Th – 3:20 – 4:30

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.

Why should you become a PTA member? Being a PTA member will allow you to:

Be connected and informed about school through PTA involvement & Advocacy

Influence decisions that affect your child's learning

Become more informed about topics that affect our children and their schools

Receive personal copies of school board minutes and agendas

Meet other great community members

Being a member of the PTA **DOES NOT** mean:
You do not have to attend every meeting

You will not be made to volunteer many hours

You will not be doing constant fundraising

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, January 7th 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center. The topic for this meeting will be a school board update. We will hear about any topics that the school board has been working on and will be open for questions.

If you have a topic that you would like the PTA to address at a meeting, please let us know!

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

Important Information Regarding

8th Grade Field Trip to the Science Museum

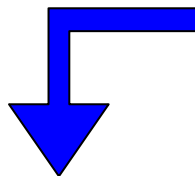
On Friday, April 9th, 2010, the 8th grade class will be going to the Science Museum in St. Paul. Along with a visit to the regular science museum exhibits, students and chaperones will watch the Omnitheater presentation "Arabia". In addition, students and chaperones have the option to visit a special exhibit titled "Dead Sea Scrolls" for an additional \$9.00 charge.

The total cost for admission to the museum, the Omnitheater, and transportation, is \$16.00. If your child will also be touring the "Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibit, the total cost is \$25.00. We encourage your children to participate in the "Dead Sea Scrolls" opportunity!

In addition to accepting cash and checks, we will be offering an online payment option this year. Simply go to the Dassel-Cokato Schools web site,

<http://www.dc.k12.mn.us/>, and choose

"Online Payments"



Dassel-Cokato Schools "Committed To Educational Excellence"
Independent School District #466

District Schools Activities Community Ed Parents Students Staff

Welcome to Dassel-Cokato ISD 466
"Committed to Educational Excellence"

Annual Food Shelf Collections

The elementaries, middle school and early childhood are sponsoring food shelf collections during December.

Cokato Elementary: Dec 1-21
Dassel Elementary: Dec 1-21
Middle School: Dec 1-16
Early Childhood: Dec 1-15

Food shelf items should be canned goods and sealed boxes - all of a non-perishable nature.

Thanks for helping our D-C families during this Holiday Season by sending food shelf items with your child to his/her school.

The High School PFA sponsored a food shelf drive in November.

Upcoming Events

Winter Break (No School)
Dec 24-Jan. 1

School Resumes
Jan. 4

D-C school closings on **twitter**

1. Follow this link.
2. Set up an account.
3. Follow SuprPowers for school closings.

Community Education Corner.....

Upcoming Youth Activities

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

Friday Night Out (Gr. 1-6)

A night just for kids and their friends!

FIRDAY NIGHT OUT is a special night for kids in first through sixth grade. Children will spend their evening swimming in the pool, doing a project or playing games and relaxing at an evenings end with a movie and a snack. Parents will have time to catch up on shopping, cleaning, playing or simply relaxing.

Activity #3008D

Friday, January 22 – 6:30-10:00 PM - Movie to be shown:
Shark Tale

Location: Meet in the MS Commons, Door I

Fee: \$9 per session – Pre-registration is required.

Registration Deadline: 1 week prior to each event

Gymnastics (Gr. 2-6)

Instructor: Lindsey Bessingpas

Jump, twist, turn and tumble in the D-C Charger Gymnastics gym this winter. Gymnasts will have the opportunity to develop skills on the balance beam, uneven bars, and on the floor exercise. Class size is limited to 6 per session– so sign up early!

Activity #5162-Gr. 2-3

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Feb. 2-18

6:10-7:00 pm – MS Gym, Door I

Fee: \$42

Activity #5163-Gr. 4-6

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Feb. 2-18

7:00-8:00 pm – MS Gym, Door I

Fee: \$49

Create a Computer Game (Gr. 6 & up)

Teresa Harmala

Learn how to create your own computer game using easy-to-use programming software from MIT Media Lab, called Scratch. Participants will create their own environment and characters, as well as learn how to program the behind the

scenes game logic using puzzle-piece-like programming blocks. Space is limited, sign up early!

Activity #2120

Mon, Tues., Wed. – Feb. 1 - 3

3:15-5:15 PM – MS Computer Lab II

Fee: \$40

DCMS Students Sponsor a Successful Food Shelf Collection

During two weeks in December, the middle school students collected 2002 items and \$110 for the Dassel and Cokato community food shelves. The Terning, Jones and Gross Power Hours sponsored this annual collection. To encourage interest and enthusiasm to participate, we had a friendly competition between the Power Hours to see who could collect the most items. Niedzielski's Power Hour won this competition by collecting 265 items. To celebrate their success, Niedzielski's students joined the sponsoring Power Hours in delivering the food to the local food shelves on December 22nd. Also deserving recognition are Rudebusch's Power who came in second place by collecting 112 items and Whittaker's Power Hour who took third place by collecting 105 items.

We would also like to recognize the efforts of our student council who collected food shelf items during the Middle School Activity Night on December 4th.

Following is contact information for the local food shelves. We encourage families to contact the area food shelves if they are interested in either donating or receiving donations.

Cokato Food Shelf
Elim Mission Food Shelf
395 Broadway Ave S
Cokato, MN 55321
320.286.2662

Dassel Food Shelf
Atlantic Ave W (near Opsahl Plumbing and Heating)
Dassel, MN 55325
320.693.7661

Check the DC website for pictures.

DCMS raises over \$1,200 in its “H2O for Life” “One for Water” campaign

Hundreds of students, staff members, and community members joined forces to raise \$1,200 for “H2O for Life”. We are thrilled to have met our goal in only one month! The funds will be used to build a well, hand-washing facility, and improved pit toilets for the Kyentama Primary School in Uganda. Stay tuned for more information as the project gets underway. Thank you for your generosity!!



Mrs. Niedzielski’s Power Hour raised \$86.45 during the “One for Water” campaign.



Mrs. Whittaker’s Power Hour raised \$80.00 during the “One for Water” campaign.