ISD466

Dassel-Cokato Middle School November 2009 Newsletter

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PO Box 1500, Cokato, MN 55321
www.dc.k12.mn.us/mschool

From the Principal's Desk:

The two day break we had at the end of last week seems to have helped our recent struggle with student and staff illnesses. We had a 75% reduction in the number of student absences on the Monday morning following the break! I've been sorry to hear about all the families of middle school students who have been battling illnesses affecting multiple family members. I am hopeful that the worst of this is now behind us and that all of you are regaining or maintaining your health!

Homework Online

The high number of absences this year has prompted us to alter our procedures for providing homework assignments when students are absent. If you have Internet access, we request that you consult the homework link that we provide on our school web site (www.dc.k12.mn.us/ms). Teachers have stepped up their efforts to make certain that the homework assignments are listed accurately for each week. If you need to pick up textbooks your child can use while absent, please come to the middle school office, and we will direct you to your child's locker. If you do not have Internet access, please call the office, and we will print out the assignments for you to pick up.

Parent Conferences

Thank you to all parents and guardians who were able to attend parent conferences. 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.

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. This is a very meaningful program and will include a variety of patriotic music, inspirational speakers, and participation by our local American Legion. We look forward to having you join us in this tribute to veterans.

Up-Coming Events

11-5	Mentor/Mentee Breakfast
11-11	Veteran's Day Program
11-24	6:30 7th Band & Choir
	8:00 8th Band & Choir
11-26–27	Thanksgiving Break/No School

From the Middle School Kitchen

It's already November! These first two months have gone by quickly. This year we have a Fresh fruit option available daily which the kids seem to enjoy. We are proud of the fact that our meals meet all the Federal regulations.

Free Breakfast is again offered to all those who qualify. If you are eligible for either free or reduced lunch, that qualifies you for free breakfast. Remember, breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

Are you looking for some hours of work during the week? We are always looking for subs in our food service program. Give Noni Smith in the district office a call for more information.

Thanks to all of you who take advantage of our lunch and breakfast programs. That is what helps make them successful.

Student of the Month

September 2009

5th Grade	6th Grade
Ean	Hunter
Arissa	Madeline
Marit	Everett
Levi	Evelyn

7th Grade	8th Grade
Logan	Shelby
Lexie	Cory
Joe	Brenna
Joclyn	Alex

6th Grade News

Science – Students will be learning about simple organisms found in the fungi, protest, 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.

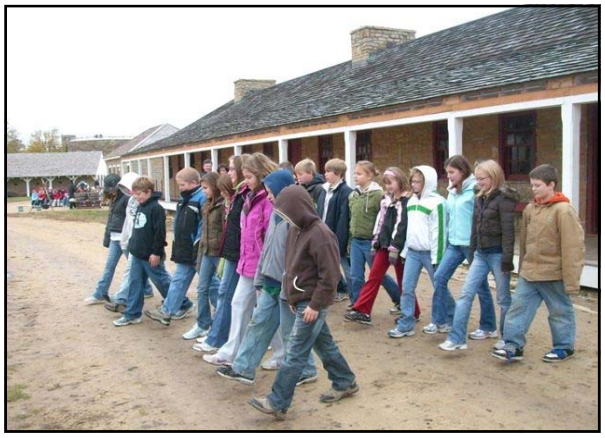
Health – We are continuing with the "Growth and Development" chapter.

Social Studies

The sixth graders will continue their study of the fur trade. They begin learning about land treaties between the Native Americans and the government. They will also learn about statehood and the branches of government.

Students will also continue to work on Minnesota Booklet pages. Some of the pages include a map of modern Minnesota as well as a fur trade page and map.

6th Grade Fort Snelling Field Trip



Smithsonian Visit

The 6th graders will be visiting the Smithsonian "Between Fences" exhibit at the Dassel Historical Society during the week of November 16-19.

LLCC Information

As winter clothing items start going on sale, you may want to start thinking about the trip to LLCC in March. Listed below is a packing list to help in preparing for this great experience.

When preparing for Long Lake keep in mind that the warmest clothing is necessary. About 80 percent of the activity time is spent outside, and students need to dress in a practical manner to keep warm.

REQUIRED ITEMS:

-Sleeping bag or bed roll and pillow

-Snowsuit, snowmobile suit, or ski pants/jacket

-Appropriate underwear, including long johns

-Sweater or sweatshirt

-Heavy warm socks—at least 6 pair in case they get wet

-Stocking cap

-2 pair of warm gloves or mittens

-Warm jacket

-Tennis shoes to wear for inside activities

-Warm boots (preferably with liners that can be removed to dry)

-Toiletry items (towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb or brush)

-2 changes of clothes (2 pair of jeans and 2 long-sleeved shirts or sweatshirts) in addition to what is worn on the ride to LLCC

-Pajamas or sleeping ware

7th Grade Communications

It has been a great start to the school year in Comm 7!

Independent quiet reading time is a daily part of class. Please ask your child about what they have been reading. You may also have book recommendations for them. The media center card catalog system, Destiny, is also available on-line at http://destiny.dc.k12.mn.us/. The next reading requirement is to pick a book from one of the colored media center bookmarks. These bookmark themes include the classics, Newbery winners, and Maud Hart Lovelace nominees or past winners. The assignment will be due on Monday, November 30th. Please support your child in his/her reading by setting aside reading time at home. Newspapers, magazines, and comic books are also great materials to promote reading.

Each week there is also a vocabulary and spelling lesson. Tests are usually on Fridays. Ten spelling words will be taken either from the vocab list or will be commonly misspelled and /or misused words. Spelling contracts are not used in seventh grade, so please encourage your child to study each week for the tests.

Our writing projects this trimester have included a childhood narrative, a personal brochure using Microsoft Publisher, and weekly journal writing. The next writing assignment will be a friendly letter.

From the Volunteer Coordinator …

I invite you to be a part of your students' education experience through volunteering in the classroom, one of the many opportunities throughout the building or by doing projects at home. We know through experience that children do better in school when they see adults take an active role in their education. Please join us!

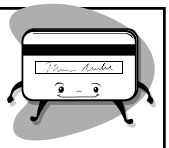
Every week we have kids that would love help with their reading and spelling. Having one on one time makes such a difference in a child's learning.

Friday, December 4 - mark your calendar and join us for a fun filled Activity Night. Grades 5 & 6 will meet together and later in the evening grades 7 & 8 will meet together. This is a fun way to spend some time with staff and meet some of the friends your kids are talking about.

Also in December, the 6th graders will be doing a dissecting unit in science class. Put on your garbage bag and come join the fun.

Please contact Peggy Smith, Volunteer Coordinator, peggy.smith@dc.k12.mn.us to make arrangements to help at the Middle School - I look forward to hearing from you!

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 $539.28 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.

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.**

Create your own Computer Game (Gr. 6 & up)

Teresa Harmala

Learn how to create your own computer game! Students will work with an 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.

Activity #2120

Mon, Tues., Wed. - Nov. 16,17,18

6:30-8:30 PM – HS Media Center

Fee: $40 – registration deadline Monday, November 9

Wrestling Gr. K-6

DC Coaching staff

Whether you've been in wrestling or not, this is a great opportunity for boys and girls to learn! Charger Wrestling techniques, skills, drills and games will be emphasized. Meeting & Registration: Monday, November 30, 6:00 PM, HS Commons. Early registrations can be done with Community Ed. office however, you still need to attend the meeting.

Meeting & Registration: Monday, Nov. 30, 6:00 pm, HS Commons

Activity #5122 Gr. 4-6, 6:00-7:30 PM

Tuesdays, Dec. 1-Mar. 16 (no class 12/29)

HS West Gym South Mezzanine

Fee: $20 each or $35 family cap

Holiday Baking (Gr. 3-6)

Leslie Arnold

Holiday cookies and treats are a true symbol of the holiday season. So come and make a mess in our kitchen and bring some goodies home to share. Maximum 12

Activity #1006

Monday, Dec. 7 (non-school day) - 9:00 am-Noon – HS FACS Rm. #114, Door C

Fee: $15

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. **Maximum 50 - To find out what movies will be shown please call the Community Education office.**

Gr. 1-6: Activity #3008B - Friday, Dec. 4

6:30-10:00 PM – ***Movie to be shown: Home Alone***

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

Location: MS Commons, Door I

Registration deadline: 1 week prior to each event

Ski & Snowboard Club (Gr. 5-12)

Community Education will take part in Powder Ridge's Six-time program again this year. Pay for 6 weeks of skiing/snowboarding and get one bonus lift ticket for week 7 for FREE! Lessons (available at all levels) and are offered the first 4 weeks. Bus transportation is provided all seven weeks and participants are required to ride the bus to and from the hill. All participants and parents must read, understand and agree to the policies stated in the ski club handbook before registrations will be accepted. Ski club handbooks can be picked up in the Community Education office.

MANDATORY CLUB MEETING: TUESDAY, DEC. 8 - 6:00 PM – HS CHOIR ROOM

Where: Powder Ridge Ski Area, Kimball

Who: Students in grades 5-12

When: 7 Mondays, January 4,11, 18, 25, Feb. 1,8,22 (no skiing 2/15)

Times: Depart from High School at 3:15 p.m. and return at 9:00 p.m.

Supervisors: Steve Benda and Volunteer Chaperons

Questions: Call Community Education at 286-4120

Ski Packages:		**Early Bird Fee**
#8000A	Lift, lessons, bus Fee: After Dec.8 - $143	$123
#8000B	Lift, ski rental, lessons and bus Fee: After Dec.8- $215	$195
#8000C	Lift, snowboard/boots rental, lessons, bus Fee: After Dec.8 - $245	$225
#8000D	Bus only Fee: After Dec.8- $65	$45

*scholarships are available – for more information call Community Education

Upcoming Arts Association Events:

Todd Green in Concert

Todd has astounded audiences across the country with his diversity on a multitude of string, flute and percussion instruments from all over the world. His performance will be enhanced by digital samplers, which allow him to record and overdub instruments one by one, making him a one-man-orchestra of unique and exotic instruments. As fascinating to watch as to listen to, Todd intersperses his playing with entertaining explanations of the music and the instruments. His performance will be enjoyed by the entire family. Prepare to be amazed!

The D-C Arts Association is also bringing Todd into the school on October 29 for educational student clinics for all middle school students as well as the high school music students. The concert is a totally different program than the clinics, which are show-and-tell-type demonstrations of the instruments themselves. Todd's concert complements the clinics but is a musical adventure exploring the musical styles of many different cultures.

Public Performance: Sunday, November 1, 3:00 PM

Tickets: Adults $12 and Youth $5

Location: D-C Performing Arts Center

Information and Ticket Purchases: D-C Community Education, 286-4120

Monroe Crossing Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 5 ● 7:30 pm

Back by popular demand! Celebrate the holidays with the upper Midwest's premier bluegrass and gospel quintet, Monroe Crossing! Monroe Crossing plays an upbeat blend of classic and traditional bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt originals. Always a crowd pleaser, they are known both for their dynamic stage show and for the warmth they share on and off stage – interacting with one another and the audience, and always honoring requests after intermission. Come and enjoy one of the most entertaining, crowd-pleasing acts in bluegrass.

Tickets: Adults - $20, Youth - $10

Location: Reserved Seating at the D-C Performing Arts Center

Information and Ticket Purchases: D-C Community Education, 286-4120

Adult Enrichment Opportunities Through Community Education

The following upcoming courses are offered through Community Education. Please call 320-286-4120 for a Fall Brochure or for more information.

Introduction to Essential Oils - Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:00-8:30 pm, $5

Adult TaeKwonDo (Ages 12-Adult) - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:40-8:40 pm, $60 per mo.

Total Toning - 6 Mondays, Nov. 9 – Dec. 14, 4:00-4:30 pm, $18

Basic Step Xpress - 6 Mondays, Nov. 9 – Dec. 14, 4:45-5:15 pm, $18

Friday Fitness (Ages 12-Adult) - Fridays, 4:30-5:15 pm, $15 per month

Easy Fat Quarter Squares Quilt - Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, $17

Spinning Wool into Yarn - 3 Mondays, Nov. 9, 23 & 30, 6:30-8:00 pm, $75 (fee includes wool and use of spinning wheel)

It's All About The Crust - Monday, Nov. 16, 6:30-8:30 pm, $25

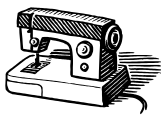
Decorative Wood Sled Project - 4 Tuesdays, Nov. 10 – Dec. 1, 7:00-9:00 pm, $41

Heartsaver CPR - Monday, Nov. 9, 6:30-9:30 pm, $35

Instructor-Facilitated Online Courses - Choose from more than 250 classes! Visit www.ed2go.com/dc

37th Annual Dassel-Cokato Craft Fair

Saturday, November 7th
9:00 am—2:00 pm

D-C High & Middle Schools

FREE ADMISSION