

ISD
#466

DASSEL - COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 2011 Newsletter

COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, GARY JOHNSON

Principal's Message

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Last month Mr. Powers, our superintendent of schools, worked with a team of middle school staff members, parents, and district principals to select and interview candidates for the middle school principal position, from which I am retiring at the end of this year. I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Brian Franklin, our current dean of students, has been selected as the new principal. Mr. Franklin has provided excellent service as our dean and will continue that tradition of excellence as he leads the middle school forward as its principal

MCA's

The 2011 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAII's) are scheduled to be given to our students on the dates listed below. Again this year, we have engaged in a variety of efforts to raise the scores our students achieve on these state-wide standardized tests of reading, math and science ability. We also request your assistance in two areas. First, please discuss these tests with your child and try to motivate her or him to perform on them at the highest possible level. Because the tests do not impact their school grades, some students do not put forth their best effort when taking them. We do, however, use the results of these tests to determine course content and individualized instruction, which makes it critical that the scores represent students' best efforts. Additionally, test scores can be used as part of the process for placing students in particular classes both here and in the high school. Since the scores are used to compare our school to other schools in the state, we also hope to instill in our students a sense of pride in showing that Dassel-Cokato Middle School students are some of the smartest in the state! A second area where we need your assistance is simply ensuring that

your child attends school on the dates listed below, and that he or she shows up well-fed and rested on the test days. A good night's sleep, a good breakfast, and some parental encouragement can have a significant impact on test performance.

With all of our preparation and some encouragement from you, we are confident that our students can, once again, produce very admirable test results.

Reading:

5th grade: April 13 & 14

6th grade: April 11 & 12

7th grade: April 18 & 19

8th grade: April 20 & 21

Math:

5th grade: April 26 & 27

6th grade: April 28 & 29

7th grade: May 3 & 4

8th grade: May 5 & 6

Science:

5th grade: May 10

8th grade: May 11

PTA

The next regularly scheduled PTA meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m., in the high school media center. Dean Jennissen, High School Principal, will be discussing high school class options and offerings.

There will also be a school board update and an open forum for questions and comments.

All community members are welcome.

ISD 466

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Reading Counts 2nd 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 purchase these prizes. Students received one coupon to put in the drawing for ten Reading Counts points earned. One hundred students won prizes during this second trimester drawing. The following students had the most points for their grade and were guaranteed a spot on the winners' list:

5th Grade

Brittany Aho—839 points
Ingrid Mikkola—707 points
Caleb Christopherson—606 points

6th Grade

Jamin Lheto—736 points
Preston Simonson—576 points
Nathan Weckwerth—529 points

7th Grade

Joshua Yurek—563 points
Whitney Tormanen—552 points
Molly Hoikka—468 points

8th Grade

Gretta Pokornowski—1,017 points
Trevor Lindstrom—786 points
Anissa Thielsen—714 points

Reading Counts: Random Newbery Contest Winners

In an effort to promote the Newbery award winning books, the Media Center sponsored a February contest and awarded \$10 to the following students for reading one of the randomly selected Newbery titles during February:

5th Grade

Dannalee Johnson

6th Grade

Aaron Schwartz

7th Grade

no submissions

8th Grade

Jack Nelson

Reading Counts: Random Newbery Bookmark Winners

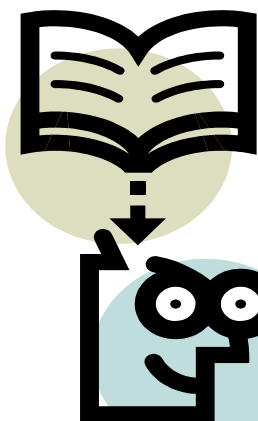
In an effort to promote the Newbery award winning books, the Media Center sponsored a Newbery Bookmark contest and awarded \$20 to the following students for earning the most points by reading these titles from September through February:

Troy Ryyanen, 8th grade (98 points)

Chris Busche, 7th grade (206 points)

Jamin Lehto, 6th grade (182 points)

Sara Cronk, 5th grade (320 points)



Middle School Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day

The National Education Association annually promotes reading with its Read Across America Day. The goal of this event is to celebrate Dr. Seuss's March 2 birthday, as well as to motivate people of all ages to read. To help celebrate this day, the Middle School Media Center invited Power Hour classes to create a banner that promotes reading. Students then voted on these banners during their weekly media center visit. We wish to congratulate the following Power Hours for earning the most votes for their creative banners:

- 1st Place: Niemela's Power Hour
- 2nd Place: Schmidt's Power Hour
- 3rd Place: Athmann's Power Hour

6TH GRADE HEALTH & SCIENCE

Science – Sixth graders begin April by studying electricity and magnetism. They will describe electricity and identify the roles that static electricity and current electricity play. They will also describe electromagnets in the context of their utility in society. Students then will apply that knowledge to hands-on activities such as lighting bulbs and creating circuits and switches.

Health – During April, students will cover two chapters: “Drugs and Health” and “Tobacco and Alcohol”. They will learn the difference between prescription and over the counter medicines and how to use each appropriately and safely. Students will also learn about the dangers of abusing medicines and of using illegal drugs as well as the use of tobacco and alcohol.

CHARGER CAFÉ

Happy Spring! Here at the Middle School Kitchen we are all ready for those April showers. With springs comes the start of our field trips. We want you to know we will gladly supply your student with a cold lunch, which will come off of the student’s lunch account, and includes the following: ham and cheese on a bun, package of mayo, chips, apple, juice, and a treat.

Students can also purchase PBJ’s for after school events. The sandwich must be purchased along with their lunch. The cost of the sandwich is \$1.

Thank you for supporting the school lunch program.

~Barb Quast, Kitchen Manager

HEADLINES IN SCHOOL HEALTH

~Kelly Krueger, LSN

Spring is here! The days will be getting warmer and longer which means more time spent in the sun. This is a good time to remember that sunscreen is a necessity whenever we are exposed to the sun, no matter how long the exposure. The majority of our lifetime sun exposure (50-80%) occurs during childhood. Regular use of an SPF-15 product starting after 6 months of age and continuing through 18 years can decrease the incidence of skin cancer over a lifetime by as much as 78%!

Here are some tips to protect your skin while having fun in the sun:

- Avoid the sun as much as possible between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm as radiation from the sun is most damaging during these hours.
 - Use sunscreen every day, even on days when it isn’t hot or sunny. Clouds can only minimally filter UV radiation.
 - Apply sunscreen 20 to 30 minutes prior to sun exposure. This allows the sunscreen to form a protective layer on the skin.
 - Take extra precaution when around water, sand, snow or concrete, as these can reflect up to 85% of UV radiation.
 - Wear hats and sunglasses to limit sun exposure to the face and eyes. Damage from the sun can be seen later in life in the form of cataracts.
 - Avoid artificial UV sources like tanning beds.
 - Reapply sunscreen frequently: Water resistant and waterproof formulas can protect for up to 40-80 minutes if in the water.
- Check medication labels. Some medicine can cause skin to be more sensitive to the sun’s rays.

For more information on skin safety, check out: http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/sun_safety.html

Middle School Students Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children

On February 25, twelve middle school students went to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen as part of our Activity Day celebration. Activity Day is a full day celebration 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. Students had the opportunity to sign up for skiing, skating, fishing, bowling, swimming, open gym etc. A group of 12 students volunteered to use their celebration day to serve others by going to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen and packing food. Our students packed 9,976 meals that will be used to feed 27 children for an entire year. We believe it speaks volumes as to the caring and compassionate character of our students that dedicated their “free” day to serving others. We would also like to give special thanks to Mr. Mike Lhotka, Mrs. Irene Bender, Mr. Dennis Johnson, Mrs. Amanda Kuhl, and Mrs. Gustafson who volunteered as chaperones. See below for a list of students and staff who volunteered to serve others during their day of celebration:

Libby Bender	Emma Berthiamume	Alexis Dutra	Marissa Engquist
Mackenzie Gustafson	Justin Jacobson	Tim Johnson	Emma Pringnitz
Adam Schmieg	Marit Thostenson	Erica Weiss	Jill Kittock, teacher
Paula Trisko, teacher	Pam Beckermann, teacher		

8th GRADE MCA TESTING:

Dates to remember:

Wednesday, April 20 and Thursday, April 21, 2011 MCA test for Reading

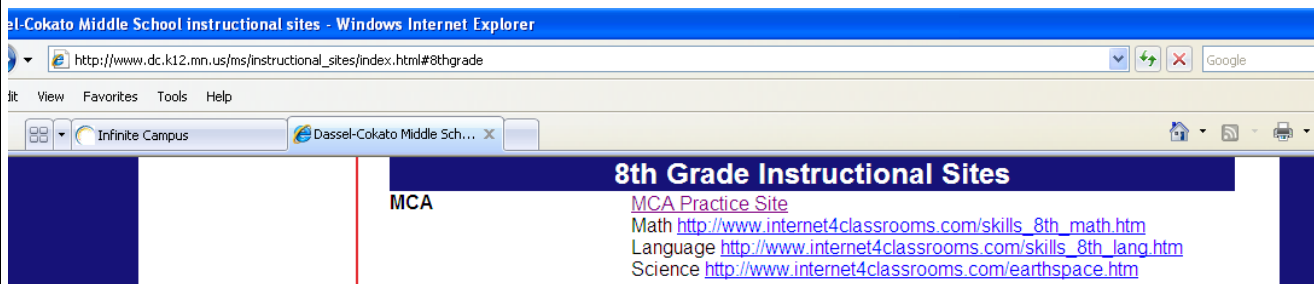
Thursday, May 5 and Friday, May 6, 2011 MCA test for Math ** This will be an online test.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 MCA test for Science ** This will be an online test.

Practice site for Math and Reading:

<http://perspective.pearsonaccess.com/perspective/appmanager/mn/family>

This site is accessible from our DCMS website at Instruction Sites/8th Grade. Please refer to the picture below for help:



You will need your LEARNING LOCATOR number to access individualized practice questions.

FACULTY FOLLIES IS BACK



The staff of Dassel-Cokato Schools is once again presenting Faculty Follies, a variety show to raise money for local student scholarships

The show will feature music, comedy, skits and a variety of other performances all set around the theme "Live from Dassel-Cokato. It's Saturday Night!" In a spin-off of the Saturday Night Live TV show format, teachers, staff members, administrators and school board members will all be showing their stuff on stage.

The show will be held at the Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the high school activities office, Red Rooster Foods in Dassel and the Marketplace in Cokato beginning Monday, April 4. All seats are general admission, and any tickets remaining after Friday, April 15 will be available at the door.

All money raised by the production will go toward the Dassel-Cokato Dollars For Scholars student scholarship fund.

Come out and enjoy a night of entertainment and support a good cause. We hope to see you there.

6th Grade Long Lake Conservation Center Field Trip

