



ISD #466

DASSEL-COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL

December 2010 Newsletter

COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, GARY JOHNSON

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

READING COUNTS 2

6TH GRADE SCIENCE & HEALTH NEWS 2

MUSIC NOTES 3

SCHOOL HEALTH NEWS 3

8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP AT THE ZOO 4

7TH GRADE HISTORY CENTER FIELD TRIP 5

PTA INFO 6

Happy Holiday Season! Thanksgiving has just passed, and we now get to experience the fun-filled weeks leading up to our Christmas break. Teachers and students alike seem to step a little lighter and glow a little brighter during this time. I hope you and your family are able to enjoy the enchantment of the season!

ONE FOR WATER

Last year our middle school students raised over \$2,000 for a project called H2O for Life, which provided clean water facilities for a primary school in Uganda. This year we are raising money for a similar project; however, we have partnered with the local chapter of the Rotary club to provide clean water facilities for another site in Uganda that will be selected and maintained by Rotary International. Not only does this partnership allow our students to build a relationship with local community members, but the Rotary club is also providing a very substantial monetary contribution for each dollar raised by our students. The project asks students to give up something in their lives that will allow them to donate one dollar for water facilities; hence, the name "One for Water". Students are also encouraged to find other people willing to donate a single dollar for the project, so you may have already been approached for a contribution. Along with helping students develop a universal commitment to assisting others, we are attempting to teach them life-long lessons about two of our character pillars, Compassion and Understanding Diversity. (If you know of someone who would still like to donate to this project, please contact Sue Sparboe or Jake Stang, 8th grade teachers.)

ATTENDANCE

Throughout the year we send home letters reminding a few parents and guardians about the importance of daily school attendance. Some of the letters are simply computer generated messages notifying parents that a student has accumulated a significant number of absences. However, the school is required by state law to send a more serious letter to notify parents when a student has accumulated 3 or more unexcused absences. If a student reaches seven unexcused absences, he or she is, by statute, considered truant, and the county truancy officer is notified. In order to avoid a child's absence being recorded as unexcused, it is critical that you take the time to call the office on the day your child is absent or send an explanatory note with your child when he or she returns to school. If you have questions about what circumstances constitute an excused or unexcused absence, please consult the student policies listed in your child's agenda book, or check the district web site at www.dc.k12.mn.us.

Incentive Activities

Each year we provide incentive activities that are designed to be a fun reward for students who have performed well throughout a particular trimester. Our first trimester activity will take place on Tuesday, December 14, from 5:30-7:00 for students in grades 5 & 6, and from 7:30- 9:00 for students in grades 7 & 8. Activities available will include a variety of inflatable games, sports activities, dodge ball, ping pong and foosball. You will receive a letter with more detailed information closer to the date of the event. If you have questions or would like to volunteer a little chaperone time, please contact Mr. Franklin at 286-4100, ext 1608, or brian.franklin@dc.k12.mn.us.

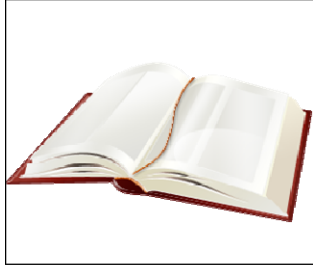
We hold high expectations for student behavior and academic effort, and greatly appreciate your support in these areas. If a student does not meet the criteria for participation in an incentive activity because of academic or behavior issues (as listed in the student handbook), he or she will be notified, in advance. Please encourage your child to continue to work hard to earn this privilege!

School Late Starts and Closings

As we enter the winter season, there is always the possibility of a delayed start, closing of school, or early dismissal due to inclement weather. School officials attempt to make that decision as early as possible to help parents make alternate plans for the day, if necessary. That information is communicated to a variety of media outlets that you can consult. Please remember that our primary consideration in deciding to close, delay, or dismiss school is the safety of our students.

READING COUNTS

Every year the media center sponsors monthly contests to encourage students to read and participate in our Reading Counts program. The October contest was "Draw a Date", and October 4th was randomly selected. We wish to congratulate the following students who earned the most points in their grade on that date. These students were awarded a certificate and a \$10 cash prize.



5th grade: Caleb Christopherson (91 points)

6th grade: Kara Thielsen (55 points)

7th grade: Emily Kivisto (22 points)

8th grade: Corey Siltala (77 points)

Sunday Open Gym & Open Swim

The D-C High School gym is open to the public Sunday afternoons, November 7, 2010 through March, 2011. No open gym or swim Dec. 26. The gym is open for general family recreation, basketball, and volleyball from 1:30–5:00 p.m. The D-C HS swimming pool is also open every Sunday afternoon from 2:00–4:00 p.m. NOTE: Please use the north Pool entrance, Door A, for Open Gym and Open Swim. Anyone using the school gym is requested to wear "indoor" tennis shoes. Fees are \$3 for children/students, \$5 for adults and \$12 for families and are collected at the door and entitle participants to time in the gym and/or pool. 10 punch passes are also available for purchase at the door.

CHARGER CAFÉ

We are starting something new at the Middle School. If you are involved in after school activities, you may purchase a peanut butter and jelly sandwich at lunch for \$1.00. It can be a long time between lunch and supper, so a little snack (like a peanut butter and jelly sandwich) might help get them through.

Just a reminder: For those that have free and/or reduced lunch, breakfast is offered for free.

Thank you for supporting the DC schools hot lunch program.

6th GRADE SCIENCE & HEALTH

Science: Students will continue to explore physical science concepts from Chapter 11. Specifically, students will learn how forces relate to motion as well as what causes motion to change. Students will learn how terms such as work, energy, and power relate to force and motion. Students will develop a basic understanding of how simple machines can be used to help us do work. Newton's Laws of Motion will be applied to the world around them.

Health: Our study of the cardiovascular system will culminate with the dissection of pork and venison hearts. More information on this activity will come in a separate letter. After dissecting, we will begin the next chapter, "Personal and Consumer Health". Students will examine the importance of caring for their skin, hair, and nails. They will analyze health-care products and determine how to make healthful consumer decisions. Finally, students will learn techniques to reduce health risk while using technology.

One More Way to Earn Cash for our School's Reading Counts Program

1. Purchase items of the following brands at Cash Wise: Food Club, Top Care, Paws, & Full Circle and receive Labels For Learning points on the end of your receipt.
2. Bring your receipt points to the fundraiser collection box located in the Media Center.
3. Cash Wise will redeem them for money that goes to our school.

We are always looking for parents willing to assist with various middle school activities. If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers, please contact Peggy Smith, our volunteer coordinator, at peggy.smith@dc.k12.mn.us or call Cindy in the middle school office.

We are always looking for subs in our kitchens. If you are looking for part-time employment, please contact Noni Smith in the District Office, 286-4100 (ext. 1013).

MUSIC NOTES

It's concert time! The 7th and 8th grade concerts went well on November 23rd and we're excited for the first 5th and 6th grade concerts of the year! Please have your student at the PAC doors no later than 15 minutes prior to the start of their concert. The main Middle School doors are locked and students will not be allowed back through at the end of a concert. Be sure instruments are NOT left in lockers as we cannot let students go get them! We look forward to seeing you there and thank you so much for supporting your student(s) and the DCMS Music Department!

REMAINING CONCERT DATES FOR TRIMESTER 1:

Tuesday December 7th – 5th Band and Choir Concert 6:30 pm PAC

Tuesday December 7th – 6th Band and Choir Concert 7:30 pm PAC

FUNDRAISER INFORMATION:

Fundraiser delivery is November 23rd

WRESTLING (Grades K-6)

Dean Jennissen, DC
Coaching Staff & Alumni

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 29, 6:00 pm, HS Commons, Door H. Registrations are encouraged prior to the meeting however, you still need to attend meeting.



Activity #5120 – Grades K-2 – 6:00-7:00 pm

Activity #5122 – Grades 3-6 – 7:30-8:30 pm

Tuesdays, Nov. 30-Feb. 22 (No class 12/28)

HS West Gym South Mezzanine, Door H

Early Bird Fee: \$20 each or \$35 family cap

Fee after November 29: \$25 each or \$40 family cap

SCHOOL HEALTH

~REMINDER ON STUDENT ILLNESSES~

Please be considerate of others when your child has been ill. To prevent the spread of illness, we remind you to please keep your children home for a MINIMUM of 24 hours after their fevers break or after they stop vomiting, even if they are feeling better.

~FLU VACCINES~

The Wright County Public Health Wellness on Wheels—WOW—Van provides low cost vaccinations for those without health insurance or with high deductibles. Vaccines are just \$10 if eligible. Call 763-682-7717 to find out if you qualify. A WOW van schedule can be found at: <http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/wowcal.asp>

~HEALTH AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION~

Please remember to submit an updated health and emergency form for your family. Only ONE form is needed per family. Forms can be found on our district website under: district>new student registration>health forms. This should be submitted yearly. Thank you!

8th grade Applied Tech CO2 Powered Dragster Competition Results

Ramp Race (Red Day)

1st Place—Jake Gruenhagen

2nd Place—Nathaniel Schultz

3rd Place—Katie Geesey

Speed Race (Red Day)

1st Place—Dean Kivisto

2nd Place—James Howell

3rd Place—Preston Wills

Ramp Race (Blue Day)

1st Place—Alex Smothers

2nd Place—Trevor Lindstrom

3rd Place—Shannon Demke

Speed Race (Blue Day)

1st Place—Noah Klima

2nd Place—Matt Crowe

3rd Place—Amy Simonson

CONGRATULATIONS!



8TH GRADE FIELD TRIP MATH DAY AT THE MN ZOO

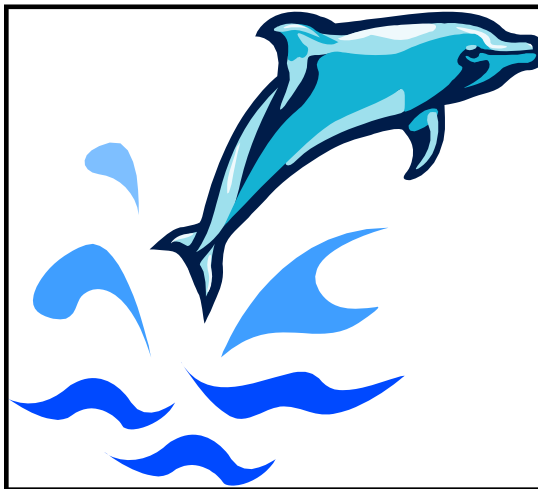
Students were able to explore the zoo while doing MCA test prep. Math questions were posed at stations around the zoo. When students answered questions correctly they were given a stamp in their math passport.



Alex Bapp taking a break with the moose.



One group of 8th graders at the zoo.



Carli Kirchoff, Bethany Mayfield, Amy Weiss, Anissa Thielsen, Emelia Powers taking it all in!

Attention 7th Grade Parents!

Topic: President Research Paper

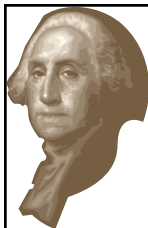
Class: US History

Due Date:

Mrs. Luebker's Class: Monday,
December 13

Mrs. K. Johnson's Class: Tuesday,
December 21

Stay updated by using Newsletter in Campus!



Physical Education Classes to Start Swimming in January

Physical education classes will start swimming right away



in January. Students will need swimsuits and a towel. Any questions contact Carrie Berggren (ext. 1655) or Cole Flick (ext. 1654).

OUTDOOR D-C YOUTH HOCKEY (Gr. K-6)

Lead Instructors: Maurice Niemela & Abe Niemela

The outdoor D-C Youth Hockey program provides kids with the opportunity to learn how to skate and play the game of hockey. The program includes skating, individual drills, team play and scrimmages. If you don't know how to skate, don't worry, we will teach you.

Practices will begin on Tuesday, Dec. 29 and go through the end of February as weather permits. We will also hold an end of season event indoors, more details on this will be distributed in February. Participants will need to provide the following required equipment: Skates, helmet w/mask and stick. The remaining hockey equipment is recommended but not required. First-time participants will receive a hockey jersey, at no extra charge.

Weather conditions: If the temperature is below zero

practice is canceled; if it is above zero practice will be held. Remember, it is always the parents discretion as to whether or not their child attends due to weather conditions or otherwise. A warming house is available at the rink.

Activity #5180 – Grades K-3

Tuesdays, December 28-February 22 at 6:00-7:30 pm

Saturdays, January 8-February 26 at 10:30 am -12:00 pm

Activity #5181 – Grades 4-6

Tuesdays, December 28-February 22 at 7:30-9:00 pm

Saturdays, January 8-February 26 at 9:00-10:30 am

Mooers Park, Cokato-Outdoor Rink

Early Bird Fee: \$27

Fee after December 21: \$32

7th Grade Minnesota History Center Field Trip

On November 12th our seventh grade students went to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.



The exhibits they visited were hands-on learning labs where students could see and hear the real “stuff” of history – artifacts, interviews, photographs, documents, paintings, films, and more. There were interactive games, multimedia theaters, and demonstrations. The feature exhibit was “The History of Chocolate.” Some of the favorite parts included a simulated ride on a war plane, a realistic tornado experience, and a Minnesota trivia interactive game. Ask your seventh grader about his/her favorite exhibit.

Home of the Chargers

PTA

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.

Thursday, December 2nd is our next bi-monthly meeting from 6:30-8:00 in the high school media center. Debbie Morris, Dassel Elementary Principal, will be talking about Title I; explaining what it is, how the money is used and where it comes from. This will be a great opportunity to meet Mrs. Morris and learn more about the Title I program! As always, all community members are invited to attend.

The Dassel-Cokato PTA is on Facebook! Check out our page to keep updated on what is happening with the PTA.

To become a PTA member or for more information about the PTA, please contact Tonia Olsen at 275-3275 or email chargerpta@yahoo.com

6th GRADE—LLCC PACKING LIST

Parents, as seasonal sales approach, here are the items your student will need for our Long Lake trip in March.

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

Medicines if needed (label with your name; give to your teacher)

6TH GRADE HISTORY

Students will continue their study of Minnesota History by examining how Minnesota became a state, the advantages of statehood for Minnesota, and our government today. In addition, students will learn about the Civil War and Dakota War and the effects these wars had on early Minnesotans. We will continue working on our Minnesota Booklet project.



Campbell's Clip & Earn

Help them learn by

clipping and earning!

1. Clip

Save UPCs from participating Campbell's Labels for Education products.

2. Earn

Send in UPCs to earn Labels for Education points for your school.

3. Help them Learn!

Your school redeems Labels for Education points for the great merchandise they need.

labelsforeducation.com

ISD # 466

Dassel-Cokato Middle School
4852 Reardon Ave SW
Suite 1500
Cokato, MN 55321

Phone: 320-286-4100 Ext. 1600

Fax: 320-286-4176

TO THE WORLD YOU MIGHT BE ONE PERSON, BUT TO ONE PERSON YOU MIGHT BE THE WORLD. UNKOWN