



ISD #466

DASSEL - COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2011 Newsletter

COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, GARY JOHNSON

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Happy New Year! I trust you enjoyed the opportunity to spend a little more time with your family during the past two weeks. Students always return to us from Christmas break both a little tired and refreshed, yet, excited to make that last toboggan ride toward Spring Break! Let's work together to see how much they can learn by the end of the year.

Parent Conferences

On January 24 & 27 we will host our second round of parent conferences for this year. Conference times are 4:00 to 8:00 each day. Since these are our last formal conferences of the year, it is an important opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss your child's progress through the first half of the year. Please remember that you are always welcome to contact the school to request a conference with an individual teacher. We look forward to seeing you on conference days!

School Late Starts and Closings

As we are now in 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.

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 Friday, February 25. 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.

Lunch Accounts

Please make certain that your family's lunch account has enough money in it to cover your child's lunch expenses. Currently, there are several middle school accounts that are overdrawn. At some point, students with negative lunch balances may not be allowed to eat a regular lunch. Please spare your child and the lunch personnel this embarrassment by keeping your balance positive. Credit card payments can be made online by using the link on the district web site or by calling Noni Smith at 286-4100, ext 1013.

Please Keep the Office Updated

If you have a change of address or phone number, please call the middle school office at 286-4100 (ext. 1600).



LOOKING FOR “LEXILE” CONTEST WINNERS

Every year the media center sponsors monthly contests to encourage students to read and participate in our Reading Counts program. The November contest was “Looking for Lexiles”. Students were encouraged to read books within their Lexile range, and for every book they read in their range, they entered a coupon into a drawing. We wish to congratulate the following students who won this month’s contest. These students were awarded a certificate and a \$10 cash prize.

5th grade: Madison Mayer

6th grade: Morgan Miller

7th grade: Ross Aho

8th grade: Gretta Pokornowski



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 purchase these prizes. Students received one coupon to put in the drawing for ten Reading Counts points earned. Seventy-five 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:

5th Grade	Points
Sara Cronk	803
Caleb Christopherson	705
Ingrid Mikkola	444
6th Grade	Points
Nathan Weckwerth	1,194
Preston Simonson	650
Laif Hendrickson	620
7th Grade	Points
Darrell Mytty	769
William Cronk	696
Christina Busche	630
8th Grade	Points
Gretta Pokornowski	1,471
Anissa Thielsen	673
Corey Siltala	609

6th GRADE SCIENCE & HEALTH

Science: Students will finish exploring physical science concepts from Chapter 11, “Exploring Forces”. This study will lead into Chapter 12, “Exploring Energy”. Students will learn about wave motion and how it is measured as well as how sound energy is transferred. The sixth graders will explore light and how it travels and complete labs to learn more about colors of light.

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.

DCMS Students Sponsor a Successful Food Shelf Collection

During two weeks in December, the middle school students collected 2,066 items and \$186 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. Mrs. Rudebusch’s Power Hour won this competition. To celebrate their success, this Power Hour joined the sponsoring Power Hours in delivering the food to the local food shelves on December 20th. Also deserving recognition are Ms. Erickson’s Power Hour, who came in second place, and Mrs. Popelka’s Power Hour who took third.

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 14th.

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

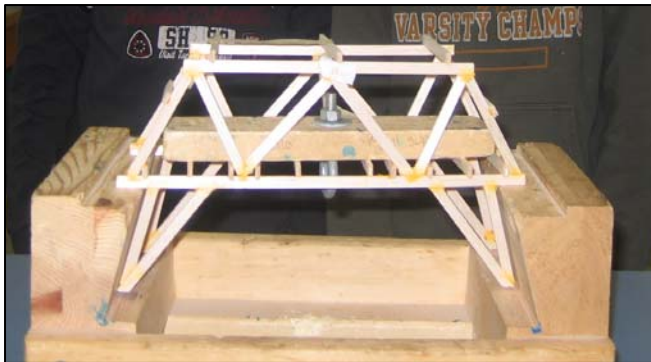
Dassel Food Shelf
Atlantic Ave West
(near Opsahl Plumbing)
Dassel, MN 55325
320.693.7661

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In social studies, sixth graders will be studying important industries in Minnesota's past. This will include railroad-ing, farming, flour milling, lumbering, and iron mining. Stu-dents 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. Fi-nally, students will be examining the Native American res-ervations in Minnesota while completing a power point presentation. Keep up the great work on your Minnesota Booklets!

7th grade Applied Tech Destructive Bridge Testing Competition Results

Students are given 12 feet of balsa wood to build their designs. A block is placed on the road deck and weight is suspended from it until it collapses.



1st Trimester Winners

Red Day	Pounds
1st Place: Hannah Wuollet & Taylor Johnson	48.6
2nd Place: Grant Wilson & Tavis Johnson	38.8
3rd Place: Carson Lindell & Brok Huikko	36.8
Blue Day	Pounds
1st Place: Megan Harmening & Emily Amundson	61.6
2nd Place: Kailyen Warner & Alexis Iverson	52.8
3rd Place: Kenzie Marco & Mariah Marelic	36.2

CHARGER CAFÉ

Happy New Year from the Charger Café! We are looking forward to seeing everyone back here at the Middle School this New Year.

Just a reminder: For those that have free and/or reduced lunch, breakfast is offered for free. We serve breakfast every morning from 7:45 a.m.—8:05 a.m.

8th Graders Participate in GLOBE Program

Students in 8th grade science are taking part in an interna-tional science program called GLOBE, which stands for Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environ-ment. They join over 1.5 million students worldwide in collecting environmental data. During two weeks in De-cember, DCMS 8th grade students have been recording surface temperatures using a hand-held Infrared Ther-mometer (IRT). Specifically, they have been comparing different surfaces (asphalt versus grass) to better under-stand how each one radiates energy. GLOBE data is shared with organizations such as NASA and NOAA and is used to help validate the information collected by satel-lites. For more information, visit the GLOBE web site: <http://globe.gov/>

Volunteers Needed for Feed My Starving Children

As part of our Activity Day Celebration, we are hoping to take a group of 40 students and parent/community volun-teers to pack food at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) at the Chanhassen site on February 25 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/>.

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 286-4100 (ext. 1655) or Cole Flick 286-4100(ext. 1654).

DASSEL-COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL REACHES ONE-FOR-WATER GOAL

DCMS students reached the goal of raising \$1,500 in their One-for-Water fundraising campaign! The money will be donated to the Cokato-Dassel Rotary, which will then be matched by the Regional Rotary and Rotary International! These funds will be used to help a district in the country of Uganda on the continent of Africa.

The money will go towards the digging of fresh water wells, the repairing of existing wells, the construction of improved toilet facilities, and the construction of hand-washing stations for a school in the Gulu district of Uganda. DCMS also hopes to create contact with the school through Rotary. This contact will allow students to get updates on the progress of the project, as well as create connections with students nearly half-way around the world!

Students raised money by donating a dollar instead of spending it on something else like pop, candy, or snacks. Students were also encouraged to try and convince others to donate towards this worthy cause. Power Hours competed to see who could raise the most money. The top three Power Hours were:

1st Place – Mrs. Flick

2nd Place – Mrs. Ashwill/Martinson

3rd Place – Mr. Anderson



Thank you to members of these three Power Hours, and all of the

students in grades 5-8 that participated in this event! What better way to demonstrate how a little bit can go a long way? These funds will help people in Uganda access to something that many of us take for granted.

Special thanks goes out to the local Rotary club for their generosity and support for this event. Also, a very special thank you to the Minnesota Wild and St. Cloud State University for donating hockey tickets that were raffled off to students in the top three Power Hours! Stay tuned for information regarding our coin-drive later in the winter that will hopefully raise \$500 allowing us to reach our over-all goal of \$2,000 for this project.

Something to Think About... FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

By Gabbie Nelson, 8th grade

Failure is not an option. Remind yourself of this daily in everything you do. What this statement means to me is that you should do your best at everything. For example, if you don't hit the winning homerun in baseball, that doesn't mean you're a failure as long as, you did your best.

It's important because it impacts everybody's life. How? Everywhere you go you should try your best and give your best effort.

When I think of this statement I think of people doing their best and not giving up. So everyday, you should do your best so you can feel good about yourself and make your parents proud.

DCMS collects \$141.85 from Kemps Nickels for Schools

During this past year, the middle school collected over 2,800 Kemps milk caps! These funds will be used to support the Reading Counts program. We wish to thank all parents, students and community members who support our school by saving and turning in these milk caps to the Media Center.

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