



ISD #466

DASSEL-COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 2010 Newsletter

COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, GARY JOHNSON

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CAMPUS PORTAL

Recently, you should have received in the mail a user's guide to our Campus Portal software. We hope it helps you take full advantage of all the features available in the Portal. If the guide looks interesting to you, and you have not, yet, activated your Portal account, please contact either of our secretaries, Cindy or Kim, at 320-286-4100, ext 1600 and they will help you create your account.

As I write this article, I am looking out the window at our first snowfall of the season. (Remember the windy (!) days of October 26 & 27?) It looks like our pleasant run of warm autumn weather has finally relented and made way for the colder days to come. If your child is in need of warm clothing that you are unable to provide, please contact Sandy Jones, our school social worker, and she will help find jackets, hats, gloves and boots.

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. Our next conferences will take place on January 24 & 27.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Starting in November students who want additional hot lunch food will no longer need to purchase an entire second meal. Instead, after eating their first lunch they will be able to purchase an additional main entrée item for \$1.00, which will be charged to their regular lunch account. Students will, also, still be able to purchase an entire second lunch, if they desire. **Families who receive free or reduced cost lunches, will need to have money available in their lunch account in order for students to purchase additional food.**

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.

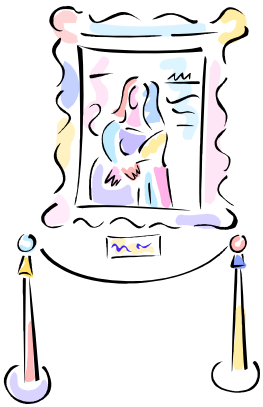
WHO: 8th Grade
WHAT: Math Day
WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010
WHERE: MN Zoo
COST: \$14



Students will think like zookeepers, exhibit designers, or aquarists. They will solve real life math problems essential to the daily operations at the MN Zoo.

How many fish does a 400 lb. dolphin eat daily? Math Day has been designed to inspire students grades 4-12 to learn more about how math is applied in the zoo workplace. Through both professional and student-led activity stations, students will answer grade appropriate math problems related to a wide variety of animal issues, exhibit upkeep and everyday life at the Minnesota Zoo.

Art Department News!



Middle School Winter Art Show

The art department is proud to present the annual exhibit of art created by students in grades five through eight! Artwork will be displayed from Monday, November 22, 2010 through Wednesday, December 8, 2010 in the hallway near the PAC.

The year is off to an energetic start with students hard at work using their creativity to complete art projects! Pieces on display are from all students who are currently in art class during the first trimester of school. Please take the opportunity to view the display of artwork from students in this community!

Thank you!

6th GRADE MATH

We are currently in the middle of unit 3. In this chapter, your child is learning how to read, write, and order decimals and to solve problems involving decimals. Your child is also learning how to write large whole numbers in scientific notation, which is a shorthand method for writing large numbers. It is essential that your child be able to work with decimals, since computers and calculators use decimal representation.

After unit 3 we will be investigating about divisibility and fractions. Your child will begin to understand fractions by comparing and ordering fractions and will receive an introduction to fraction operations.

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.

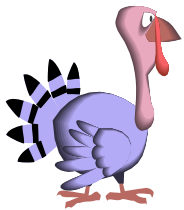
6th Grade Science and Health News

Science – The 6th grade students will finish Chapter 9, “Classifying Matter” and begin Chapter 11, “Forces and Energy”. Students will learn how forces and motion are related, what causes motion to change, what work, energy, and power are, and how simple machines help do work. Some labs the student will complete are determining the speed of a toy car, demonstrating the effect of

gravity on falling objects, determining how height affects a marble's kinetic energy, and using inclined planes to compare the force need to move objects.

Health – We are continuing with the “Growth and Development” chapter as described in the October newsletter.

CHARGER CAFÉ



November is here already! Come prepared to eat a big meal on Thursday, November 18—we will serve our Thanksgiving meal that day.

Breakfast is served every morning from 7:45–8:10. We offer a choice of cereal, cereal bar, muffin, granola bar, milk or juice. If you have free and/or reduced lunch, you can have a free breakfast.

Don't forget...Breakfast is the most important meal of the day!

Thank you for supporting our school lunch program.

Barb Quast , Middle School Cook Manager

PRINTING FEES

Due to budget constraints, we are unable to provide students the opportunity to print in color for free. Color printing will be restricted to items teachers believe students will keep long term (example: personal bibliography projects). With staff permission, students may be given the opportunity to print an assignment in color. The charge for color printing is \$.50 per page.

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.

MUSIC NOTES



The year is moving along quickly and we are almost to the end of our first trimester! That means it's concert time! We are busy preparing lots of fun (and difficult!) music for you to enjoy. We look forward to having a packed house at the PAC in November and December! 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! Thank you so much for supporting your student(s) and the DCMS Music Department!

CONCERT DATES FOR TRIMESTER 1:

Tuesday November 23rd - 7th Band and Choir Concert
6:30 pm PAC

*Morning Choir and 7th Grade Jazz Band performing

Tuesday November 23rd - 8th Band and Choir
Concert 8pm PAC

*Morning Choir and 8th Grade Jazz Band performing

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 forms due November 2nd

Fundraiser delivery is November 23rd

One For Water – School-Wide Fundraising

In 8th grade, our students participate in an interdisciplinary water unit. This year, we are excited to join the local Rotary in a project that we hope will make learning more relevant and exciting for our entire middle school population (grades 5-8)!

This project will undoubtedly help students at a school in Gulu, Uganda. As a middle school, we hope to raise \$2,000 to help fund the following projects at the school:

- Build hand-washing stations
- Dig wells and fix existing ones
- Build improved toilet facilities
- Building and maintaining water storage facilities

Educate students about proper sanitation

The benefits don't end there. Our students will grow by being actively engaged in work that supports two of our Character Building Pillars: Compassion and Understanding Diversity. In addition, communication with students will allow our students to compare and contrast water issues here with those across the globe. We hope to be sending letters and photos with Rotary members who plan to travel to Uganda later this school year! In return, we hope to hear back from the individuals that we will be helping.

"One for Water" is the name of our fundraising campaign. We hope to have as many people as possible donate \$1 to our partner school in lieu of spending it elsewhere (i.e. pop, candy, movies, fast food). Information about "One for Water" will be disseminated through Power Hours.

Fundraising is optional – students do not need to participate. If students choose to participate, they should follow these guidelines:

Do not go door-to-door asking for money.

Local businesses should not be contacted by students.

No fundraising at school!

Our goal is to get 1,500 people to each donate \$1, but we

welcome larger donations.

The remaining \$500 we hope to earn through a coin drive later in the year.

The money that our school raises will be part of the Rotary Safe Water Plus project in Uganda. Because of this, the money that we raise will be matched by Cokato-Dassel's Rotary District, Rotary International and from World Vision, which are all organizations that are working on the projects. The matching formula is 9.3 to 1, so for every *One for Water* dollar raised, the total matching amount is \$9.30. So, if DCMS hits our goal of \$2,000.00, the total amount of the contribution for the Gulu School is \$18,600! This amount is large enough to make some serious water improvements!

If you have questions, please contact Sue Sparboe (sue.sparboe@dc.k12.mn.us) or Jacob Stang (jacob.stang@dc.k12.mn.us) at the middle school.

7th and 8th Grade Science

Thanks to grants from the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust and "Donors Choose" and an award from Medtronic/MnSTA, Dassel-Cokato Middle School has acquired 19 Garmin GPS receivers. In October, 8th graders enjoyed a geocaching activity.



Reyna Schenk and Audrey Aspen check the coordinates on their GPS receiver.



Mackenzie Batzel searches for a geocache. Could it be in this tree??

Students in 7th grade science built trebuchets and completed trials while learning about the parts of an experiment.

3, 2, 1... FLING!



Anna Carlen, Isaac Olson, and Logan Johnson are ready to fire!



Darrell Mytty and Grant Wilson added another counterweight to the beam!

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.

We had wonderful attendance at the October PTA meeting. It was great to see so many members and also welcome other interested community members to the meeting. Thanks go out to Superintendent Powers for the information he gave on how the decision is made for school late starts, closings, and early outs as well as other district updates.

Our next bi-monthly meeting is Thursday, December 2nd 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 now on Facebook! Check out our page to keep updated on what is happening with the PTA and to find pictures of Charger apparel and information.

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.	Warm jacket
<u>REQUIRED ITEMS:</u>	Tennis shoes to wear for inside activities
Sleeping bag or bed roll and pillow	Warm boots (preferably with liners that can be removed to dry)
Snowsuit, snowmobile suit, or ski pants/jacket	Toiletry items (towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb or brush)
Appropriate underwear, including long johns	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
Sweater or sweatshirt	Pajamas or sleeping ware
Heavy warm socks—at least 6 pair in case they get wet	Medicines if needed (label with your name; give to your teacher)
Stocking cap	
2 pair of warm gloves or mittens	

6TH GRADE

The sixth graders will be talking about the fur trade in Minnesota. They will be playing a fur trade game simulating the many roles of the people involved in the fur trade. Students will also be learning about the treaties between the Native Americans and the government of Minnesota.

Some Minnesota booklet pages they will working on are Minnesota counties and fur trade journals.

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