

DASSEL-COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL

November 2011 Newsletter

COMMITTED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, BRIAN FRANKLIN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

READING COUNTS 2

NEW HARMONIES 2

GIRLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE 3

6TH GRADE NEWS 4

MUSIC NOTES 5

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS 5

I am surprised, yet happy, that we are near the end of October and the weather is showing us that autumn is still present. It was fun to watch the colors change this year without a reminder visit that winter is right around the corner. The pace of the school year has been a fast one. I have heard many parents, staff, and students say the same thing, "We are almost through October." It has been fast and fun at the same time. Students have had their fall field trips, the Education Minnesota Conference break, and are now preparing for the rest of the 1st Trimester and for winter to show us it will soon be here.

Veteran's Day Program

On November 11, we will present our Veteran's Day program at 2:05 PM 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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thank you to all parents and guardians who were able to attend parent conferences on October 17 and 18, 2011. We had a great turn out with many parents and students here to learn more about student progress and to support their children in the educational experiences here at DCMS. 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 you were able to use the information received at conferences to discuss with your child current academic performance, student goals for improvement, and strategies for achieving those goals. You may also stay updated with your child's progress in each class on the Portal. You may use your log-in information or your child's log-in information to learn more about academic progress at any time. Our next parent conferences will take place on January 23 & 26, 2012.

Incentive Activities

Each year DCMS provides positive incentive activities designed to be a fun reward for students who have performed well throughout a particular trimester. Our first trimester Activity Night will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011. Activities available will include a variety of inflatable games from Game World, sports activities, dodge ball, four square, ping pong, table tennis, and foosball. You will receive more detailed information regarding Activity Night as the date comes closer. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer some chaperone time, please contact Mrs. Johnson at 320-286-4100, extension 1608, or alisa.johnson@dc.k12.mn.us.

Here at DCMS we hold high expectations for student academic effort and behavior, and greatly appreciate your support in both of these areas. If a student does not meet the student policy criteria for participation in an incentive activity (as listed in the student handbook), he or she will be notified in advance and will not be able to participate in these activities. Please encourage your children to continue to work hard to earn such privileges.

Upcoming Events:

November 11, 2011: Veteran's Day Program, 2:05 p.m. (Open to the Public)

November 14, 2011: School Board Meeting

November 21, 2011: School Board Meeting (moved from November 24)

November 22, 2011: 7th & 8th Grade Band and Choir Concerts

November 24 & 25, 2011: Thanksgiving Vacation

December 1, 2011: End of 1st Trimester

December 2, 2011: No School for Students (Staff Development Day)

READING COUNTS AT DASSEL-COKATO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Reading Counts is a motivational reading program that encourages reading through recognition, prizes and friendly competition. Students earn Reading Counts points by reading books and taking quizzes on the computer. Books that are more challenging and have more pages are worth more points.

Following are the motivational prizes, competitions and recognition we have planned for this school year:

- 1. Point Level Prizes:** At the end of each trimester, students will earn a small prize for the highest award level they achieve.
- 2. Monthly Competitions:** Every month students are encouraged to compete in fun, grade level competitions for a chance to win \$10.
- 3. Bookmark Contests:** The students in each grade level who earns the most points on the Classics, Newbery and Maud Hart Lovelace bookmarks will be awarded \$20.
- 4. Trimester Drawings:** At the end of each trimester, students are given 1 ticket for every 10 points they've earned. These tickets are then put in a drawing for the variety of prizes and cash that are displayed in the media center display cases.
- 5. Grade Level Competition:** To encourage fun competition, the grade that earns the most points during the year will be treated to root beer floats.
- 6. School Wide Goal:** To encourage school unity, a 135,000 point goal is set for the school again this year. Students will then earn 1 minute of free time for every 1000 points they earn beyond this goal. To encourage everyone to participate, students must earn a minimum of 75 points in order to participate in this celebration.
- 7. 1000 Point Club:** Student earning 1000+ points during the year will have their names posted in the Media Center and will receive a special recognition in the spring.
- 8. Top Award Recognition:** The top three point earners in each grade will be awarded cash prizes and medals during the end-of-year school awards ceremony.

Prize Note: *Students collect boxtops, milktops, printer cartridges, etc. to pay for all prizes. No school funds are used to purchase any prizes.*

8th Graders Attended the “New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music” exhibit at the Dassel Area Historical Society on October 17



Claire Peterson



Matty Schelhaas and Kayla Sletten

Girls Make a Difference

Seventh and eighth grade girls took an annual trip to the Twin Cities on Saturday, October 15, 2011. We went to Girls in Science, sponsored by Fox 9 at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. We had a brief lunch at Cossettas. Next, we visited the St. Paul Cathedral where the girls got to see architecture, stained glass and the cooper roof which was replaced in recent years. We then walked to the James J. Hill house for a private tour of the Railroad Baron's home. One of the girls even got to play the organ! We ended our night at The Loring Pasta Bar where we enjoyed a fine dining experience.

We postponed the volunteering portion of our trip which will be done at a later date after school. The girls will be preparing cards and pins to present to local veterans at the Veteran's Day program in the East Gym near the PAC at 2:05 pm. on November 11, 2011.

Our next trip will be next year so look for information next fall!



From the Transportation Office:

We will soon be transitioning to the new transportation coordinator, Kevin Miller. He will not recognize voices or know which bus students ride, so when leaving a message be sure to leave detailed information. We need the students first and last names and the bus number they ride. If it's a common name to this community, please say "The Sam Johnson family will not be riding bus #___this morning...or today"...not just "The Johnson's." Thank you for your help.

From the Middle School Office:

If your student is absent from school, please take a moment to check Parent Portal for any missing work. Teachers are asking that parents access portal for missing homework before making a homework request through the office. If you do not have access to the internet, we would be happy to supply homework once your child has been gone at least **two** days. Also, if your child is absent please inform the office via phone call (286-4100 ext. 1600), email, or written note to verify the absence.

6th Grade 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.

Social Studies - 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. Sixth graders will continue to be working on their Minnesota Booklet projects.

PTA

November is National PTA Healthy Lifestyles month. Eating healthy does not have to be hard. Making these small substitutions can help to have your child eating healthier, great tasting foods:

- Choose baked sweet potato fries instead of French fries
- Try 2% or skim milk instead of whole milk
- Chew sugar free gum instead of candy
- Eat chocolate dipped frozen banana popsicles instead of ice cream

In conjunction with National PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month, the PTA will be hosting Bernie Reinke (Food Service Director for the DC, Hutchinson, and Litchfield districts) at our next PTA meeting. Mrs. Reinke will present information regarding the guidelines and process our school district follows to purchase nutritious meal offerings for our children.

Our next PTA meeting will be Thursday, December 1 from 6:30–8 p.m. in the high school media center.

LONG LAKE CONSERVATION CAMP (LLC) 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 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)

Don't Bring:

Food of any kind
 Gum/candy
 Juice/water bottles
 Knives
 Hair dryers/curling or flat irons
 Anything that plugs in
 Radios
 Flashlights
 Cell phones

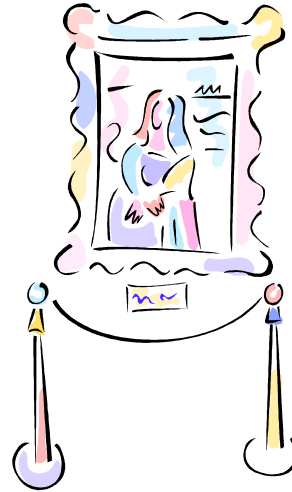
Music Notes

The Middle School Music program is off and running! It has been a busy fall already with the beginning of Jazz Band and preparing for the band and choir concerts. In addition, we are excited to share that five DC students have been accepted into the American Choral Director's Association-MN Chapter Choirs. Participating in the Children's Choir will be Erikka Langemo, 4th Grade, Eleanor Weckwerth, 5th Grade, and Natalie Dahlin, 6th Grade. Participating in the 7th and 8th Grade Girls Choir will be Cassadi Kirchoff, 7th Grade, and Christina Busche, 8th Grade. They will be in St. Peter, MN November 18th and 19th for rehearsals and concerts. The First Trimester concerts will be as follows:

December 6, 2011
 -5th Grade at 6:30 pm
 -6th Grade at 7:30 pm
 November 22, 2011
 -7th Grade at 6:30 pm
 -8th Grade at 8:00 pm



Art Department News



The art department is proud to present the annual exhibit of art created by students in grades five through eight. Art work will be on display from November 21–December 7. The art will be displayed in the hallway near the PAC and the display case between the stair cases.

The trimester is well underway with students hard at work using their creativity to complete art projects! Pieces

on display will be 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.

Students of the Month

SEPTEMBER

5th Grade:

Katie Hendrickson
 Elizabeth Knutson
 Sam Resop
 Mitchell Janckila

6th Grade:

Anna Peterson
 Caitlin Kantola
 Lucas Wendolek
 Logan Wendolek

7th Grade:

Alayna Johnson
 Sydney Dennis
 Casey Peterson
 Aaron Schwartz

8th Grade:

Kaitlyn Rynnanen
 Stacia Zimmerman
 Jacob Avant
 William Cronk

CONGRATULATIONS!

CHARGER CAFÉ

November is here already! Come prepared to eat a big meal on Tuesday, November 15. 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.



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