

Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #4

December 2008



Veteran's Day 2008

The Veteran's Day Program of 2008 was held at the Denmark Middle School on November 7th. A record crowd of community members came to honor veterans with a program put on by our FFA Chapter and the Student Council. Pictured is Ben Goddard, FFA Sentinel, as he introduced the Star Spangled Banner.



As part of the Veteran's Day ceremony, Mr. Victor Kapinos of the local VFW Post presented to Mrs. Dyan Pasono, Middle School Principal, a plaque in memory of Diane Thomas. Mrs. Thomas was always a strong supporter of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest by coaching her students to enter each year. The plaque will honor each year's winner and will be placed in a prominent location within the school. In the words of Mrs. Pasono, "Mrs. Diane Thomas will be greatly missed by students and faculty alike."



Camp Read S'More

On Monday October 20th, students from the Denmark Early Childhood Center and the Elementary School, along with their families, were invited to join school staff and community members at the first ever Camp Read S'More.

The goal of Camp Read S'More was to get students and their families together for a fun night of literacy and become involved with their school community. That goal was accomplished. There were more than 200 students who attended and with parents, siblings and family members, well over 300 people visited the Denmark Elementary.

Families followed a "trail guide" and took part in six different stations. The stations included a campfire story time, make-and-take-home S'more treats, a "Tell Me S'More About You" writing center, a family picture craft, a sing along with Mr. McPherson, and a family read together in tents in the gym.





Agribusiness Tours

This year the High School FFA Chapter once again sponsored Agribusiness Tours for all second grade students. The students visited Ivy Trails Garden Center and the Roger Buresh & Sons Dairy Farm. The Denmark FFA Alumni paid for the busing costs to make it possible for all students to be exposed to agriculture in our own community.

Here is Mr. Roger Buresh with the students enjoying their ice cream treat after the dairy farm tour.



While visiting Ivy Trails Garden Center, the owner Mr. Steve Frankow, taught the students about planting trees. The students also planted tulip and daffodil bulbs.



Exemplary Middle School

The Denmark Middle School was recognized by the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) as being an **Exemplary Middle School for math AND reading scores being in the top 10% in the state.** Congratulations to the staff and students for all their hard work.

East Asia Studies

The School District of Denmark was awarded \$335 worth of curriculum materials by the "Program for Teaching East Asia." The "Program for Teaching East Asia" is a coordinating site for the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA).

Kazuko Stone, Denmark High School instructor, secured the award for our school district by completing a 30-hour development seminar about teaching East Asian studies.

The donation includes excellent educational videos and teaching materials concerning the history, culture and art of China, Japan, and Korea. The materials will be located in the high school and will be available for use by all staff members of the district.

New Zealand Pen Pals

New Zealand may seem like a world away, but to Mr. McPherson's fifth grade class they are as close as the post office. His class corresponds monthly with their pen pals from New Zealand to learn about their southern hemisphere culture. Fifth grader Destanie Strouf said, "We have learned about the national bird, a Kiwi bird, and some new ways to speak, like bestie instead of best, and they use mum for mom. Also, they don't use normal balls when they play. They use harder balls than we do." Other students have learned about different sports played in New Zealand like netball and rugby. Students even got to taste some candy from down under (Jaffas and Pineapple Lumps). Mr. McPherson's class has decided to send Starburst fruit chews and Jelly Belly jelly beans with their next letters for a little USA flavor. Having a real life purpose for writing encourages the kids to be more authentic with their work. McPherson said, "They are doing a wonderful job; you'd be proud of these students if you could read their letters."





“The Ride of Pride”

Gwen Lemke, a middle school parent, arranged to have Schneider Transportation Company’s “Veteran’s semi” visit the middle school. The driver of the semi, Vince Hagen, a retired army veteran of 26 years, spoke to the students about the meaning behind all the symbolism of the painted semi.



First Place Winner

One of the eighth grade elective courses taught by Mrs. Arneson is Building and Construction. In this class, students design and build a CO2 car that they race down a 50-foot track. This trimester’s winner is Nick Mommaerts with a time of .65 seconds. Nick is shown here with his trophy and car.



Great Learning Experience

Denmark High School students in the technical education department, along with NWTC staff and students and Bielinski Excavating, collaborated to lay a concrete slab at the high school and also learned to lay brick. This was a great hands-on experience for all involved.



Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, December 30, 2008
12:00—5:00 P.M.
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
435 Wisconsin Ave., Denmark

Walk-ins Welcome

For an appointment,
call Becky at 863-3428

Attention: Non-Residents of the School District of Denmark

This newsletter is a service provided to all residents of the School District of Denmark. The most effective and affordable process to circulate this newsletter throughout our community is to use a saturation mailing which occasionally picks up a few streets in the postal route areas of non-residents. Avoiding a few non-residents from receiving this newsletter is difficult and costly. Our efforts to communicate with our resident families is important.



ANNUAL NOTICES

PUPIL RECORDS

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the School District of Denmark, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the School District of Denmark may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School District of Denmark to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll and other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. (These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908) as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002* (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.)

If you do not want the School District of Denmark to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by December 31, 2008. The School District of Denmark has designated the following information as directory information:

- The student's name
- The student's address
- The student's telephone listing
- The student's date and place of birth
- The student's major field of study
- The student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports.
- The student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team
- The student's dates of attendance
- The student's photograph
- The student's degrees and awards
- The name of the school most recently previously attended by the student

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT CARD: WINSS ON THE WEB

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has developed a website entitled "Wisconsin's Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS)" to assist parents, community members, and educators learn more about Wisconsin school districts. The WINSS Successful School Guide is accessible on the web at www.dpi.state.wi.us/sig/index.html and includes detailed information on student achievement, student adequate yearly progress, student graduation rates, schools identified as in need of improvement, and professional qualifications of teachers.

Feel free to explore information on this web page from the comforts of your home, from the local branch of the Brown County Library (located on the second floor of our high school), or contact the school district office at 863-4000.



ANNUAL NOTICES CONTINUED

STUDENT SURVEYS

As a school district receiving funds under U. S. Department of Education programs, the School District of Denmark must notify parents of their right to inspect certain student surveys and to opt their children out of those surveys and other activities that collect, disclose, or use personal information from students, including materials designed to sell or market student information to others. The types of surveys include those created by third parties (outside of the school district) and their subject matter as specified below. Parents must be notified of their rights before the survey is distributed to students.

Schools must involve parents in establishing policies that annually notify parents of this right at the beginning of each school year and when substantive changes are made to related school policies. The notice to parents must state the specific or approximate dates during the school year when activities are scheduled.

If a survey asks students for information in any of the following eight categories, schools must give parents the right to inspect the survey:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of students or their family.
- Mental and psychological problems of students or their family.
- Sex behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of students or their parents.
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for program participation or financial assistance).

The School District of Denmark will provide the survey to parents within a reasonable amount of time after the request and before surveys are distributed to students. The School District of Denmark will also involve parents in developing and adopting policies that establish the right of parents, upon request, to inspect student surveys and opt their children out of a survey.

ESEA TEACHER QUALITY NOTIFICATION

The School District of Denmark is committed to hiring and retaining high quality educational staff members. All teachers in our school district have at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college and are licensed by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act, requires school districts to notify parents of their right to request the following information about the qualifications of the school district teachers and paraprofessionals who are educating their children.

Is my child's teacher licensed to teach the grades or subjects assigned?

Has the state waived any requirements for my child's teacher?

What was the college major of my child's teacher?

What degrees does my child's teacher hold?

Are there paraprofessionals working with my child? If so, what are their qualifications?

You may obtain this information on the Wisconsin DPI website at www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/tel/lisearch.html or by contacting Peggy Heise in the Denmark Schools Human Resource Department at 863-4012.



ANNUAL NOTICES CONTINUED

HOMELESS CHILDREN

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth (twenty-one years of age and younger) as:

- Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:
 - sharing the housing of others persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as double-up);
 - living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
 - living in emergency or transitional shelters;
 - abandoned in hospitals; or
 - awaiting foster care placement.
- Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children who may qualify according to the above criteria, the School District of Denmark provides the following assurances to parents of homeless children:

- The local district staff person (liaison) for homeless children is the Director of Pupil Services.
- There shall be immediate enrollment and school participation, even if educational and medical records and proof of residency are not available.
- All educational opportunities and related opportunities for homeless students (preschool to age 21), including unaccompanied youth, shall be the same as for the general student population.
- Enrollment and transportation rights, including transportation to the school of origin, shall be possible. "School of origin" is defined as the school the child attended when permanently housed or when last enrolled.
- Written explanation of why a homeless child is placed other than in a school of origin or school requested by the parent, with the right to appeal within the local dispute resolution process.
- Meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in the education of their children. These shall include: special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.

Please contact Steve Pasono, homeless liaison for the School District of Denmark, for additional information about homeless issues. Mr. Pasono can be reached at 920-863-4031.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Upon request, the **School District of Denmark** is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made.

Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability, may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides.

Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting **Steve Pasono**, Director of Pupil Services, School District of Denmark at (920) 863-4031 or by writing him at 450 N. Wall Street, Denmark, WI 54208

*For questions about this information, contact **Steve Pasono**, Director of Pupil Services, School District of Denmark (920) 863-4031*



Dear Residents of the School District of Denmark,

Every day, it seems, the economic news continues to worsen across the country and in Wisconsin. As I am writing this, Citigroup is reducing their work force by 50,000; the United States automobile industry appears on the edge of bankruptcy; and the State of Wisconsin will begin the next fiscal budget (2009-2011) close to \$5 billion in the negative. Yet, with all of that dreadful financial news around us, on November 4, the majority of local taxpayers decided to financially support the School District of Denmark with additional revenue for the next three years. From the Denmark School Board, administration and staff, and mostly from the students, thank you very much!

Under the radar because of the referendum were a number of exciting events and awards that were occurring within our district that all residents should feel very proud of. Some of these are:

- A group of middle and high school students is one of 13 teams across the nation to be selected to compete in a rocket competition at NASA headquarters this spring.
- The middle school was selected for the second year in a row to receive an "Exemplary Middle School" Award for placing in the top 10 percent in both reading and math based on statewide student assessment scores.
- All high school fall sports athletic teams fared very well in regard to participation and competitiveness in the second year of the Bay Conference.
- The veterans of the community were again treated to an outstanding program held at the middle school in November.
- By all accounts, the high school musical "Oliver" was a huge success based on student performances and attendance at the programs.
- There was a great learning experience this fall among DHS students, the Denmark Technical Education Department, NWTC students, NWTC resources, and the support of local businesses including Bielinski Excavating. The teaching of brick laying and concrete work culminated with a concrete pour in back of the storage garage.
- The elementary school, with help from a grant from Dean's Distributing, will be providing after-school reading help to second graders starting this month. This is a continual effort to help all students become proficient in reading, as that is a very strong indicator of future student success.
- There have been a number of wonderful music programs that have already occurred this school year. However, with the holiday season upon us, there are many opportunities to watch our talented students perform in the next few weeks.
- Day-to-day there is a district full of dedicated staff helping students achieve their best to help prepare them for the future.

With all of the good news occurring in the district, there is also deep sadness. The School District of Denmark lost a superb educator and human being with the passing of Diane Thomas who lost her battle with cancer on November 4. Diane was a wonderful teacher and helped many, many students learn the love of reading and writing. Her legacy will live for many generations. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Doug, along with their children and their spouses.

Sincerely,

Tony Klaubauf
District Administrator

School District of Denmark
450 N. Wall St.
Denmark, WI 54208

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Attention Parents

If you have concerns or questions regarding your children working online, please visit our website, www.denmark.k12.wi.us and click on link the PBS Frontline Presentation "Growing Up Online." This is an informative presentation regarding children using the web.