

# Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #3

December 2009



## THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

On Tuesday, November 17, the four-year-old kindergarten students at the Early Childhood Center learned about “giving” first hand. Children brought non-perishable items from home and then walked to the Denmark Community Cupboard to deliver them. Afterwards, the children discussed how much some families appreciate their kindness and how that made them feel.



## JACKIE BOTSFORD

In June of this past summer, Jackie Botsford, a paraprofessional in the Special Education Department of the Denmark Middle School, discovered she had cancer. The cancer had already spread significantly by the time it was discovered. Jackie lost her battle with cancer on November 17, 2009.

Jackie began working for the School District of Denmark in the fall of 2001. During the past eight years, Jackie worked at both the Elementary and Middle School helping Special Education students to be successful. Jackie was a very caring individual who will be missed by all who came in contact her.



Jackie is survived by her husband of eight years, Kent Botsford, Green Bay; her daughter, Elizabeth (William C.) Boyle II, Appleton; Kent's daughters, Wendy J. Garcia, Green Bay; and Bonnie J. Botsford, Jacksonville, N.C.; grandchildren, William "Liam" Boyle III, Lauren J. Boyle and Evan M. Garcia.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jackie's family.



## FIRST QUARTER ASSEMBLY

Jeremiah the Bullfrog, mascot of the Green Bay Bullfrogs Baseball Team, visited the Elementary School for their first quarter assembly. Jeremiah congratulated the students as they received their awards. Classes were then able to have pictures taken with the Bullfrog.



## SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

The Denmark News has published a school year calendar with the dates of important happenings at all schools. The calendar also includes valuable coupons from area businesses. Calendars are available for purchase at the ECC and Elementary School offices. For each calendar sold, \$1.00 will be donated to the PTO.

## ONLINE ISSUES

All freshmen students, along with guidance from the Gotcha Covered Mentors, researched the effects related to teen Internet use and making good choices online. Freshmen started their week by taking a Cyberbullying survey using a new technology now available in the district. Students were issued a response device or “clicker” to record individual responses to 19 questions related to their online behaviors. Results of the survey were shared with the group. Students gathered information in small groups to create positive messages about appropriate Internet and cell phone usage. Topics covered during the week were cyberbullying, protecting online privacy, and safe social networking tips. The main message of the week became “Once you put it online, you may never get it back!”

Thank you to the Gotcha Covered mentors, their advisors Mrs. Farr and Mrs. Flickinger, and to Mrs. Olsen, district technology educational support coordinator, who set up the online cyber-bullying survey. The efforts of all of these individuals made this week very productive.





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## FORMER STUDENT THANKS TEACHER

There are many times we forget to thank those that helped us along our life's journey. Below is how one former student of the Denmark School District thanked one of his former teachers. This letter serves as a great lesson for all of us to thank our former teachers -- who may be parents, coaches, relatives, neighbors and yes, educators, who have helped us along the way.

This past summer, out of the blue, a former student of Mrs. Jeanne Mease, Art Teacher at Denmark High School, contacted her and wanted to make amends for something he had done in 1982. Not only did he want to apologize for something he had done while in high school, but he wanted to thank Mrs. Mease for much of his success in life. It is a remarkable letter. Because of the length of the correspondence, the letter cannot be completely included in this article. However, below is a summary of the letter provided with permission of the author, Jay R. Martinson (class of '82).

"Dear Mrs. Mease,

While this letter may come as a random and 'out of the blue' thing, I can assure you that it is something I have intended to write for several years. I have been blessed with a wonderful life in multiple ways, but I know I'll always feel incomplete without taking the time to express my most sincere gratitude to you."

.....

"Looking back, I am amazed at the incredible opportunities and experiences I had while a student of yours.... You helped me acquire a life-long love for art."

.....

"After graduation from high school, I studied English and Communication..... I completed my masters and doctorate in Communication and took a job as a professor at my college alma mater, Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois. .... I've served as a professor and department chair in the Communication Department for 16 years now and love every minute of it."

.....

"I am still very much an artist at heart. I opened a small business called 'Homefront Studios' in which I did drawings and paintings of peoples' homes. I use a variety of mediums depending on my client. I did a lot of pastel chalk paintings, several watercolors, many pen & ink drawings, some pencil renderings, and one very large acrylic of a farm....I could not have ever done that without your instruction and the confidence to tackle any art project that I acquired as a result of SO MANY opportunities you threw at us as students."

.....

"Lastly, I have to offer a long overdue apology to you. For the past 27 years, I have felt badly for having done something stupid that hurt you badly. I still hurt just by remembering and re-telling this to you. But, in the summer between my junior and senior years of high school, I attended the summer UWGB art program for high school kids. ... After that week, I wrote the camp directors a letter thanking them for the good experience. That's fine, but the way I wrote the letter was horrible. I made a reference to how my own high school art teacher wasn't a very good teacher and didn't care about me. (I have no idea to this day why I felt like I had to tear you down in order to compliment them, but I sure did it). And the really stupid thing is that it wasn't true. And it gets worse. They (the camp counselors) liked it so much they printed it in the newspaper."

"Mrs. Mease, it has been 27 years, and I need to tell you how very sorry I am for having been an arrogant, thoughtless, unappreciative jerk. .... Please do two things for me: 1. Please accept my most sincere and heart-felt apology for my stupid thoughtlessness 27 years ago. 2. Please accept my most humble thanks and appreciation for a life-long love for art that shaped who I am, how I think.... "

"Forever in your debt and deepest appreciation for truly changing my life for the better."

Jay R. Martinson (class of 82)



## STUDENT AUTHOR

Zach Miller, an eighth grade student in Mrs. Diane Fischl's Exploring Ag Class wrote and published a book as a class project. Zach read the book to Mrs. Noth's 4-K class. The book was all about corn so the students enjoyed popcorn while Zach read to them!



## BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The School District of Denmark is happy to offer a state licensed before and after school program. The program is located at the Early Childhood Center and is open to children in grades 5K through 5th grade. Services are also available for early release and no school days. There are spots still available. For more information visit the following website:  
<http://www.denmark.k12.wi.us/aftschlprog.cfm>  
or contact Shawn Short at 863-3298, 360-1867 or email at [shortfam4@centurytel.net](mailto:shortfam4@centurytel.net).

## SINGING IN WISCONSIN

On Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, twelve Denmark High School choir students traveled to Appleton West High School to participate in *Singing in Wisconsin*, a state-wide choral festival that was held at four sites throughout the state. Over 1,000 middle school and high school students participated in the event, which was sponsored by the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association. Denmark students were privileged to work the entire day with Korean native Seong Kyung Graham, the director of the Civic Symphony of Green Bay. Each festival concluded with a concert in which the students performed the songs that were studied throughout the day. The DHS students who participated were Whitney Baugnet, Tonya Bosetski, Ali Breuer, Amanda Gauger, Briana Keahiolalo, Elizabeth Lacenski, Kirsten Larson, Sarah Larson, Elizabeth Neuberger, Elise Ott, Carolyn Petersen, and Naly Yang. They are students of Kim Hess, DHS choir director.



## TWITTER

Follow the School District of Denmark on Twitter  
[www.twitter.com/denmarkschools](http://www.twitter.com/denmarkschools)

If you are not familiar with Twitter, it is a Web 2.0 based tool. It's a "micro-blog" where users can have messages delivered to their cell phones or through the web. Basically, you can find out what we are doing here at the School District of Denmark. Visit the above website or find a link on our website [www.denmark.k12.wi.us](http://www.denmark.k12.wi.us).



## ATHLETIC REPUBLIC™ SPORTS TRAINING

Aurora BayCare Sports Medicine is the official athletic training and medical provider for Denmark High School. Powered by Athletic Republic, their expert training staff will prepare you for the upcoming season and help you gain a competitive advantage.

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### SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction will release the 2008-09 School District Performance Report for Denmark on May 1, 2010. It will be posted on the district website at that time. A printed copy can be requested by calling 920-863-4217.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

The School District of Denmark will be offering **Early Childhood Screening** for children who will be 3-4½ years of age by September 1, 2010. The school district will use census data to mail out developmental surveys to parents of these children asking parents to complete the questionnaire and return it promptly by mail. School professionals will score the questionnaire and provide written feedback to parents on the general developmental readiness levels of their child. In certain circumstances, the school district will invite children to participate in additional on-site screening to better assess school developmental readiness levels. Children identified with developmental delays from this additional screening could be eligible for free school district services (i.e.; speech and language therapy or early childhood special education programming) or parents may be encouraged to enroll their child in the school district's four-year-old kindergarten program to assist in strengthening any area(s) of developmental delay. These parents will also be provided with suggestions for home activities to assist their children.

**If you have a child who will turn 3-4½ years old by September 1, 2010**, please watch for this developmental questionnaire in the mail. You should receive the survey between January 18-25, 2010. We ask that you complete this survey and return it promptly by mail.

If you are unsure if your family's information was included in the most recent census, please contact the Early Childhood Center at 863-4177. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Dave Harper  
ECC Principal  
Phone: 863-4176

Amy Schuh  
School Psychologist  
Phone: 863-4035

School District of Denmark  
450 N. Wall St.  
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### **IN THIS EDITION OF THE DENMARK VIKING DISTRICT NEWSLETTER...**

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#### **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. Thank you for understanding.