

Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #5

January 2009



INVESTING HONORS

While many have watched their 401k accounts struggle, some Denmark High School students found investment gems in a difficult market. Denmark High School Investing 101 students competed against other State of Wisconsin schools in the Fall 2008 Stock Market Competition sponsored by Economics Wisconsin. Students invest \$100,000 in stocks, bonds, or mutual funds over a fifteen week period. Through the experience, students learn about financial markets and institutions, supply and demand in real markets, current events surrounding the economy, and key economic events of history.

Teams are evaluated on how their portfolios perform against the S&P 500 during the same time frame. Denmark placed two teams in the top five in the State of Wisconsin. This is the best showing Denmark Investing 101 students have ever made in this competition. Economics Wisconsin recognizes the top teams in each region with a small banquet at the Apple Creek Inn in De Pere, Wisconsin.



The students on the left, Amanda Wyngaard, Lucas Klarkowski, Brandon Haylovitz and Pat Landt took fourth place. Brandon Conard, Joe Pavlovich, Jade Laundrie, Tony Poplin, and Brent Larsen, on the right, took first place in the competition.

GRANTS AWARDED

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) recently awarded student mini-grants. Awards are based on recommendations by the CESA partnership council that are then reviewed by DPI Staff. The School District of Denmark has been awarded two of the mini-grants. Mark Meisner, teacher at the Denmark Empowerment Charter School, received \$1,000. Cindy Grueneberg, Guidance Counselor, and the "Bully Blockers: Here to Help" group at Denmark Elementary also received \$1,000. The groups will work with CESA's Wisconsin Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Education Network to implement their programs.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Alisha Honkanen, a student at the Denmark Empowerment Charter School (DECS), had the honor of a letter she wrote being published on the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools website (www.publiccharters.org). Alisha's story explains how she has changed through her experiences at DECS. The Alliance is a national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance works to increase the number of high performing charter schools available to all families, particularly low-income and minority families who currently do not have access to quality public schools.

OFFICE HOURS

To ensure that a "live" person is available by phone until students arrive home by bus, the District has implemented a new phone procedure after school offices are closed. If you call any building office after it is closed until 4:15 p.m., you will be directed by the automated attendant to dial a number that will connect you to a secretary in the district.

NEW WEBSITE

The School District of Denmark is launching a new website:

<http://www.cms4schools.com/denmark>. Our current site will stay active during the transition.

The new site will offer a fresh new design along with many new and user friendly features while maintaining information from the old site. To access the website either use the new web address or there is a link on our current web site www.denmark.k12.wi.us.



School District of Denmark Becoming More Green

Every business is attempting to become more energy efficient in the wake of the high cost of energy and the negative impact burning of greenhouse gases has on our environment. The School District of Denmark is no different. Below is a partial list of recent changes completed to allow more of the district budget to be spent on items that directly improve student learning and also to lessen our carbon footprint on the environment.

Replaced Lights in the High School Gymnasium

The total material and labor cost of replacing the high school gym lights was \$17,316. "Focus on Energy" provided a grant of \$4,560 for this project, so the net cost to the district was \$12,756. Because of the decrease in wattage used, the annual savings will be \$3,685. The payback for replacement of the lights will be less than four years. The lights have two settings. For everyday use the level is 50 foot candles and for events and competitions the lights are set at 70 foot candles. People who have visited the gym since the replacements have noticed a definite improvement in the lighting. The old lights and fixtures are either being recycled or kept to be used as replacements at other buildings.

Additional High School Boiler

Originally, the Denmark School Board approved the additional boiler (two million BTUs) to be used for off-peak times, mainly in the fall and spring of each year. The old boilers were extremely ineffective for these off-peak times. However, the system is presently being tested to run the high school heating system full time. This would save the district even more money than was planned. The total cost of the boiler project was \$54,828. "Focus on Energy" provided a grant of \$3,776, so the net cost to the district was \$51,052. The annual savings for off-peak times was projected to be \$9,441, with payback occurring in 5.4 years. We are predicting payback will occur much earlier if we find the new boiler is able to heat the high school for most of the year.

Replacement of Windows at the Elementary School

The Elementary School windows were very energy inefficient. Cold drafts and whistling were constant problems during cold weather. Obviously, this also allowed warm air into the buildings when the system was set to cool. So far, all windows on the west side of the building have been replaced within the last two years at a cost of \$33,800. Blinds are now between the panes of each window to eliminate the cost of having to repair and replace blinds from wear and tear. The north side of the building will be completed next as funds are available.

Other energy efficiency projects completed in the last several years include:

- All hallway and classroom lighting updated at the Elementary School.
- All thermostats at the Elementary School are now controlled by DDC or Direct Digital Controls for higher efficiency.
- All district exit signs are LED.
- High School parking lot lights are now timed to go off at 11:30 PM until the morning if needed.

Future projects as funds are available are:

- New fixtures and lights in every gymnasium.
- Hot water system will be replaced shortly at the Middle School.
- Continue window replacement at the Elementary School.

AlertNow

The School District has implemented an automated phone/e-mail notification system. Announcements are made via telephone and/or email with information regarding important school functions, snow days and emergencies. If any person in our community would like to be notified for any of these reasons please contact Kristi Buhr at 863-4217 to set up your account information.



After-School Childcare Survey

The District has received some inquiries about using the buildings after school for school age childcare. In many families, especially under current economic conditions, both parents work and they do not have accessible after-school care for young children. Because of this possible need, we would ask that anyone interested in possible school age childcare complete the survey below and return it by February 13 to Kristi Buhr, Denmark Schools District Office, 450 N. Wall St., Denmark, WI 54208. The survey can also be completed online at www.denmark.k12.wi.us. Go to the link at the top of the main page to access the School District of Denmark's new website (in red box). Click the link "After-School Childcare Survey" on the left hand side of the page.

If any type of childcare is started in the district, it must be self-sustaining. In other words, no direct district funds will be used to maintain this program.

For Parents:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# Work _____ Home or Cell _____

Email _____

1. Would you be interested in an after-school childcare program? Yes No
2. If yes, what pick-up time would work best for you? 4:00PM 4:30PM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM
3. What days of the week are you in need of school age care? M T W TH F
4. How many children in your family are in need of school age care? 1 2 3 4
5. Do you anticipate having this need within the next two years? Yes No
6. Would you be interested in being on a committee helping to establish after-school care? Yes No

Additional comments:

For Childcare Businesses Who May Wish to Expand Their Services:

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Phone# Work _____ Home or Cell _____

Email _____

1. Do you presently have openings for after-school child care? Yes No
2. Would your business be interested in managing an after-school program using district buildings? Yes No
3. Would you be interested in being on a committee helping to establish after-school care? Yes No

Please return to: Kristi Buhr, Denmark Schools District Office, 450 N. Wall St., Denmark, WI 54208, by Feb. 13, 2009

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

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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.