

Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #4

March 2010



LITERACY ALIVE AT THE ECC



The 4K and 5K students at the Denmark Early Childhood Center presented "Open a Book, Open a Book, What do You See?" as part of their Literacy Alive Celebration on Friday, January 22. The celebration started with performances by the students in the gym. The 5K students performed choral readings based on books by Bill Martin Jr. and the 4K students sang many songs about bears. After the large group celebration, students and their parents, grandparents and family members participated in small group activities in the classrooms. Parents were provided with tips, strategies and materials to encourage literacy development at home. Every student received a new book! Students and their families enjoyed a fun-filled, entertaining and educational experience.

CHANNEL SURFING

The students of Julie Schultz's 5th grade class produced a play written by Ms. Schultz entitled *Channel Surfing*.



BRING YOUR PARENTS TO SCHOOL DAY

By: Brock Delebreau
7th Grade Student

January 22, 2010 was Denmark Middle School's annual "Bring Your Parent to School Day." Many parents showed up for our event to experience a day in the life of a middle schooler. In fact, it was a record setting year with over 100 parents in the hallways at DMS! Some teachers played games with students while others gave a lesson or test.

As the day advanced, parents enjoyed refreshments and chatted with other parents. When the day was over, students could pick up a picture of themselves with their parents. It was an exciting day for all. It's activities like this that help parents to see what life is like for their child and to help promote their involvement in their lives. Remember to bring your parents next year.

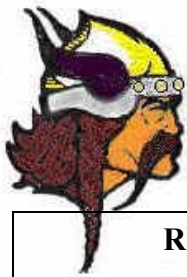


EXERCISE CLASS

Come join the fun! Exercise class meets on Monday and Wednesday in the Middle School Gym from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weights are introduced with a warm-up and twenty minutes of low impact aerobics. The night ends with floor work and a cool down. The cost is \$3.00 per class or \$25 for a six-week session.



Call Roseanne Polacek with questions at 863-5301



READY FOR AN ESCAPE.....

Join us as we explore internet travel resources online. The internet is full of travel sites, maps, and online ticket purchasing sites. We will explore these and take you on a travel scavenger hunt. This will be an evening escape that you will surely enjoy.



**Tuesday March 30, 2010
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Brown County Library
Denmark Branch**

Sponsored by the School District of Denmark
Registration is required for this event.
Please call Theresa Olsen at 920-863-4299 or email at
olsent@denmark.k12.wi.us

KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN

The **Knowledge Master Open (KMO)** is no mere trivia contest. One hundred challenging questions require higher-level thinking skills and cover fourteen curriculum areas, with students earning points for the speed and accuracy of their answers.

We had two fifth grade teams this year. The students on the Denmark teams scored 651 and 563 of 1,000 possible points to place **FIRST** and **THIRD PLACE** in the State of Wisconsin. Our first place team took seventh overall in a field of 223 elementary schools nationwide.

TEAM 1

Logan Sisel
Braden Speer
Alyson Rish
Logan Schmidt
Danielle Delebrea

TEAM 2

Sarah Duginske
Ben Strassburger
Devan Siebert
Drew Goodpaster
Alaina Thompson

Designed to stimulate learning and recognition for academic achievement, the Knowledge Master Open runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. The competition is presented twice each school year by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado software publisher.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

The Elementary School celebrated reading to kick off the month of March. The National Education Association's Read Across America is in its thirteenth year motivating children to read on March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Elementary students celebrated by wearing fun socks for Fox in Socks day, ate green eggs and ham, and watched an upbeat music video featuring the Denmark Elementary School staff having fun with books. The music video can be found at www.webmcp.com under the READ ACROSS AMERICA video link. During March grab a kid, grab a book, and enjoy the fun of reading with your child!



HIDDEN VALLEY SKI EVENT

The High School group "Gotcha Covered Mentors" sponsored a ski trip to Hidden Valley in Maribel. The students enjoyed their night on the hill!





IT'S IN OUR HANDS April 1, 2010 is National Census Day

Why is it Important?

- * The information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:
 - Hospitals
 - Job Training Centers
 - Schools
 - Senior Centers
 - Bridges, Tunnels and other Public Works Projects
 - Emergency Services
- * The data collected by the census also helps determine the number of seats Wisconsin has in the United States House of Representative.

Participation isn't just important—it's mandatory!

PARTICIPATE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Village of Denmark Complete Count Committee

Jill Feiler, Denmark State Bank 920-863-2161
Cara Delabreau, M&I Bank 920-863-2185
Mary Krueger, All Saints School 920-863-5256
Tina Kvittek, School District of Denmark 920-863-4006
MiLissa Stipe, Village of Denmark 920-863-6400



HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE

Hunter Education courses will be held at two area sportsmen's clubs this spring.

The Maribel Sportsman's Club will offer a course at their clubhouse near Maribel. The course consists of two Thursday evenings, April 1st and 8th from 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. and a full day class on Saturday, April 10th.

The Francis Creek Sportsmen's Club will offer their course at the clubhouse near Francis Creek. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings, April 22nd and April 29th., from 6:00-9:00 p.m., and a full day on Saturday, May 1st.

Pre-registration is necessary.
Call Bob Schuh at 920-682-3106.

IMMUNIZATION LAW CHANGES FOR 2010-2011

The phase-in process of two new vaccine requirements affecting all Wisconsin schools continues. Next year's requirements are listed below. These requirements can be waived only for health, religious or personal conviction reasons. To claim a waiver for health, religious or personal conviction reasons, contact your child's school office to sign the back of their immunization card.

The varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox. Previously only one dose was required; now a second dose is required. Tdap is the adolescent combination vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Only one dose is required.

Please make arrangements during the summer to have these required vaccines taken care of at either your family physician's office or through your county's public health department.

For the 2010 – 2011 school year, the following is required:

Students entering

Grades K through 2
Grades 6 through 8
Grades 9 through 11
Grade 12

Vaccine(s)

Varicella (2 doses)
Tdap (1 dose) and Varicella (2 doses)
Tdap (1 dose)
Tdap (1 dose) and Varicella (2 doses)

**For questions regarding these new requirements contact Cindy Weller, RN,
Denmark District Nurse at (920) 863-4032.**



“THANK YOU” TO AREA KNITTERS

Carol Harold and a group of fellow knitters meet at Café 658 once a month to knit scarves, hats, and mittens for students that don't have any. The staff and students appreciate their talent and generosity!



STING CANCER WALK



Denmark High School just formed a *STING CANCER* awareness group. They want to invite you to walk with us on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at the high school track and field area. This is a family event! The Denmark FFA will also be having a petting zoo. All proceeds raised from this walk will go to support local cancer patients through the *STING CANCER* “Helping Hands” Program. Individual and team packets can be picked up at the high school or call Karen Bloom at 863-4270. All registration forms for the walk are due by April 30, 2010.

All forms and meeting times are also available on the website:

<http://www.denmark.k12.wi.us/faculty/stingcancer/>

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

It was an exciting display of knowledge of U.S. geography, continents, historic places, and world geography. The champion, Collin Klaubauf, (who only missed ONE question in 22 rounds!!), will now represent our district in the State-Level Geographic Bee.

Champion Medal Winner—Collin Klaubauf, grade 4

2nd Place—Kaley Basten, grade 5

3rd Place (tie)—Randy Meunier, grade 5
Dayna Nemetz, grade 4
Lilly Parizek, grade 5

6th Place (tie)—Tanner Etersky, grade 5
Logan Schmidt, grade 5

8th Place—Tanner Hendricks

ALL STAR SPORTS NIGHT

Monday, March 29, 2010
6:00 p.m. @ Denmark High School

Dodge Ball

Games at 6:00 p.m.

*Elementary Students vs. Staff
*Middle School Students vs. Senior Students

Volleyball to follow

High School Seniors vs. Staff

Admission

Adults \$3.00

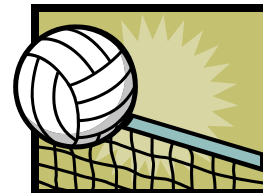
High School Students \$2.00

Children \$1.00

Fun for the entire family. Come and see exciting dodge ball and volleyball games.

The following concessions will be available:

- Walking Taco
- Hot dogs
- Nachos
- Popcorn
- Desserts
- Water
- Soda & Gatorade



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Census Jobs—Apply Now!

- *Good Pay,
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- *Flexible hours, up to 40 hours per week
- *Mileage reimbursement for field jobs

Call toll-free: 1-866-861-2010
FedRelay: 1-800-877-8339 TTY
Local: 920-321-1308
Or Visit: www.2010censusjobs.gov



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

On January 5, 2010, Mark VandenBoomen and Jim Spychalski from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation came to Mrs. Arneson's 8th grade classes to talk about electrical safety. During the presentation, the students were able to visually see the dangers of electricity and what it can do if used improperly.



MRS. FISCHL'S AG CLASS

Dr. Gretchen Schmidt, Veterinary Ophthalmologist, worked with the students in Diane Fischl's Agriculture class. They studied the eye of cattle and how it affects health and behavior.



ONLINE WEATHER CENTER

For up-to-date weather information for the Denmark area, visit the *Denmark Online Weather Center* on the district page of our website: www.denmark.k12.wi.us.

DENMARK CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT UW-MANITOWOC

Students from the Denmark Empowerment Charter School (DECS) recently visited the University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc to enjoy lunch, a tour, and meet with college students who are pursuing teaching degrees. DECS specializes in meeting the needs of underachieving, at-risk students and emphasizes rigor, relevance and relationships in meeting the social, emotional, behavioral and academic needs of the students.

DECS students shared their life and school experiences with UW-Manitowoc students enrolled in the course "Concepts, Issues and Fieldwork in Education." The class instructor, Laura Apfelbeck, said she wanted her students to hear first-hand what it means to be an at-risk student or a special education student. "Learning how the charter school environment helps them become engaged in education is also important," she added.

DECS students benefited from the visit, too. "The opportunity to share their personal stories of struggle and success was empowering for them," said Mark Meisner, DECS Lead Teacher. "The students hope their stories created a clear picture of at-risk students' needs."

In addition, DECS students, who sometimes struggle with the conformity that is expected in a traditional classroom, were able to see that there is room for creativity and exploration in higher education at UW-Manitowoc.

For more information, contact UW-Manitowoc or visit the web at www.uwmanitowoc.uwc.edu. For more information about DECS call 863-4153 or visit www.denmark.k12.wi.us/decs.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM— SUMMER 2010

The Denmark Before and After-School Program is expanding its care throughout the summer for children ages 5 through 11 (5K-5th grade in 2010-11 school year).

Please go to <http://www.denmark.k12.wi.us/aftschlprog.cfm> for more information or contact Shawn Short, Program Owner/Director at:

Home: 863-3298

Mobile: 360-1867

Email: shortfam4@centurytel.net



School District of Denmark Property Taxes

Since the spring of 2009, the Denmark School District, through newsletters, news articles and meetings, has tried to notify taxpayers of the Denmark School District about a significant increase in taxes for the 2009-10 school year. Since property tax bills have recently been mailed, some questions have arisen regarding this increase in taxes. Below is information that may help explain the increase and how the district will move forward in the future.

In November of 2008, the voters of the Denmark School District approved \$700,000 in additional spending for the 2009-10 school year. The Denmark School Board approved using **only \$150,000** for the 2009-10 school year. If the entire \$700,000 would have been used, taxes would have been significantly higher.

In the summer of 2009, the State Legislature and the Governor of Wisconsin approved a two-year state budget that lowered the revenue limit for districts, lowered the equalization aid districts receive from the State to offset property taxes, and continued to divert money from the equalized aid formula to the tax levy credit. Diverting money from equalization aid to the tax levy credit negatively impacts districts like Denmark and favors property rich districts across the state. (According to the *Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance*, December 22, 2009, the largest increase in school levies was 40% and the largest decrease in school levies was 20%.)

On October 26, 2009, the Denmark School Board approved the levy for the Denmark School District. At that time, the estimated increase in taxes for property valued at \$200,000 was an increase of approximately \$200 or just under a 12% increase.

When the School Board sets the levy for the entire district, the assessed value of each municipality is not known by the School Board. The increase or decrease in property taxes, for school district purposes, varies widely across the school district. Differences in tax levies across the district are based on the value of the property in these municipalities.

What does the future hold? There are no easy answers. The conflict between local taxpayers shouldering increases in taxes vs. trying to maintain quality programs in the Denmark School District will be ongoing.

The district will continue to reduce positions and eliminate waste as well as continue to become more energy efficient. The district has reduced administration this past year and will continue to downsize administration and staff as the district enrollment continues to decline. For the 2010-11 school year, all district schools will be on a quarter/semester schedule to better utilize shared teaching staff across the district. We will not employ new staff unless student numbers increase or we need the correct teacher certification required by the State of Wisconsin.

What about the long-term financial health of the Denmark School District?

1. The district has only three years of payments left on the Middle School building and on a capital improvement loan. Starting in 2013-14, the long-term debt will be reduced by half to approximately \$750,000 per year. In the year 2015-16, payments on the High School addition will be complete, leaving the district with no long-term debt for the 2016-17 school year. This will reduce taxes by \$1.5 million per year from present costs.
2. The district paid off a long-term debt this past year to the Wisconsin Retirement System. These additional dollars can now be diverted to other needs of the district.
3. We need to convince the Wisconsin legislature and the Governor that school districts must have revenues that match expenses. The State and school districts cannot operate on deficit budgeting each and every year.

All of us need to lobby our legislators immediately to have dollars going to the equalization aid formula instead of the tax levy credit. This change alone would benefit about 75% of the districts across Wisconsin and the taxpayers within those districts.

As always, if you would like to contact me directly regarding school issues, please call 863-4005 or contact me at klaubaft@denmark.k12.wi.us.

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IN THIS EDITION OF THE DENMARK VIKING DISTRICT NEWSLETTER...

- **READ ACROSS AMERICA**
- **KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN**
- **LITERACY ALIVE AT THE ECC**
- **BRING YOUR PARENTS TO SCHOOL DAY**
- **STING CANCER**
- **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE**
- **ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

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.