

Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #2

November 2010



VIKING SPIRIT AWARD



Homecoming 2010 unveiled a new tradition with the addition of the “Viking Spirit Award.” Pictured above are (from left to right) Michael Buhr, Mr. Nehls, and Tyler Frye. The students are presenting Mr. Nehls with the “Viking Spirit” plaque that will be presented to the class with the most “spirit” during homecoming week. Michael and Tyler are part of Rick Anderson’s Engineering & Design class which designed and built the spirit plaque. Each winning class will be engraved on the plaque. This year’s winning class and the first class to be put on the spirit plaque is the Class of 2011.

500,000 EDMODO USERS

Edmodo is a K-12 social learning network . This is a free Web 2.0 tool that teachers can use with their students to collaborate with learners worldwide. Third grade teacher Kate Willett and one of her students had the honor of being the 500,000 person to log in as a user.



SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS

This school year there were new flashing/warning lights installed on North Wall St. The speed laws in a school zone have not changed. The lights were put in place to give an additional visual indicator/reminder that you are driving in a school zone and that while the lights are flashing, children may be present walking to and from school.

Again, the laws have not changed. If you are driving in a school zone on a normal school day (Monday thru Friday, typically September into June), during the hours that children would be walking to or from school (generally one hour before or after school hours, which are 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. here in Denmark), if children are present, the speed limit is 15 MPH. If no children are present, the speed limit is 25 MPH. The 15 MPH speed limit is also in place during lunch with our open campus for high school students.

The flashing amber lights are on from approximately 7:00-8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to give an additional visual reminder that students may be walking to or from school during those times and, if they are, the speed limit is 15 MPH.

The “children present” guidelines do not come into use if a gym class or sports team is using the practice field north of the high school or the ECC students are in their play area.

A simple rule of thumbs is....if you are driving near a school during a normal school day and kids are walking near the school, the speed limit is 15 MPH.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER HONORED



Joe Duckett, School District of Denmark School Board President, received the highest achievement award from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards organization. Congratulations Mr. Duckett!



SCHOOL FINANCE NEWS FROM TONY KLAUBAUF, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

On October 25, 2010, the Denmark School Board set the tax levy at \$5,746,398 for the 2010-11 budget year providing a school district mill rate of 9.69264 or \$9.69 for each \$1000 of property value. The tax levy increased 1.8% and the mil rate just over 3% compared to the 2009-10 school year. With property values decreasing across the district by 1.42% (decreasing for the first time ever), the amount each taxpayer pays for school taxes will vary depending upon the equalized value of property within individual municipalities.

State equalization aid for the 2010-11 school year is \$9,607,604 — a decrease of \$300,000 from the 2009-10 school year. This decrease in State financial support places the burden on school boards to either cut school services or raise taxes. The Denmark School Board was able to limit the tax increase for a number of reasons:

- The district refinanced long-term debt to adjust payments for the next seven years. While the district will pay more interest during this time, the mil rate increase was held to 3% instead of the proposed 8% for 2010-11. In addition, the debt portion of the levy/mil rate will be reduced for the following two budget years.
- The district continues to trim personnel as employees leave the district or retire. The administration alone has been cut 25% over the past five years.
- Federal dollars provided relief to state and local taxpayers. Without these dollars the program cuts would be deeper or the taxes would be significantly higher.
- The voters of Denmark granted authority to the district to override the revenue limit by \$700,000 in 2009-10, \$800,000 in 2010-11, and \$900,000 for 2011-12. However, because of the economy and because federal dollars were available to offset local costs, the School Board only used \$150,000 for the 2009-10 year and \$300,000 for the 2010-11 school year.

Without having a State Budget debated and approved for the 2011-12 school year, predicting the district's financial shape for next year is difficult. However, the district has \$256,000 in federal educational funds available and one last year of authority to exceed the revenue limit. Hopefully we will be able to maintain programs for the 2011-12 school year.

On the other hand, State level support for schools is predicted to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The Denmark District, along with many other districts, is in a conundrum. Are local voters able and willing to exceed the revenue cap to help districts maintain programs? Are deep cuts into district programs and services necessary to maintain fiscal viability? Stay involved as the district reaches out to the community for answers over the next year. The district will most likely need to ask for support to exceed the revenue limits for the 2012-13 school year and beyond.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

- Free and Reduced meal applications are accepted anytime during the school year!
- Economic changes within the household may qualify students for Free or Reduced meals. Please Apply!
- Once a household qualifies for Free or Reduced meals the student is qualified for the entire school year, even if your economic situation changes.
- Approved Free and Reduced meal applications last for only one school year, so you need to apply every school year.

Free and Reduced meal information is available on the DPI website, the School District of Denmark website at www.denmark.k12.wi.us, or contact Kristi Buhr at 920-863-4217 or email buhrk@denmark.k12.wi.us.



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, 2011. 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 suggestions for home activities to assist their children.

If you have a child who will turn 3 - 4½ years old by September 1, 2011, please watch for this developmental questionnaire in the mail. You should receive it between January 19 and January 25, 2011. We ask you to complete it 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, Principal
Demark Early Childhood Center
Phone: 863-4176

Amy Schuh, Psychologist
School District of Denmark
Phone: 863-4035

DENMARK WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS- RESIDENTS & NON-RESIDENTS

For more information regarding our schools, district residents may contact the building principals listed below.

Early Childhood Center	Dave Harper 920/863-4176
Elementary (Gr. 1-5)	Ann Birdsall 920/863-4051
Middle School (Gr. 6-8)	Kevin Kilstofte 920/863-4102
High School (Gr. 9-12)	Oran Nehls 920/863-4224

Non-residents are welcome to apply for open enrollment.

The application period for the 2011-12 school year is February 7-25, 2011.

Visit www.denmark.k12.wi.us and click on "Open Enrollment" for more information.

Questions? Please contact the District Open Enrollment Coordinator at 920-863-4006.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DENMARK CENSUS

If you are new to the district or have changes/additions to your household, please take a moment to complete the census form which is available at: www.denmark.k12.wi.us or call for a paper form. Resident response is important because library aid is calculated on census results. All information is confidential and used for school district planning and budgeting purposes only. Completed forms can be returned to any of the district schools, mailed to the School District of Denmark, 450 North Wall Street, Denmark, WI 54208, faxed to the district office at (920) 863-4015, or emailed to goralc@denmark.k12.wi.us. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Tina Kvitek, District Office, at 863-4006. *We thank you in advance for your assistance.*



EARLY CHILDHOOD

WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM

The School District of Denmark is piloting a Kindergarten Spanish program. Students have studied classroom commands, things around the school, body parts, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, and colors/shapes parallel to their current kindergarten curriculum. Some of their favorite songs are "Muevete," "Adios ...nos vamos ya" and "La macarena de meses." The instruction is being led by High School Spanish teacher Mrs. Paula Abbot.



Thank You to Shawn Short, Director of the Before and After School Program, for a donation to the World Language Program. This generous donation purchased some of our most popular books at the Early Childhood Center; EN ESPAÑOL!

FIRE SAFETY



In honor of Fire Safety Week, the Denmark Fire Dept. and the FFA held a fire safety program for the Kindergartners from the Denmark Early Childhood Center. Students went to the Fire Department and learned about various fire safety rules and were able to learn about the fire trucks. After the presentation at the fire department, FFA members read a story to the students and practiced safe ways to escape from their homes if there was a fire.

ELEMENTARY

CATCH THE WAVE

The Elementary School had their annual literacy evening on October 18. Families got to create a photo flip flop, read books in the gym, sing-a-long with Mr. McPherson, make a snack, and play a surfing game. Families also had an opportunity to shop at the book fair.



STUDENT READING



Each Friday morning, a few fifth grade students assist second grade students with reading at the Elementary School. The paired reading takes only 10 minutes, but the skills passed from older child to younger last much longer. Read a book today with your child!

Follow the School District of Denmark
on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/denmarkschooldistrict>

and on Twitter

<http://www.twitter.com/denmarkschools>



MIDDLE SCHOOL

M.V.P MIDDLE VIKES PARENT ORGANIZATION

DMS Students and Staff Need Your Support!

If you would like to become a member of the newly formed MVP (Middle Vikes Parent) Organization, please call Jeff or Angie Tomcek at (920) 639-0911. We would love to have you join us in our efforts to support all of the students at Denmark Middle School. Go Middle Vikes!!!

NO BULLYING!

No Bullying is the goal at Denmark Middle School!

On December 1, students and staff will focus on bullying at DMS. Professional speaker and trainer Mike McGowan will spend the afternoon discussing bullying and inspiring students not to bully others.

McGowan is a professional trainer/consultant/motivational speaker. He specializes in education, alcohol and drug awareness, and family and conflict resolution issues. His seminars are uniquely educational and entertaining.

EXEMPLARY MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Denmark Middle School has again been recognized by the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA) as an Exemplary Middle School. The Middle School received this award for being in the top 10% for state math scores.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Since October 4, the School District of Denmark has been on Facebook. According to Theresa Olsen of the District Technology Department, this is another means for us to communicate the positive activities that go on throughout the district everyday. In our first month we have received positive feedback from parents, students, staff, community and alumni that "like" or "follow" our page. To access our Facebook page, go to the Denmark District homepage (www.denmark.k12.wi.us) and click the Denmark School District Facebook page link on the left-hand side of the page. Join our fan group of almost two hundred strong and follow us on Facebook! If you have any questions regarding the School District of Denmark Facebook page email Theresa Olsen at ol-sent@denmark.k12.wi.us.

HIGH SCHOOL

MATH AND PHYSICS

On October 20, Brown County Police Officer Kevin Pawlak met with Mrs. Shiner's Physics classes to discuss the physics and math used in accident reconstruction. Police Liaison Officer Jeff Carr assisted in the presentation. Students got a chance to see exactly how the laws and equations of physics allow police to analyze all factors of the movement of vehicles before, during, and after collisions. They even heard how physics can sometimes let police determine if a cell phone was in use during an accident.

Mrs. Shiner and her Physics students would like to thank Officer Pawlak and Officer Carr.



STING CANCER



October 25 was National Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The High School declared that day as Wear Pink Day! DHS Students and Staff came out in full force in their pink. Profits of the T-Shirt sale were donated to a local resident who is afflicted with cancer.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF DENMARK

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

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We Would Like Your Input

The School District would like your input regarding how we communicate with you. Please visit our website at www.denmark.k12.wi.us and click the link "Methods of Communication Survey."

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.