

Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #3

February 2011



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Following are the results for the Championship Round of the National Geographic Bee. It was an exciting display of knowledge of U.S. geography, continents, historic places, and world geography. If you see these students, please congratulate them for a job well done! Collin Klaubauf will now represent our school in the State Level Geographic Bee.

Champion Medal Winner—Collin Klaubauf, grade 5; 2nd Place (tie) - Emily Nelsen, grade 4 and Tyler Sekora, grade 5; 4th Place (tie) - Kyle Propson, grade 4 and Connor Sisel, grade 4; 6th Place - Dylan Abts, grade 5; 7th Place—Kendall VandenLangenberg, grade 5; 8th Place—Travis Wellner, grade 4



MELVIN JONES AWARD

Congratulations to Denmark High School Leo's Club Advisor Maggy Albers for receiving the Melvin Jones Award from the Denmark Lions Club. The award is named after the Lions International founder and is the highest award given for outstanding service to Lions Club activities. Maggy is advisor to the 65 member Denmark High School Leo's Club. Thank you, Maggy, for your service to the Leo's Club!



APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR 2011-12 OPEN ENROLLMENT FEBRUARY 7-25, 2011

Take a virtual tour of Denmark Schools. Visit www.denmark.k12.wi.us and click "**Start Your Journey to Denmark Here.**" For enrollment information, click "**How Do I Enroll in Denmark Schools?**" Non-district residents are welcome to apply for open enrollment/school choice in Denmark. Applications are accepted online from February 7-25, 2011. The application website will not be available until 12:01 a.m. on February 7 and will shut down immediately at 4:00 p.m. on February 25. Computers are available for your use at the Brown County Library within Denmark High School. You are welcome to ask for help completing applications. Current open enrolled students **do not** need to reapply unless you receive a letter and instructions through the postal service. Please contact the open enrollment coordinator with any questions at 863-4006 or email kvitekt@denmark.k12.wi.us.

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY WINNER



Sierra Polzin will be honored for her Patriot's Pen Essay written in Mrs. Retallick's 8th grade language arts class. Every year, Denmark 8th graders compete in this national competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Sierra's essay won third place at the local level, first place at the district level (VFW District 8), and has now been selected as the first place essay at the state level. Sierra's essay will be sent to the national level for judging in March. This is the first time a student from Denmark has won the state competition. Congratulations, Sierra!



SUPPORT OF THE DENMARK COMMUNITY

Every once in awhile something happens in a person's life that will change them and stick in their memory for the rest of their lives. Not to be overly-dramatic, but the fire on Dec. 17, 2010 in the apartments across the street from Denmark High School is one of those events for me. While the dreadfulness and the shock of the morning events, along with the displacement of families and the death of person can never be downplayed, neither can the goodness of community that came to light after this tragic event.

First of all, I want to thank so many of our Denmark School District personnel who stepped up during the fire and immediately after on the 17th. We had a number of teachers and support staff members that were on the scene of the fire even before emergency personnel arrived. They helped rescue people from the burning apartments, awakened families in the adjacent apartments, and helped carry children and pets to safety that morning. In addition, we had numerous staff members providing food and other essentials for the displaced families throughout the day. Not only was our staff providing many of the basic needs for individuals, a number of them stepped forward to provide emotional support for the families that had lost absolutely everything.

Secondly, our community should be extremely proud of our fire, police/sheriff departments and emergency response personnel in the Denmark area. Most of these people are volunteers and many of them put their lives on the line in trying to protect us and our property. The image of the firefighters coming into school to warm up, or to get something warm to eat or drink, with icicles and soot on their helmets and protective suits, will not be forgotten. How they saved the apartment building next to the one that burned is amazing. Anyone who was on the scene and saw the height of the fire would have thought all neighboring buildings would have also gone up in flames. Considering the number of different emergency departments that were present that day, seeing them coordinate their efforts was truly amazing.

There were also so many acts of kindness following the fire. Many, many people immediately began dropping off clothes and household items at school, the Denmark Community Cupboard, and Harmony House. The Luxemburg Girls Basketball Team donated \$500 at the game the evening of the fire, and in total our community raised \$3,000 for the families that evening alone. Ron Towns, the Denmark Police Chief, began organizing a meeting for the following Monday to coordinate the giving, and the Denmark Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus gave cash gifts directly to the families. The collection of clothes, household items, food, and other items was unbelievable. We had a number of volunteers who not only gave, but just appeared to help sort these items prior to having the families of the fire help themselves to needed items. The cash giving goes on until January 15th with over \$10,000 given to the Denmark Wall Street Relief fund established at the Denmark State Bank.

Above all, the Denmark Community is truly blessed to have angels in Terri and Russ Gajeski. They give of themselves tirelessly throughout the year helping those in need in our community. The Gajeski's virtually gave up their Christmas this year in collecting items and getting them in the hands of the families. We won't know how important these two are to our community until they decide to not help with the Denmark Community Cupboard. It is my hope that will be many years down the road.

"You can easily judge the character of a man (person) by how he treats those who can do nothing for him."

James D. Miles

There is a great deal of "character" in the Denmark Community.

Tony Klaubauf
District Administrator
Denmark School District



REGISTRATION FOR FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN BEGINS FEBRUARY 21, 2011

Dear Denmark Community Parents/Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I invite your child to attend our four-year-old kindergarten program for the 2011-12 school year. If your child will be four years old on or before September 1, 2011, they are eligible to participate in the Denmark Early Childhood Center's 4K program, focused on developing "the whole child."

If you are still undecided about the best early childhood program for your child in the fall, I cordially invite you to "**A Day in the Life of 4K**" Open House the week of February 21-25. Parents will have an opportunity to experience some of the curricular activities with their children as well as meet our 4K teachers and principal. Any questions you may have about our 4K program can be addressed at that time. Please return the form below to the ECC if you are interested in visiting us that week.

The 4K program is offered four days a week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with either morning or afternoon sessions. (Wednesday is an outreach and planning day.) The morning session is from 8:00-11:00 a.m. and the afternoon session is from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Session assignments are made in late summer and parents are notified of placement in August. Please visit the Denmark Early Childhood Center website for more information (<http://www.denmark.k12.wi.us/ecc/>). Thank you for your interest in our programs, and we look forward to having you and your child(ren) join the Early Childhood Center family.

Sincerely,
Dave Harper, Principal

If you are interested in attending the "A Day in the Life of 4K" Open House, please contact the Denmark Early Childhood Center office at 863-4175, or return this form to the Denmark ECC office (450 N. Wall St.) by February 14, 2011.

YES, we are interested in visiting the ECC to learn about the Denmark 4K program. We understand this is for families who have **NOT YET registered** their child(ren).

_____ Number and Name(s) _____ of eligible 4K student(s) attending.

_____ Number and Name(s) _____ of adult(s) attending.

Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Please select a date and time preference for visit. You will be contacted to confirm the scheduled visit. Please note that you are welcome to stay for the full three-hour session but are not obligated to do so.

Monday, February 21st 8:00-11:00 AM _____

Monday, February 21st 12:00-3:00 PM _____

Tuesday, February 22nd 8:00-11:00 AM _____

Tuesday, February 22nd 12:00-3:00 PM _____

Thursday, February 24th 8:00-11:00 AM _____

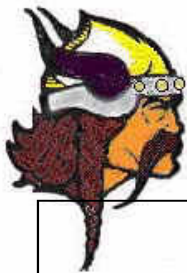
Thursday, February 24th 12:00-3:00 PM _____

Friday, February 25th 8:00-11:00 AM _____

Friday, February 25th 12:00-3:00 PM _____

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 to request 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.*



DHS BAND HONORS

Twenty-three Denmark High School band members were selected to the conference honors band. They participated in the all-day event on Saturday, January 8, at Southern Door High School. The activities finished with a 4:00 p.m. concert. Scott Corley, band director from UW-Milwaukee, was the conductor of the ensemble. Denmark participants were: Front Row – Luke Ashley, Liz Lacenski, Amanda Gauger, Kelly Butzer, Julia Specht. Row 2 – Sarah Wanek, Anna Meurer, Morgan Smeester, Brittney Bekkers, Anne Krueger. Row 3 – Liz Neuberger, Brett Bosetski, Jake Hurley, Colleen Galligan. Row 4 – Scott Schroeder, Nick Grygleski, Tony Lau. Back Row – Lauren Sipple, Elizabeth Brunner, Renee Christensen, Brandon Rentmeester, Christian Hanson, Rosalie Evans.



DHS CHOIR STUDENTS PERFORM AT STATE CONVENTION

Congratulations to **Ali Breuer** and **Kirsten Larson**, who were selected to perform in the all-state women's choir during the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association State Convention. The convention was held January 21-22 in Green Bay. The choir worked with Dr. Sharon Hansen from Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. The convention concluded with a concert at the Weidner Center, with Dr. Hansen directing the women's choir. As part of the state convention, students also attended a performance of the headliner choir, *Seraphic Fire*, on Friday evening. Denmark High School choral students are under the direction of Kim Mikulsky-Hess.



2011 YOUTH BASEBALL PITCHER/CATCHER CLINIC

February 20, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Grades 5-12 Welcome

The Denmark Youth Baseball Program would like to invite you to the 1st Annual Pitcher/Catcher Clinic. We will present professional instruction on the proper mechanics of both pitching and catching. The clinic is designed to enhance the knowledge and skill level of baseball players. The specialized instructional format will allow each participant to receive the personal attention necessary to improve their baseball ability. It is our goal to make this clinic a benefit to you this coming season.

Denmark High School graduates Ryan Warpinski and Nathan Kafka will be instructors, along with other pro and college players.

For more information or to register contact Nathan Kafka at 920-471-9724

LITERACY ALIVE DAY

The morning of December 10 over 300 people came to watch the students and participate in the Early Childhood Center "Literacy Alive Day" celebration. This year's theme was "If You Give A Child A Book..." based on books by Laura Numeroff. Teachers and support staff were busy planning all of the day's activities and preparing materials for small group sessions with parents and students. This was the third year of the program and we had near 100% participation as far as each child having an attending adult. Feedback from those in attendance was very positive, as students prepared choral readings and songs to perform, and teachers conducted mini-lessons for parents around literacy strategies they can use at home with their children.



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on Facebook:

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



A TIME FOR CHANGE

Tony Klaubauf, District Administrator

Why change? For one reason, the economic world has changed dramatically in the last few years. Students who think they can graduate with a high school diploma as their final education piece and succeed economically during their adult lives are in for a huge shock. With a high school diploma alone, it is going to become more and more difficult for our graduates to acquire enough background and knowledge to become economically successful.

So, what changes are we making in Denmark? We have started a program to teach all students a second language. The United States is virtually the only developed country to not demand that each and every student learn a second language. There is much research that holds students who learn a second language at a very young age will have a much easier time learning another language later in life. We need to seize this opportunity when students are young and not wait until they are in middle school or high school to teach a second language.

At the start of the next school year, we hope to have one entire grade level at the middle school with one (student)-to-one (computer) computing. There will also be other pockets of students who will be expected to use technology in their classrooms every day. This tool will drastically change the way teachers teach and students learn. Teaching students to harness the power of the computer is to help them think, do research, write, communicate with others, and the list goes on and on. Using a computer effectively is not something we can leave to chance. We know students can play games on computers; we now have to shift that focus to use the computer as a tool for learning.

We have to encourage students to be as passionate about learning as they are about football, volleyball, drama and many other co-curricular programs. This is not about “good grades” but about thinking and learning. We have to change the perception that education is a means to an end. Rather, learning is the key to success in a career and life in general. Learning never ends. However, this is also a dramatic shift on the school district’s part. Instead of believing that we, in education, know everything a student should learn, we need to tap into and find the areas students want to learn about and help them reach their full potential. Every one of us has instant information at our fingertips in seconds. We don’t need students to memorize information as a demonstration of learning. Yes, we need to teach basic skills and develop positive values in our students. But we can no longer visualize educating a student is like filling a tank (the brain) full of gasoline (education). Rather, educating students is helping students see beyond what our image of education is and develop the intrinsic value of learning for the sake of learning.

Why change? Because we have to.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING PROJECT

A total of 88 Christmas Stockings were assembled for donation to the Denmark/Maribel Community Cupboards. The following organizations made donations to the stockings: 8th Grade Sewing and Textile students, Gotcha Covered Mentors, High School Leo's Club, High School Food Service Class, Early Childhood Center, High School Student Council, FFA, FBLA, and the Denmark Empowerment Charter School. Thank you to all the organizations for their generous donations!!



DENMARK BOOSTER CLUB

The Denmark Booster Club has been established. We have a board of directors and have adopted our by-laws. To become a member, please contact Sheryl DeLarwelle at delarwes@denmark.k12.wi.us. Membership fee is \$10 per adult. A check should be written out to Denmark Booster Club and can be dropped off at the Denmark State Bank addressed to Toby Olsen. Check out the Denmark Facebook page for updated information on meetings and fundraisers.

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

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2011 SUMMER SCHOOL

June 13-17, June 20-24, June 27-July 1

Summer School is open to all students living in the School District of Denmark.

- **April 8—April 15** Summer School classes and descriptions will be available for **viewing only** at www.denmark.k12.wi.us. Families will be able to pre-enter parent and student information at that time. You will not be able to register for classes at this time—just to view them.
- **April 15, 6:00 p.m.—May 8, 8:00 a.m.** Registration open for Summer School 2011. There will be no call-in registration. Registration information can be found online. If you need computer access, call Kristi at 920-863-4217 and we will find a computer for you to use.

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.