

# DaVinci Connection

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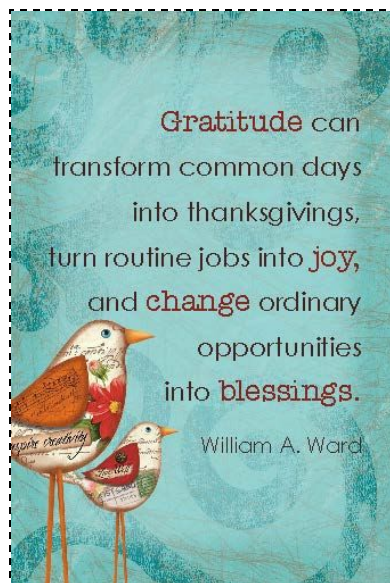
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## Dear Lee,

To the left, you will find helpful links that will take you directly to the articles you want to read (Table of Contents), to important pages on our website (School Links), and will provide a quick list of upcoming events (Important Dates.)

As always, we welcome your feedback.

## Teacher Appreciation Week



We have amazing teachers at DaVinci Academy who work every day to encourage, inspire, motivate and impact your child's learning in a positive way.

Next week, during Teacher Appreciation Week, I encourage you to express your gratitude to these tireless professionals and let them know how important they are in the life of your child.



## 3rd Annual DaVinci Golf Tournament and Dinner Gala Friday, June 13, 2014

(by Mary Walker - School Development Committee)

Let's raise funds for our school! The Annual Golf Tournament and

## Important Dates

4/28-5/2 - MCA Math Assessment

5/5 - School Development Committee, 6:00 pm

5/5 - HR/Compensation Committee, 7:00 pm

5/7-5/8 - Grade 5 MCA Science Test

5/8 - Family Bingo Night, 6:00 pm

5/9 - "Dear Edwina" Musical Performance, 6:30 pm

5/10 - 4Keeps Speaker Series, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

5/10 - "Dear Edwina" Musical Performance, 1:00 pm

5/12 - Curriculum Committee, 5:00 pm

5/12 - Finance Committee, 6:30 pm

5/13-5/14 - Grade 8 MCA Science Test

5/13 - K-2 Music Concert, 6:00 pm

5/14 - Policy Committee, 3:30 pm

5/15 - Grades 3-4 Music Concert, 6:00 pm

5/19 - School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm

5/22 - Grades 6-8 Art Show, 6:00 pm

Dinner Gala is our major fundraiser with the help and support of our parents, administration and board members. This year the funds are designated for technology for our school.

**CAN YOU HELP?** You can help by attending the Dinner Gala or golfing! Donating a silent auction or raffle item. Asking your employer, family or other contacts to become a sponsor, donate prizes or send golfers or dinner attendees. You can volunteer the day of the event! We have tools to help in any of these endeavors - you do not have to be the salesperson!

We are adding an opportunity this year for students to participate by raising funds through Dollars for DaVinci. Each \$250 raised will get a grade-level tee sponsor sign proudly displayed at the event. A few ideas for kids to earn money: doing extra chores around the house, asking family, friends and neighbors for donations, helping neighbors with chores (Spring is here we hope?), and setting up a lemonade stand.

Together we can make this happen and raise funds to offer our children unique and encouraging opportunities at our school through technology!!! If you have any questions or want support recruiting sponsors and/or golfers, please feel free to contact parents Mary Walker (763-951-2566) or Jacob Sheck (612-384-2111) or our teachers [Megan LeSage](#) or [Melissa Kaiser](#).

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## Presenting: Dear Edwina Jr.

DaVinci Academy will present "Dear Edwina, Jr." on May 9 at 6:30 p.m. and May 10 at 1:00 p.m. "Dear Edwina, Jr." is a heartwarming musical about the joys of growing up.

Thirteen year-old Edwina Spoonapple would do just about anything to be a part of the Kalamazoo Advice-a-palooza Festival. While her siblings both have proof of their accomplishments, poor Edwina has nothing. When a talent scout from the convention visits her hometown, she trots out her musical advice giving shows live from the family garage in hopes of finding her place in the spotlight. She is assisted by her older siblings, quirky friends, and neighbors. Together they set out to tackle the world's problems in number after hysterical number about everything from birthday party etiquette to the proper table settings.

Told through a show-within-a-show format, Edwina and her friends share wisdom that is sure to delight. Children will thoroughly enjoy watching adults and teenagers playing silly wacky little kids who sing and dance. "Dear Edwina, Jr." is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

General admission tickets are \$3.00, student tickets are \$1.00. Both will be available for purchase at the door.

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## 2014 Spring Concert Series

We have many music concerts coming up so, please, mark your calendars for the following events:

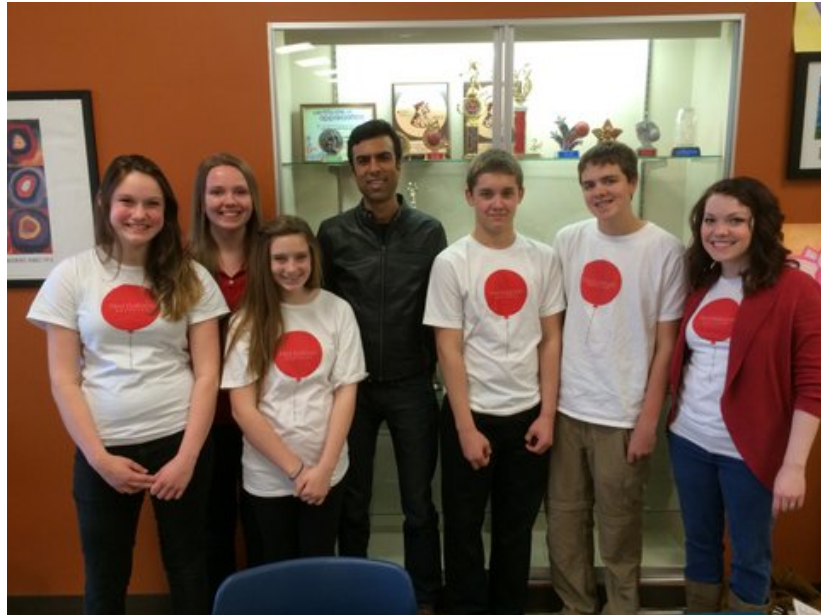
K-2 Concert - Tuesday, May 13th

3-4 Concert - Thursday, May 15th

5-8 Choir Concert - Tuesday, June 3rd

Band & Orchestra Concert - Tuesday, June 10th

All performances begin at 6:00 pm.



## Author Visits DaVinci Academy

Best-selling author Soman Chainani visited DaVinci Academy on April 23. He spoke to 4th-8th graders about his two books, *The School for Good and Evil* and *A World Without Princes*. Mr. Chainani has been a filmmaker and, prior to being in film school, was a Harvard student. The students were enthralled with his discussion of the true Grimm fairy tales and the gruesomeness of the real stories before Disney got ahold of them.

Mr. Chainani engaged the students with a quiz to help them decide if they would be placed in the school for good or the school for evil. There was lots of laughter, and later that day students were discussing if they would be an Ever (good) or a Never (evil).

*The School for Good and Evil* has been picked up by a movie studio, and students were super excited to hear that there will be open casting calls in several cities this fall.

Students were able to purchase autographed books, and we had so much response that we ran out of books! We had a back-up plan with bookplates, and they will be added to books when they arrive next week.

The Red Balloon Bookshop in St. Paul arranged the author visit, and

we hope to have many more authors visit DaVinci Academy.

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## 57th Annual Invention Expo

Our fourth and fifth grade students will be attending the 57th Annual Invention Expo at the Minneapolis Convention Center this Friday. The Invention Expo is the oldest annual invention convention in the nation. Our students will have an opportunity to see adult and student inventors showcasing new ideas and interact with numerous educational displays, including Pixel Power by Daktronics.

Several of our inventors who were selected from our first Inventors' Fair held in December will be presenting at the Invention Expo this Saturday. Good luck to Ellie K, Mickayla W, Cassie S, Mia K, Josh W and Sam F.

If you would like more information regarding the Invention Expo, [click here](#)

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## EcoArts Festival

The second and third graders will be having an artist named Maarja Roth in their classrooms next week. The second graders will be focusing on butterflies and dragonflies, and they will create large scale finger puppets based on these insects. The third graders will be focusing on migratory birds. They will create true to size models of different birds, including indigo bunting, baltimore oriole, and scarlet tanager. We are excited that we were able to tie the art in with the science curriculum this year.

The students will then get to take their art to the [EcoArts Festival](#) on Saturday, May 17. The day will start with a pageant, where the students will show off their art. The rest of the day is filled with a lot of hands-on art activities, music, nature, and performances.

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## Rubiks Cube Competition

On April 14, three of our 5th graders traveled to Delano to participate in a Rubiks Cube Competition. Liam B., Tom B., and Riley K. participated in the team competition where they came in 2nd place. Tom B. also participated in the individual competition and placed 6th out of 22 competitors. Congratulations to all three students!





## Mathmasters Competition



On April 25, nine DaVinci Academy students participated in their first Mathmasters Competition. This competition was held in Shoreview and was part of a national competition. The day consisted of a fact challenge, four individual challenges, and three team challenges. Our students did very well for the first time out. Rishi R. received a ribbon for 10th place in the fact challenge, and both teams scored in the top 50%. The students were coached by Ms. Thom and have been training for the competition throughout the school year. The participating students were: Rishi R., Riley K., Nathan K., Regan V., Tom B., Liam B., Natalie B., Janessa B. and Reema I. Congratulation to all of the students, and to Ms. Thom, for a very successful first competition!

## 4Keeps Speaker Series - Final 2014 Session

Learn realistic ways to be involved in your teen's life. We offer parent seminars that teach you about current teenage addiction trends, common terminology, ways that teenagers hide their drug use, effective methods to discuss addiction and family expectations, and resources available to families in need. Parental involvement in a child's life is the strongest factor in influencing that child's decision to abstain from substance abuse. The best thing you can do is to show your teen that you care by educating yourself about teenage substance abuse and talking with him/her in a constructive way.

This workshop will also discuss current trends, root causes of addiction, and means of prevention and intervention. There is a lot of information out there. Some of it is good, and some of it is not so good. "Know the Truth" has tried to track down and provide you with sources of information that they think are the most helpful and realistic.

Date: Saturday, May 10  
New Time: 10:00-11:30 am, Speakers, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Lunch and New Friendships  
Location: DaVinci Academy  
Speaker: Adam Pederson, Program Coordinator  
Know the Truth is the Teenage Substance Abuse Prevention Program of MN Teen Challenge  
<http://knowthetruth.mntc.org/>

Please RSVP to Mary Walker. Parents and tweens/teens are welcome.

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## Cell Phone Recycling Event!

Do you have any old cell phones lying around your house? It's illegal to throw them away in your household trash, but if you allow DaVinci Academy students to donate them to [techdump.org](http://techdump.org), you can help the environment AND support a worthy social service organization at the same time.

DaVinci Serves (a DaVinci Academy middle school service group), will be collecting unwanted cell phones for [techdump.org](http://techdump.org) at the following events at DaVinci Academy:

- Thursday, May 8th from 6 pm to 8 pm (during PTO Bingo Night), and
- Saturday, May 17th from 9 am to 2 pm (drive-through drop-off in the DaVinci Academy parking lot.)

This student-run service project helps the environment by promoting safe recycling, it supports [techdump.org](http://techdump.org) (an organization that provides jobs for people who would be otherwise unemployable) AND -- \$1 per pound collected will donated to DaVinci.

Want to help? Please help us pass the word by copying and pasting this article into your Facebook status!

DaVinci Serves will also be handing out flyers to promote the May 17th collection date at the MN Green Expo on Saturday, May 10th. For more information about the Expo event, go to [MNGreenExpo.org](http://MNGreenExpo.org).

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## On-Call Evening Custodial Assistance Requested

We are currently seeking an individual willing to work on an on-call basis as a back-up for our evening custodial person. This person will fill in on short notice for our regular evening custodian in the event of illness or injury. This will be a paid position; not a volunteer. Duties will include (but are not limited to) vacuuming classrooms and hallway carpets, emptying garbage and recycling bins and general clean up. If you are interested, please contact [Ms. Lach](#).

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## Piano & Violin Lessons

If your child is interested in taking piano or violin lessons, contact Marsha Emmons at 612-991-0058. She has Tuesday and Wednesday after-school lesson times available at DaVinci Academy. Lessons are at her home (in Anoka) during the summer.

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## K-8: Purely PTO

Check out the current PTO newsletter [here!](#)

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DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science / 13001 Highway 65 / Blaine, Minnesota 55434 / 763-754-6577

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