



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Communications  
Committee

Tuesday, December 13  
5:00 pm

Orchestra, Band, & Choir  
Winter Concert

Tuesday, December 13  
6:30 pm

No School - Holiday Break  
Monday, December 19-  
Monday, January 2

School Board Meeting  
Monday, December 19  
6:00 pm

Policies/Procedure  
Committee  
Monday, January 2  
5:30 pm

Mandatory Intersession  
Tuesday, January 3-  
Friday, January 6

Regular Classes Resume  
Monday, January 9

Find more upcoming events  
on the DaVinci Academy  
home page, or go to the  
"Calendar" page for future  
important dates.

[http://davincicharterschool.org/  
Calendar.aspx](http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

## MS. STEELE'S SMART BOARD

(by Melissa Steele, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher)

We love to use the SMART Board in 1<sup>st</sup> grade! The SMART Board allows us to engage the entire class; it enhances our lessons and makes learning more fun. Several educational and interactive web sites help illustrate a lesson and enhance our learning. We are able to virtually go into a pyramid and look around during our Egypt unit. We build food chains in science, we are able to see all around the world using Google Maps, and we make teams and play interactive math games. We love our SMART Board and use it every day.



## MANDATORY INTERSESSION JANUARY 3-6

The course list for the mandatory January intersession is attached. To make it easier to choose courses, the class listings are broken down by grade level. Please make course selections, and return your student's choices by Friday, December 16. Also note that since there is no school on Monday, January 2, this will be a 4-day intersession. Regular classes will resume at DaVinci Academy on Monday, January 9.

"Look round and round upon this bare bleak plain, and see even here, upon a winter's day, how beautiful the shadows are! Alas! it is the nature of their kind to be so. The loveliest things in life, Tom, are but shadows; and they come and go, and change and fade away, as rapidly as these!"

-Charles Dickens

## VOLUNTEER SPOT

Looking to volunteer at DaVinci Academy? These opportunities are currently available:

- Supervise lunch or recess
- Assemble folders
- Assist students with reading

Check out the Volunteer page on the school web site (<http://www.davincicharterschool.org/volunteer>) for more information. If you do not already have a HelpCounter volunteer profile, contact Lee Swearingen at [lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org), and she will get you started. Please note that each volunteer is required to have a background check on file with the DaVinci Academy prior to starting any volunteer projects (\$10 processing fee for the screening). Forms are available at the front desk or on the Volunteer page of the web site.

**PLEASE CLAIM  
YOUR LOST & FOUND ITEMS**  
The "Lost & Found" at  
DaVinci Academy is overflowing!



**Any items left will be donated during  
winter break, so you have this week to  
search through the "Lost & Found"  
and claim your items.  
Please hurry!**

13001 Central Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55434  
763-754-6577

[www.davincicharterschool.org](http://www.davincicharterschool.org)



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## SUCCESSFUL SCIENCE FAIR

(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

From “What is a Chicken’s Favorite Food?” to “What Soda Rots Your Teeth Fastest?” – it was all there at the Science Fair. Every year the questions and projects at the Science Fair get better, and this year was certainly no exception. The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students put in a great deal of time and hard work, and it was very evident. The presentations were polished, the boards looked great, the research questions and data collection was top-notch. The students should be proud of their achievements, as should their parents!

This year, winners were selected based on interviews with volunteer judges. We had a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each grade. We also had some People’s Choice Awards. These have not been announced yet so will be included in the next newsletter, along with pictures of all of the winners.

We would also like to give an enormous THANK YOU to the 22 people who volunteered over 50 hours to help pull off this big event! We couldn’t have done it without each and every one of them. When you see the following volunteers, take a moment to thank them personally:

**Shu Chan-Johnson**  
**John Christoffel**  
**Terry Cronin**  
**Doug Dinndorf**  
**Sean Egginton**  
**John Griep**  
**Laura Imholte**  
**Dale Johnson**  
**David King**  
**Dale Lieb**  
**Barun Maskara**  
**LeeAnn Mortensen**  
**Caroline Munsterman**  
**Tammy Ness**  
**Carolyn Peiffer**  
**Robert Plante**  
**David Provence**  
**Sanjai Rayadurgam**  
**Darla Robinson**  
**Mercedes Witzke**  
**Brad Zimbelman**  
**Lee Zimbelman**

## Congratulations to the DaVinci Academy Science Fair grade level winners:

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

*1<sup>st</sup> Place: (Tie)*

Darin C. – Trained vs Untrained Athletes;  
and Samantha B. – Water Electrolysis

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place: (Tie)*

Madeline M. – Does Handedness Affect  
Concrete or Abstract Thinking?; and  
Matthew N. – Which Gum Makes Your Mouth Hotter?

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place:*

Cory A. – Potato Battery

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

*1<sup>st</sup> Place:*

Dallas G. – Bacteria

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place:*

Sarah P. – Which Toy do Dogs Like Best?

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place:*

Connor S.– Which is Healthier -  
Aspartame or Sugar?

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

*1<sup>st</sup> Place: (Tie)*

Brandon P. – Purified Water by Supercooling Air;  
and Aidan B./Joe G. – Which Sex is Better at Video Games?

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place:*

Madeline L. – Seed Germination

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place:*

Bella T. – Effects of Detergents on Worms



# PTO Place

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 24, 6:30 pm – PTO General Meeting**  
**January 27 – Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction**

## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Thanks to Lisa Derr and Dawnshelle Wold for chairing DaVinci Academy's annual Marketplace event (on December 10) and putting so many long hours into it! Thank you to Carla Lemm and Melody Shrock for their assistance and all of the volunteers who showed up early Saturday morning to help set up. Thank you to Ms. Berth for coordinating all of the student vendors. And we can't forget everyone who attended to help make the event so successful. Thanks!

## ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPING MADE EASY

Are you doing your holiday shopping online? Why not make money for DaVinci Academy while you're shopping! With "GoodShop," find the most up-to-date coupons and deals at over 2,400 popular online retailers, and have a percentage of every purchase go to the PTO! Check it out here and register to support DaVinci Academy PTO: <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Committee could use your help! For more information, contact Lisa King at [ldbhkingz@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbhkingz@hotmail.com).

