



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### NO SCHOOL

Friday September 2,  
Monday September 5,  
& Tuesday September 6th

6 - 8 Grade  
Meet and Greet  
September 8  
5:30 - 7:30pm

Picture Retakes  
September 9

You can also find  
upcoming events on the  
DaVinci Home Page or go  
to the calendar page for  
future important dates

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

Thirty days  
hath September,  
April, June,  
and November;  
All the rest have  
thirty-one,  
Excepting  
February alone,  
And that has  
twenty-eight days clear  
And twenty-nine in  
each leap-year.

13001 Highway 65 North  
Blaine, MN 55434  
763-754-6577

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

## BREAKFAST PROGRAM SURVEY

Please take a moment to go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FNS\\_Breakfast](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FNS_Breakfast) and take a short survey regarding your interest in a student breakfast program at DaVinci Academy. Due to our participation in the lunch program, we are required by MDE Food and Nutrition to see if there is enough interest to offer a breakfast option to our students. The survey will close on Friday, September 2. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Bacigalupo.

## SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

SNOW DAYS – Turn to Radio, TV, or the front page of our school website.

If the decision to close school is made, it will be announce on:

WCCO (830 AM) Radio & TV  
KMSP TV Channel 9  
KSTP TV Channel 5  
KARE 11 TV Channel 11

Please remember that if school is two hours late, the buses will run two hours later than your scheduled pickup time; but road conditions may make them a few minutes later, so please be patient.

Parents can use their discretion in keeping their children home. The effects of the weather vary a great deal throughout the surrounding area and visibility and drifting cause greater problems in some locations.

If extreme weather conditions develop during the day, the decision to close school early may be made. All after-school activities will be canceled that day. Field trips will also be cancelled.

For weather updates, parents may go to <http://www.kare11.com/karemail/subscribe.aspx?GID=7e+JGCqIH08OHjsZY609zWfV2SIM5V3l6SKwGaFZmE8%3D> and subscribe to receive updates on weather alerts as they happen.

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Thursday, September 1, 9am - 4pm**

Please contact Stephanie Severson at

[sseverson@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:sseverson@davincicharterschool.org)

if you are able to help.

## BUILDING SECURITY

DaVinci Academy has a non-crisis building security plan in place. Each day all exterior doors will be locked at 9:15 a.m. and opened again at 3:45 p.m. Entry into the building during the school day can be made at the main front entrance (west) which will be open to allow parents and guest to enter the building.

All visitors and parents entering the building are required to report to the office, sign in and obtain a visitor badge to wear. Staff will report visitors who do not show a pass. When ready to leave the building, visitors must return to the office to sign out and turn in their pass.

Video cameras are in place at DaVinci Academy to help monitor the building. Cameras monitor hallways, gym, cafeteria, and the exteriors parts of campus. Entry into DaVinci Academy building is on the understanding that you will be photographed by video recording equipment.

## TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

School is a place where many people are in close settings and germs can be spread quickly. Students with a fever (above 100 degrees), diarrhea, vomiting, chicken pox, or strep throat should not be in school. Students with bacterial infections can return to school if they have been on antibiotics for at least 24 hours. Please notify the school office if your child is home ill and the nature of the illness. Messages can be left on the attendance line 24 hours a day. Attendance Line: (763)754-6577 or email [attendance@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:attendance@davincicharterschool.org)

Please contact the office for the proper forms to be signed by your physician for any medications to be given to your student at school. This includes prescriptions, asthma inhalers and any over-the-counter medication. Please see other guidelines in the School Handbook in the Health and Safety section for additional information.

It is imperative for the school to have your up to date emergency contact information in case of illness or injury. Let us know who to contact if we cannot reach you and who is in charge of your child(ren) if you are unavailable. Any changes to your contact information should be communicated to the school office as soon as they occur.



# DaVinci Connection

## POWERSCHOOL

### Student Information System

Due to unforeseen circumstances, DaVinci Academy will not be transitioning to a different vendor for our student information system because of contractual issues. We are going to continue using PowerSchool to keep track of student data.

Teachers will be trained September 2, 2011 on the updated GradeBook program with PowerSchool. Within the next two weeks you will be receiving details through email and the newsletter regarding the information you will need to access PowerSchool for lunch balances, grades, and attendance.

### CONTINUE TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE

Help stop the lice cycle by educating your children about how lice is spread. It's important that friends do not share clothing items, hair grooming tools or accessories. Check your child frequently whether or not he/she shows any symptoms. If you discover any signs of lice in your child's hair, please notify the school right away. This will enable us to communicate with parents and staff to hopefully prevent the further spread of lice within our school.

Here are a couple of helpful sites:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/lice/faq.shtml>

<http://children.webmd.com/tc/lice-topic-overview>

Pesticide free lice control <http://www.liceguard.com/robicomb.aspx>

### Additional resources:

Book at school - Lice Advice by Katie Shepherd

MN Lice Lady - [www.mnlicelady.com](http://www.mnlicelady.com) she will even come to your home and do head checks/treatments for any parents who do not want to perform this treatment for a moderate fee.

MDE fact sheet - see attachment to the newsletter email.

## TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

Please check the information in the attached files for income rates to see if you qualify for free or reduced lunch programs. We encourage anyone who qualifies for free or reduced lunch to fill out an application form, even if you do not plan to use the service.

DaVinci Academy has several support programs that are based upon the needs of families in our school, our Federal Title 1, e-Rate assistance and many grant programs are based upon the number of children in our school who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

The more families who qualify, the more accurately the State and Federal Governments can determine the assistance that should be coming to DaVinci Academy for your children. Qualifying for free or reduced lunches does not mean you need to participate in the program.

All applications are considered private data and are kept in the DaVinci Academy Office. You are the one who can impact the funds coming to DaVinci Academy through State and Federal programs.

## TARGET DONATIONS

Target stores donate 1% of purchases made with Target charge cards to the school designated by the card holder. DaVinci Academy has received several donations during the past two years through the TARGET Take Charge of Education School Fundraising Program.

The process is simple; if you do not have a Target Visa or Target Guest Card you may apply for one at any Target store. Designate DaVinci Academy as the school you wish to provide a 1% donation from your purchase(s). If you already have a Target charge card, stop at the service counter to tell them you want to be part of the *Take Charge of Education Program* or visit Target's website at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).

## MINNESOTA EDUCATION CREDIT & SUBTRACTION

By: Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis  
Excerpted from Minneapolis Legal Aid Fact Sheet T-1 for Tax year 2011

### \*\*REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS\*\*

You can get a state tax credit or subtraction for costs for your children's schooling or related things. The maximum credit is \$1,000 per child. You can use costs like: tutors, academic books and materials, fees paid to others for transportation, music lessons, after school programs, and academic summer camps. You can also use costs for computer hardware or educational software (\$200 limit). Private school tuition is a subtraction only. To get the credit, fill out Form M-1ED. To use the subtraction, do the worksheet on the back of Form M-1.

The Minnesota K-12 Education Credits program can lower your tax bill, and even mean a larger refund when you file your Minnesota Income Tax Return. Two programs help you to pay for expenses related to your child's education. They are the K-12 Subtraction and the K-12 Education Credit. The subtraction and credit are both based on actual expenses you paid during the year. Keep your original receipts for educational instruction and materials showing how much you've spent. Most expenses paid for educational instruction or materials used during the normal school day qualify including: school supplies (pens, pencils, folders, etc.), tutoring fees, intersession fees, fees for after-school enrichment programs, summer academic camp tuition, music lessons and music instrument rental, home computer hardware and educational software, and non-religious textbooks.

For more information or to find out if you are eligible for the subtraction, credit, or both, check out the website [www.taxes.state.mn.us](http://www.taxes.state.mn.us) or call 1-800-652-9094 and order the MN Education Subtraction and Credit Fact Sheet.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 1 - "Get 'Fleeced' Box Tops" Challenge Kick Off
- Sept 8 - Meet and Greet 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- Sept 12 - Students start designing Art Stamps in school
- Sept 16 - Scrip Card order due
- Sept 20 - PTO Meeting 6:30 (pick up Scrip Cards)
- Sept 22 - Meet and Greet 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Sept 26 - Art Stamp Orders go home
- Sept 30 - Box Top Challenge Ends
- Sept 30 - PTO Art Logo Contest Ends
- Oct 6 - Meet and Greet 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades
- Oct 10 - Art Stamps orders due

## **BOXTOPS CHALLENGE**

"Get 'Fleeced' with Box Tops Challenge" starts Sept 1st! For every 25 boxtops your student brings in they will be entered into a drawing for a FREE Polar Fleece from Spiritware!!! Make sure your student's name and teacher's name is on the boxtop forms. You can get more forms by the front desk or download them here: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?Id=44> So, collect those tops and ask the grandparents and neighbors, put out a collection box at work and send in your boxtops! It's so easy to clip and send! Contest ends Sept. 30!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The PTO could use your help!!!! Here are a few opportunities to get involved and volunteer: "Goodsearch" Promoter; Sign Makers; Coordinator for guest speakers during PTO meetings; Set up/take down help for Meet & Greets; Childcare during Meet & Greets; Childcare during PTO meetings. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Dina at [jcbondslave@yahoo.com](mailto:jcbondslave@yahoo.com)

## **FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

Kathy O. from the Blaine Fire Dept. was our Guest Speaker at the last PTO meeting. Did you know that the top 3 causes of fires are cooking, heating and candles? Here are some helpful tips she gave us: If you are cooking and have to leave the stove, bring a lid with you to remind you that you need to go back to the stove, and also to cover the pot if there is a fire when you return. Never put water on an oven fire! You need to replace your smoke detectors every 10 years, replace the batteries every 1 year, and test them once a month! For more information and wonderful tips check out their website: [www.sbmfire.com](http://www.sbmfire.com)

## **GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO!**

### **PTO President, Dina Lantzer**

Dina is married to Matt Lantzer, mother of Abby, age 20; Katie, age 18; and Jake, age 12, in 6th grade in Ms. Zwonitzer's class. I also have a 2 yr. old grand-daughter.

### **Q. What do you love about DaVinci Academy?**

A. What I love about DaVinci Academy is the staff, the administration, the teachers, the curriculum, the schedules, the way that they emphasize the whole student and the individuality of each student. We have been at DaVinci since it started, will be at DaVinci until Jake graduates, and am trying to convince my daughter that my grand-daughter should come to DaVinci too!

### **Q. What do you love about DaVinci PTO?**

A. I love the friends and 'family' that PTO has given me. There's nothing that bonds people together like rolling up your sleeves and working together for a common cause. I get energized at the meetings because so many people come to the table with so many great ideas and there are so many gifted and talented people at DaVinci all working to better something that we all love! It's always exciting!! I love the synergy we create!

### **Q. What do you do in your life outside of DaVinci?**

A. I work from home for ACV Litigation and have also sold Usborne Books for 6 years and recently started to sell Norwex cleaning products. I also love to cook, read, watch Jake play football (the only thing that pulls me away from DaVinci), and entertain friends. I am politically active and love volunteering.