



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

All-School Celebration/ Potluck Chili Feed

Thursday, March 15
5:30 pm
Gym

Fundraising Committee

Monday, March 19
4:30 pm
Room 302

Compensation Committee

Monday, March 19
6:00 pm
Room 302

Finance Committee

Monday, March 19
7:30 pm
Room 302

School Board Meeting

Monday, March 26
6:00 pm
Room 305

K-5 Science Fair

Tuesday, March 27
4:00 pm
Gym

PTO Meeting

Tuesday, March 27
6:30 pm
Room 305

Theater Performance

Thursday, March 29 &
Friday, March 30
6:00 pm
Gym

Find more upcoming events on the DaVinci Academy home page, or go to the "[Calendar](#)" page.

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CENTRAL MINNESOTA REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

On February 25, five DaVinci Academy students participated in the Central Minnesota Regional Science Fair in St. Cloud. Mr. Melander and Ms. Kaiser accompanied Samantha B., Dallas G., Madeline L., Brandon P., and Alexander R. They spent the day presenting to various judges and did a fantastic job representing DaVinci Academy.

Samantha B received top honors but unfortunately is unable to participate in the State Science Fair since she is only in 6th grade. Brandon P took home awards from three different areas, and the other participants received honorable mention. These students did a fantastic job, and they will continue to raise the bar on science at DaVinci Academy!



STUDENTS HELP SHATTER NATIONWIDE READING RECORD

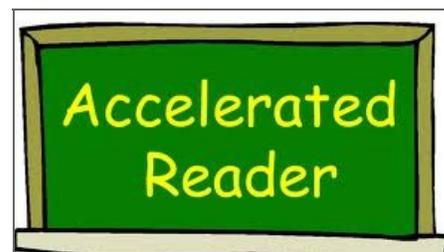
(by Stephanie Severson, Library/Media)

Students at DaVinci Academy took part in "Read The Most From Coast To Coast" on March 2. They helped set a new national record for the number of Accelerated Reader™ Quizzes taken in one day.

The nationwide one-day record students were challenged to top was 2,177,586 quizzes. Our school's one-day record was 76. Students coast to coast joined in the challenge and succeeded in setting a new record. The new nationwide record for the number of Accelerated Reader Quizzes taken in one day is 3,581,992. Our new school record is 556!

Students were excited to be part of this shared challenge. They enjoyed seeing their quizzes counted among the national results on the live quiz counter. The nation's most widely-used reading management software program for K12 schools, Accelerated Reader helps teachers motivate students to read, measure progress, and improve reading levels. Students read a book at the appropriate level and then take a quiz that assesses comprehension of the book just read. Accelerated Reader scores the quiz, monitors results, generates reports, and provides a platform to manage individual reading practice.

"Read The Most From Coast To Coast" enabled students to take part in a shared reading adventure. Students were thrilled when the one-day AR Quiz record was shattered! As a way to recognize DaVinci Academy students for their efforts in setting this national record, all who took part received a certificate of participation.





WWII COMES TO 7TH GRADE

(by Aaron Melander, Middle School Social Studies)

Imagine being able to learn history by taking a trip back in time. This month, DaVinci Academy 7th grade students will engulf themselves into WWII by attending a performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The students have been learning about WWII in social studies class and will be able to see the curriculum come to life when they attend the play at Park Square Theatre in St. Paul. The students also had the unique opportunity to meet a WWII veteran, Rollin Reasoner, who fought in the South Pacific. They were fascinated by the stories and charisma of our guest as he explained the life of an infantryman and his later job, a field medic. It is always a blessing and an honor to have volunteers who are a part of history!

STOOLS DONATED TO ART ROOM

Ms. Larson and Ms. Platisha (Art Teachers) are thrilled about the gift of 27 art stools they received from the DaVinci Academy PTO. The new stools are shorter than the old ones, making it is easier for younger students to utilize the art tables. On behalf of all the budding DaVinci Academy artists, thanks to the PTO for all of your fundraising efforts to purchase the art stools.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, every volunteer is required to have a current background check on file with DaVinci Academy. If you do not have a background check on file, please obtain the form from the front office, or [click here](#) to print the form from our web site.

Volunteers must pay a \$10 processing fee for each background check submitted. Checks should be made payable to DaVinci Academy. Return all forms and payments to the front office (Attn: Volunteer Coordinator). Please do *not* let the processing fee keep you from volunteering at school. If you cannot afford the fee at this time, contact [Mr. Klabunde](#) to make alternative arrangements.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Weekly art room organization and supply clean up
- Childcare at March 22 evening meeting
- Middle school computer cart organization

STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPS ONCE AGAIN

(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

On March 10 and 11, the DaVinci Academy boys basketball team competed in the Minnesota Youth Athletic Service (MYAS) State Basketball Tournament in Buffalo. Fourteen teams were in the division, and DaVinci Academy was seeded #11.

In the first game, DaVinci Academy played Forest Lake (#6) and came from behind to win, 33-31! The second game was against #3 Stewartville. This was another close game, and DaVinci Academy came out on top, 29-27.

In the semifinals, DaVinci Academy played Buffalo (#7) and came from behind again to win 40-36. On to the championship game, where DaVinci Academy played #1 seed South St. Paul. South St. Paul managed only five points in the second half, and DaVinci Academy won handily, 34-21, to secure the 2012 State Championship!

The DaVinci Academy boys basketball team played with a lot of heart and determination and never gave up. A huge credit to Mr. Slechta and Mr. Kapeluck for all of their time and effort...and fantastic coaching! Thank you to all of the parents who supported the team throughout the season.

Finally, a very big, "We are proud of you!" to every player on the team. This was a fantastic show of what it means to never give up, and you are all STARS!



2012 State Champs: Daniel B., Cyril B., Tommy K., Evan M., Jack R., Alex F., Blake K., Mike K., Jake L., Ryan F., Chris R. (manager), Mr. Slechta (coach)



PTO PLACE

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 5:30 pm – All-School Celebration/Potluck
Chili Feed/Awards Night
March 27, 6:30 pm – PTO Meeting
April 1-30 – Box Top Collection Contest
April 12 – Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction

READ-A-THON PASSES GOAL OF A MILLION MINUTES

We did it! DaVinci Academy read over a million minutes... 1,291,780 minutes to be exact! Congratulations to all who turned their minutes in to be counted toward our goal; what a great team effort!

This Thursday, March 15, don't miss a fabulous party to celebrate our Read-a-Thon success! We will have a potluck-style chili feed, awards presentation, and carnival-type games.

DaVinci Academy students also collected \$8885 in Read-a-Thon pledges! Students can use half of that money to purchase books for themselves as a reward for doing such a great job! At the March 15 celebration, Usborne Books will also be on display to help complete your wish lists; new forms will go home with students by Wednesday, March 14.

The PTO will use the other half of the Read-a-Thon funds to purchase items that are needed by DaVinci Academy. \$3554 will go toward technology needs, which include laptop batteries, laptop cords, etc., and \$888.50 will go into the PTO revolving fund balance to support some of the other upcoming events/purchases that the PTO does to support the school. These include the Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast, the framed composite picture that hangs in the front entry, the school dance, the school picnic, and much more.

Any funds that are left at the end of the year, and not designated for budget purposes, are used to purchase more items that DaVinci Academy needs. Some suggestions have been more iPads, Smart-Board software, iTunes gift cards (for apps for the iPads), and outdoor play equipment like balls, hula hoops, and jump ropes. Please come to the general meetings to give your input on ways you would like to see the funds dispersed. After all, it is your money, and you should have a say in where it goes!

To view the PTO's 2011-12 budget, [click here](#). If you have questions, contact [Dina Lantzer](#). After all, the DaVinci Academy PTO is here to enrich the learning opportunities and environment at school.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to A. Mellick and O. Barthold for doing such an outstanding job with the kids at our last PTO meeting! You made it possible for many parents to attend the meeting, and your help is appreciated.

We also want to thank all volunteers who helped with the Middle School Read-a-Thon party! Thanks to Jeannie Burlowski, Brenda Burns, Suzie Koch, LeeAnn Mortenson, and all the awesome Middle School teachers.

WE NEED YOU

The PTO needs help from our valued stakeholders in order to make the April 12 Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction a success for our school. Please consider helping in one of these areas: assembling theme baskets, setting up, seating, serving, and cleaning up. We also need folding tables and chairs for the event. If you can help, contact [Lisa](#).

