



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

1st Grade Meet & Greet
Thursday, September 22
5:30-7:30 pm

**5th-8th Grade
Boys & Girls Soccer**
vs. Excell Academy and
St. Paul City School
@ Blaine High School
Thursday, September 22
6:00 pm

**Facility/Technology
Committee Meeting**
Tuesday, September 27
6:00 pm

PTO Meeting
Tuesday, September 27
6:30 pm

**Policy/Procedures
Committee Meeting**
Monday, October 3
5:30 pm

**Communications
Committee Meeting**
Tuesday, October 4
5:00 pm

4th & 5th Grade Meet & Greet
Thursday, October 6
5:30-7:30 pm

You can also find
upcoming events on the
DaVinci Academy home
page or go directly to the
calendar page for future
important dates
[http://davincicharterschool.org/
Calendar.aspx](http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

13001 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763-754-6577
www.davincicharterschool.org

MCA SCORES

The MCA scores for Math and Reading were finally released last week. They were delayed because of the state government shutdown. As most of you are aware, last year at DaVinci Academy we focused on Math, which included using data-driven assessments and reteaching where necessary. This proved to be extremely beneficial as DaVinci Academy came out well ahead of the state average in Math. The state average for math was 57% proficient and DaVinci Academy was **74% proficient**. Not only did we surpass the state average overall, but every grade level also was ahead of the state average in Math.

In reading, our overall average dropped from 78% proficient last year to 74% this year. The state average for reading was 75%. For the MCA's, there are four levels: exceeds standards, meets standards, partially meets standards and does not meet standards. One positive aspect in reading for DaVinci Academy is that we had more students in the "exceeds standards" category than we have had in previous years. This year we are using data-driven assessments in reading as well as math, so it is very likely that we will see an improvement in scores.

Individual results have not been released as of yet, but there are rumors that schools will receive individual results before September 30. As soon as we receive the individual results, we will send them to all parents in the mail.

"But I remember more
dearly autumn afternoons
in bottoms that lay
intensely silent under
old great trees"

-C.S. Lewis

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR'S DESK: PATRICK HOBOT

Hello everybody! I hope the beginning of the school year and fall season has been as exciting and enjoyable for you as it has been for me. It has been truly wonderful to experience the day-to-day flow and positive energy around DaVinci Academy that your children and the staff bring with them every day! I thought I would give a general update to keep the high school planning progress transparent. So far, I have mainly focused on aligning the primary curriculum materials that we have selected with the Minnesota State Standards. At this time, the 9th grade Language Arts and Math materials are aligned with the standards for school year 2012-2013 (next year) and beyond. The primary source for Math and Language Arts curricula will be the continuation of the Springboard program that has been implemented this year in the middle school. This product has an excellent "scaffold" approach that meets the standard-oriented expectations for schools as we move toward the common core standards nationwide. More importantly, it provides excellent rigor and relevance to deeply engage students in their learning. I am in the process of aligning the 10th and 11th grade Language Arts and Math, and look forward to having those segments completed soon.

I will host another "Town Meeting" on Wednesday, September 28 to hear your contributions, present our progress, and to have some of the materials available for parents and students to peruse. Meanwhile, questions or comments are welcomed at phobot@davincicharterschool.org. Have a great week!



DaVinci Connection

LIBRARY UPDATE:

STEPHANIE SEVERSON

A teacher walked into the library last week and remarked, "Boy, I can tell this room is certainly in transition." I laughed and told her that was the nicest way anyone had ever told me that my space was a mess! I've spent the last few weeks making and cleaning up the piles and messes. Our school library has been blessed during the last three years with many, many donations. We've had so many donations that our shelves are bursting, and there isn't room for new books! Volunteers have been in sorting, and we've been packing up books that are damaged or outdated, as well as books that are more suited to an upper-level high school student. Some books will be stored until we need them for the high school. Others are being distributed to teacher's classroom libraries, or are in short-term storage for a big book swap idea that I am planning for later this school year.

The library needs new books. Many students have requested books that are so newly published that we don't have them. Or we are missing book three in a five-book series, which can be very disappointing to someone desperate to read the third book! During Parent-Teacher conferences in October, the annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place. 100% of the proceeds from the Book Fair will be re-invested in our school library. New picture books, missing series books, and newly published novels will soon fill our shelves and await students to check them out. More details regarding the Book Fair will be in the newsletter next week. Volunteers are still needed to cull and catalog books. Please email sseverson@davincicharterschool.org if you'd like to help. Volunteers are also needed to help on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:20-10:10 am with Accelerated Reader testing.

FALL SOCCER PROGRAM

Soccer is underway for over 30 5th-8th grade boys and girls who signed up for DaVinci Academy's first competitive soccer program. Joining 5th grade teacher Ms. Arrowsmith on the coaching staff this year are Amro Selim and Hassan Eisa. Our soccer players are very lucky to practice their skills alongside these talented volunteers who have played professionally in Egypt! Both the boys and the girls will put their teamwork to the test this Thursday, September 22, as they compete against Excell Academy and St. Paul City School, respectively. Come cheer on the DaVinci Dynamite at Blaine High School at 6 pm!

It's time to tie up those shoelaces, or maybe get help doing so, because elementary soccer kicks off on Tuesday, September 20! This after-school program for beginners was a huge success last year with over 100 participants! This year, we have organized the program so that players have their own team and coach. They will train at the park right after school, and then scrimmage other teams of the same grade at the end of each session. The elementary soccer program is on Tuesdays, right after school, from September 20-October 11 (four sessions). Do not miss this awesome opportunity for your student to learn teamwork and sportsmanship; sign up today!



ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to DaVinci Academy Artists of the Month for September:

Kindergarten: Samuel F.

Grade 1 - Elliot Z.

Grade 2 - Sophia M.

Grade 3 - Zennon K.

Grade 4 - Christian E.

Grade 5 - Shawn C.

Grade 6 - Daniel B.

Grade 7 - Merry B.



\$5 SCHOLASTIC COUPONS FOR WALMART SHOPPERS

Get your kids excited about reading (and choosing!) books of their own with a special offer from Kellogg's and Walmart. Get a \$5 book coupon from Scholastic Book Clubs for every two Kellogg's codes. The participating products are only available at Walmart. Visit www.scholastic.com/kellogg, click "Get Your Free Book," and follow the instructions. Enter as many Kellogg's codes as you want. There is no limit! The offer expires in July 2012.



PTO Place

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 21 - Scrip Card Order Due

(email mark.b.ness@gmail.com)

Sept. 22 - Meet & Greet, 1st Grade

Sept. 26 - Art Stamp Orders Go Home

Sept. 27 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

(please note the change)

Sept. 27 - Pick Up Scrip Cards at PTO Meeting

Sept. 30 - Box Top Challenge Ends

Sept. 30 - PTO Art Logo Contest Ends

Oct. 6 - Meet & Greet, 4th and 5th Grades

Oct. 10 - Art Stamps Orders Due

SPIRITWEAR ORDERS DUE SEPTEMBER 26TH

Order your long sleeve polo shirts, sweaters, and sweatshirts today! The PTO has Spiritwear items available for order, with the DaVinci Academy logo embroidered on them. All items are red in color, and the logo is white. Get your high-quality Spiritwear in about two weeks. The order form is attached to this email. If you have questions, please contact daveandemmak@msn.com.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK

Thank you to Tanya Lewerenz for helping with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Meet & Greet last week. We appreciate the time you took to come and help! And a big shout out to Amy Klein for helping her three boys' teachers with tedious, time-consuming jobs like sharpening pencils, correcting and organizing papers. We thank you for helping make DaVinci Academy great!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Childcare is needed at the next PTO meeting (September 27)! You will receive a gift card for your efforts, plus volunteer hours. Contact Dina at jcbond-slave@yahoo.com if you can help.

PTO GUEST SPEAKER

Don't miss our upcoming PTO meeting at 6:30 pm on September 27! Professional Organizer Andrea Brandt, owner of Smiling Spaces, LLC, will share some of her favorite organizing products and tips. You'll learn simple ways to get your house and family in order to save you time, money, and stress. Check out Andrea's short YouTube organizing videos at www.youtube.com/user/smilingspaces, and find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/smiling-spaces.



Andrea Brandt

Professional Organizer

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FREE & EASY WAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DAVINCI ACADEMY

This is going to be the easiest thing DaVinci Academy has ever asked you to do! We just signed up with GoodSearch.com, and now every time you shop online or search the Internet, a donation will be made to DaVinci Academy! Here's how: GoodShop.com works with more than 2,500 stores (including Target, Apple, PetSmart, etc.) and every time you purchase something, a percentage will be donated to us! And even more exciting, GoodShop offers over 100,000 of the most up-to-date coupons and free shipping offers so you can save money at the same time. It's a win-win. GoodSearch is a Yahoo-powered search engine that makes a donation to us each time you do a search. Join the rest of our community in using these sites to help us easily raise money for our mission. Get started by clicking "Become a Supporter" on our profile page (<http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/davinci-academy-of-arts-and-science.aspx>).