



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Communications  
Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 8  
5:00 pm

Finance Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 14  
6:00 pm

Compensation  
Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 14  
7:30 pm

No School  
Monday, November 21-  
Friday, November 25

School Resumes  
Monday, November 28

School Board Meeting  
Monday, November 28  
6:00 pm

Facility/Technology  
Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, November 29  
6:00 pm

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>

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

## **VOLUNTEER TRACKING**

*(by Lee Swearingen)*

We are excited to introduce all stakeholders to HelpCounter - our new volunteer tracking software! This program will help us better manage our many volunteer opportunities and more accurately capture the endless number of hours our families are giving to DaVinci Academy. We were able to pre-load the database with most of the information received from the *Time and Talent Survey*, so if you completed the survey before October 26, the interests you indicated will already appear in your volunteer profile.

HelpCounter will be available through the kiosk located at the front desk. Please sign in as a volunteer via the kiosk anytime you help during school hours, participate in committees, or attend PTO or board meetings.

You can also access the system at home to enter volunteer hours that you may be putting in outside of school, plus update your contact information and volunteer interests. To do this, please click the link below. If your email address is not in HelpCounter, contact Lee Swearingen (Wednesday-Friday) at [lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org).

[https://helpcounterweb.com/update/home\\_request.php](https://helpcounterweb.com/update/home_request.php)

In the upcoming months, your previously recorded hours for the current school year will be entered into HelpCounter. Would you like to volunteer for that project? Access your Volunteer Profile via the home access link, update your volunteering interests list, and select the HelpCounter Data Entry Activity. It's that simple!

In addition to using the program as a fantastic volunteer software, it also tracks student late check-in and early release, as well as visitor sign-in. Therefore, it has completely replaced the **red binder** that we have used for the last three years. No more paper sign-in. If you need any assistance with using the Helpcounter kiosk, ask Stephanie, Denise, or Lee in the office.

I want to again thank all DaVinci Academy families for the amazing amount of time and commitment shown to our school. We wouldn't be the school we are without all of you. Try out HelpCounter, and let us know what you think!

## **ALISSA SAVERING**

### **JOINS DAVINCI ACADEMY BOARD**

*(by Terri Sheehan, School Board Chair)*

At its October 17 meeting, the DaVinci Academy School Board voted unanimously to have Alissa Savering join the board to fill its open teacher representative position.

Alissa is a 2009 graduate of North Central University, with a BS in Elementary Education. After a year of substitute teaching, Alissa joined the DaVinci Academy staff in 2010. She is currently a full-time Title One teacher, assessing kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in math and reading.

Assessment results are used to help students enhance their understanding of classroom instruction.

By virtue of her daily interaction with all grade levels at DaVinci Academy, Alissa has the unique opportunity to see the successes and challenges our students and teachers experience on a daily basis. She looks forward to utilizing that experience to help the board gain enhanced insight on our school community and assist in the continued growth and development of our school.

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDYING MINNESOTA HISTORY

(by David Cauley)

This quarter, students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are headed back to 1804 on a cross-curricular Voyageur immersion. Their teachers, Ms. Berth and Mr. Cauley, have brought Minnesota History into the reading classroom with William Durbin's book, *The Broken Blade*, and themed grading opportunities for the students.



Perfect scores on spelling tests and vocabulary packets bring "beaver skins" and "deer hides." Lesser scores earn "squirrels." Some science time is used to study the nature and habitat of key fur trade animals. Students track their own assignments with canoe stops on the classroom wall. They will bring the furs they earn to the Northwest Fur Trade Post in Pine City (field trip at the end of the quarter) to trade for trinkets.

### FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

"A Holiday of Music"

DaVinci Academy Winter Concerts  
In the DaVinci Academy Gymnasium

Grades K-2, December 6, 6:00 pm

Grades 3-4, December 8, 6:30 pm

Orchestra, Bands, and Choirs, December 13, 6:30 pm

Save the dates, and see you there!

"If you smile when you are  
along, then you really mean it."

~Andy Rooney

## PTO Place

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 15 – PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

Dec. 10 – Marketplace

### GUEST SPEAKERS WANTED

The PTO is looking for guest speakers for our monthly meetings. Do you have knowledge of a topic that may be of interest, or do you know someone who does? Topic ideas might be Internet Safety, Bullying, Nutrition, High Needs Kids, Keeping Gifted Kids Challenged, Love and Logic...or any other idea you may have. Please email Mike at [mfulton.01@gmail.com](mailto:mfulton.01@gmail.com).

### MANY THANKS

Thank you, Dave King, for helping with childcare during the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Meet & Greet, and Shannon Moore for helping with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Meet & Greet. We have had a great time at all the Meet & Greets this year and thank everyone who attended. Meeting other families and finding out ways to get involved helps make DaVinci Academy a better school for our children.

We want to give a "SHOUT OUT" to Cindy Rubin, who was instrumental in helping to organize the volunteers and run the Book Fair during Parent/Teacher Conferences!

Also, a huge Kindergarten thank you to Connor Bakken's dad, Lynn! He built a beautiful overhead projector cart, and now the kids can move the projector independently to work with it. We love independent kids and gifted parents!

### COLLECTABLE FUNDRAISER ITEMS

Thank you parents and staff for supporting our Terra-cycling efforts! We just sent in a large shipment of juice pouches and ink jet printer cartridges. We are, however, discontinuing juice pouch collections at this time. This decision was made because of the mold issues surrounding the collection and storage of juice pouches. Please check out [http://davincicharterschool.org/PTO\\_Fundraising](http://davincicharterschool.org/PTO_Fundraising) for other household items that you can collect to raise money for our school. We appreciate all of your efforts!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The PTO is looking for someone to coordinate Spirit-wear. Please email Dina at [jcbondslave@yahoo.com](mailto:jcbondslave@yahoo.com) if you are interested.