

# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Mandatory Intersession  
Tuesday, January 3-  
Friday, January 6

Regular Classes Resume  
Monday, January 9

Facilities Committee  
Monday, January 9  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

Technology Committee  
Monday, January 9  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

Policy/Procedures  
Committee  
Monday, January 9  
6:00 pm  
Room 305

No School - Martin Luther  
King Day  
Monday, January 16

School Board Meeting  
Monday, January 30  
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](http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

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

## WE HEAR YOU AND HOPE YOU'RE HEARING US

(by Doug Dinndorf, Communications Committee Chair)

As we move into the second half of our 2011-12 school year, we want to make sure our stakeholders are aware of the steps the Communication Committee has taken to improve school communications. This subject has come up in several different forums, and we hear you. We hope you have noticed that we are addressing your concerns.

Several months ago, we changed the name of our newsletter to the *DaVinci Connection*, to signify what we expect it to be – our weekly connection with the stakeholder community. Coupled with the name change is a new focus on the various aspects of our school operations. You see articles from our school administrators on a regular, rotating basis, and many contributions from teachers and board members. We believe the quality of our newsletter has significantly improved and welcome any comments or recommendations you wish to share.

We have also been busy enhancing our web site, [www.davincicharterschool.org](http://www.davincicharterschool.org), with added and updated information and new pictures and quotes. We want the web site to be the focal point for information on our school. Recently, we have had almost 5,400 monthly visits to our site, with about 1,200 of them being new monthly visitors. You will find virtually anything you want to know about DaVinci Academy on the site, including updates on our high school planning for the 2012-13 school year. Take a look at [www.davincicharterschool.org/academics](http://www.davincicharterschool.org/academics) and click on the "high school" tab. If you have not taken a look at our web site recently, we encourage you to do so.

Lastly, I think all of you have seen the "Time and Talent Survey" we circulated in early November. We are using your responses to build a volunteer database that will help coordinate our school volunteer program. Volunteerism is a critical element in the success of DaVinci Academy. It helps us control costs and devote our resources where they best benefit our students. Volunteering also helps you keep abreast of what is going on at school. Lee Swearingen is our volunteer coordinator, so any questions should be directed to her at [lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org).

A lot is happening at DaVinci Academy! We are committed to keeping you apprised of what's going on at your school. If you have any suggestions on how you think we can improve that communication process, please let me know at [ddinndorf@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:ddinndorf@davincicharterschool.org).

## SCHOOL BUS EXPECTATIONS

(by Gregg Eldred, Student Development Coordinator)



Many students ride the bus to and from DaVinci Academy. At the beginning of the school year, a form was sent home for the students and parents/legal guardians to sign that discussed the rules for students when they choose to take advantage of bus transportation. Bus behavior has been going pretty well, and I am working in cooperation with the bus company to maintain a high level of expectations for the students.

### Please remind your children to:

- follow the directions of the bus driver,
- sit in your seat facing forward and remain seated during the bus ride,
- talk quietly and use appropriate language, and
- keep arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.

### Additional reminders:

- **Be on time for pick-up** - If you are late to pick up your son or daughter, please remember that everyone waiting at a stop after yours is delayed. If you are running late for pick up, please call the bus company at (763) 755-3100 to let them know and make arrangements to pick up your child at another bus stop location.
- **Changes in pick-up require written notice** - If you would like your son or daughter to walk home or to your business after they are dropped off, you must write a note to the school and bus company giving this permission.
- **Keep discussions going** - If there ever is a problem on the bus, please have your son or daughter talk with the bus driver or let me know. My number is (763) 754-6577, ext. 116, or email me at [geldred@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:geldred@davincicharterschool.org)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24, 6:30 pm – PTO Meeting  
February 3 – Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction

#### GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO

##### **PTO Communications Coordinator, Jill Mechelke**

Jill and her husband, Brad, have two children, Alek and Andrew. Alek attends DaVinci Academy as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader this year, and Andrew will be in kindergarten next fall.

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

A. I love the individualized approach that DaVinci Academy brings to the learning environment. I also love the teachers and staff. They all seem to have a vested interest in my child's education.

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

A. I love knowing what's going on at the school and how I can help make a difference.

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

A. I work full-time as an Office Manager of a law firm in downtown Minneapolis. In my spare time, I love swimming, reading, watching movies, playing games, and spending time with family and friends.

#### BACK TO SCHOOL BREAKFAST AT BRUEGGER'S

Join us on Friday, January 13, for bagels and (*pick an adjective or use all of the following*) brilliant, bubbly, bright, boastful, blessed, bountiful, baffling conversation after school drop-off. And since Dina Lantzer will be there, it will probably be all that and more!

Get your \$10 Scrip card for Bruegger's that week (before or after school) from Tammy Ness or Dina Lantzer, who will be in the DaVinci Academy front foyer next Wednesday and Thursday morning, or Friday morning at Bruegger's. Email Dina at [jcbondslave@yahoo.com](mailto:jcbondslave@yahoo.com) with any questions.

#### SPAGHETTI DINNER/SILENT AUCTION

The DaVinci Academy PTO will host the annual Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction Fundraiser on Friday, February 3 (*date has changed from previous newsletter*). The doors will open at 5:00 pm for dinner, and the silent auction bidding will get underway shortly after. All money raised will help support our school. Tickets will go on sale after the intersession.

Prior to the event, volunteers are needed to help with baskets. On the night of the event, volunteers are needed for set up/clean up; servers to aid families with small children; servers of drinks and desserts; and additional volunteers to help throughout the night. Also, if you would like to donate auction items or know someone we can contact for donations, we would greatly appreciate it. We are hoping for a big turn-out of families and auction items! Questions? Contact Lisa King at 612-578-4997 or [ldbkingz@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbkingz@hotmail.com).

## Beginning Again

Author: Lois Duncan

The close of a year is a milestone.  
We find it both painful and sweet.  
A dawn has evolved into sunset,  
A chapter of life is complete.

Its wonders are now only memories,  
And all of the stories are told.  
Tomorrow's adventures lie waiting  
with new sagas yet to unfold.

Although we are glad to move onward,  
the past is an intricate part.  
Its memories, like beautiful music,  
Were strummed on the strings of the heart.

So cherish those wonderful memories.  
Hold them and cuddle them tight,  
Then tuck them away in a scrapbook  
and bid them a tender goodnight.

