



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Communications Committee  
Tuesday, June 5  
5:00 pm  
Room 302

Scholastic BOGO Book Fair  
Wednesday, June 6-  
Thursday, June 14

No School  
Friday, June 8

School Development  
Committee  
Monday, June 11  
4:30 pm  
Room 302

Compensation Committee  
Monday, June 11  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

Finance Committee  
Monday, June 11  
7:30 pm  
Room 302

Field Day  
Thursday, June 14

No School  
Friday, June 15

School Board Meeting  
Monday, June 18  
6:00 pm  
Room 305

Last Day of School  
Thursday, June 21

Find more upcoming events  
on the DaVinci Academy  
home page, or go to the  
"Calendar" page for future

13001 Central Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55434  
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[www.davincicharterschool.org](http://www.davincicharterschool.org)

## DAVINCI ACADEMY IS A "REWARD SCHOOL"

*(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)*

In February, Minnesota was granted a waiver from the No Child Left Behind law. The reason they applied for the waiver is because it was felt that the strict emphasis on a single test had not helped move achievement for students and had, in fact, mislabeled too many schools as failing, while not recognizing high achieving schools.

Upon receiving the waiver, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) created a new tool called the Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR) to gauge school performance in four areas:

- Performance Targets
- Individual Student Growth
- Closing the Achievement Gap
- Graduation Rate

Based on these areas, MDE has begun using new designations for schools. These designations, based upon the MMR, are:

- **Reward Schools** – The 15% of highest performing schools in the state who receive Title funds. These schools will be recognized annually.
- **Focus Schools** – The 10% of schools showing the largest achievement gaps in the state for one or more groups of students.
- **Priority Schools** – The bottom 5% of schools on the MMR – the persistently low performing schools.

On May 22, MDE released the results of the initial designations for schools based upon their results in 2010 and 2011. **We are extremely pleased to announce that DaVinci Academy has been designated as a REWARD SCHOOL.** This is great news and a reflection of how hard our staff and

students have been working. Thank you to all stakeholders for supporting DaVinci Academy and helping us to achieve this designation.

## HIGH SCHOOL COORDINATOR'S CORNER

*(by Patrick Hobot, High School Coordinator)*

NOW IT IS UP TO YOU! It has been my great pleasure to serve the DaVinci Academy community over the last several months in the role of High School Coordinator. I believe that the foundation for a high-performing preparatory program has been developed through the design of a rigorous curriculum, creative and supportive scheduling, and intellectual and artistic extracurricular opportunities. Moreover, it has all taken place with the intent and purpose of manifesting and sustaining a culture of learning throughout the program.

I am confident that, if DaVinci Academy follows the majority of the plan with both fidelity and flexibility, and the leaders here adapt the plan as necessary according to stakeholder feedback and technological advances, every child completing his/her education at DaVinci Academy High School being properly prepared for post-secondary pursuits is highly likely.

Still, as essentially every study involving a student population similar to ours will support, the number one factor in the student's success still comes from home. And based on my experience from building small programs into stable schools, there are many things we will need from you. Luckily, I see the great potential of DaVinci Academy families to see this through to completion. Moving forward, we will need you to stick with it in order to ensure the success and stability of the high school program.

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*Cont. from pg. 1*

This year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class will be the first graduating class from our high school, and we are excited about that! However, to succeed, you and your child will have to value what we offer and be willing to continue to accept the challenges coming down the pike. Coursework will challenge the students, particularly in pacing. The narrower focus of offerings (curricular and extracurricular) based on our mission and vision, necessarily translate into community involvement for our students to gain some of the experiences we won't be able to offer.

The new enrollment policy at DaVinci Academy will also challenge our resources, but the programs we invest in will endure through quality and commitment against the "bells and whistles" of the larger schools. The internal relationships of a small "family-feel" program will require patience, understanding, and growth, but will offer uniquely deep connections amongst the students themselves and between the students and staff. I know that together you can do this, and you can do it well.

I have valued your comments and suggestions at the Town Meetings and through your contacts with me in person and via email. Every one of them was taken seriously as a voice that matters. Many of them were implemented into this plan. Others were put in front of the administration for immediate consideration, and some are on the table for future consideration.

I will be here for a while yet to work on revisions and build some community connections for the school, but I really wanted to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for your support and input and to wish you all great fortune with the future of this endeavor. I look forward to seeing what you make of it! Enroll, endure, succeed.

## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**(by Ravi Raghavapudi, Technology Committee Chair)**

Thanks to new volunteer support and a fully staffed board, we made a lot of progress in the technology arena. We recently completed the 2015 Technology Plan and submitted that to the Minnesota Department of Education for approval; once approved, we will post it on our web site. Also, we identified all the technology needs for the 2012-13 school year and submitted them for budget purposes.

One exciting new option we are considering as part of the Technology Plan for 2012-13 is the use of Samsung Chromebooks in place of laptops for two sections of the school. Chromebooks run on Google software as opposed to the typical Microsoft Windows platform and offer some unique advantages over regular laptops. Things such as 8-second boot up time, full 8.5-hour battery life, and full integration into Google are all advantages over current laptops. Chromebooks use Google Document Management and integrate well with the Google email system, which our school currently uses. The school will continue to utilize iPads as an educational tool as well.

Two projects that the committee is looking at undertaking are: (1) creating a tracking/barcoding system for all technology devices at the school; and (2) developing a comprehensive scope and sequence document, something that identifies technology needs/proficiency requirements for each student by grade. If you are interested in helping out on either project, please let me know.

Finally, I hope you saw Stephanie Severson's recent newsletter article regarding the use of iPads for creating custom books by 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Very exciting!

Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.

-Vincent Van Gogh



## CRAYONS FOR HAITI UPDATE

*(by Katie Mannella, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher)*

In the April 24 newsletter, we let you know about our service project to collect used crayons to recycle into new ones for the Reiser Relief Organization. Our recycled crayons, coloring books, and animal pictures were taken to two different schools in the Port-au-Prince area. The kids loved coloring in their new coloring books and looking at the animal pictures. Thank you to everyone who donated items!



## PIANO & VIOLIN LESSONS

If your child is interested in taking piano or violin lessons, contact Marsha Emmons at 612-991-0058. Some summer lesson times are available, and summer is a great time to get in the routine of practicing and lessons.

## SCHOLASTIC BOGO BOOK FAIR IS HERE!

Wednesday, June 6, begins the Scholastic Book Fair. The Buy One Get One Free event will only last until June 14! It's a great time to stock up on summer reading and buy a gift for someone else. Shop early for the best selection since Scholastic is clearing out their warehouse. Hope to see you at the BOGO Book Fair.

- Wednesday, June 6: 4:00—7:00 pm
- Thursday, June 7: 4:00 - 7:00 pm (Medieval Feast)
- Monday, June 11: 8:00 - 9:00 am, 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
(Open during kindergarten half-day drop-off/pick-up)
- Tuesday, June 12: 8:00 – 9:00 am, 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
(Open during kindergarten half-day drop-off/pick-up)
- Wednesday, June 13: 8:00—9:00 am, 4:00-5:00 pm
- Thursday, June 14: school hours as permitted  
(Field Day for elementary students)

I am still looking for volunteers to help during the hours listed above. Please let [Stephanie Severson](#) know if you can assist. Thank you!

## OLD CHICAGO DAVROUPON *(by Therese O'Meara, School Development Committee Chair)*



You don't need to scout the Groupon web site when you have steals such as the DaVroupon hosted by DaVinci Academy. There are 24 remaining Pizza Pals cards for Old Chicago Pizza. Get \$22 worth of pizza for \$11! That is a 50% discount on a 100% full stomach!

Pizza palates will love the many options that are available at Old Chicago. A DaVinci Academy parent recently testified that her Old Chicago bill shrunk dramatically from \$44 to \$7 after she used the pizza certificates. This fed a whopping eight hungry bellies and left eight happy people exiting the restaurant. So hurry and claim your certificate before they are all gobbled up!

# Purely PTO

DaVinci Academy PTO

June 5, 2012

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 14 – All School Dance  
“Back to the 80’s”

## MAY GUEST SPEAKER

Another great PTO meeting last week! Thanks to everyone who joined us. We had a wonderful guest speaker, Lindsey Carlson from MADD, MN who spoke

## DAVINCI BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The DaVinci PTO would like to encourage our community to ‘buy local’ by providing a listing of all businesses and services that are owned, operated by or who employ our fellow DaVinci community members. Do you own, operate or are you

## FAMILY FRIENDLY IDEAS

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Are you looking for things to do as a family? If so, then check out this local website: <http://coonrapids.macaronikid.com/>. It is chock-full of family-friendly things to do. You can even sign up to be on their mailing list if you want it delivered to your inbox. This website services the areas of Coon Rapids, Blaine and Andover. In addition to many other things, it gives movie reviews, activity ideas, and has a Calendar of Events page for each month that is continually updated.

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Another great idea for the family is BOWLING! Select bowling centers and schools around the country are participating in the first ever **Kids Bowl Free** program. This program is designed by bowling centers to give back to the community and provide a safe, secure, and fun way for kids to spend time this summer. Children are eligible to register for 2 free games a day, all summer long. Several Bowling Alleys in our area are participating, so go check out this opportunity: <http://www.kidsbowlfree.com/>

“Together We Teach We  
Learn We Grow”

about underage drinking and handed out booklets and information on how to talk to your children and teenagers about this sensitive subject. For more information, or to set up your own FREE 30 minute seminar (at work, home, church, or wherever) check out [www.madd.org/mn](http://www.madd.org/mn). They also have a 5K walk-a-thon in June and a Youth Jam Conference in October. Worth checking out!

employed at a business that would benefit from participation of DaVinci stakeholders? We will make available a listing of DaVinci Businesses to all of our stakeholders next school year since we have had a limited response. If you would like to be featured in the Directory please email [Lee Zimbleman](mailto:Lee.Zimbleman).

## 80’s DANCE!

The end of year dance will be one of the last chances of the year to get in some volunteer hours and have a lot of fun doing it! The PTO needs volunteers to help with set-up, clean up and selling of concessions. If you can help in any way, please contact [Dina](mailto:Dina). Thanks!

## BASKETS!!!!

It’s that time of year again when the PTO welcomes any donated baskets or containers that you find at garage sales to be used at next year’s silent auction!



DaVinci PTO’s mission is to enrich the learning opportunities and environment at DaVinci Academy.