

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Facilities Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 1
6:00 pm

3rd Grade Meet & Greet
Thursday, November 3
5:30 pm

Policies/Procedure
Committee Meeting
Monday, November 7
5:30 pm

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

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>

13001 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763-754-6577

www.davincicharterschool.org

SCHOOL BOARD LOOKING FOR TWO NEW MEMBERS (BY TERRI SHEEHAN)

The DaVinci Academy School Board made a unanimous decision to expand the seven member board to nine members. This decision was made to provide more board opportunities for parents, teachers and community members. It is the board's intent to better support the school with additional resources to cover a variety of initiatives and committees as DaVinci Academy continues to grow.

There are two board member openings to be filled initially by appointment. These appointments are open to a parent, teacher or community member. The term for one of the positions will expire in February 2013 and the term for the other position will expire in February 2015. After the initial term expires, each position will be a three year term and will be filled as part of that years annual election.

Some of the key commitments a board member will be required to fulfill include:

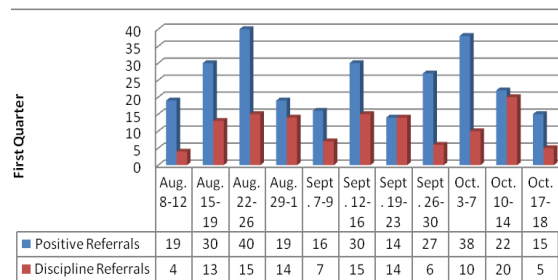
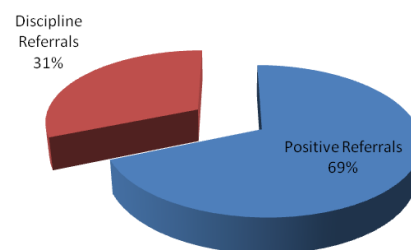
- Attending regular monthly board meetings that are approximately three to four hours in duration, along with occasional special board meetings.
- Serving as an active, ongoing member of at least two board committees, one of which you would chair, with committees meeting at least once a month, or more often if needed.
- Participating in board workshops and planning retreats periodically scheduled throughout the year.
- Completing training required by the Minnesota Department of Education, which includes Board Governance, Role and Responsibility, Employment Policies and Practices, and Financial Management (a new board member must start the training within 6 months and complete it within 12 months of becoming a board member)

This is an excellent opportunity for you or others you know to get involved in the critical activities and decisions that set the course for our school's growth and development. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be considered for this position, please send a letter of interest and resume to our school board chair, at tsheehan@davincicharterschool.org, by Friday, November 11, 2011. The board will consider the information submitted at the November 21 board meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (BY GREGG ELDRED)

The 1st quarter of school has gone by quickly. One new program this year is the Student Positive Referral Program where students are awarded positive referrals for demonstrating good behavior or for academic achievement. During the 1st quarter, 270 positive referrals were awarded to 186 different students. I have seen our students work hard this quarter on showing good manners and helping others, as well as working hard in the classroom. The graph shows the number of positive referrals compared to discipline referrals written each week in the 1st quarter. The second graph shows the percentage of positive referrals and discipline referrals written. More than twice as many positive referrals were written compared to discipline referrals. Nice job to your students who have stepped up to be positive role models!

Positive Referrals and Discipline Referrals First Quarter



BOOK FAIR RAISES OVER \$2,000 (BY STEPHANIE SEVERSON)

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent Book Fair. We raised just over \$2,000 in Scholastic Dollars for DaVinci Academy -- that means tons of great new books for our library and classrooms! For every dollar you spent at the Book Fair, DaVinci Academy earned 60 cents to spend on books!



DaVinci Connection

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE (BY DOUG HIATT)

The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (often referred to as just the Finance Committee) is one of the standing committees of the Board of Directors at DaVinci Academy. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to manage the finances of DaVinci Academy with the highest integrity and ensure professional accounting practices are followed. All committees of the Board of Directors of DaVinci Academy have adopted one-year and three-year goals and initiatives. Those goals and initiatives have been included as part of the overall Three-Year Strategic Plan for DaVinci Academy (available at <http://www.davincicharterschool.org/documents>).

The Finance Committee's goals and initiatives for this year are:

1. Receive school finance award
2. Maintain 35% General Fund balance
3. Attain clean audit
4. Manage cash flow with 40% hold back

We are pleased to announce that DaVinci Academy recently received its final audited financial statements from our external audit firm with no findings. This is recognized as a clean audit report. The financial statements and the management report are available at the school web site location above. The application and requirements for the school finance award were released by the Minnesota Department of Education on October 17, 2011. DaVinci Academy received the school finance award last year and, based on a review of this year's criteria, should receive the school finance award this year, too.

What is the General Fund? The General Fund is the main fund maintained by a charter school and includes the revenues and expenditures related to the basic educational programs (about 90% of the total revenues and expenditures at DaVinci Academy). The other two funds currently maintained by DaVinci Academy are the Food Service Fund and the Community Service Fund.

DaVinci Academy ended last year with a 35.3% General Fund balance, but we need to maintain it at that level. Why? The 35% General Fund balance is a commitment made to our Authorizer (Friends of Education) in the recently renewed Charter School Contract, and maintaining a 35% General Fund balance is necessary given the 40% holdback.

Hold back? In order to balance the Minnesota budget, the Governor and Legislature agreed to withhold 40% of the revenue that is supposed to be paid to schools for general education in the current year. The 40% hold back will not be paid to the schools until next year.

If you have questions or concerns related to budget, finance or audit, let me know at dhiatt@davincicharterschool.org.

VISION SCREENING

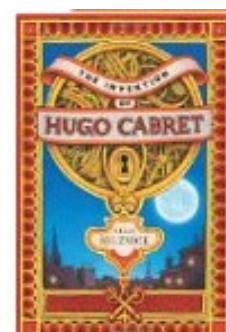
Vision screening for kindergarten, 2nd, 5th and 7th grades will be held at DaVinci Academy on November 8th. 20/20 vision will be conducting the screening, assisted by five nursing students from Rasmussen College.

We are in need of volunteers to help with the all day screening process. Please contact Lee Swearingen at lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org if you can help.

FEATURE BOOK (BY STEPHANIE SEVERSON)

A new family movie will be released this Thanksgiving, and it is based on a fantastic book. I always think a movie based on a book is a great way to encourage students to read the book first. When my own children were younger, it was the rule in our house. We didn't go see "*The Chronicles of Narnia*" in the theater until we read the book together.

This book is fantastic, and I loved it before I knew it was going to be a movie!



The Invention of Hugo Cabret, by Brian Selznik, is a unique book. It is a story told in both words and pictures. To call it a picture book is an understatement. To call it a traditional novel doesn't explain that much of the story is told through the illustrations. There are even cinematic elements to the book. Hugo is an orphan boy, a clock-keeper, and a thief. He lives in a busy Paris train station and is trying to fix the last toy his father worked on -- a mechanical man. Hugo finds help from a girl and a shopkeeper, and in the end uncovers many secrets. This is a great family read aloud... just don't skip the pictures! Are you committed to reading the book before you see the movie? Check out Readit1st.com.

OCTOBER ARTISTS OF THE MONTH

- Kindergarten** - Tristan G. ♦ **1st** - Megan K.
2nd - Chloe B. ♦ **3rd** - Ashley G. ♦ **4th** - Josiah W.
5th - Victoria W. ♦ **6th** - Luke W. and Lilly K.
7th - Emma W. ♦ **8th** - Angelisa P.

PIANO & VIOLIN LESSONS AVAILABLE

Marsha Emmons offers piano and violin lessons at DaVinci Academy on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school. If interested, please call Marsha at 612-991-0058.



PTO Place

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 3 - Meet & Greet, 3rd grade

Nov. 15 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

Dec. 10 – Marketplace

MANY THANKS

Thank you to all of the volunteers who brought food for the Parent/Teacher Conferences. The teachers loved it! Also a BIG thank you to Tonya Duwell for all of the arranging, set up, and clean up of the food each day. It was a huge sacrifice of time, and we truly appreciate it. Thanks also to Tammy Ness and Krystin Ness for spending all three days during conferences helping with the Uniform Swap.

Thank you to all who supported DaVinci Academy PTO by placing an ArtStamps order; over 90 orders were turned in! Thank you to Mrs. Greeninger for helping the students create such wonderful pieces of artwork. The PTO will be consulting with the art department about what their future needs are so that the funds raised can help go towards those needs.

DAVINCI ACADEMY MARKETPLACE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

The DaVinci Academy PTO is looking for vendors, crafters, and artists to make the 4th annual holiday Marketplace a shining success! If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Lisa Derr at lisaderr15@yahoo.com for more details and a registration form.

Student vendors who create crafts, baked goodies, and other holiday gift ideas will also have an opportunity to sell their wares at the Marketplace. Check your children's backpacks in the coming days for more information on becoming a student vendor.

WE NEED YOU

Volunteers are needed to help with collecting silent auction items. Please contact Lisa King at ldbkingz@hotmail.com.

GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO

PTO Treasurer, Theresa Barthold

Theresa and her husband, Jake, are the parents of eight children. Their three oldest children are married, they have two in college, one in high school, and the two youngest attend DaVinci Academy; Faith (5th grade) and Tim (2nd grade). They also have three grandchildren, with the fourth due any day!

Q. What do you love about DaVinci Academy?

A. We as parents have the opportunity to partner with the school in our children's education. Parental involvement is ultimately the key to a successful child, and DaVinci Academy's philosophy on volunteering offers us that. Through our dedicated, hardworking teachers and staff, I believe our children will be prepared for life after DaVinci Academy.

Q. What do you love about DaVinci Academy PTO?

A. What I love about the PTO is what it stands for: parents, teachers, staff, and students working together to make our school better. The PTO is ALL of us! "Many hands working together get the job done!"

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

A. Well, besides keeping up with my "growing" family, I'm kept busy with our "growing" business by painting, cleaning, and bookkeeping for our 18 rental homes.

"November comes
And November goes,
With the last red berries
And the first white snows.

With night coming early,
And dawn coming late,
And ice in the bucket
And frost by the gate.

The fires burn
And the kettles sing,
And earth sinks to rest
Until next spring."

- Elizabeth Coatsworth

