



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**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

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Meet & Greet**  
Thursday, October 6  
5:30-7:30 pm

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
Monday, October 10  
6:00 pm

**Compensation  
Committee Meeting**  
Monday, October 10  
7:30 pm

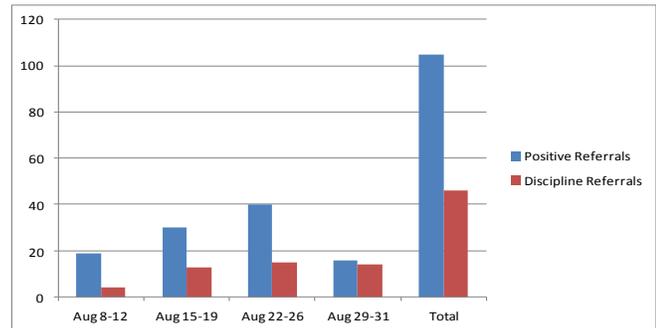
You can also find  
upcoming events on the  
DaVinci Academy home  
page or go directly to the  
calendar page for future  
important dates  
[http://davincicharterschool.org/  
Calendar.aspx](http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

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

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

## FROM THE DESK OF GREGG ELDRED

This year, DaVinci Academy implemented the Positive Referral Program where students are awarded positive referrals for demonstrating favorable behaviors or achievements. A few of these include helping others, showing good manners, and great participation. In August, 86 students received positive referrals; some received more than one! One hundred and five positive referrals were written by staff members in the month of August. On the other hand, 46 students received discipline referrals in August. The above graph breaks down the number of positive referrals and discipline referrals written for each week in August.



## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

In less than a month, DaVinci Academy will hold our fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. Conferences are scheduled for October 18 from 4:30-7:30 pm, October 19 from 3:00-8:00 pm, and October 20 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Starting on Monday, October 3, you will be able to sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences at the front desk.

## POWERSCHOOL UPDATE

PowerSchool username and password letters will be emailed to grade 3-8 DaVinci Academy families or legal guardians next week. If a parent or family does not have an email account, we will mail it through the U.S. mail. Teachers have been busy entering assignments and grades. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Bacigalupo in the office or at [sbacigalupo@davincichartschool.org](mailto:sbacigalupo@davincichartschool.org).

## NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Congratulations to Ravi Raghavapudi! At the September school board meeting, we had three excellent candidates applying for the parent representative position: Shelly Hildrum, David Jones, and Ravi Raghavapudi. Ravi was chosen by the school board to be its next parent member. We welcome Ravi and look forward to him joining our team! His term will end in February 2013.

## BUS CIRCLE REMINDER

School buses **only** are allowed in front of DaVinci Academy from 8:30-9:30 am and again at the end of the day from 3:15-4:15 pm. Please use the back parking lot to pick up or drop off your students.

## SCHOOL HOURS

DaVinci Academy's school hours are 9:00 am -4:00 pm, and the building is open to students at 8:45 am. If you are picking your child up at the end of the day, please remember that school ends at 4:00 pm. If another authorized person is picking your child up, please explain our end of the day procedures to him/her.

## NOTIFY SCHOOL OF ABSENCES

Please call Marcia Bouwman at 763-754-6577 before 8:45 am on the day your child is absent. If Marcia does not answer, leave a message. If the school does not receive a call or message that your child is absent, we will attempt to call the parents/legal guardian as soon as possible. As another option, you may email [attendance@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:attendance@davincicharterschool.org) to report your child's absence. Marcia will also check this email account to confirm any absences.

## LOST AND FOUND



Go to <http://picasaweb.google.com/112625902371461232760/20110920> to see more pictures of what is currently in DaVinci Academy's "Lost and Found." The rapid swings from cold and chilly, to warm and humid, have left our baskets overflowing! If you recognize an item from one of these photos, please send your child to claim that item from the baskets near the office.



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## NOW HIRING

DaVinci Academy is hiring a part-time (20 hours per week) person for the position of Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested, please fill out an application and view the detailed job description by visiting <http://davincicharterschool.org/davinci-employment>. Please send your information to Cory Klabunde at [cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org). The position is open until filled.

## DAY CARE PROGRAM

DaVinci Academy would like your input regarding a potential day care program for our families. We hope to start this program on October 26, after our next school break. Here are some thoughts about the program:

- Before school hours - 7:30-8:45 am
- After school hours - 4:15-6:00 pm
- Cost for the program - \$6 per session
- Minimum numbers - 3 students per session to run the program
- Maximum numbers - capped class size at 10 children per adult
- If we have more than 10 students, we would hire another person and then split the program by grades (K-4 and 5-8)
- After school late fee - for every 15 minutes late, there will be a \$4 charge
- The teacher will oversee a variety of activities, such as: homework, playground activities, computer time, and reading.

Contact Cory Klabunde by email at [cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org) if you are interested or if you have any questions about the program.

## DAVINCI KIDS CARE CLUB

The DaVinci Academy Kids Care Club was originally scheduled to start this fall, but it has been delayed until the beginning of 2012. We are also looking for someone to lead this group. Any questions, contact Eleanor Thomas at 763-443-0958 or [etatlga45@hotmail.com](mailto:etatlga45@hotmail.com).

## TIME & TALENT SURVEY

DaVinci Academy will distribute a "Time & Talent Survey" in the very near future. The school is working with the PTO to gather a better understanding of our stakeholders' interest and talents so we can tailor our volunteer opportunities to work best for you and our school. We will create a database that we will access as various volunteer opportunities arise over the school year. It is imperative that every parent or legal guardian complete this short survey so your family can contribute 40 hours of volunteer service to DaVinci Academy. The school will assist you in finding volunteer activities in areas you enjoy.

## TARGET DONATION

DaVinci Academy received our 2011 "Taking Charge of Education" donation check. This year we received a donation of \$1,583.32 to boost our school's funds! Here's how the program works: When parents, teachers, and other school supporters use the REDcard®, Target donates up to 1% of purchases to the cardholder's designated K-12 school. Each September, those funds are distributed to schools nationwide, including DaVinci Academy. To learn more about the program or get materials to participate (and designate DaVinci Academy), visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-005174>.

According to the Target web site, out of 220 plus DaVinci Academy families, just 47 cardholders have designated DaVinci Academy. These 47 participants have donated \$3,987.35 over the last three years, and they have already accumulated \$109.17 toward next year's check! Thank you to all who have designated DaVinci Academy as your school in the Target REDcard program!

## BREAKFAST SURVEY RESULTS

Over the past two weeks, we surveyed DaVinci Academy stakeholders to see if they are interested in a breakfast program at school. Fewer than 25 families took the survey. Of these families, only 19 responded that they are interested in a breakfast program. With these results, we will not offer a breakfast program this year. Due to our food service participation, we are required to give this survey every year and will give it again next June to prepare for the following school year. Thank you to the families who participated.

## 6-FOOT SUNFLOWER

In June, Ms. Steele's 1<sup>st</sup> grade science class studied a unit on "pebbles, sand, and silt." Students used a worm compost to plant sunflower seeds in small plastic cups. Each student observed the growth of his/her seed at school and eventually brought their cup home. These kids have since moved on to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, but Grace P. has also been busy (at home) tending to her growing sunflower. After just a couple weeks on the window sill, her plant outgrew its cup, and Grace's dad helped her transplant the sunflower in their backyard. Well...after growing to a towering 6 1/2 feet tall, Grace's sunflower finally bloomed last week! Great work!





# PTO Place

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 27 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
- Sept. 27 - Pick Up Scrip Cards at PTO Meeting
- Sept. 30 - Box Top Challenge Ends
- Sept. 30 - PTO Art Logo Contest Ends
- Sept. 30 - ArtStamp Orders Go Home
- Oct. 6 - Meet & Greet, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Oct. 14 - ArtStamp Orders Due
- Oct. 18-20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (Uniform Swap, Scrip Cards for Sale, and PTO Provides Food for Teachers)
- Oct. 27 - Meet & Greet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Oct. 31 - "Calling Cards for Soldiers" Fundraiser Ends
- Nov. 3 - Meet & Greet, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Nov. 15 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

## VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK

Thank you to Swapna Maripally and Lisa King for helping with childcare at our 1<sup>st</sup> grade Meet & Greet. We truly appreciate the support of our volunteers who safely entertain children while their parents visit, which in turn makes each Meet & Greet a success. We couldn't do it without you!

## ARE YOU IN THE KNOW?

Keep in touch with everything the PTO is doing, along with all of the latest events and fundraisers, by joining us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/DaVinci.PTO>. Also email Jill [poohsilly@msn.com](mailto:poohsilly@msn.com) to be added to the PTO email list for reminders of upcoming meetings and events.

## BUDDING ARTISTS

### RAISING MONEY FOR DAVINCI ACADEMY

Your child's imagination and creative skills have been busy designing a unique piece of artwork in Mrs. Greeninger's class throughout the past month for DaVinci Academy PTO's latest fundraising program: ArtStamps! Packets will be sent home in the next week, including the artwork and an order form. Your child's artwork can be turned into stamps, keepsakes, given as gifts, or used to personalize your cards and letters. All order forms are due no later than October 14 to ensure that we receive them in time for Christmas. Please help support your child's enthusiasm for art...and the DaVinci Academy PTO! Money raised from this fundraiser will help purchase more printing equipment and supplies for our art classes.

## SHARE YOUR TALENT

Do you have any special talents, social skills or interests that you can share with our DaVinci Academy community? We are looking for guest speakers (10-15 minutes) during our monthly PTO meetings. If you are interested in sharing something that you are involved in, passionate about, or could serve our community, contact Mike at [mfulton.01@gmail.com](mailto:mfulton.01@gmail.com).

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- We need a few more volunteers to help with DaVinci Academy's Scholastic Book Fair during the week of Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you can help, contact Dina at [jcbondslave@yahoo.com](mailto:jcbondslave@yahoo.com).
- We need more volunteers to help with the ArtStamps fundraiser, which includes sorting packets, making copies, etc. If you can help, contact Julia at [mattand-julia@q.com](mailto:mattand-julia@q.com).
- Volunteers are needed to help with the Uniform Swap during Parent/Teacher Conferences, October 18-20. Contact Patti at [pattianncross@yahoo.com](mailto:pattianncross@yahoo.com).

## IMPORTANT DEADLINE

The "Get 'Fleeced' with Box Tops" challenge ends this Friday, September 30. Turn in your Box Top sheets of 25, with your name on them, to be entered into a drawing for a FREE DaVinci Academy polar fleece. You could also win 30,000 Bonus Box Tops for DaVinci Academy, free Chex Mix, instant prizes, and more! Check it out at <http://generalmills.promo.eprize.com/chexmixbtf>.

## Nothing Gold Can Stay

Robert Frost (1923)

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.