

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Communications Committee
Tuesday, April 17
5:00 pm
Room 302

Facilities Committee
Tuesday, April 17
7:00 pm
Room 302

Compensation Committee
Monday, April 23
6:00 pm
Room 302

School Development
Committee
Monday, April 23
6:00 pm
Room 302

Finance Committee
Monday, April 23
7:30 pm
Room 302

PTO Meeting
Tuesday, April 24
6:30 pm
Room 305

Spring Picture Day
Friday, April 27

School Board Meeting
Monday, April 30
6:00 pm
Room 305

Find more upcoming events
on the DaVinci Academy
home page, or go to the
"[Calendar](#)" page for future
important dates.

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

www.davincicharterschool.org

APRIL 16-20 IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

From August 1, 2011-April 12, 2012, DaVinci Academy was honored to have 236 volunteers put in over 5,200 hours in service to our school! Thank you to each and every volunteer...we couldn't do this without you! Keep an eye out for treats and special drawings this week!

MCA TESTING SO FAR (by *Terry Moffatt, Academic Director*)

We are well underway with MCA testing. Most students have finished the second round of math testing. For those students who did not pass in the second round, they will have one more chance. Also, students who did pass but feel they can do better may take the test again during the third round. This third round will take place during the first week of May. An email will be sent to all parents about the third round of math testing.

The reading MCA will be given this week (April 16-20) for students in grades 3-5. Students in grades 6-8 will take the test in their ELA classes within the next couple weeks. **We need parent volunteers to come in and help individual students or small groups during the reading test.** The test will be given for grades 3-5 from Tuesday, April 17-Friday, April 20 from 10:00-11:00 am. If you can help with testing on any or all of these days, contact [Terry Moffatt](#). If you are interested in helping out with small groups in grades 6-8, contact [Matthew Brossart](#).

Students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the MCA science test. This test will be taken at the beginning of May, and the specific dates will be sent out very soon.

During the testing season, please make sure your child is in school and has a good night's sleep. The testing results are very important to our school, and we want students to do the very best they can. Again, please let me know if you are interested in assisting with small groups or individual students.

"SCIENCE CORNER"

4TH GRADE ROCK HOUNDS

(by *Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator, & David Cauley, 4th Grade Teacher*)

Fourth grade just finished science units focusing on Geology and Paleontology. They studied dinosaurs and other ancient creatures. They also became amateur rock hounds, learning about properties of rocks and how different kinds of rocks are formed. They have been actively identifying and trading geologic samples all quarter. In this activity they were doing an excavation project where they dug up, measured, and identified bones, fossils, and stones the way real-life archeologists might at a dig site. Rock on, 4th grade!





SPRING PICTURE FUNDRAISER

(by Cory Klabunde, School Director)

On Friday, April 27, Lifetouch Studios will be on-site taking pictures of every DaVinci Academy student. For this round of pictures, the available back-grounds are all outdoor/spring scenes. Not only is this a great way to get updated pictures of your child, DaVinci Academy will also receive \$2 per picture, which is a profit for the school of approximately \$800. This money will be used to support and improve school technology.

On picture day, students will have a "modified-uniform day" with the following restrictions. Students may choose to wear any style or color collared shirt; however, they must still conform to the black or khaki pants/skirts/shorts guideline. In addition, girls will be permitted to wear dresses of appropriate length and neckline. Sleeveless dresses are not permitted unless a sweater is worn on top.

Your child will soon bring home a pamphlet that illustrates the available backgrounds and describes the process. Complete the form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher, even if you are unsure if you will purchase pictures. No payment should be sent at this time. You will have the opportunity to review the pictures at home, and you can decide to purchase them at that time.

Two volunteers are needed to help on picture day. For your time, Lifetouch will give you a FREE picture package. The time commitment will be from 9:00 am-2:00 pm on April 27. Please email [Cory Klabunde](mailto:Cory.Klabunde@lifetouch.com) if you are interested in volunteering for this activity. Visit www.lifetouch.com for more information about Lifetouch Studios and spring pictures.



ART FAIR IS MAY 3

The 4th annual DaVinci Academy Art Fair is on Thursday, May 3. The theme is 'Color and Light,' and we hope to have a multitude of colorful and brightly imagined pieces. Defined in art, color and light go hand in hand, as one cannot exist without the other.

Students are allowed to create works with any medium of their choosing, as long as they incorporate the properties of color and light with intensity and definite value scales. Additionally, no kits may be utilized, and all art work must be completed outside of class time.

Please see the attached PDF for further information, and feel free to contact [Ms. Platisha](#) and [Ms. Larson](#) with any questions.

SPRING MUSIC CONCERTS

Mark your calendars for DaVinci Academy's spring music performances:

- Tuesday, May 8, 6:00 pm - K-2nd Grade
- Thursday, May 10, 6:30 pm - 3rd-4th Grade
- Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 pm - Orchestra, Band, and Choir

VOLUNTEER CORNER

(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Weekly art room organization and supply clean up
- Middle school computer cart organization

If you do not have a HelpCounter volunteer profile, contact [Lee Swearingen](#), and she will get you started. Please also note that each volunteer is required to have a background check on file with DaVinci Academy prior to starting any volunteer projects (\$10 processing fee for the screening). Forms are available at the front desk, or [click here](#) to print the form from our web site.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Fourth grader Trevor B. participated in the 5th Annual Titan Athletic All-Star Hockey Classic, which took place March 17-18 at the Andover Community Center. This was a special venue in which coaches nominated three to four players from their teams as All-Stars. Players were selected from over 90 teams and communities throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Trevor represented the Saint Francis Saints. His team consisted of boys from Becker, Big Lake, Apple Valley, South Saint Paul, Cottage Grove, and St. Francis. They challenged a team of players from Crow River, Coon Rapids, North Branch, and Woodbury.

Trevor, who usually plays right wing, volunteered to play left defense due to a shortage of defensive men. The two teams were evenly matched, but the opposing team scored the 1st goal. Trevor's team came back to score four goals, one of which was not counted due to a man in the crease. With the score at 3-1 with two minutes left, the opposing team pulled its goalie scoring one more goal. In the end, however, Trevor's team won the All-Star Hockey Classic, 3-2.

It was a great event that allowed the boys to play with some players who they would typically face during the regular season. It built sportsmanship and allowed the kids to play with other outstanding players from across the state. Way to go, Trevor!



3RD GRADE VISITS THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

(by Amy Morgan, 3rd Grade Teacher)

DaVinci Academy 3rd graders had the opportunity to visit the Science Museum of Minnesota on March 30. It was such an adventure! Teachers love the Science Museum because it ties in to so many of our science units — students love it because of all the hands-on things they get to do!

This year, 3rd graders got to assemble dinosaur skeletons, build flight machines, learn about the immune system, discover how the brain and the senses work together, extract DNA in a lab, discover properties of light and sound waves, and more! One of the highlights of the trip was going to the Omni Theater to see "Under the Sea," a movie about coral reefs and the fascinating sea creatures that live there.

It is so great to see students' eyes light up as they learn something new, and exciting to see their enthusiasm about science, and their curiosity, grow!





PTO PLACE

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 24 – PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

April 1– April 30 – [Box Top Collection Contest](#)

SPRING INTO BOX TOPS

How is everyone doing with the Spring Box Tops contest so far? Remember to keep collecting all the way through the deadline of April 30. There will be three top overall winners and one winning class. Make sure student and teacher names are on the Box Tops forms in order to get credit for your collection! You can get more forms in the Box Tops bin near the front desk, or download them [here](#). Have fun collecting and earning money for DaVinci Academy!



APRIL GUEST SPEAKERS

Cynthia Ransom, ND from [Cream for a Cause](#) and Carla Lemm from [Norwex](#) will join us at the PTO Meeting on Tuesday, April 24, at 6:30 pm to talk about toxic-free living. Don't miss it!

PTO ANNUAL SPEND-DOWN

We have two remaining PTO Meetings and would love your suggestions on how to spend PTO money as we approach the end of the 2011-12 school year. Join us at one of these last meetings to share your thoughts, or email [Jill Mechelke](#) with suggestions to further DaVinci Academy and our students.

WE NEED YOU

Childcare help is needed at PTO Meetings. Our childcare volunteers are so appreciated; they make it possible for many families to attend PTO Meetings. Please consider helping in this manner. Contact [Dina Lantzer](#) if you're available.

FACEBOOK

Check out the [DaVinci PTO on Facebook](#). "Like" our page to keep up-to-date on everything that's happening!



SPAGHETTI DINNER/SILENT AUCTION...

THANKS VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Lisa King, Tanya Duwell, and the many volunteers who helped make the Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction a success. Once the dust settles and the figures are tallied, we will provide a detailed report of how much money the PTO made and how that money will be spent. Thanks again for your support.

