



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

School Board Meeting  
Monday, October 17  
6:00 pm

Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Tuesday-Thursday,  
October 18-20

Scholastic Book Fair  
Monday-Thursday,  
October 17-20

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)

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

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

## NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Your school board and administration appreciate the importance of keeping DaVinci Academy families abreast of what's going on at our school. The *DaVinci Connection* newsletter is one of the communication tools we use.

In recent weeks, you have probably noticed articles from various members of our school administration and board. You will continue to see regular articles from our School Director, Academic Director, Student Development Coordinator, and High School Coordinator, as well as various teachers and staff, the School Board Chair, and the chairs of our board committees. All of this will give you a broad perspective of what is happening at our school. Please look for these articles every week in the *DaVinci Connection*.

Another communication tool we regularly use is our school web site, [www.davincicharterschool.org](http://www.davincicharterschool.org). We recently added three new documents to the web site that provide a wealth of information about the school in terms of what we've accomplished and where we're headed. They are the 2010-11 Annual Report, our 2011-14 Three-Year Strategic Plan, and our recently renewed Charter School Contract. All three documents are available for your review at [www.davincicharterschool.org/documents](http://www.davincicharterschool.org/documents).

We have taken steps to expand and enhance our communications to DaVinci Academy families. The *DaVinci Connection* newsletter and our school web site are key components of that communication process. I encourage you to read the weekly newsletter and visit the web site regularly for updated school information. If you have any suggestions on how we can make the communication process even better, let me know at [ddinorf@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:ddinorf@davincicharterschool.org).

## POWERSCHOOL ACCESS LETTERS

PowerSchool parent access letters were sent through the U.S. Mail on Friday, September 30. If you have not received this letter, contact Stephanie Bacigalupo at [sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org).

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for:

- October 18 from 4:30-7:30 pm
- October 19 from 3:00-8:00 pm
- October 20 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Starting on Monday, October 3, sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences at the front desk.

## WELCOME TO THE SCHOOL BOARD, RAVI RAGHAVAPUDI

As announced in last week's newsletter, Ravi Raghavapudi has joined the school board, filling the parent position that opened when Stephanie Severson became a DaVinci Academy teacher.

Ravi graduated in 1994 from JNTU, India, with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He then obtained a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University of Cincinnati. After working as an engineering consultant, in 2003 Ravi went back to school for his MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management in Chicago. Post MBA, he worked for Guidant in various sales and marketing roles. In 2007, Ravi joined Ecolab, where he is currently Director of Marketing and Business Development for their healthcare business.

Ravi and his wife live in Blaine with their son, a DaVinci Academy 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, and 3-year-old daughter.

Ravi joined the DaVinci Academy Board in September 2011, after serving on the Finance Committee for six months. Along with a variety of volunteer experience, Ravi brings to the board a diverse background in technology, marketing, finance, and general management. He looks forward to a very fulfilling experience while helping DaVinci Academy grow and prosper!



# DaVinci Connection

## NOTIFY SCHOOL OF ABSENCES

Please call Marcia Bouwman (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@davincharter-school.org](mailto:attendance@davincharter-school.org) to report your child's absence. Marcia will also check this email account to confirm absences.

## PAINT LIKE THE MASTERS

To complement a social studies lesson on the continent of Europe, Mrs. Fischer's kindergarten classes learned about Michelangelo. Students looked at various works of art for which he has become famous and then learned about how he painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. In order to truly get a feel for how difficult that job was, each kindergartener had the opportunity to paint a mural on paper taped to the underside of a table. When Alex said, "My arm is getting tired," it was the perfect time to reflect on how Michelangelo felt painting in that position for four years to complete his work of art. Although they got a bit of paint in their hair, the students considered it a successful project, and their pieces are now displayed under the reading loft in Mrs. Fischer's classroom.

"The marble  
not yet carved  
can hold the form  
of every thought the  
greatest artist has"

—Michelangelo

## RETAKE PROOFS DUE THIS WEEK

Please remember that picture retake proofs are due before Friday, October 7.

## RECESS EQUIPMENT NEEDED

DaVinci Academy needs recess equipment! If you have extra basketballs, volleyballs, jump ropes, soccer balls, or any items that can be used by K-8 students during recess, please consider donating them to the school.




**GIRLS & SCIENCE**

**Saturday, Oct. 15th**

**10am-4pm**

at the  **Science Museum of Minnesota**

## GIRLS & SCIENCE

The Science Museum will hold a Girls & Science event on October 15 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Visitors of all ages are invited to join FOX 9 and women scientists from throughout the area for this community event. Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, this event is designed to foster girls' enthusiasm for science by showcasing female scientists in wide-ranging fields of science and technology. It's a perfect opportunity for parents to introduce their daughters to the Twin Cities' best and brightest science professionals and show them that science is vital to our changing world. Admission to the event is included in museum admission (\$13 for adults, \$10 for kids); however, in honor of the Girls & Science event, up to four children can get FREE museum admission on the day of the event with a coupon available at [http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/generic/community/girls\\_and\\_science/girls\\_and\\_science\\_2011](http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/generic/community/girls_and_science/girls_and_science_2011).





# PTO Place

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 6 - Meet & Greet, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Oct. 14 - Art Stamps Orders Due
- Oct. 18 - 20 - Parent/Teacher Conferences  
(Uniform Swap, Scrip Cards for Sale,  
PTO Provides Food for Teachers)
- Oct. 27 - Meet & Greet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Oct. 31 - "Calling Cards for Soldiers" Campaign Ends
- Nov. 3 - Meet & Greet, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Nov. 15 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

## GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO

### PTO Vice President, Tammy Ness

Tammy is the daughter of a Pastor and the oldest of three children. Tammy has been happily married to Mark Ness for 12 years, and they have four children who attend DaVinci Academy: Matthew is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Faith is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Mark is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and Luke is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. They also have one grown daughter, Krystyn, age 25, who is a Para at DaVinci Academy. They have two grandkids: Ava (15 months) and Andrew (5), who is looking forward to attending DaVinci Academy next year.

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

A. This is our second year at DaVinci Academy. I love DaVinci Academy due to their love of educating children no matter what their challenges are, that they mainstream special education students as much as possible, and they put time and effort into teaching students to develop good character and to become amazing adults. I love that they teach the children according to who each child is. I also love DaVinci Academy due to the teachers and staff...they are incredible!

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

A. In my 20+ years of being a parent, this is the first time I've been involved in a PTO. I fell in love with the personalities at Open House last year. I, as a new (DaVinci Academy) parent, wanted to find out where I belonged in the school and tried a PTO Meeting. I was addicted and haven't missed a meeting since!

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

A. After working at Pillsbury in Minneapolis for 10 years as an IT analyst, in 2001 I took the huge step of staying home with our kids and doing daycare and have been doing so ever since. We are regular attendees of Eaglebrook Church in Spring Lake Park/Blaine. We are a military family. My husband, Mark, is a Counterintelligent Special Agent and just returned last November after 3 1/2 years of military deployment/mobilizations (Kosovo and Ft. McCoy in WI).

## WHAT IS TERRACYCLE?

Did you know that DaVinci Academy gets paid for some of the items you have been throwing away? Yes, it's true! Check out the list below or the web site at [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) to learn more about it.

- Juice pouches - any brand
- Candy wrapper - any intact
- Cookie wrapper - all brands and sizes
- Energy bar wrapper - any foil lined energy or granola bar
- Diaper packaging - outer printed bags only
- Tape dispenser and rolls - any brand
- Cereal bags - printed only ex: Malt-O-Meal
- Elmer's brand glue sticks and bottles
- Kashi packaging - cardboard boxes and bar wrappers
- Lunch kits - ex: Lunchables (will take all of the packaging, even the cardboard)

## SMILING SPACES

Professional Organizer, Andrea Brandt, owner of Smiling Spaces, LLC, shared some of her favorite organizing products and tips at our PTO meeting last week. The top tip she shared was putting plastic Post-it® pockets on the inside of cabinet doors (office, kitchen, or whatever room needs organizing!) to help organize and hide whatever is cluttering your space. Whether it's coupons, grocery lists, bills, stamps, or mail, this will help anyone get organized! Contact her via email for a free phone consultation, and check out Andrea's web site at [www.smilingspaces.biz](http://www.smilingspaces.biz).

Andrea Brandt - Professional Organizer  
612-669-0946  
[andrea@smilingspaces.biz](mailto:andrea@smilingspaces.biz)  
[www.smiling-spaces.blogspot.com](http://www.smiling-spaces.blogspot.com)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you can help with any of the following opportunities, please contact the chairperson for more information.

Scholastic Book Fair check-out (Oct. 17-21):  
contact Cindy at [srrubin@aol.com](mailto:srrubin@aol.com)

Meals during Parent/Teacher Conferences (Oct. 18-20):  
contact Tanya at [ttanner75@yahoo.com](mailto:ttanner75@yahoo.com)

Uniform Swap (Oct. 17-21):  
contact at Dina [jcbondslave@yahoo.com](mailto:jcbondslave@yahoo.com)

Childcare during PTO Meetings each month:  
contact Dina at [jcbondslave@yahoo.com](mailto:jcbondslave@yahoo.com)