



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL PTO MEETING

Tuesday, August 23
6:30 pm

Free Childcare provided
Free snacks provided
Volunteer hours Guest
Speaker from the Fire Dept.

KINDERGARTEN MEET & GREET

Thursday, August 25
5:30 - 7:30 pm

NO SCHOOL

Friday September 2,
Monday September 5,
& Tuesday September 6th

You can also find
upcoming events on the
DaVinci Home Page or go
to the calendar page for
future important dates

[http://
davincicharterschool.org/
Calendar.aspx](http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

“Patience
is the
companion
of wisdom.”

~Saint Augustine

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www.davincicharterschool.org

FROM THE DESK OF TERRY MOFFATT ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

This year at DaVinci, we are instituting RTI (Response to Intervention). RTI includes targeting services to students who struggle with specific skills so that we can increase academic achievement. In order to determine RTI needs, as well as areas where students need to be challenged, we are using a few new assessment tools.

The STEP assessment is being used in grades K – 2 for literacy. This assessment comes out of the University of Chicago and is a very comprehensive assessment. Teachers participated in a 4-day training this summer to learn how to use the program and are now in the middle of the first round of assessments. It is going to be a great help to the teachers to see where students need more assistance and which areas have already been mastered.

Data-driven assessments are also taking place this year. These assessments will be used for initial placements of students as well as to determine areas of mastery and areas that need work. We started data-driven assessments last year in Math and are adding reading this year. The STEP assessment replaces the data-driven assessments for grades K – 2.

AIMSWEB is another tool we are using to assist students this year. This program involves short “probes” which are used to give a quick indication of areas students are progressing and where growth is being made. The RTI/Title teachers have already assessed all students in Grades K – 8 in Math and will be starting reading soon. This initial assessment will give us a great school-wide benchmark so we can see areas of strength and areas needing improvement.

These tools will help in differentiation as well as tailoring instruction to each individual student. If any parent would like to see the results of these assessments at any time, you are certainly free to come in and take a look at how your child is performing. All of the assessments will more than likely be completed by the time we return from the Labor Day weekend. If you have any questions regarding these assessments or your child’s results, please contact Terry Moffatt at tmoffatt@davincicharterschool.org.

DONATION MATCHING

By Patricia Nelson

My granddaughter Zoe is a student at DaVinci Academy. Education is very important to me. I am an avid supporter of finding unique ways in which to raise money for any school she attends. I think DaVinci Academy is a wonderful school and deserves our full support to help raise funds. Did you know that if you make a contribution towards an educational program and your company participates with the United Way, they may match your donation dollar-for-dollar? Think about it, all it takes is a simple phone call to your Human Resources Department to find out. I work for Wells Fargo Bank, and every year there is a fundraising drive through the United Way. All I do is sign-up via the website, designate DaVinci Academy as my donation recipient, and have my contribution automatically deducted every two weeks from my paychecks. Once my entire contribution is paid, they send it to DaVinci Academy. They also send an additional check for the same amount! Your donation of \$500.00 could be turned into \$1000.00!

CONTINUE TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE

Several classes at DaVinci have had confirmed cases of head lice. Help stop the cycle by educating your children about how lice is spread. It’s important that friends do not share clothing items, hair grooming tools or accessories. Check your child frequently whether or not he/she show any symptoms. Here are a couple of helpful sites:

[http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/lice/
faq.shtml](http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/lice/faq.shtml)

[http://children.webmd.com/tc/lice-topic-
overview](http://children.webmd.com/tc/lice-topic-overview)

Pesticide free lice control
<http://www.liceguard.com/robicomb.aspx>



DaVinci Connection

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS!!!

some newcomers to our 2011-12 DaVinci Academy teaching staff

Mr. Erickson

Hello, my name is Mr. Erickson. I will be teaching Instrumental Music and 5th-8th grade Classroom Music. I graduated from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in 2009. After graduating I spent two years substitute teaching in several districts in the northern metro area. Aside from music, my hobbies include pole-vaulting, disc golf, and tennis. I am excited to work at DaVinci Academy because the level of camaraderie among the staff is very high. I am also thrilled to be working at a school where there is great support for the arts. I hope to build the band and orchestra into programs with a tradition of excellence.

Ms. Mathsen

Hello DaVinci Academy families. My name is Ms. Mathsen and I am teaching Special Education. DaVinci Academy is a wonderful place to start in my very first year of teaching. The inviting atmosphere, the excited faculty, and the student involvement that I noticed instantly drew me to the school and made me want to jump right in. I have a B.A. in Special Education from Augsburg College. I enjoy singing, reading, basketball, being outside, and being with my family.

Mr. Sirovy

Hello DaVinci Academy Families! My name is Jason Sirovy and I have been hired to be one of the third grade teachers. I am very excited to be joining the staff and working with your kids this year. I come having taught in fourth grade in North Minneapolis this past school year and have been in the field for seven years. I grew up in Minneapolis but currently live in St. Paul. I am in graduate school working toward a 5 – 8 science license and my master's degree. I am anticipating a great school year!

Mrs. Bonine

Hello, my name is Lisa Bonine. I have a Masters Degree in Special Education with teaching licenses in both Texas and Minnesota with dual licenses for Learning Disabilities and Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. I have a Bachelors degree in Communications with a minor in Theater. My classroom experience is K-12 and I have worked in multiple settings; traditional, language immersion and self contained behavioral units in both traditional and charter schools. I love singing, theater, reading, horses and being outdoors.

Ms. Erickson

Hello families and friends of DaVinci Academy! My name is Ms. Erickson and I will be joining the middle school team as the math teacher. I graduated from The College of Saint Scholastica in 2007. Since then, I have tutored students of all ages in all subject areas as well as teaching middle school math in Brooklyn Center. I enjoy being outside, playing with my dog Ella, reading and spending time with family and friends. I am very excited to join the DaVinci Academy community and help our students learn and grow.

Mrs. Severson

I'm excited to be joining the DaVinci Academy staff as librarian and technology teacher. After taking an extended break to stay home with my own children, I'm thrilled to be re-entering the workforce at such a friendly and familiar place. I have a degree in English, and a background in teaching middle school. I'm a self-styled computer geek and have taught myself both Scratch and HTML; and as a board member, helped to design and write text for the DaVinci Academy website. I love reading and can't wait to help students find just the perfect book!



DaVinci Connection

ENROLLMENT

Our current enrollment at DaVinci is 410 students, with over 170 students on our waiting list. With these strong numbers, we still have two openings in our 8th grade. If you know of a family looking to attend DaVinci Academy, please have them call Marcia Bouwman for enrollment information.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

If you would like to add or delete an email account for the newsletter, please contact Stephanie Bacigalupo at sbacigalupo@davincicharterschool.org or call her at 765-754-6577 ext 102. The newsletter can also be found posted on the DaVinci Academy website <http://davincicharterschool.org/newsletter>.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

The additional school bus we have added this year has shortened the bus routes about fifteen to twenty minutes. Our ridership numbers have increased too and we appreciate the families taking advantage of this opportunity. We are still fine tuning the schedule and some of the bus routes. Mr. Klabunde is continuing to work with the bus company to see if we can make additional improvements to accommodate more families. If any changes are made, additional information will be sent out to all stakeholders to your email accounts.

Bus routes have been taking a little longer these first couple of weeks and I would like to thank everyone for your patience. Please arrive five minutes before the scheduled pick up and/or drop off times listed, so the bus can stay on time.

SCOUTING SIGNUPS

Cub Scouts & Girl Scouts sign up night will be Monday Aug 29th from 6:00-7:30pm. Come see what we are all about! We will have Crafts & Games for the kids as well as information for parents. Questions? daveandemmak@msn.com or 763-370-5692 (Emma).

CHAIRS AND TABLES

We still have plenty of chairs and tables available for sale. The chair price is \$2.00 and the table price is \$5.00. Last day of sale is September 2, 2011.

PTO Place

KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

The Kindergarten Meet and Greet will be Thursday, August 25th from 5:30-7:30 here at DaVinci Academy. It will be a potluck so please bring enough food to serve the size of your family. Drinks and tableware will be provided. Childcare will also be provided during the parent discussion time. Thanks to many of you that already signed up on the RSVP list during the welcome back picnic. If you would like to attend and have not yet sent your RSVP please email [Jill poohsilly@msn.com](mailto:Jill_poohsilly@msn.com) so that we can get an accurate headcount. We hope to see you there!

Additional Meet and Greet event dates can be found on the DaVinci Academy website calendar <http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx>

We are still in need of volunteers for Meet and Greet child care. Please contact Dina jcbondslave@yahoo.com if you are interested and would like more information.

THANK YOU'S

Special thanks to Leah Skurdal for helping with the potluck picnic. She became our go-to person for setting up and organizing all of the food! Great job!

Thank you to the Blaine Fire Department and Police Department for sending out an engine and a car for the kids to get an up close and personal look, and for answering all of their questions!

We would like to thank AJ and Cambrie from the Red Pear Salon for doing such a fabulous job with the crazy, colorful hair for the kids. They donated all of the hair products as well as their time and energy. The Red Pear Salon is a full service salon located at 12085 Hanson Blvd in Coon Rapids, MN. They offer daily specials every week including haircuts for \$8.95 each for everyone in the family on Sunday! If you are looking for a family friendly Salon look no further and let them know you are from DaVinci Academy!

CAMPBELL'S LABELS

Any moment or experience can affect a child's future. The Labels For Education program and its partners help provide needed resources to enrich our school and nourish our children's potential. Clip Campbell's labels and earn free stuff for our school!