



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Policies/Procedure Committee Meeting
Monday, December 5
5:30 pm

K-2 Winter Concert
Tuesday, December 6
6:00 pm

Grades 3-4 Winter Concert
Thursday, December 8
6:30 pm

Marketplace
Saturday, December 10

Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, December 12
6:00 pm

Compensation Committee Meeting
Monday, December 12
7:30 pm

Orchestra, Band, & Choir Winter Concert
Tuesday, December 13
6:30 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

RECESS ROUNDUP

(by Gregg Eldred, Student Development Coordinator)

Winter is just around the corner. The temperature is starting to dip down. During the winter, our students go outside for recess when the temperature is above zero degrees; this includes wind chill. Please remember to dress your child for the cold weather. Recess lasts about 25 minutes.

To help keep our students safe during recess, we have divided the playground into four zones with staff members assigned to each zone. Supervision at recess averages out to one staff member for every 25 students. Our recesses are divided into four groups. Kindergarten and 1st grade, 2nd and 3rd grade, 4th and 5th grade, and middle school. Each supervising staff for the recesses met to discuss and implement rules for the age level that they supervise. These rules have one thing in mind, and that is to keep our students safe.

Common rules for all recesses:

- Be respectful to other students and staff
- Be responsible for playground equipment
- Rocks, sticks, and snow must stay on the ground
- Students need to stay in the designated recess zones
- Keep your hands and body to yourself
- Be safe at all times

We are always looking for volunteers to help supervise recess. If you are interested in helping, contact Lee Swearingen at lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOT

- Supervise lunch or recess on a regular basis
- Help lower locker shelves
- Read with kids

For information on signing up for these activities and more, check out the Volunteer Opportunities web page at <http://www.davincicharterschool.org/volunteer>.

Anytime you help during school hours, participate in committees, or attend PTO or board meetings, please remember to sign in via the kiosk at the front desk.

VETERANS DAY AT DAVINCI ACADEMY

(by Jena Bjerke, 1st grade teacher)

Veterans Day is a special day set aside to remember, honor, and pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in our country's military. To show our thanks and appreciation for those brave soldiers, past and present, DaVinci Academy 1st, 2nd, and 5th graders took part in "honk for the troops."

Each class took 15-20 minutes out of their day to stand along the fence waving flags toward passing cars, letting the community know that we are proud of and support our troops! Each class stood along the fence waving joyously for an average of 20 minutes, and they all received plenty of honks from those driving by.

The 1st graders led the way with 111 honks, followed by the 2nd graders with 75 honks, and last (but not least) the 5th graders with 37 honks. That's a total of 223 drivers who were reminded by our students about the significance of Veterans Day. The students embraced Veterans Day and were excited to take part in "honk for troops."

DaVinci Academy wants to extend a great big thanks to all who keep our wonderful nation safe; your hard work and dedication is appreciated!

"Be the change
you want to see
in the world."

-Mahatma Gandhi



PTO Place

UPCOMING EVENTS

Through December 10 – Giving Tree
December 10 – Marketplace

GIVING TREE

This year, the PTO will work in conjunction with the Cub Scouts and DaVinci Academy staff and administration to help make the holiday season a little easier for some DaVinci Academy families. The Cub Scouts will collect toys, the staff and administration will provide the food for turkey dinner, and the PTO will collect money to provide families in need with gas, groceries, and gift cards to Target and Walmart. Help us help DaVinci Academy families in need this year! When you go to school to donate your toys, look for the Giving Tree. Grab a "gift tag" off the tree, pay for it at the office, and staff and administration will deliver it to the families. For more information or to help, please contact Alicia Brekkestran brekkestran04@yahoo.com.

MY COKE REWARDS

DaVinci Academy has joined the "My Coke Rewards for Schools" program. This means that by drinking the Coca-Cola products your family already enjoys, you can get My Coke Rewards points and donate them to help our school. Your donations will go toward rewards, like sports equipment, that will help DaVinci Academy students learn, play, and have fun. **It's easy to donate:** 1. Purchase your favorite Coca-Cola products to get codes (they're on hundreds of different packages, in a variety of sizes and flavors). 2. Go to www.mycoke-rewards.com/school and sign in (register if you aren't a member). 3. Enter your codes to collect points – then search for our school to donate points. 4. Enter the amount of points you'd like to give, then click "Donate." It's that simple!

DINNER BEFORE THE WINTER CONCERTS

Need a place to eat dinner before your child's winter concert? The DaVinci Academy PTO is selling gift cards for Brueggers, Little Caesars, KFC, Chipotle, and Pizza Hut. Some of these restaurants, including Chipotle, will donate a portion of the proceeds on December 6, 8, and 13, to DaVinci Academy. Watch the next newsletter and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DaVinci.PTO>) for more information. Contact Tammy (tammy.k.ness@gmail.com) to buy a Scrip card for your dinner. Thanks for supporting the DaVinci Academy PTO!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Thank you Heather Holbrook for all the time, talent, and energy you volunteer in various classrooms. You are a valuable asset to DaVinci Academy! Thanks also to Andrew Mellick and Olivia Barthold for helping with childcare during our PTO Meeting on November 15.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Gregg Eldred spoke at our November 15 PTO Meeting about his newly-implemented discipline and positive referral policy. He stated that he has two goals before the end of the 2011-12 year; first, to hit 1,000 Positive Referrals (we are well on our way, with 270 awarded just in the first quarter!); and second, to ensure that every student gets at least one positive referral. One thing Mr. Eldred does to encourage other students is that either he or the student reads the positive referral (the student received) in front of his/her class. There is also a system in place for Discipline Referrals, but as the numbers speak for themselves, the positive is far outweighing the negative! Way to go DaVinci Academy students!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need volunteers to help with childcare at PTO Meetings in January, February, March, April, and May. If interested, contact Dina at jbondslave@yahoo.com. Receive a gift card for your help, along with your volunteer hours!

