



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Night

Tuesday, February 28  
6:00 pm  
Room 310

### PTO Meeting

Tuesday, February 28  
6:30 pm  
Room 305

### Facilities Committee

Monday, March 5  
4:30 pm  
Room 305

### Policies/Procedure Committee

Monday, March 5  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

### Technology Committee

Monday, March 5  
6:00 pm  
Room 305

### Communications Committee

Tuesday, March 6  
5:00 pm  
Room 302

### No School

Friday, March 9 and  
Monday, March 12

### School Resumes

Tuesday, March 13

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

## ANNUAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 13

*(by Cory Klabunde, School Director)*

The DaVinci Academy Annual Meeting was held on February 13. The meeting was very sparsely attended, which is unfortunate. Details on the status of our school – past, present, and future – were presented. If you are interested in reviewing that presentation, it is posted on our web site at [www.davincicharterschool.org/documents](http://www.davincicharterschool.org/documents).

## THINKING ABOUT STATE TESTING

*(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)*

MCA testing time is already upon us! The testing window for this year starts is already open. Some aspects of the testing will remain the same as in the past, but changes will also be implemented this year.

Again this year, all students in grades 3-8 will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAIII) math test. One big change is that we will take the test online rather than with paper and pencil. Because of this change, the window has already opened. We will be starting testing this week. Parents will be notified about dates for testing.

Another big change is that, this year, the MCAIII is an adaptive test. This means that the rigor of the questions that students must answer will depend on how well they have done on previous test questions. For example, if a student answers some questions correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student has answered incorrectly, the difficulty of the questions will decrease. This way, the test can hone in on a student's achievement level. However, students will not be asked to answer any questions that are outside the students' grade-level standards.

The final big change is that students will be able to take the MCAIII math

test up to three times. Students must wait for a minimum of a week before taking the test again, but this may help reduce the number of "off days" for students and testing.

Students in grades 3-8 will again take the MCAIII reading test this year. This is the last year that the test will be given in a paper/pencil format. Starting next year, both reading and math will be done online.

Teachers are working hard to ensure that all students are prepared for these tests, and we have continued to use interim assessments to gauge student progress. We will be looking for a number of parent volunteers to help during testing, so please keep this in mind. As the testing window draws nearer, more information will go out about the specific testing schedule, volunteer needs, and how parents can help to ensure the best possible results for the students.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILY NIGHT IS TONIGHT

In lieu of the monthly "High School Town Meeting," a special 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Night will be held tonight (February 28) at 6:00 pm in Room 310. Families can look at many of the curriculum materials we will use at DaVinci Academy High School, get a feel for the look of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedule, ask questions or share ideas with Patrick Hobot (High School Coordinator) and other administrators, and perhaps enjoy a snack and a beverage.

Not in 8<sup>th</sup> grade? You can still come... it's your future, too!

**All-School Celebration/Chili Feed Moved to March 15 (details on page 3)**



## FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

*(by David Cauley, Facilities Committee Chair)*

DaVinci Academy High School will open next school year with our 9<sup>th</sup> graders in our current building. After 2012-13, our school will need more space. The Facilities Committee will look at possible expansion designs as well as new site locations. The committee is also looking for ways to maintain and improve our current building. Come help us out! The Facilities Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 4:30 pm in Room 305. Contact [David Cauley](#).

## FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

*(by Stephanie Hunter, Vocal Music Teacher)*

Our middle school "Opera" class spent the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter learning about the performing arts. In January, we wanted to perform a flash mob, which is an organized performance that happens suddenly in a public place. The concept started in Manhattan in 2003. The students chose "Party Rock Anthem" and choreographed it with me, recruiting Mr. Melander and a couple more students in the process. The middle school students had no idea they would get dinner and a show that day!

You can find the video on the following web site: <http://www.dropshots.com/DaVinciAcademy>. The password is "dynamite." We are hosting it privately so that it is only available to DaVinci Academy members who have the password.

**Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

*(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)*

**Background Screenings** ~ To ensure the safety of our students and staff, every volunteer is required to have a current background check on file with DaVinci Academy. If you do not have a background check on file, please obtain the form from the front office, or visit <http://www.davincicharterschool.org/> to print the form from our web site.

Volunteers are asked to pay a \$10 processing fee for each background check submitted. Checks should be made payable to DaVinci Academy. Return all forms and payments to the front office (Attn: Volunteer Coordinator). *Please do not let the processing fee keep you from volunteering at school. If you cannot afford the fee at this time, contact Mr. Klabunde to make alternative arrangements.*

*Current Volunteer Opportunities:*

- Supervise lunch or recess
- Assemble folders
- Assist students with reading





# PTO PLACE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 28 ~ General Meeting
- March 8 ~ Tentative Date for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration
- March 15 ~ All-School Celebration/Chili Feed

## READ-A-THON EVENTS

- The PTO will hold an All-School Celebration/Chili Feed on Thursday, March 15, at 5:30 pm to mark the end of the Read-a-Thon. We hope to share how well our students have done with their goals throughout the month of February and send some teachers/staff to sleep on the roof! Join us in the celebration!
- Awards will also be given out at the March 15 celebration. There will be awards for highest minutes read and highest pledges earned in each grade. All who participate will earn a certificate.
- Teachers are placing calls to students in the evenings to see if they can catch them reading. If your student gets caught reading, he/she will get a FREE pizza from Mansetti's Pizza!
- Middle school students in grades 6-8 will have a celebration party of their own if they meet their reading goal of 300,000 minutes and pledge goal of \$1500. You may notice that we set the goal for reading to almost 1/3 of the school's total and the pledges to only 15% of the school's total goal. The reasons for this is that if we all work together, we can achieve our goals. Typically, older students have the ability to read more than students in younger grades, and students in younger grades typically get more pledge money than older students. So working together helps the whole community do more! Let's get those million minutes read!
- We need volunteers to help with the middle school party, either in planning (student input appreciated) or running it on Thursday, March 8. Please contact [Dina Lantzer](#) if you are interested.

## WE NEED YOU

We could still use extra hands with the silent auction and spaghetti dinner in April. Please contact [Lisa King](#).



We also need childcare help during our next PTO Meeting on Tuesday, February 28. Contact [Dina Lantzer](#) if you are able.

