

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fundraising Committee
Monday, January 23
4:30 pm
Room 305

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

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

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

School Board Meeting
Monday, January 30
6:00 pm
Room 302

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

LIBRARY NEWS

(by *Stephanie Severson, Librarian and
Technology Instructor*)

The library's book cataloging process is going strong! Volunteers are still needed to help place bar codes on all the books and catalog each one into our library database. Some great new books have been added to the library; these books are also proving popular with our students.

I Want My Hat Back, by Jon Klassen, is a subtle comedy that induced laughter from everyone (including adults) who read it, or heard it read aloud. Bear's hat is gone, he wants it back, and he politely asks the other forest animals if they have seen his hat. The sparse drawings by the author add to the humor. I love everything about this book.

Samuel Blink and the Forbidden Forest, by Matt Haig, is a scary (but not too scary) story for ages 9 and up. Samuel and his sister, Martha, have moved to Norway to live with Aunt Eda. She has lots of rules and no TV – and makes them try strange new foods. When Samuel finds a mysterious book, he embarks on a journey into the forbidden forest. This fantasy adventure story has enough humor to balance the suspense. There is also a second book in this series, *Samuel Blink and the Runaway Troll*.

Okay for Now, by Gary Schmidt, is my recommendation for ages 11 and up. Gary Schmidt is a favorite young adult author. One of his Newbery award winning books, *The Wednesday Wars*, features a side character of Doug Sweitek. *Okay for Now* features Doug as the main character, whose life is anything but easy. There was so much I loved about this book; the library as sanctuary, the importance of the Audubon bird drawings, the references to the Vietnam War and the impact on Doug's family, and mostly the excellent writing.

Looking for more book recommendations? Find me at www.Goodreads.com. Search for my school email (sseverson@davincicharterschool.org).

INTENT TO RETURN FORMS DUE JANUARY 27

By Friday, January 27, all current students intending to attend DaVinci Academy for the 2012-13 school year must have a completed Intent to Return form turned in to the school office. This will assist in planning for next fall. See the attached form.

Also, if you have any siblings of your student that you would like to attend DaVinci Academy in 2012-13, complete and return the Student Application by January 27 as well.

DaVinci Academy's Open Enrollment Period is now through January 31. New families that are interested in attending DaVinci Academy may turn in a Student Application to the school office (to be included in the lottery).

For more information regarding enrollment, please see our Admission Policies and Procedures at <http://www.davincicharterschool.org>. Student Application forms are also available on our web site.



DaVinci Connection

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

(by Stephanie Severson, Librarian and Technology Instructor)

Did you recently upgrade your iPhone? Did you know that you can donate your older iPhone to DaVinci Academy? We'll delete all your information and use it like an iPod touch! We can load many of the same iPad educational apps onto the iPod touch. Students love practicing their math facts with technology, and although disguised as games, they really are educational tools.



"LAW AND ORDER" INTERSESSION

(by Aaron Melander, Middle School Social Studies Teacher)

The verdict for the Law and Order intersession is in: Success. We enjoyed special visitors, including a probation officer and the Blaine Police Department. The students got a unique glimpse at how an arrest happens as Mr. Melander felt the cold grip of the law. We took a field trip to the Ramsey County Courthouse, and the students met judges and attorneys, and even watched live court. Students also tried their own hand at the legal process with a classroom mock trial. They suited up, and the defense team emerged on top with a win. Overall, all were guilty of a good time and lots of learning!



"ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC REGIONS" INTERSESSION

(by Karen Carter, Kindergarten & Literacy Teacher)

Second, third and fourth graders learned differences and similarities between the Arctic and Antarctic regions. They explored the Inuit people and their manner of living in the Arctic, while also learning amazing facts about polar bears that also live there. They became penguin experts, learning about 10 of the 17 penguin varieties and how amazing the penguins' bodies equip them to survive the frozen desert that is Antarctica. Making marshmallow igloos, transferring a ball from one friend's foot to another (like a penguin transfers an egg), discovering the warmth of polar bear blubber through a hands-on experiment, and watching the water play antics of a polar bear at the Como Zoo, added to our fun week of learning!





PTO Place

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24, 6:30 pm – PTO Meeting

PARENTING TECHNIQUES – DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!

Don't miss the PTO meeting on January 24! Our guest speaker, Heidi Gadja, is an experienced therapist who has worked with children in their homes, treatment centers, group homes, and schools. Join us at the meeting where Heidi will share and teach a world-renowned parenting technique called "123 Magic." Heidi also has experience with family therapy and will answer any questions about counseling. Some examples are: different types of counseling, resource questions, fighting siblings, school issues, or behavior problems.

SPAGHETTI DINNER/SILENT AUCTION MOVED TO APRIL 12

Because of conflicting schedules with other PTO and school events, the Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction has been moved to Thursday, April 12. The Read-a-Thon will kick off in early February, so look for further updates about these events coming soon!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

A huge shout out to Donna Benjamin, who volunteered over 16 hours in December to Ms. Dick's classroom, Ms. Kaiser's classroom, and also on the Fundraising Committee! Thank you so much for your support of DaVinci Academy, Donna!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The PTO needs someone to provide childcare during the January 24 meeting. If you are interested, contact Dina Lantzer at jcbondslave@yahoo.com.