



# DaVinci Connection

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **K-5 Science Fair**

Tuesday, March 27  
4:00 pm  
Gym

### **PTO Meeting**

Tuesday, March 27  
6:30 pm  
Room 305

### **High School Town Meeting**

Wednesday, March 28  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

### **Theatre Performance**

Thursday, March 29 &  
Friday, March 30  
7:00 pm  
Gym

### **No School**

April 2 - April 9

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Monday, April 2 &  
Tuesday, April 3

### **School Resumes**

Tuesday, April 10

### **Silent Auction/Spaghetti Dinner**

Thursday, April 12

Find more upcoming events on the DaVinci Academy home page, or go to the "[Calendar](#)" page for future important dates.

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

## **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3. Conference times are: April 2 from 12:00 - 8:00 pm, and April 3 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please contact the DaVinci Academy office to schedule a conference time.

## **DAVINCI THEATRE PRODUCTION: "BAITED"**

DaVinci Theatre proudly presents, "Baited." The play follows two city-slickers who have just inherited a plot of land and are now busy trying to sell it off to a rich, poorly-sighted millionaire with cash to throw around...literally. This comedy involves some very crazy characters portrayed by our very own 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Performances are Thursday and Friday, March 29 and 30, at 7:00 pm. Purchase tickets at the front office (Adults: \$3, Children/Students: \$1).

## **PENNIES FOR PATIENTS**

*(by Gregg Eldred, Student Development Coordinator)*

In March, DaVinci Academy students participated in the *Pennies for Patients* fundraiser. This was our school's second year contributing to this very worthy cause. Students collected spare change and other donations to support Pennies for Patients, a cancer education program and fundraiser benefiting The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

In the United States, more than 12,000 children under the age of 21 are diagnosed with cancer every year; approximately 3,000 of them will not survive the disease. Leukemias are the most common cancers in children less than 20 years old, and they cause more deaths than any other cancer among children and young adults under 20. Last year, about 447 children under 15 were expected to die from leukemia.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society invests millions of dollars from Pennies for Patients in research and patient services. Every penny counts.

This year, DaVinci Academy students raised \$2,038.24 for the program! This is \$689.55 more than last year! Fantastic job students, staff, and parents, and thanks for your generosity!

## **"SCIENCE CORNER"**

### **SCIENCE IN 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

*(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)*

As the Instructional Coordinator at DaVinci Academy, I have the unique opportunity to visit each classroom. I want to highlight a fun science lesson recently observed in Ms. Berth's 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. She combined Math, Science, and Social Studies into a hands-on lesson on erosion.

Each group of students was tasked with creating a river for their imaginary town and had \$1,000 to spend on materials to design it. The group that constructed a river that left the town with the least amount of erosion was the winner. Once the construction process was complete, Ms. Berth created a river by sending water through it. Each group's river design was unique, and the kids learned as much from watching their own river flow as they did from watching their classmates'.





## RONALD MCDONALD TEACHES ABOUT RESPECT

*(by Cristina Mitchell, AM Kindergarten Teacher)*

On March 16, students in grades K-2 embarked on the Trek for Respect with Ronald McDonald. Trekker Meritworth and Ronald McDonald went on a quest to search for "the most valuable thing in the world." Before leaving, Art X. Zibbit gave Meritworth a treasure map and a yellow stick with the words: *elur nedlog eht*. Along their journey, Ronald McDonald and his friends taught the students about the importance of respecting their environment, other people, and themselves.

Eventually, a gigantic troll showed McDonald and Meritworth the treasure chest they had been looking for. Meritworth was disappointed to find only a mirror inside the treasure chest, but McDonald told Meritworth to hold the yellow stick in front of the mirror. In the mirror, the phrase read: *the golden rule*. McDonald told DaVinci Academy students that "The Golden Rule" means that you treat people the way you would like to be treated, and that each child is "the most valuable thing in the world."

Ms. Kaiser, Mrs. Carter, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Nicholas M., and kindergartener Mahati R., were chosen to participate in a game show in which the DaVinci Academy team and Ronald McDonald's friends answered questions about respect. This show was enjoyed by both students and staff, and the characters left a lasting message on an incredibly important topic.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

*(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)*

*Current Volunteer Opportunities:*

- Art room organization and supply clean up
- On-call lunch/kitchen help
- Office volunteer pool
- Catalog books and technology

*If you do not have a HelpCounter volunteer profile, contact Lee Swearingen, and she will get you started. Please note that each volunteer is required to have a background check on file with DaVinci Academy prior to starting any volunteer projects (\$10 processing fee for the screening). Forms are available at the front desk, or [click here](#) to print the form from our web site.*

## ART FAIR IS MAY 3

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual DaVinci Academy Art Fair is just around the corner, slated for Thursday, May 3. This year, the theme is 'Color and Light,' and we hope to have a multitude of colorful and brightly imagined pieces. Defined in art, color and light go hand in hand, as one cannot exist without the other.

Students are allowed to create works with any medium of their choosing, as long as they incorporate the properties of color and light with intensity and definite value scales. Additionally, no kits may be utilized, and all art work must be completed outside of class time.

Please see the attached PDF for further information, and feel free to contact the Art department (Ms. Platisha and Ms. Larson) directly with any questions.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADERS PASS "ACCELERATED READER" GOAL

*(by Melissa Kaiser, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher)*

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been working hard at their reading and started taking Accelerated Reader quizzes. We were also studying the westward expansion during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, so I made a bulletin board with the Oregon Trail for the students to track their Accelerated Reader progress. Our theme was "Reaching the West by Reading," and students got to move their wagon or horse game piece west as they passed AR quizzes. I was looking for each student to reach his/her goal of five individual AR points and for the class to reach 100 AR points.

We are now at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and I am happy to announce that we reached our goal! Each student took at least four quizzes this quarter, which means they read at least four books on their own. Twenty-four students reached or exceeded their individual goal of five AR points, and the students gained 351 points as a class. Way to go 2<sup>nd</sup> grade readers! See the Picture on Page 3.

## OLD CHICAGO PIZZA FUNDRAISER

During the long school break, why not try an Old Chicago pizza! Remember, the Pizza Palz certificate costs you \$11 but is good for one large pizza up to \$22. What a bargain! DaVinci Academy gets \$5 per card sold. By the way, there is a great Old Chicago at Northtown. Hurry...there are only 46 certificates left! Get yours in the DaVinci Academy office.





# PTO PLACE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 27 – PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm

April 1-30 – [Box Top Collection Contest](#)

April 12 – Silent Auction/Spaghetti Dinner, 6:00 pm

## GUEST SPEAKER ON MARCH 27

Join us at the next PTO Meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 27. Get some great information from Laura McDaniel of [Wyndgate Health](#).

This month's guest speaker, McDaniel will share with us how to treat symptoms of ADHD, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, autism, anxiety, eating disorders, chemical dependencies, depression, oppositional defiant behavior and violence, as well as memory issues and Alzheimer's with VITAMINS!

## SILENT AUCTION/SPAGHETTI DINNER IS APRIL 12

The April 12 Silent Auction/Spaghetti Dinner is quickly approaching. Teachers are collecting items for their themed baskets through Friday, March 30:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Dahlquist	Movie Night
Mitchell	Fishing
Carter	Fishing
Mannella	Gardening
Steele	Crafts
Dick	Family Fun/Game Night
Kaiser	Family Fun/Game Night
Morgan	Tea & Coffee
Sirovy	Backyard Fun
Berth	Wine
Cauley	Cheese
Nelson	Beach Fun
Savering	Date Night (Parent & child activities)
Brossart	Family Pizza Night
Melander	Fun at the Beach
Elliot	Rockin' Road Trip

Spaghetti Dinner tickets are currently on sale and will continue until the day of the dinner. Pre-dinner purchase cost: Adults - \$6, Students/Children - \$3. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for an additional \$1 per ticket.

To purchase tickets prior to the date of the event, send payment to Marcia Bouwman in the front office. Payment must be received before you will receive tickets. Open the attached flyer to print tickets and return them to school with payment.

## WE NEED YOU

Childcare help is needed at PTO meetings. Our childcare volunteers are so appreciated; they make it possible for many families to attend meetings. Please consider helping us out in this manner. Contact [Dina Lantzer](#) if you're available.

## UNIFORM SWAP & SALE

During Parent/Teacher Conferences on April 2 & 3, the PTO will hold a uniform exchange for gently used uniforms that are compliant with DaVinci Academy guidelines. You can swap 1/1 articles of clothing, or just purchase them for \$3 each if you have no items to exchange. DaVinci Academy Spiritwear will also be for sale or to order (if we don't have your size in stock). Stop by and see us!



## PTO ON FACEBOOK

Check out the DaVinci Academy PTO on [Facebook](#). "Like" our page to keep up to date on everything that's happening!



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Accelerated Readers