



# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Picture Day  
Friday, April 27

School Board Meeting  
Monday, April 30  
6:00 pm  
Room 305

Art Fair  
Thursday, May 3  
4:30-6:30 pm  
Gym

Policies/Procedures  
Committee  
Monday, May 7  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

Technology Committee  
Monday, May 7  
6:00 pm  
Room 302

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Concert  
Tuesday, May 8  
6:00 pm

3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert  
Thursday, May 10  
6:30 pm

Band, Orchestra, and Choir  
Tuesday, May 15  
6:30 pm

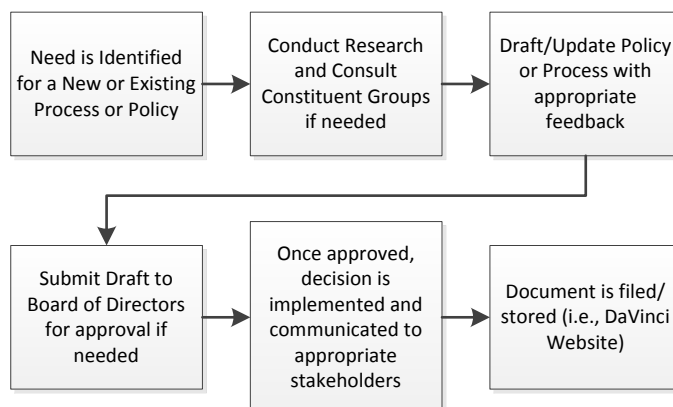
Find more upcoming events  
on the DaVinci Academy  
home page, or go to the  
"[Calendar](#)" page for future  
important dates.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

*(by Terri Sheehan, School Board Chair)*

All of DaVinci Academy's policies and procedures are handled by our Policies and Procedures Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Directors. The committee's mission is to guide and document sound practices at our school and ensure all of them are consistent and promote an effective collaboration in all school operations. We focus on maximizing the ease and efficiency of our operations while remaining in compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements.

The committee Chair and Vice Chair are school board members and are appointed by the Board of Directors. The current committee members are Terri Sheehan, Chair, Therese O'Meara, Vice Chair, Terry Moffatt, Administration, and parent volunteers, Lee Swearingen and Mary Walker. Parent volunteers are critical to the success of our committee and add value beyond words. The way we (generally) conduct business is best illustrated in the following workflow:



Anyone is welcome to visit a committee or volunteer as a member. If you'd like to know more about the Policies and Procedures Committee or other board-appointed committees, [click here](#).

## FAMILY SURVEY DEADLINE IS TODAY

The deadline for responding to DaVinci Academy's 2012 Family Survey is today, April 24. If you have not already completed the survey, please do so TODAY! So far, we have received responses from 62% of our stakeholders, and we appreciate your input.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey. We look forward to hearing from you.



## CLAIM YOUR LOST & FOUND ITEMS

DaVinci Academy's Lost & Found is overflowing! Any items left after May 4 will be donated to the Goodwill, so please search through the Lost & Found and claim your items. Located in the middle school entrance (Door 3). Please hurry!



## EXTRA MONEY?

*(by Doug Hiatt, Finance Committee Chair)*

Our November 2, 2011 article explained the purpose of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee (often referred to as just the Finance Committee), the basic fund system used by DaVinci Academy to keep track of revenues and expenditures, and information about the Finance Committee goals for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Our January 31, 2012 article provided an update on the fiscal health of DaVinci Academy and explained the basic work the Finance Committee would do over the rest of the 2011-12 school year. This article will address the recent newspaper articles that have implied charter schools and other school districts received "extra money" this year.

This was not "extra money." It was simply money owed to the school for this school year that actually got paid during the school year. As explained in earlier articles, DaVinci and other school districts were only scheduled to receive 60% of the money the state was supposed to pay to them for the 2011-12 year during the 2011-12 year and the rest would be paid in the 2012-13 school year (the 40% holdback).

On February 29, the state budget forecast estimated \$323 million surplus by the end of the current two-year budget. A state statute adopted years ago sets forth what to do with the anticipated surplus absent legislation to provide otherwise. That statute, 16A.152 Subd. 2, requires that the state's cash flow account have \$350 million and that the state's budget reserve account have \$653 million.

Both of these accounts were almost fully funded to these levels due to the fall budget surplus forecast and the borrowing from the schools in the budget compromise. As a result, only \$5 million of the forecasted surplus was used to fill these two accounts. The statute then provides that the surplus needs to be used to adjust the payment schedule for schools so that school aids and credits are paid up to 90% of the current year payments. The \$318 million only started to accomplish this by reducing what is owed to the schools from \$2.7 billion to \$2.4 billion.

While DaVinci did receive this money during this year, it would be fiscally irresponsible to spend it

during this school year. This would be different if this would have truly been extra school aid appropriated for this school year. DaVinci's budget for this year assumed the 40% holdback from this year's payments and the payment of the holdback from last year during this year so that we did not have to borrow money to provide cash flow. This was done to make sure that money did not have to be diverted from educational related expenses to pay interest.

The budget for 2012-13 will again assume a 40% holdback of next year's school aids and credits because the holdback for next year is still 40% absent another forecasted budget surplus in October of 2012 or February of 2013. The budget will also have to assume payment of the holdback from this year (including the extra payment). If the extra payment was spent during this year, that money would not be available for cash flow for next school year and the school would almost for sure need to borrow money at some point to pay its teachers, landlord and other bills. The interest on that borrowing would then need to be taken into account in next year's budget. This would result in an impact of either cutting education related expenditures, or one or more fees would have to added or increased in order to provide for the items for next year's budget.

If you have questions or concerns related to budget, finance, or audit, contact [Doug Hiatt](#).

## ART FAIR IS MAY 3

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual DaVinci Academy Art Fair is on Thursday, May 3, from 4:30-6:30 pm. 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 [Ms. Platisha](#) and [Ms. Larson](#) with any questions.





## SPRING PICTURES THIS FRIDAY

*(by Cory Klabunde, School Director)*

This Friday, April 27, Lifetouch Studios will be on-site taking pictures of every DaVinci Academy student. For this round of pictures, the available backgrounds are all outdoor/spring scenes. Not only is this a great way to get updated pictures of your child, DaVinci Academy will also receive \$2 per picture, which is a profit for the school of approximately \$800. This money will be used to support and improve school technology.

On picture day, students will have a "modified-uniform day" with the following restrictions. Students may choose to wear any style or color collared shirt; however, they must still conform to the black or khaki pants/skirts/shorts guideline. In addition, girls will be permitted to wear dresses of appropriate length and neckline. Sleeveless dresses are not permitted unless a sweater is worn on top.

Your child brought home a pamphlet that illustrates the available backgrounds and describes the process. Complete the form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher, even if you are unsure if you will purchase pictures. No payment should be sent at this time. You will have the opportunity to review the pictures at home, and you can decide to purchase them at that time. Extra forms are available at the office.

Visit [Lifetouch](#) for more information about Lifetouch Studios and spring pictures.

## SPRING MUSIC CONCERTS

Mark your calendars for DaVinci Academy's spring music performances:

- Tuesday, May 8, 6:00 pm - K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Thursday, May 10, 6:30 pm - 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 pm - Orchestra, Band, and Choir

## THERE'S AN "APP" FOR THAT

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

PowerSchool has a PowerSchool app in the iTunes store that connects with the grade program that DaVinci Academy uses. Select the PowerSchool for Parents, enter the zip code (55434), and select DaVinci Academy. The sign-in information is the

same as the online program that is currently available to all stakeholders.

I've been using the app for about a month and love how easy it is! Every morning before school, I can double-check grades and assignments, and then ask my children, who are also students at DaVinci Academy, to follow-up on things with their teachers.

If you've forgotten your username/password, send an email to [Stephanie Bacigalupo](#), and she will resend the information. I highly recommend this app; it is a great tool for staying updated on your student's progress.

## CRAYONS FOR HAITI

*(by Katie Mannella & Melissa Steele, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers)*

First grade is collecting items to send, through the Reiser Relief organization, to an orphanage in Haiti. The orphanage is just outside of Port-au-Prince and has approximately 65 kids ages 3-12.

The main part of our service project will include gathering used crayons and recycling them by melting them down into new ones for the kids at the orphanage.

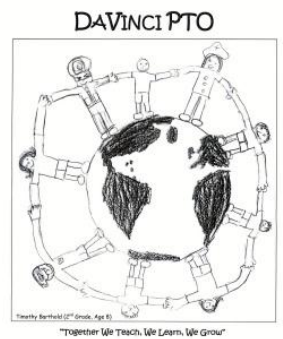
We are looking for crayon donations to add to this project. If you have any crayons at home that you would like to donate, please send them to Mrs. Mannella's or Ms. Steele's classroom by April 30.

If you would like to help in any other way, email [Mrs. Mannella](#) for a list of needed supplies.



# Purely PTO

DaVinci Academy PTO



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 24 – PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- April 30 – [BoxTop Collection Contest](#) ends

## APRIL'S GUEST SPEAKERS

Our guest speakers this month will be talking about toxic free living. Cynthia Ransom, ND

## PTO ANNUAL SPEND-DOWN OF FUNDS

We only have 2 remaining PTO meetings and we would love to have your opinions, thoughts and suggestions on what to spend PTO money on as we approach the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Funds raised from the

“Together We Teach We Learn We Grow”

from [Cream for a Cause](#) will talk about what is going “in” our bodies from what we are putting “on” them. Find out how to create health and beauty with non-toxic alternatives. Carla Lemm from [Norwex](#) will share how easy it is to be green and keep your homes clean without the toxic chemicals we usually use, becoming better stewards of our environment in the process!

## BOXTOPS CONTEST

The Boxtops contest will wrap up on April 30<sup>th</sup>, so make sure to have all of your collection sheets turned in! The top class will earn a pizza party and the top 3 individual winners will each receive a Spiritwear polo. You can get more forms in the Boxtops bin near the front desk or download them [here](#).

Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction along with funds from the BoxTops Contest will be going towards this Annual Spend-Down. Join us at one of these last two meetings to share your thoughts, email [Jill](#) with suggestions, or submit a [Fund Request Form](#).

## PTO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Childcare during PTO meetings (April 24 and May 16)
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – food preparation and service
- Chairperson to collect Terracycle products

Please contact [Dina](#) if you are available to help with any of these opportunities.

## CONGRATULATIONS ARTSTAMPS WINNERS!!!

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Cassie T., Danielle D., Faith N. and Kylie N. were selected to be a part of the ArtStamps May 2012 “Top Artist of the Month” Campaign, “April Showers Bloom May Flowers”! Their artwork will be displayed on the [ArtStamps](#) website during the month of May where they are eligible to earn additional prizes. Congratulations DaVinci artists!



## FACEBOOK

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



DaVinci PTO’s mission is to enrich the learning opportunities and environment at DaVinci Academy.