



DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

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
10:00 am-4:00 pm

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](http://davincicharterschool.org/Calendar.aspx)

13001 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN 55434
763-754-6577

www.davincicharterschool.org

CHANGES

(by Cory Klabunde, School Director)

As most of you know, DaVinci Academy has experienced increased staff turnover during this school year. Seven teachers and one para-professional have left the employment of DaVinci Academy. We have recruited competent replacements for five of the teaching positions and the para-professional opening.

We realize that, in our small learning community, staffing changes cannot be taken lightly. These changes are hard for adults and even more so for children. Although this was addressed in a recent newsletter, I want to assure every student and family that the school board, administration, and all of the teachers are working to provide a smooth transition with the least amount of disruption possible.

Everyone knows that employees leave jobs for all sorts of reasons. However, as an organization, we will look for common denominators in the recent staff departures and, if any are found, steps will be taken to resolve them. Each staff member who leaves is given the opportunity to complete an *Exit Survey*. *The administration and school board will continue to review all submitted surveys in an effort to improve our school.*

As an employer, our intention is to cultivate a workplace where employees love to come to work. We want to create an environment where teachers don't seek out other employment, a place where the staff loves to work, student love to learn, and stakeholders love to volunteer.

Our goal is to attract and retain highly-qualified and motivated teachers. We have been interviewing several candidates for the two open middle school positions and have hired a new Science teacher, Susanna Elliott, who started on December 5. The interview process to fill the Language Arts position is continuing. At this time, we are still searching for a Spanish instructor; however, we have not received any candidate applications.

I want to say how much I appreciate our current staff members and those who have chosen to leave. All of them have brought something amazing to our students and our school!

Please feel free to contact myself (cklabunde@davincicharterschool.org), any school administrator or board member, with questions relating to this issue.

SHELLY HILDRUM JOINS SCHOOL BOARD

(by Terri Sheehan, School Board Chair)

With the recent decision to expand the DaVinci Academy School Board to nine members, we are pleased to announce that Shelly Hildrum is the newest member. Appointed to the board at the November 28 meeting, Shelly is our fourth parent representative.

Shelly is a 1997 graduate of St. Cloud State University with a BS degree in Mass Communications and a Minor in Marketing. Shelly worked for several years in public relations and as an advertising account executive, managing the integrated marketing needs of local business clients, such as *Hubbard Broadcasting*. Shelly has been licensed in residential real estate since 2002 and is currently the broker of her own real estate company.

Shelly grew up in the area, graduating from Centennial High School in Circle Pines. She now lives in Blaine with her husband, Chris, and two children who proudly attend DaVinci Academy.

Shelly has been an active volunteer at DaVinci Academy, serving on the board's Communications Committee and chairing the school's newly-formed Fundraising Committee. She also enjoys volunteering in her children's classrooms and for various school activities.

Shelly brings to the board a "parent's perspective," paired with an enthusiasm and passion for quality education. She looks forward to utilizing her experience in marketing and communications to help DaVinci Academy continue to grow and provide a unique and enriched learning environment. Please join me in welcoming Shelly to our board!

There is no "I" in Team
but there is a "U"
in volunteer!

**A special thank you to all of
our wonderful volunteers!**



DaVinci Connection

FACILITIES/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE WORKING ON PLAN

(by David Cauley)

The Facilities/Technology Committee has been working on finalizing DaVinci Academy's Technology Plan for 2012-14. In the next few months, the committee will look at possible high school site options, including building a school from scratch locations (open land), expanding our current site, or finding an existing facility that could be modified to suit the needs of our future high school students. If you are interested in helping the committee, contact Facilities/Technology Committee Chair David Cauley at dcauley@davincicharterschool.org.

TOY DRIVE GOING STRONG

The Cub Scouts toy drive is well underway. Please help DaVinci Academy families this holiday season and donate an unwrapped toy or gift. The drop box is near the front entry. Gifts that are needed are toys for all ages... and don't forget the big kids!

GIRL SCOUT BOOTH AT MARKETPLACE

Girl Scout Troop 14473 made crafts and gifts to sell at the DaVinci Marketplace on December 10. The booth will feature glass lamps, bird houses/feeders, doll cradles, picture frames, and soy candles. All proceeds will help purchase holiday food baskets for DaVinci Academy families in need.

CLAIM YOUR LOST & FOUND ITEMS

The "Lost & Found" at DaVinci Academy is overflowing! Any items left will be donated during winter break, so you have two weeks to search through the Lost & Found and claim your items. Please hurry!

VOLUNTEER SPOT

Looking to volunteer at DaVinci Academy? There are many opportunities currently available... check out the Volunteer page on the school web site (<http://www.davincicharterschool.org/volunteer>) for more information. If you do not already have a HelpCounter volunteer profile, contact Lee Swearingen at lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org, and she will get you started. Please note that each volunteer is required to have a background check on file with the school prior to starting any volunteer projects (\$10 processing fee for the screening). Forms are available at the front desk or on the Volunteer page of the web site.

An Old Man's Winter Night by Robert Frost

*All out of doors looked darkly in at him
Through the thin frost, almost in separate stars,
That gathers on the pane in empty rooms.
What kept his eyes from giving back the gaze
Was the lamp tilted near them in his hand.
What kept him from remembering what it was
That brought him to that creaking room was age.
He stood with barrels round him -- at a loss.
And having scared the cellar under him
In clomping there, he scared it once again
In clomping off; -- and scared the outer night,
Which has its sounds, familiar, like the roar
Of trees and crack of branches, common things,
But nothing so like beating on a box.
A light he was to no one but himself
Where now he sat, concerned with he knew what,
A quiet light, and then not even that.
He consigned to the moon, such as she was,
So late-arising, to the broken moon
As better than the sun in any case
For such a charge, his snow upon the roof,
His icicles along the wall to keep;
And slept. The log that shifted with a jolt
Once in the stove, disturbed him and he shifted,
And eased his heavy breathing, but still slept.
One aged man -- one man -- can't keep a house,
A farm, a countryside, or if he can,
It's thus he does it of a winter night.*





PTO Place

UPCOMING EVENTS

Through December 10 – Giving Tree
December 10 – Marketplace (10:00 am-4:00 pm)

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.



DINNER BEFORE WINTER CONCERTS

Need a place to eat dinner before your child's winter concert? DaVinci PTO is selling gift cards for Brueggers. There are also a few restaurants around town, including Chipotle, that will donate a portion of the proceeds on December 6, 8, and 13, to DaVinci Academy. For more information, contact Dina jcbondslave@yahoo.com or Tammy tammy.k.ness@gmail.com to buy a Brueggers card for your dinner. Thanks for supporting DaVinci PTO!

GET TO KNOW YOUR PTO

Kristin Ralli is the PTO Secretary. She holds a degree in Graphic Design. Kristin and her husband, Erik, have a 4th grade son, Joey.

What Joey loves most about DaVinci Academy is "the way in which he learns." Kristin enjoys the way the school is connected with families, and the community environment that it promotes. She loves the PTO because it is a wonderful, fun group of parents who are dedicated to making a great learning environment for the children. She loves serving on the PTO Board, which helps and supports our children's education, teachers, and overall learning experiences. Kristin loves participating whole-heartedly in the Art department by volunteering to teach the Art Adventure program and assisting during the fabulous Art Fair every year.

When not at school, Kristin's family enjoys hanging out together, going to Joey's football games, and traveling.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

PTO LOGO WINNER

Congratulations to second-grader Tim B., winner of the PTO logo contest. Tim's inspiration came from watching his sister do computer research for a project about the world. He thought of a world with people around it holding hands. He's very excited about all of the new projects he can make with his new art set! We are thankful to Tim for letting us use his design as the centerpiece for our new PTO logo!

