

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

School Development
Committee
Monday, March 11
4:30 pm

2nd Annual Golf Tournament
Meeting
Monday, March 11
4:30 pm

Policies and Procedures
Committee
Monday, March 11
5:00 pm

Compensation Committee
Monday, March 11
6:00 pm

Facilities Committee
Monday, March 11
6:00 pm

Technology Committee
Monday, March 11
6:00 pm

Finance Committee
Monday, March 11
7:30 pm

School Board Meeting
Monday, March 18
6:00 pm

Special Education Advisory
Council
Thursday, March 21
6:00 pm

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

2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT (by Mary Walker, Golf Tournament Volunteer)



Let's raise funds for our school! Last year, we introduced the DaVinci Academy Annual Golf Tournament and raised over \$10,000! All proceeds went directly to our school. All the participants (both community members and parents) had so much fun, and they vowed to return in 2013!

The 2nd Annual DaVinci Academy Golf Tournament is schedule for Friday, June 14, at Majestic Oaks. We need **participation from as many volunteers as possible**. Our first meeting is Monday, March 11, at 4:30 pm at DaVinci Academy. Please join us!

You can help turn this event into a major fundraiser that families look forward to each year. We need **volunteers** to seek out sponsors and prizes. We need **golfers** who can commit to putting together a foursome. We need **creativity, marketing**, and new ideas! Most importantly, we want all stakeholders to be part of this event through volunteering, golfing, sponsoring, donating, and/or attending dinner to truly make this a magical day. Together we can make this happen and raise funds to offer our children unique and encouraging opportunities at DaVinci Academy!

Please contact [Mary Walker](#) to volunteer, commit with sponsors and/or golfers, or to ask questions!

NEW SPANISH TEACHER (by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)

Our third through ninth graders have been participating in a pilot program since the start of the year with the online language company Middlebury. Many students have learned a great deal of Spanish by using it. Overall though, we have been experiencing frequent disruptions in the learning which seem to have to do with technical issues on the program's end. Because we are committed to the vision of providing a dynamic education experience, we have had to make the difficult decision to sever ties with this company until they can provide our students with a consistent, quality product. We recognize that many of our families have been hoping that this program would be a positive solution to the conundrum of how to offer a language program here at DaVinci. That has not proven to be the case.

Fortunately for us we have been able to find a Spanish teacher! Her name is Leann Roubal and she has taught Spanish at Legacy Christian Academy, St Rose of Lima Catholic School in Roseville, Centennial Middle School and North Alamo Elementary School in Alamo, Texas.

She attended the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse for her Bachelor's Degree, and received her Master's Degree from St. Mary's University, Winona. She is very excited about teaching here and started classes with the fifth through ninth graders on Monday. Please help me welcome Leann to our DaVinci Academy family.





ART CORNER SPRING ART FAIR

(by Kat Larson, Art Instructor)

This year, the Art Fair at DaVinci Academy will incorporate both art and science. Students will be challenged to produce works in homage to our namesake, Leonardo DaVinci, an ingenious artist and prophetic scientist and inventor. DaVinci's work encompasses both fields in harmonious balance, never entirely independent of one another in regards to their specific disciplines. DaVinci understood that both realms were necessary in order to have a more complete understanding of our world.

In 2013, students are to use topics related to science in order to choose their art fair ideas and themes (we originally hoped to use their science fair topics but have loosened the requirement). As this is a new concept for many students and parents, the tie between art and science can be mild -- as long as there is a connection. We want students to think about concrete ideas they have learned in science and to see the poetry and art within them. This can be done abstractly or literally.

Each DaVinci Academy student will receive a 6"x6" canvas paper (provided by the Art department and distributed after spring break) in which to produce their final work. Although they may not exceed this square area in final project size (no framing, etc.), they may layer and increase the depth of their art as long as it is still capable of being hung on a wall. This challenge will require creativity on the part of our students, and will take them a step closer to what it is like to work as professional artists. Even Leonardo DaVinci had guidelines and stipulations when creating his masterpieces!

The Art Fair is the first week of May, so start thinking early and often, as rough drafts are always a good idea when planning a work of art (Leonardo had so many sketches!). If you have questions or want to brainstorm, talk to peers and teachers, and never hesitate to talk to Ms. Platisha or Ms. Larson. There will be one class period for each grade level where we brainstorm and discuss ideas, but the bulk of the work needs to be completed outside of school. We look forward to seeing your creativity!

LEONARDO'S BOOKSHELF

(by Stephanie Severson, Middle School Language Arts)

"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."

-- Maya Angelou

The 7th and 8th graders have been writing book reviews since the beginning of the school year. Book reviews are a good way to practice analytical and informative writing, two of our learning targets for these grades.

Inspired by many of the book review blogs that we use to find new books to read, we have published our book reviews in our own [blog](#).

Writing with a public audience in mind is a good exercise. Students are learning to really watch their wording and practice the conventions of formal writing.

Stop by our blog, Leonardo's Bookshelf, to read the students' book reviews and see what we're reading. If you see a book review you like, please leave the student a comment. It is important for them to know that their writing is being read by a public audience.

RUBE GOLDBERG MACHINES

(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

Our 8th graders recently completed a unit on Rube Goldberg, and the final project was to make their own Rube Goldberg machines. In assembling the machines, students had to think about the different types of energy that would be used. The object of the machine was to blow out a candle at the end. The students were incredibly creative in their productions; some machines used toy trains, remote control cars, and a vinegar/baking soda combination, to eventually put out the candle. Each group demonstrated its creation to the rest of the class with varying ranges of success. However, as a very impressed bystander, I have to say that all of

the machines were successful as a great deal of creativity and hard work went into each one.





FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

(by Stephanie Hunter, Music Instructor)

The music concerts from December 2012 are now available on www.vimeo.com. Enter the username ipad@davincicharterschool.org and the password "1cniVad1." Look under the "videos" tab and select "my videos." The videos are shared under password protection and can only be viewed by those who have been invited to view them. Please respect the privacy of our students by not sharing the link and password.

Thank you for the awesome support of music at DaVinci Academy. We look forward to seeing you on April 19-20 for the musical, "Schoolhouse Rock Jr," and in May for the spring concerts.

NEW ADDITION

(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)

On February 8, our DaVinci Academy family got a little bit bigger. Mrs. Broich, the librarian, had a baby girl! Rachel Jean weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz and was 22 inches long. Both mother and daughter are doing fine. Congratulations, Mrs. Broich!



NEW SPECIAL ED STAFF

(by Caroline Carritt, Director of Special Education)



Candi Jenkins, Special Education

Paraprofessional ~ I am so happy to be part of DaVinci Academy! I have seven years of experience at Edina High School and one year as a special education teacher in California. I obtained my dual licensure in Special Education from Augsburg College. I believe that each

and every student can be successful in his/her learning. In my spare time, I like to hang out with friends and family, play the piano, line dance, and walk around Lake Harriet.



Mark El-Dweek, Special Education

Paraprofessional ~ I've worked in many districts for the last six years, both as a paraprofessional and as a long term substitute teacher. I've worked with students in a variety of settings and have enjoyed the challenges each position has brought. I'm

very happy to be at DaVinci Academy, working with a very talented group of educators! I have a BA in history from the University of Minnesota. I also have a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of St. Thomas, with a graduate certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders. I plan on earning a K-12 reading endorsement from Concordia University in St. Paul, beginning this month.



Katie Wiley, Special Education

Paraprofessional ~ I recently moved to Uptown Minneapolis from southern Iowa. I graduated from the University of Iowa with a BA in Psychology and received my teaching certification in Elementary Education from Iowa Wesleyan College. I am currently in graduate school at Saint

Mary's University, working toward my MA in Special Education. My hobbies include shopping, reading, running, going to concerts, watching college football (GO HAWKEYES!), BINGO, and trivia night. I am excited to get to know all the students and staff and DaVinci Academy and am very thankful for the op-

