

# DaVinci Connection

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

\* 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Medieval Feast  
Thursday, June 6  
6:00 pm

\* No School  
Friday, June 7 & 14

\* School Carnival  
Friday, June 7  
5:00-7:00 pm

\* All-School Dance  
Friday, June 7  
6:00-8:00 pm

\* Farewell Picnic for  
8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Monday, June 10  
3:30 pm

Committee Meetings  
June 10, 2013

- School Development  
4:30 pm
- Policies and Procedures  
3:30 pm
- Compensation  
6:00 pm
- Facilities  
6:00 pm
- Technology  
6:00 pm
- Finance  
7:30 pm

\* Dance Recital  
Wednesday, June 12  
4:30 pm

\* Field Day  
Wednesday, June 12

\* Golf Tournament  
Friday, June 14  
10:00 am

Majestic Oaks Golf Club

\* School Board Meeting  
Monday, June 17  
6:00 pm

\* Last Day of School  
Thursday, June 20

## **DEBRA LACH IS NEW SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

*(by David Cauley, School Board)*

The DaVinci Academy School Board would like to formally welcome Debra Lach as our new School Director. Debra has been serving as the Interim Director for most of this year, and on May 20, the Board voted her into the position permanently. Debra had the verbal and written support of teachers and staff in the building. We look forward to working with Debra and the entire DaVinci Academy community to continue to make our school the very best student experience it can be. Congratulations, Debra, and welcome aboard!

## **FACILITIES PLANNING: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

*(by Doug Hiatt, Facilities Committee  
Chair)*

As an update to the last article, we are waiting on a response from our authorizer (Friends of Education) regarding the site expansion application filed in January. As you are aware, we have had space and parking issues, and we continue to find creative ways to deal with them. We will have the current site for next school year and are looking at some small renovations to get more rooms and use out of the existing square footage. We are currently getting bids for those renovations. The renovations should start right after the end of this school year and be done prior to the beginning of next school year. We also continue to work at addressing other ongoing issues, such as the dirt/grass next to the playground area.

If the site expansion application is approved, the Facilities Committee will need to do a lot of work in a short period to make a recommendation to the Board regarding the best long-term solution. Possibilities continue to include expansion of the current site or establishing a second site in an existing or new building. The Facilities Committee has compiled an initial list of properties that need to be visited and evaluated as part of this process. The second site could be one

that fills a need temporarily while a more long-term solution is found using the existing location or another second site. The second site could be one that is intended to always be a second site or a location where the entire school could come back together when the lease at our current location ends. A second site has a number of issues that need to be considered including, but not limited to, the appropriate grades to have at a second site, transportation for both sites versus one site, parking, and other related topics.

These and a lot of other tasks need to be completed so the best decision can be made. We need volunteers and parent input on these and other important facilities matters. After the last newsletter article, we did get one new member of the committee and would like more. If you have ideas about creative space planning, current school facilities, or general interest in next steps for facilities planning for DaVinci Academy, your participation is needed on the Facilities Committee. Email [dhiatt@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:dhiatt@davincicharterschool.org) if you can help.

## **ASSESSMENTS AND ATTENDANCE**

We will be conducting school-wide assessments during the next two weeks and all classes are continuing to cover material and assess student learning. It is very important that students are in school for these assessments as well as for the instruction in general. Please keep in mind that DaVinci Academy has an extended year calendar. This calendar is distributed close to a year ahead of implementation with the hope that family vacations and other events can be planned accordingly. Teaching, assessments and homework continue to the very end of the school year and students are responsible for this material. It is vitally important for students to maintain a good attendance record at school and this includes the end of the school year as well.



## SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AT THE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**(by Kevin Furst, School Development Committee Chair)**

It seemed like winter would never end, but the warm weather is here and it's time to dust off the clubs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DaVinci Golf Tournament to support DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science. The event is scheduled for Friday, June 14, at 12:45 pm. The tournament will take place at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake. Pre-tourney events include a putting contest, which begins at 10:00 am. Registration includes green fees, a golf cart, access to the driving range, a tee-bag of prizes decorated by DaVinci Academy kindergartners, and dinner. Families can opt for the dinner-only portion, which begins at 6:00 pm and includes awards and a silent auction.

This event is the biggest fundraiser put on by the school, so it is crucial that everyone helps out in order to make it a success. Parents and families have several ways to show their support. Both golfers and non-golfers are invited to put together foursomes and join us for a casual and fun round of golf. There will be games and fun along the way, so even the golf-impaired are guaranteed to have a great time.

If golfing is just not your thing, we need donations for the goodie bags handed out to golfers, prizes, and sponsorships. Sponsoring your son or daughter's teacher is a great way to thank them for a tremendous year and support the school. Your employer or local business may be willing to sponsor the event or a foursome if you mention it to them. Volunteers looking to spend an easy few hours in the beautiful June sunshine are also needed. Please help out in any way you can.

We are looking to double the funds raised last year while having a great time golfing. Information regarding the event and costs can be found [here](#), including information for businesses with questions about sponsorship. A copy of the registration form can be found [here](#). If you have questions, donations, or would like to help out, contact Mary Walker, Golf Tournament Coordinator, at [mneebwalker@yahoo.com](mailto:mneebwalker@yahoo.com) or 763-951-2566.

We look forward to seeing you on the links on June 14!

## SPRING CLEAN-UP DAYS

**(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)**

DaVinci Academy has two more evening or weekend volunteer opportunities for this year.

We need at least five individuals to help clear out a storage room and move everything into the gym. This activity will start at 3:30 pm on the last day of school, Thursday, June 20. If we have enough assistance, it should be completed by 5:30 pm.

We are calling on all volunteers, young and not-so-young, to join us on Saturday, June 29, for a school wide spring clean-up day! We will be tackling a wide variety of tasks depending on the number of volunteers we have. Our current list of projects includes activities such as:

- \* Washing windows inside and out
- \* Scrubbing corners between wall and floor
- \* Removing stuff from walls in halls and classrooms
- \* Washing, prepping, and painting walls
- \* Cleaning outdoor windowsills and metal edging
- \* Power washing garbage cans
- \* Dusting book shelves and all other furniture
- \* Wiping lockers (inside, out, and tops)
- \* Gardening/lawn work
- \* Repainting games in parking lot
- \* Organizing storage areas

The day will start at 8:30 am and end when we are done. Lunch will be provided. This is a fabulous way to get some last-minute volunteer hours in for the year! As this will be a work day with a lot going on, please leave at home any children who have not completed 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

If you can help with either of these projects, email [lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:lswearingen@davincicharterschool.org).

## A SPECIAL RIDE TO SCHOOL

Cameron L. was the lucky winner of an ambulance ride to school through a raffle drawing. Two North Memorial ambulances brought the entire family to school on Thursday, May 16. The ambulance crew then stayed and students were allowed to go into the ambulance and were able to ask questions and learn a bit about the life of an EMT.







## ART CORNER ART FAIR WINNERS

*(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)*

Congratulations to the 2012-13 DaVinci Academy Art Fair winners! Each of the works were judged on scientific expression and creativity. These students' works will be displayed within the school.

### Winners for Scientific Expression:

- K - Anna K.
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Layton P.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Elliot Z.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Cori K.
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Sam F.
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Jack L.
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Cy B.
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Ryan F.
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Ian G.
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Bella T.

### Winners for Creativity:

- K - Christopher M.
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Violet V.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Madeline S.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lizzie R.
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Ashley G.
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Dessa K.
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Sierra B.
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Claire S.
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Sofia A.
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Angelisa P.

The student whose work of art won "Best in Show" was 8<sup>th</sup> grader Emma W. Beautiful job artists!

## FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

*(by Stephanie Hunter and Mike Hebert, Music Instructors)*

The May concerts were a huge success! A huge "thank you" to all DaVinci Academy families for supporting your children and their musical growth. It has been an amazing year. Remember to sign up for next year's music classes. If you would like to see the spring concerts, they are now available on [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com). Please contact Stephanie Hunter or Mike Hebert for username and password. 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.

## YOUNG REMBRANDTS STAR ARTIST

Congratulations to Kindergartener Nolan S. for being named a Young Rembrandts Star Artist.



## STAFF DEPARTURE

Dear DaVinci Families,

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of my departure from your school and community. My wife and I have accepted positions in Taiwan. We will be teaching our subjects in English and our own kids will be attending a bilingual school. This has been a dream of ours for the last decade and coincidentally our positions at our "first choice" school opened up this year. Yet, as much as I love my new adventure, I will miss DaVinci greatly. I have only been your middle (and high) school teacher for one year, but I have felt like this is my school and my perfect fit. I have made many friends with both staff and parents. I think your school is on a great path for success and will miss being a part of it. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the DaVinci family, and I know you will continue to be the desired school you are.

Sincerely,

Gabe Thompson

Middle School and High School Math Teacher

## MAY INTERSESSION

*(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)*

During the week of May 20 – 24, the optional intersession was held. Approximately 150 students participated in the intersession and a great week was had by all! There were various activities offered including: Spring Arts and Crafts, Video Game Design, Robotics, Recycled Fashion, Artisan Jewelry-Making, Leisure Sports, Wild Watersheds and Wrestling. Also offered was a History class in preparation for the CLEP test which can be used for college credits. A big thank you goes out to all of the teachers who took the time to offer the courses and parents who supported intersessions at DaVinci Academy.

(See pictures on the next page)







