

# DaVinci Connection

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Kindergarten Thanksgiving  
Feast  
Wednesday, November 14  
1 pm

Special Education Advisory  
Council (SEAC)  
Thursday, November 15  
6:00 pm

ArtStamps Due:  
Friday, November 16

No School  
Monday-Friday,  
November 19-23

School Resumes  
Monday, November 26

School Board Meeting  
Monday, November 26  
6 pm

Find more 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)

## TARGET SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL

*(by Doug Dinndorf,  
Communications Committee Chair)*

In the fundraising section of our school's [web site](#), we have encouraged all of you to enroll in Target's "Take Charge of Education" program. When enrolled in this program, Target gives you the opportunity to help support our school.

Last month we received our annual check from Target totaling \$1,968! The "Take Charge of Education" program offers customers a 5% discount on everything you buy with their REDcard debit or credit card (you make the choice). When you designate DaVinci Academy as your donation recipient, our school receives a check for 1% of your purchases. It's that simple. You save money on your purchases, and DaVinci Academy receives a donation from Target.

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, please consider participating in this program. There is enrollment information on our web site, or [click here](#) for details. With broader participation by DaVinci Academy stakeholders, their families, and friends, there is a great opportunity to raise significant funds for our school and at the same time save yourself a few bucks!

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCIENCE FAIR

*(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)*

Once again, DaVinci Academy students have surpassed expectations and displayed a great deal of creativity, knowledge, and hard work at the recent science fair. The range of projects was terrific, and it is obvious that our students are becoming more and more familiar with the scientific method and how to apply all of the steps to an experiment.

Students were able to judge the projects of their peers, and outside judges also reviewed projects. There were many creative award categories as a result of the peer judging, and Mrs. Maeckelbergh did a great job of recognizing a wide array of projects and students.

The students who received top honors by outside judges were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – Darin C.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie) – Samantha B. and Kellan B.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place (tie) – Quinn S. & Coulter G. and Casey F.

Congratulations to all students for a job well done! A huge thank you goes out to our volunteer judges: John Christoffel, Tammy Ness, Ross Meisner, and Daniel Truchon. Thank you, as well, to the parents who volunteered to help set up and take down the tables and displays. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you!





## ART CORNER

*(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)*

Ms. Larson and Ms. Platisha have awarded the October Artist of the Month recognition to the following students. Their work is prominently displayed on our main hallway walls and has been stopping traffic in the morning as kids have been coming to school. Beautiful work, students!

### October Artists of the Month

Kindergarten - Kaelyn P.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade - Henry F.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Princess S.

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Tim B.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Cassie S.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Boatemaa A.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Grace S.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Andrea F.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Sofia A.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Kyle K.



Visual Art was combined with Language Arts this week as the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders were asked to represent book characters using pumpkins. They are on display on the library shelves and have been wonderful conversation starters. What a great way to get the rest of the DaVinci Academy students interested in new books. Thank you, Mrs. Severson!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade art students have been studying the Renaissance period, focusing on Leonardo DaVinci and his inventions. They have been busy brainstorming ideas, as DaVinci did in his sketchbooks, and collecting recycled materials to build the inventions.



## SCIENCE CORNER

### SPIDERS AND BATS AND OWLS ~ OH MY!

*(by Karen Carter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher)*

Some animals are burdened with a negative reputation this time of the year. With an intentional focus to counter false claims about spiders, bats, and owls, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade science classes have been learning fascinating facts about these amazing animals.

Third graders followed the exact path of an orb spider while creating their own webs out of sparkling white yarn, adding the anatomically accurate spider and its dinner.

Third graders also learned that bats are harmless to mankind, and the vampire bat is the only species that actually ingests blood, usually from a dead animal. They learned how a bat uses echolocation to bounce sound waves off an object and detect its proximity so the bat can precisely locate its dinner (or a predator). They will experience how the sound waves bounce to project sound in their own echolocation experiment using cardboard tubes and aluminum pans.

Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade enjoyed observing and journaling about the birth of three owlets via an owl cam observation. Our classes even dissected owl pellets to determine what owls eat! The Raptor Center from the University of Minnesota visited DaVinci Academy on November 12 for a live raptor demonstration.

Instead of fearing spiders, bats, and owls, it is my hope to educate and amaze our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about the skills and design of these animals so they can recognize the great characteristics that help them thrive in their environments.



## TEACHER HONOR

*(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)*

Our very own middle school/high school ELA teacher, Stephanie Severson, has been chosen to be a part of the selection committee for the Star of the North Book Award, a new Children's Choice Picture Book Award in Minnesota.

Each year (starting in April 2013), 10 picture book nominees will be announced. Then, children will be asked to vote for their top choice, and this book will receive the Star of the North Book Award. Mrs. Severson has been asked to be on the committee that pares down the choices to get the list to the 10 nominees. She was chosen for this project because of the number and quality of book reviews she posts on Goodreads. This is a great honor, and we are very proud to have Mrs. Severson on our staff!

## AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

*(by Terry Moffatt, Academic Director)*

We are fortunate to be able to offer a wide variety of after-school activities this year, and many students are participating. The Lego Club has come to an end, but the organizers will offer another course sometime after Thanksgiving. An update on new courses will be announced soon.

While we are excited to have so many students participating in after school activities, we would like to remind parents that activities end at 4:15 pm, and students need to be picked up at this time. We have a growing number of students who are not picked up on time, and this creates supervision issues for the teachers. If your child is not picked up by 4:15 pm, the supervising teacher will bring them to Ms. Moffatt's office. Parents will then need to sign them out from that office.

We realize that there are instances when parents are going to be late, but if the late pick-up is persistent, we will ask that your child not continue in the after-school activity. Thank you for your cooperation and for supporting the enrichment activities offered by DaVinci Academy.

## CREATIVE BUG IS ALIVE AND WELL AT DAVINCI ACADEMY

*(by Doug Dinndorf, School Board Member)*

I am at school several times each month to attend school board and committee meetings. I am constantly impressed by the creative talents on

display throughout the school! We have an arts focus at DaVinci Academy, and we are certainly living up to that commitment.

The next time you are at school and have a few minutes, take a stroll through the halls and view the various artwork and projects our students have created. I think you will also be impressed by what you see!

## NEW FACES AT THE FRONT DESK

*(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)*

Our receptionist desk is occupied by two fabulous DaVinci Academy mothers who share this very important job. Brenda Gerard (pictured on the right) works in the morning and has two DaVinci Academy students. Brenda Burns (pictured on the left) works in the afternoon and also has two children who attend DaVinci Academy. They can be reached at their joint email address, [Brenda@davincicharterschool.org](mailto:Brenda@davincicharterschool.org). Please make "the Brendas" feel welcome in their new role as Jack of all trades!



## LOST AND FOUND

Because of the overwhelming number of lost and found items that we collect every week at DaVinci Academy, we would like to inform parents and students that we will donate those items at the end of every month to a charity or the Goodwill. Classes will be walked by the Lost and Found cabinet before November 30 to see if they can find any of their belongings. On the last day of the month, the remaining items will be removed from the school. If you are missing something, please direct your students toward the recess door to find those treasures.