

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

Intent to Return Forms Due
Friday, January 25

School Board Meeting
Monday, January 28
6:00 pm

Last Day of Milk Cap Drive
Thursday, January 31

Communications Committee
Tuesday, February 5
5:00 pm

School Development
Committee
Monday, February 11
4:30 pm

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

Compensation Committee
Monday, February 11
6:00 pm

Facilities Committee
Monday, February 11
6:00 pm

Technology Committee
Monday, February 11
6:00 pm

Finance Committee
Monday, February 11
7:30 pm

Enrollment Lottery
Tuesday, February 12
5:00 pm

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

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Blaine, MN 55434
763-754-6577

www.davincicharterschool.org

INTENT TO RETURN FORMS DUE JANUARY 25

By this Friday, January 25, all current kindergarten-7th grade students intending to attend DaVinci Academy for the 2013-14 school year must have an Intent to Return form completed and turned in to the school office. This will help DaVinci Academy plan for next fall. See the attached form.

Also, if you have any siblings of your student that you would like to attend DaVinci Academy, please complete and turn in the Student Application by January 25 as well. DaVinci Academy's Open Enrollment Period is currently open through January 31. New families who are interested in attending DaVinci Academy may turn in a Student Application to the school office to be included in the lottery.

For more information regarding enrollment, please see our Admission Policy at the [DaVinci web site](#). Student Application forms are also available on our web site, or [click here](#).

WINTER RECESS (by Gregg Eldred, Student Development Coordinator)

During winter months, our students go outside for recess when the temperature is above zero degrees. This includes wind chill. Please remember to dress your child for the cold weather. Recess lasts about 25 minutes.

Recommended winter recess clothing includes a warm jacket, snow pants, boots, warm gloves or mittens, and a hat. Students must wear snow pants to be able to play in the snow; this prevents students from spending the rest of the school day in wet clothes.

How does going outside for recess in the winter benefit our children? Listed below are just a few of the reasons why recess matters in the winter, too:

- Spending time outside gives kids vitamin D.

- Kids who spend more time outside are less sick than kids stuck inside spreading germs.
- Fresh air helps kids concentrate better.
- Outside is quieter than and not as noisy as inside, reducing the stress level for children.
- Being active outside in play gives children exercise. Exercise is good for the brain; we get better students.
- Creating friendships and learning social behaviors.
- Kids who spend time outside in fresh air sleep better; better sleep makes better students.
- Spending time outside in the winter can lift children's moods and prevent SAD (seasonal depression).

MILK CAP DRIVE THROUGH JANUARY 31

Drop off clean milk caps and dairy proof of purchase seals through Thursday, January 31. For students in grades K-5, drop off milk caps in the bag marked with your homeroom teacher's name. The bags are in milk crates outside each teacher's door. For students in grades 6-9, please bring your milk caps in a bag labeled with your advisor's name, and drop it off at the collection center tucked between the front office counter and the lockers. The class that brings in the most milk caps will earn a treat!

VOLUNTEER CORNER (by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)

Volunteer needs:

- **Art volunteer** -- come in once a week (or every other week) and hang student art throughout the school.
- **Long-term lunch volunteer** -- help teachers and staff supervise lunch from 11:30-11:55 am while a staff member is on maternity leave (for 6+ weeks starting in February).



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE UPDATE

(by David Cauley, Policies and Procedures Committee Chair)

The Policies and Procedures Committee helps shape and organize how our school functions. We meet on the second Monday of every month at 5:00 pm. At our next meeting on February 11, two main agenda items are:

1. the examination of the school technology policy to account for student-owned devices used for educational purposes, and
2. the examination of the school discipline policy.

Over the next few months, we will also compile many of the current school procedures with the goal of creating a standardized procedure manual for teachers and staff. For more information, contact Committee Chair [David Cauley](#) or stop by our next meeting.

PIANO & VIOLIN LESSONS

If your child is interested in taking piano or violin lessons, contact Marsha Emmons at 612-991-0058. She has Tuesday and Wednesday after-school lesson times available at DaVinci Academy.

ART & SCIENCE CORNER

(by Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator)

Since we had such a fabulous week of Intersession, this article is focused on some of the things I saw our students experiencing.

Here is Mr. Melander and the Science of Winter class doing an experiment to see whose design to keep an egg from breaking was the most successful.



Here are some kids learning the science (and art) of baking in the Holiday Baking class. The school smelled delicious!



These are two costumes created and sewn by the students in the LARP (Live Action Role Play) class.



These are also LARP students, who are playing the complex game they created.



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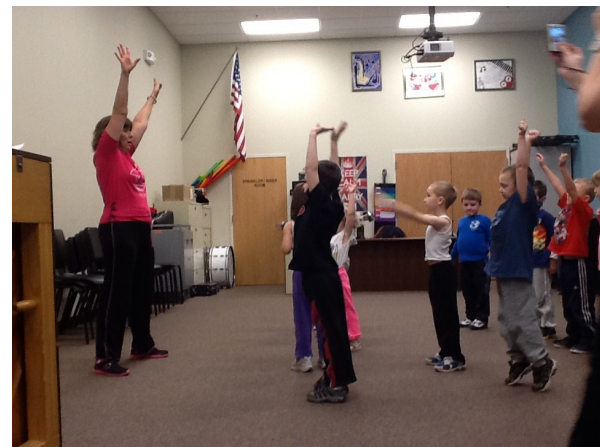
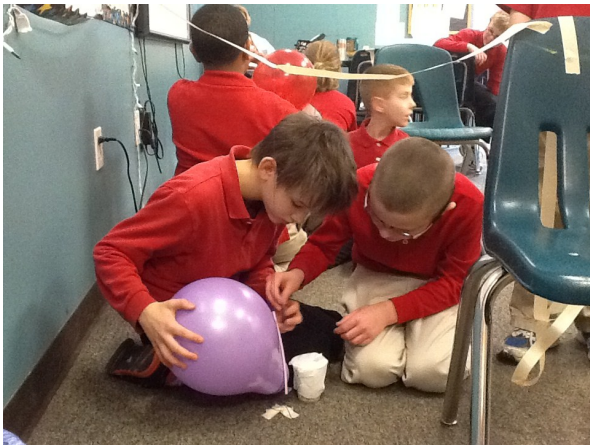
These are students in the Poetry in Pictures class who spent the week analyzing photographs and writing their own poetry.



The kindergarteners tried Yoga and Zumba while learning about taking care of their bodies.



These are students creating rockets in the Space Camp class.



Here is some beautiful artwork created by students in the Art and Science of Disney class.

These 2nd grade students were challenged to create a wacky horse using the recycled supplies provided by "Play From Scratch" teachers.

