

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

School Development
Committee
Monday, November 12
4:30 pm

Policies and Procedures
Committee
Monday, November 12
5:00 pm

Compensation Committee
Monday, November 12
6:00 pm

Facilities Committee
Monday, November 12
6:00 pm

Technology Committee
Monday, November 12
6:00 pm

Finance Committee
Monday, November 12
7:30 pm

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

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

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SCHOOL DIRECTOR SEARCH PROCESS UNDERWAY

*(by Doug Hiatt, School Board
Treasurer)*

The School Director search committee has held an initial meeting, and the position description is posted on a number of external web sites as well as the [DaVinci Academy web site](#).

The search committee seeks nominations and applications for the School Director position, and we need your support. We hope to assemble an outstanding pool of candidates and need to identify applicants who might not have seen the posting.

Please help us with the search by using your personal knowledge and professional contacts to bring all worthy candidates to the applicant pool. Review the position description at the above link and determine if you know anyone who meets the qualifications. Contact individuals who you believe qualify for the position and encourage them to apply. As indicated on the position announcement, applicants should submit a cover letter, resume or curriculum vitae, references, DaVinci Academy Application for Employment, availability, and compensation expectations to hr@davincicharterschool.org.

The committee is assembling a list of names for the initial phone screening and would like to have as many names as we can on that list. The committee will meet again soon and will distribute names (from the list) to the committee members to begin phone screening.

Although they will be accepted until the position is filled, we plan to review applications that come in after the meeting and decide whether to assign them for phone screening. By the end of the phone screening process, the committee will meet to determine if any of the applicants should be inter-

viewed in-person at DaVinci Academy. If more applicants are needed, the committee will investigate other ways of identifying highly qualified applicants.

Updates will be provided as the School Director search process continues. Thank you for your help with this important task.

SCIENCE CORNER CHEMICALS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

*(by Holly Maeckelbergh, Middle
School Science Teacher)*

Eighth grade students were surprised to see such an impressive chemical reaction from something as simple as household aluminum foil. Students tested their knowledge of chemical and physical reactions of matter with this simple yet stinky experiment. Between the multiple color changes, the loud fizzing, excited bubbles, and rapid disintegration of foil, students gained a better appreciation for what seemingly harmless materials can do when mixed together.



SCIENCE FAIR FOR GRADES 5, 7-9

Wednesday, November 7
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Awards presentation at 4:30 p.m.

Students may take their projects home after the awards presentation.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

(by Lee Swearingen, Volunteer Coordinator)

We need several volunteers who can commit to helping in the office or during lunch. Please contact [Lee Swearingen](#) if you can help with either of the following activities:

- Volunteer Office Pool - Come in any Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday and help out in the front office. You can do anything from copying, laminating, cutting, organizing, cleaning, sorting, to assembling documents. Simply set your schedule with Lee Swearingen and show up ready to work! It can be once a month, once a week, all day, or just an hour or two. The choice is yours.
- Lunch Supervision - We need volunteers to supervise students over the lunch period. If you are available and willing to help from 10:15 am-12:00 pm, please let me know. I will send you a link to select the days and shifts you want to help.

Science Fair Volunteers - We are looking for 5 people willing to judge projects from 1:30 - 3:00. You will have a rubric to follow and help from Mrs. Maeckelbergh. If you can help with the November 7 Science Fair for grades 7-9, please contact [Holly Maeckelbergh](#). In addition, long tables are needed to display projects. Bring tables for the day and evening of November 7, and they will be ready for pick up on November 8.

VOLUNTEER ON THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(by David Cauley, Policies and Procedures Committee Chair)

The Policies and Procedures Committee documents and tracks current policies and practices, reviews and recommends changes to existing policies and practices, and drafts and recommends new policies and practices, as needed.

The Policies and Procedures Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm. On November 12, we will organize the list of policies that need reviewing for the upcoming year. Contact [David Cauley](#) if you are interested in helping out.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Fourth grader Rahul B. participated in the



Mathnasium TriMathlon on September 29 at Champlin Park and won 2nd place at the 4th grade level. Congratulations, Rahul!

- Congratulations to Grace P. (3rd grade), who was a member of the 10U Silver Bullets softball team that recently won the consolation championship (tier 7) at the 2012 MMFL (Minnesota Metro Fastpitch League) Fall State Tournament. Way to go, Grace, and your Silver Bullets teammates!

ART CORNER

ART FAIR MEETS SCIENCE FAIR

(by Kat Larson, Art 2 Teacher)

chiasma/chi-as-ma: The point at which paired chromosomes remain in contact after crossing over during meiosis.

DaVinci Academy's 5th annual Art Fair is coming in the spring of 2013! Our theme will revolve around the notion of chiasma, as we'd like to incorporate a touch of science in the student works -- right brain meets left brain, if you will. For this reason, we ask that you save any data that your child uses in his/her Science Fair project, as it will be useful in Art Fair creations. While any medium has been allowed in previous years, our goal for the 2013 Art Fair is to have congruent works of 2-dimensional art displayed in a very precise fashion. More details will come in the next few months, so watch for updates!



DOING THE HOMEWORK HUSTLE

(by Stephanie Severson, Middle School Language Arts Teacher, & DaVinci Academy Parent)

I hate the homework hassle. I'm at the same school as my children, so you'd think I'd be more on top of this. Heck, for two of them, I'm even their teacher for one subject!

And yet, as soon as we're home and ready to start the homework, there is a meltdown. They forgot books or claim there is no homework (even though I can see missing assignments in PowerSchool), or they tell me that they don't need to study because they reviewed in class.

In August and September, I won't lie -- we floundered. The 4th grader forgot to study for spelling tests and was distraught at her grade. The two middle schoolers had missing work, lost work, and homework that was apparently abducted by aliens. We had to find a different way.

This is what works for us right now...Homework Hour. Oh yes, that sounds like a barrel of fun, right? Homework Hour happens every day at the kitchen table, or at least within my sight range, for all three children. It happens whether or not they have actual homework or not. If they don't have any daily work that is due the next day, the kids can work on spelling words, study for upcoming tests, or even just complete their at-home reading. Every student at DaVinci Academy is either required or encouraged to read at home, so the time at the table is never wasted.

And how do I keep up on upcoming assignments? I first check the student planners. I'd like to report that all my children perfectly fill out their planners with details and due dates every day at school -- but I'd be lying. Filling out planners is a learning process...and we are still very much *in process*. After the planners, I check and print the middle school-to-home agendas that are emailed to parents every Monday. Finally, I have the kids check their teachers' web sites. I'm trying to help them learn to use this resource.

Homework Hour finds me with one hour of time dedicated to helping them. Homework Hour has helped my children be more successful students.

They are getting their work turned in, passing spelling tests, and at least have something in common to complain about -- what a mean mom they have who is making them do this work!

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

(by Caroline Carritt, Director of Special Education)

DaVinci Academy's second Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) meeting for the 2012-13 school year will be held on Thursday, November 15 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Childcare is not provided.

At this meeting, SEAC will have two guest speakers. Gregg Eldred, Student Development Coordinator, will present Positive Behavior Interventions at our school. Holly Fischer, Instructional Coordinator, will present information about continuing education requirements needed for paraprofessionals and teachers in both special education and general education.

DaVinci Academy invites staff, parents, and community members to participate in SEAC. SEAC provides input on special education issues (in an advisory capacity) to the school administration. SEAC provides an opportunity for participants to: support the school professionals; help other families and children; learn information and skills that work more effectively with our school and its Special Education Department; meet others with similar goals; become more knowledgeable about special education; support, advocate, and advise on special education matters; and help our school work more effectively with families and improve outcomes.

If you have any questions, contact [Mary Walker](#) or [Caroline Carritt](#).