

DaVinci Connection

DATES TO REMEMBER

No School

Friday, August 31-
Tuesday, September 4

School Resumes

Wednesday, September 5

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Thursday, September 20
6:00-8:00 pm

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

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TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN SCHOOL BOARD

*(by Doug Dinndorf,
Communications Committee Chair)*

At its August 20 meeting, the DaVinci Academy School Board appointed two new members to the board. Mike Hebert joins the board as its second teacher representative. Levi Bouwman is the new at-large member.

Mike Hebert is our new music teacher at DaVinci Academy. He is a graduate of Northwestern College in St. Paul, with a Bachelors degree in Music Education. He is our director of bands and orchestra for grades 5-9 and is responsible for curriculum planning, instruction, and lessons for all instrumental music students at our school. Mike has an energy and enthusiasm for teaching and children and will be a valuable voice for our teacher community on the board.

Levi Bouwman is a name that's probably familiar to many of you. In addition to being the son of our former school receptionist, Marcia (who is happily retired), Levi and his wife Kelly currently have three children enrolled at DaVinci Academy, a 4-year-old who will join us soon, and an 11th grader who is at Blaine High School. They have had children enrolled at our school since the day we opened. Levi holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Alaska and a M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Illinois. He is currently a sales and marketing executive with Honeywell International in Golden Valley. He brings extensive business experience to the board, with a broad range of skill sets that will benefit the board and DaVinci Academy.

In addition to Levi, two DaVinci Academy parents stepped up and submitted applications for the at-large board position. Pia Prenevost and Matthew Wessling were both very qualified candidates, and they made

the decision on the at-large position a challenging one. The board encouraged both of them to continue their active participation in school activities and on committees, because those efforts are essential to the success of our school and because board openings will be coming up next February.

Mike and Levi are putting together more detailed biographies, which will be posted on our school web site within the next two weeks. Please join the board in congratulating Mike and Levi on their appointments and in thanking them for their commitment to DaVinci Academy and our staff, teachers, and students.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE PLANNING FOR SCHOOL EXPANSION

*(by Kamille Peterson, Facilities
Committee Chair)*

The Facilities Committee will look at possible expansion designs for the current location as well as possible new site locations. We are discussing the pros and cons related to expanding the current site versus a second site. This includes topics such as the appropriate grades to have at a second site, transportation for both sites versus one site, parking, and many others. The committee will examine what facility changes will or may occur and how they will affect us over the next three years.

We are currently developing a timeline of events that must take place for the build out, and designing a communication plan for working with the stakeholders on these important matters. If the decision is to utilize a second site, the Facilities Committee will complete a site expansion application for approval by our authorizer. The committee is also looking for ways to maintain and improve our current building.

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We need volunteers and parent input on this and other important facilities matters. 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 this committee. Come help us out! If you are interested in volunteering or have general ideas to share with the Facilities Committee, please email [Kami Peterson](mailto:Kami.Peterson@da Vinci Academy) or call 612-599-7437.

GOLF TOURNAMENT A HUGE SUCCESS

(by Doug Dinndorf, Communications Committee Chair)

On August 3, 44 golfers assembled at Majestic Oaks Golf Course under picture-perfect skies for the 1st annual DaVinci Academy Golf Tournament. Everyone enjoyed a great day of golf, fun, and prizes.

We are pleased to report that this event raised over \$10,200 for our school, which includes a \$1,900 matching gift from TCF Financial Corporation. A big thank you goes out to TCF and our four main sponsors: Friends of Education (our Authorizer), Anchor Bank, and the law firms of Merchant & Gould and Kelly & Hannah. Their support is greatly appreciated. Additionally, many local businesses donated various items for the event, and we thank them for their support.

Golf was followed by a delicious steak dinner, awards presentation, silent auction, and raffle. Sixty people attended the dinner, including former Minnesota Senator Rudy Boschwitz and his wife Ellen, who expressed an interest in learning more about the great things they heard are happening at DaVinci Academy.

Special thanks go to several DaVinci Academy families for their generous contributions of silent auction items. Brian and Carmen Bowers gave us a computer system, Trenton and Kamille Peterson provided two handcrafted Adirondack chairs, and Lenny and Mary Walker contributed a beautiful cedar cooler, complete with libations, and also sponsored three golf foursomes. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

An event like this cannot take place without the tireless effort of volunteers. A special thanks goes to Mary Walker, who brought over 20 years of golf tournament planning expertise to our event and played a key role in making it a huge success. Volunteers on her team included Tammy and Mark Ness, Khadar Ibrahim, Phil Frechette (who also donated all the signs and banners), Lenny Walker, Gail Hiatt, and Candice Brumm, our photographer.

Prior to dinner, Doug Hiatt, our school Treasurer, school board member, and parent, presented an excellent summary of the great student achievement results we are seeing at our school and what sets DaVinci Academy apart from other schools. He was also instrumental in securing a number of sponsors and donors for the golf event. A special thank you to Doug and his wife, Gail, for all they do at our school.

This year's golf tournament was the first in what we plan to be an annual fundraising event. If you did not get an opportunity to participate this year, please join in the fun next year. To quote Tammy Ness, a DaVinci Academy parent and volunteer, "My husband and I volunteered at the golf tournament and had the time of our lives. We have four children ages 12 and under, and we called it our 'volunteer date.' Everyone was so relaxed and such a joy to be around. What an amazing and fun event. We can't wait for the one next year!"

Details on next year's tournament will be publicized in the *DaVinci Connection* as soon as the date is selected. See pictures of the event on Page 3.

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

(by Caroline Carritt, Director of Special Education)

In addition to those mentioned in the July 25 issue of *DaVinci Connection*, I am thrilled to introduce more new staff members!

Candice Brumm, Paraprofessional -- Candice is a happily married mother of two girls, ages 11 and 7, who attend DaVinci Academy. She loves photography, reading, and tae kwon do. She really likes the small classroom sizes of DaVinci Academy and being able to know most of the students and staff. It makes her and her children feel like part of a family here.

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Jane Demers, Paraprofessional -- Jane is originally from Rice Lake, WI. She graduated from UW-Stout and worked as a Community Outreach Worker (Social Worker) for the Rice Lake School District. Later, she worked as a Long Term Care Manager for Adults. As a Care Manager, she worked with clients with brain injury, mental health, hospice, developmental disabilities, and elders. Also during this time, she was an on-call Mental Health Crisis Worker for the county. Jane moved to the Minneapolis area to further her career working with youth. For her, the position at DaVinci Academy was a perfect opportunity to become involved with youth and community once again.

Marwa Sallam, Special Education Teacher -- Marwa was born in Georgia but has lived the majority of her life in Los Angeles. After graduating from the University of California-Irvine and getting her teaching license at the California State University-Long Beach, she began teaching in the field of special education. Marwa worked for four years in California at the middle and high school levels and then for the past couple years in Minnesota teaching elementary grade levels. All of the schools have been smaller, which is what attracted her to DaVinci Academy. Marwa enjoys DaVinci Academy's family-like atmosphere and the process of getting to know the students well.

Marilee Sanborn, Special Education Teacher -- Marilee has a B.S. in Music Therapy from the University of Minnesota, and a SPED licensure in SLD and EBD from Bethel University. Most recently, she taught in the Anoka-Hennepin school district at Oak View Middle School, McKinley Elementary, and Sand Creek Elementary. For 20 years prior to that, Marilee home schooled her six children. She loves to spend time with her family. Her three oldest are married, and she has five grandchildren with one more on the way. Her three youngest children still live at home, one working, one in college, and one in high school, which makes for a very busy household. Marilee enjoys music, reading, and the outdoors.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (by Caroline Carritt, Director of Special Education)

DaVinci Academy's first Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) meeting for the 2012-13 school year will be held on Thursday, September 20, at the school. The meeting will run from 6:00-8:00 pm.

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 at mneebwalker@yahoo.com or Caroline Carritt at ccarritt@davincicharterschool.org.



1st annual DaVinci Academy Golf Tournament