

# DaVinci Connection

February 23, 2016  
Volume 5, Issue 12



**Reward School**



Minnesota Department of  
**Education**

## Table of Contents

[Spelling Bee](#)

[Town Hall Meeting](#)

[2016-2017 Academic  
Calendar](#)

[Orchestra Festival](#)

[Zoo Design Challenge](#)

[Yearbook Orders](#)

[Andover Track & Field](#)

[Extra Curricular  
Activities](#)

[Additional A La Carte  
Lunch Items](#)

[Help our Lost & Found -  
Label Apparel](#)

[Prepare for Winter with  
School Messenger](#)

[PTO News](#)

## Greetings!

To the left, you will find helpful links that will take you directly to the articles you want to read (Table of Contents), to important pages on our website (School Links), and will provide a quick list of upcoming events (Important Dates.)

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## Spelling Bee

On Tuesday, February 9th, an inter-school spelling bee was held for students in grades 4 - 8. Over 60 students participated! The list of words was the official Scripps Spelling Bee list as the winner of the in-house Bee is eligible to go on to the State Bee. After 9 rounds, the last two competitors were both from fifth grade: Aidan B and Madeline S. They went back and forth, but finally Madeline was declared the winner with the word "chortle" being spelled correctly.

The next step for Madeline is an online spelling and vocabulary test that will be taken at school. The top 50 scorers of this online test will then go on to the State Spelling Bee on March 11. The grade level winners were: Grade 4 - Arushi S; Grade 6 - Elizabeth D.; Grade 7 - Grace G; and Grade 8 - Aleyna F.

## School Links

[DaVinci Academy](#)  
[Staff Directory](#)  
[Food & Nutrition Info](#)  
[School Calendar](#)  
[School Supplies](#)  
[Volunteer Information](#)  
[Anti-Bullying Policy](#)

## Important Dates

2/23 Enrollment Lottery  
6 pm

2/25 K-3 & 5 Science  
Fair, 6-7 pm

2/29 Town Hall Mtg, 6:30  
pm

3/4 No School

3/7 HR/Compensation  
Com, 4:30 pm

3/7 School Dev Com,  
5:30 pm

3/9 Policy Com, 3:30 pm

3/14 Curriculum/Tech  
Com, 4:00 pm

3/14 Finance Com,  
6:00 pm

3/21 School Board  
Meeting, 6 pm



## Food Service Program

Current Lunch prices -  
including milk

Hot, Alt. or Emergency  
Lunch:

- Full Pay = \$3.50;
- Free/Reduced = \$0.00

Vegetarian Lunch:

- Full-pay = \$4.50;
- Reduced-price = \$0.40;
- Free = \$0.00

A La Carte Items -  
charged to ALL  
students:

- Milk-only = \$0.50;
- Pre-Ordered  
Extra slice of  
pizza = \$1.50,
- Emergency  
meals = \$3.50
- Extra Entree  
(Grade 6-8 only)  
= \$1.50

Current Breakfast Price:

- Full-pay = \$1.75
- Kindergarten = \$0.00
- Reduced-price = \$0.00
- Free = \$0.00

Go [here](#) to apply for free  
or reduced-price meals

## School Expansion Town Hall Meeting Next Monday - 2/29, 6:30 pm

Click [here](#) to read a copy of the recent notice about our upcoming town hall meeting.

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## 2016-2017 Academic Calendar- (revised)

The 2016-2017 calendar has been approved by the board. Please note the schedules and breaks as they don't necessarily line up with any school districts in our area.

Click [here](#) to download a copy.

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## 7th & 8th Grade String Orchestra Compete at MNSOTA Orchestra Festival

The 7th and 8th grade String Orchestra traveled to Faribault Middle School on Monday, February 8th to participate in the MNSOTA Middle Level Orchestra Festival. Students were scored by a panel of two well respected string educators for the chance to earn a performance slot at Orchestra Hall. This was the first time a music group traveled to a competition and our musicians were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

or to find out more about  
the food service  
program.



Students first listened to a middle school group from Edina, then performed in front of judges and other middle school students. After their competition performance, Dr. Ruth Lin from Gustavus Adolphus College provided a 30 minute clinic where she shared what she heard from their performance and gave them helpful tips for future playing.

The 7th and 8th grade Wind Ensemble will have their shot at a band festival in Monticello on March 10th.

Congratulations musicians! You set the bar high for the years to come!

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## ZooMS Exhibit Design Challenge

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, a representative from the Minnesota Zoo, as well as three community judges and event organizer, Mrs. Thom, were in the gym to review the top 4th and 8th grade zoo design projects. One of Mrs. Payne's 4th grade science classes and both of Mrs. Brown's 8th grade science classes have been working over the last several months on an engineering challenge sponsored by the Minnesota Zoo. Students were asked to redesign the current Red Panda Exhibit at the Minnesota Zoo to accommodate one of two South American animals. Eighth graders were also challenged with selecting a second animal to coexist in the display. Students spent considerable time researching animal needs, zoo keeper needs, and visitor needs before beginning to redesign the space. The project involved math skills, as they worked to draw blueprints and make scale models of the space. Their art skills were also put to work creating profile drawings of the space and creatively using



a wide variety of materials to construct their models. Language Arts skills were important as they prepared summaries for their display boards and presentations for the judges.

The judges selected three 4th grade and two 8th grade projects to submit to the zoo for consideration. The zoo reviewed project submissions from schools all over the state last week and selected the top 40 elementary and top 40 middle school projects for a final competition at the zoo the second week of March. We are thrilled to announce that all of our selected student's projects were selected to move on to the next round!

Project submitted for zoo consideration were done by:

Arushi S, Mahati R, Jasmine R

Layton P, Roshni R, Shriya S

Pranav C, Gracie K, Kieran D, Karsyn B

Boatema A, Bella D, Lilly J, Lauren K

Max W, Josh Y, Alan C



## extended to 2/29

Before break, your child brought home a yearbook order envelope. They are \$28 for one yearbook and \$25 for two or more. You may pay for them at the front desk with a check (made payable to DaVinci Academy) or cash (exact change only). Due to the recent spring break, **orders for yearbooks will be accepted through February 29.**

We will not have extra yearbooks available for sale in the spring and; if you want to guarantee you receive a yearbook for the 2015-2016 school year, you must order it now.

**DaVinci Academy  
Yearbooks  
2015 - 2016**

Order Yours Now! \$28.00  
(Exact change only)

Only \$25.00 if you order more than one

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
DaVinci Academy

All orders must be returned to the school by  
Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 to receive your yearbook.

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## Andover Athletic Association Track & Field Registration Now Open

Open to kids in grades K through 5 from Andover and all area communities. See [flyer](#) for details.

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## Extra Curricular Classes

(Holly Fischer)

Our next round of extra-curricular classes will begin April 11th. A listing of all of the classes being offered for the last 5 week session will be sent out in the next few weeks. Until that time the ABACUS class is looking for students on Mondays and Wednesdays. Their classes run until 4:15 or 5:00 depending on parent preference. Please contact Avinash at [abacusmn@mastermindsystems-us.com](mailto:abacusmn@mastermindsystems-us.com) for more details.

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## Additional A La Carte Items Available for Grades 6 Through 8

([Lee Swearingen](#))

With the recent addition of our breakfast program, we have found that we often have an excess of breakfast items available after service. We will be offering these items for purchase to all students in grades 6 through 8 during their **lunch period**. These items include fruit juice, apple sauce, muffins, bagels and cream cheese, cereal, etc. Each item will be sold for \$0.50 and will appear on your child's lunch account as "Fruit Juice" or "A La Carte". If you do NOT want your child to purchase these items, you should communicate this to them. If you email [Mrs. Swearingen](#) to request a restriction of their purchases, a warning message will be put on your child's food service record indicating these types of a la carte purchases are not permitted.

Please keep in mind, these items are not intended to be a substitute for a healthy lunch. Parents and students should not expect to be able to assemble a lunch from a la carte selections. The number and types of a la carte items will vary based on availability. Some days there may be no items available. Also, a student will not be able to purchase these items if their lunch account balance is below zero.

If you have any question of this information or the food service program in general, please contact [Mrs. Swearingen](#).

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## Get Back that Missing Coat AND Raise Money for School? What

## Could be Better Than That!

Easily label all clothing and outerwear using Name Bubbles and DaVinci Academy will receive 20% of your order total! See below for details.



Don't want to order special labels? That is fine too! But please, label ALL of your student's items.

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## Emergency & Attendance Alerts via



To obtain information regarding DaVinci Academy's emergency messaging system, please click [here](#). This is the most effective way to receive important emergency messages from our school. For now, we are reserving the SchoolMessenger communication system for these needs: a) emergency/immediate alerts, b) school closings, and c) attendance alerts.

(Families new to DaVinci will not be able to sign up for School Messenger alerts until they receive an email directly from [Mrs. Bacigalupo](#) providing their Parent Portal account information.)

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## PTO News



Link [here](#) to the PTO website or download the most recent [newsletter](#) (dated 1/9/16) for recent information.

DaVinci Academy of Arts & Science / 13001 Highway 65 / Blaine, Minnesota 55434 /  
763-754-6577