

# DaVinci Connection

January 8, 2015  
Volume 4, Issue 10



## Dear Lee,

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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## Online Safety Workshop - for Parents

During the school day on January 22nd, DaVinci Academy middle school students will hear a message from Alison Feigh from the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center on protecting an online footprint. We would like to continue this important conversation with parents that evening by offering a program on Internet and Cell Safety.

Youth can find themselves in over their heads with various online concerns, from cyberbullying to sexting. This presentation details the risks students are facing online and practical ways that adults can respond.

We invite ALL DaVinci parents to attend this workshop free of charge as we work together to keep our children safe and supported. Follow this link for more information and to RSVP: [Eventbrite Link](#).

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## Extracurricular Activities, Session 3 Sign-Up

Session 3 extracurricular activities begin on Monday, January 26, and go through Friday, March 6. Please review the sign-up form (click [here](#)) for more information. All activities run from 3:15-4:15 pm, and the fee for each is \$35. Please complete and return the form and payment by January 22.

Any currently running activity (such as basketball and wrestling) will continue as previously communicated. New activities include the following:

Sign Language  
Skill Toy Lab

Anti-Bullying Policy

## Important Dates

1/8 - Technology  
Committee, 5:00 pm

1/11 - Policy & Procedure  
Committee, 3:30 pm

1/12 - Curriculum  
Committee, 5:00 pm

1/12 - Finance  
Committee, 6:00 pm

1/13 - Prospective Family  
Information Session, 6:00  
pm

1/19 - Strategic Planning  
Meeting, 6:00 pm

1/26 - School Board  
Meeting, 6:00 pm

1/27 - Band/Orchestra  
Concert 6:00 pm

1/19 & 1/20 - No School

1/31 - Strategic Planning  
Meeting, 8:30 am

Winter Arts and Crafts

Beginning Chess

Winter Sports

Odyssey of the Mind

Fantasy Games

Writing Club

Young Authors and Illustrators

Advanced Chess

**NOTE: Please remember that siblings of students who are in a supervised extracurricular activity are NOT allowed to wait at the school without adult supervision.**

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## Ski Club Sign-Up

by Mr. Thompson

It's time for Ski Club in a couple weeks! We will go to Wild Mountain twice, Welch Village twice, and Trollhaugen once. The Ski Club is open to grades 6, 7, & 8. All ski outings are \$40 and include bussing, ski lift ticket, rental, helmet, and lessons (optional).

We welcome chaperones who want to ski or hang out in the chalet. Chaperones are allowed on the bus or may choose to drive themselves. If a chaperone wishes to ski, the cost is only \$20, and includes lift ticket, rental, helmet, and lessons.

Although this is called Ski Club, snowboarders are also welcome and will receive the exact same deal as described above (including lessons). You can sign up for 1, 2, 3, 4, or all 5 trips.

Students in grades K-5 are allowed to attend if accompanied by an adult chaperone. The chaperone can choose to ski (for \$20) or stay in the chalet; however, the chaperone is responsible for that student throughout the trip.

If you would like to chaperone and ski for a cheap price, please contact [Gabe Thompson](#). Melissa Kaiser will also chaperone for Ski Club; however, please address all questions, concerns and chaperone duties to Mr. Thompson.

Below is the schedule for Ski Club, and attached is the permission slip (click [here](#)). Hard copies will also be available at the front desk and in Gabe Thompson's classroom (#309). Permission slips and money can be turned in to the front office or to Mr. Thompson in Room 309.

Friday, January 23, 2015

Welch Village - Pick up at DaVinci Academy at 2:30 pm -

Pick up at Welch Village at 7:30 pm

Address: Welch Village, 26685 County 7 Blvd, Welch, MN 55089;  
(651) 258-4567

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(Kindergarten - 7th Grade)

# Action Required - Intent To Return Form

To help us plan for next year, please complete the *Intent to Return* form (click [here](#)) to indicate that your child(ren) will return to DaVinci Academy for the 2015-16 school year.

Current students do not have to re-apply or re-enroll for next year, but we have a limited number of seats available for new students. Please help us plan by returning your form by January 25.

If you have a sibling who is interested in attending DaVinci Academy next year, but is not currently enrolled as a student, a completed *Student Application* (click [here](#)) must be received by the school office no later than January 31. All completed applications will then be included in the enrollment lottery.

To enroll for kindergarten, a student must be 5 years old by September 1, 2015.

Share with your friends or neighbors that we are accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year for kindergarten through 8th grade. All *Student Applications* must be submitted by January 31 to be included in the enrollment lottery on February 17. We have Information Sessions scheduled for prospective families on January 13 and 22 at 6 pm.

If you have any questions regarding enrollment, please contact [Brenda Burns](#).

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## Guest Conductor, Monte Mumford

by [Michael Hebert](#)

The middle school band was welcomed back to school by a guest conductor on January 6. Monte Mumford is an internationally sought after clinician and was Mr. Hebert's college director. Professor Mumford stressed the virtues of being engaged at all times, paying attention to the finest of details, and taking ownership of one's learning.

Two more guest conductors will visit DaVinci Academy soon to bring new ideas and inspiration to our musicians.



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## Winter Sports are Well on Their Way

The winter sport season is bigger than ever at DaVinci Academy!

This year, we have six basketball teams and a wrestling team. The basketball teams are coached by: Doug Hiatt (8th grade boys), Mark Slechta (5th and 6th grade boys), Aaron Melander (4th grade boys), Melissa Kaiser (6th and 7th grade girls), Abby Pullman (5th grade girls-red) and Phil Troy (4th and 5th grade girls - white). The wrestling team is coached by Gregg Eldred and Troy Smith.

Between the two winter sports, almost 100 DaVinci Academy students are involved! Spectators are always welcome at any of the games or tournaments. You can find out times and locations for upcoming games by contacting [Mr. Slechta](#) or [Ms. Moffatt](#) Thursday or Friday of each week. .











# Lands' End Free Logo, January 7-10

Check out the Lands' End [web site](#) for more information.

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## Leadership Team Performs at Cub Foods

On December 19, the DaVinci Academy Leadership Team volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Cub Foods and threw in some entertainment as well.

This group of talented students, teachers, and parents braved the cold temperatures and sang in front of the store. A majority of the students also played musical instruments in the foyer. This just happened to be a "Triple Give to the Max" day, so all the money that was put into the kettle was actually tripled!

A huge thank you to these students, the teachers who accompanied them, Mr. and Mrs. Sommerfeldt, and Mrs. Schaible. It was a great event!



# Paraprofessional Appreciation Week is January 25-31

Congratulations and Thank You, DaVinci Paraprofessionals:

Traci Lawrence  
Abi Dix  
Charlene Winter  
Stacy Erickson  
Luke Manthe  
Deborah Peterson  
Felisha Mannino  
Michele Troy  
Brittney Sundgard  
Miranda TenNapel  
Erin Alexander



Mark Dayton, Governor of Minnesota, has proclaimed January 25-31 as Paraprofessional Recognition Week in the State of Minnesota. Minnesota is home to more than 20,000 paraprofessionals who provide a number of services within schools, including support for instruction, student activities, and numerous tasks, which contribute to educational success.

DaVinci Academy is committed to excellence in education and recognizes the role that paraprofessionals play in ensuring educational success. The support and services provided by paraprofessionals are integral to improving student achievement and increasing the effectiveness of our school.

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## Instrumental Concert Rescheduled for January 27

by [Michael Hebert](#)

The winter band and orchestra concert has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, January 27, at 6:00 pm**. Report times and locations are exactly the same as they were in December. You should see a half slip of paper coming home with your musician this week with a reminder of the details. If you have a conflict with this concert night, please contact [Michael Hebert](#) as soon as possible to



discuss.

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## PTO News

See the most recent [PTO newsletter](#) for information.

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

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